

## Clean water legislative concern given

WEST GROVE — "You as a farmer are guilty until you prove yourself innocent", was Albert Bartel's, West Grove, President of Chester-Delaware Farmer's Association, summary of the Clean Water legislation, proposed in Congress. He was giving the highlights of the Farmer's Association Delegation recent visit to their congressmen in Washington, at the monthly Director's meeting held in Downingtown.

"If evidence of pesticides are found in a well or water supply, a nearby farmer using pesticides could be assumed by government bureaucrats to be the cause," Bartel's explained.

"Even though there was no evidence to indicate that the pesticides had come from the farmer's operation, he could be forced to clean out all the dirt around the water supply. This would be hauled to a disposal site in Ohio and replaced with fresh soil. The disposal site in Ohio is the only one that is approved by government agencies for the handling of this kind of material," Bartel's said.

This puts an unfair burden on a farmer who is using pesticides according to government guidelines, who is using pesticides approved by government agencies, who is following recommended application practices, he said. Yet, he could be arbitrarily found guilty, without evidence that the pollution came from his farm. This is contrary to our American system of fair play," Bartel's concluded.

Farmer's Association Directors also expressed concern about the present thrust of preservation of agricultural land by Pennsylvania Farmer's Association. The use of development rights could interfere with farmer's use of his property, either presently or at some future time. It was pointed out that the government interference, either by rules or using tax producers' currency, in the proposed preservation schemes were an interference with private property rights. It would also lesson borrowing power because it would decrease the value of the farm. Fear was expressed that this would have an impact on future generation's use of property as the government regulations took effect.

In other action, Denise Wilkinson, Landenberg, Chairman of the Women's Committee, outlined programs for the Women's Committee, for the next few months. An organizational and planning meeting will be held April 11. At that time, programs for Ladies Day Out, and the summer picnic will be formulated.

In other action, the Directors asked that two couples be selected to attend the Couple's Conference in June, that nominees be proposed to vote on an Agricultural Penn State Trustee, encouraged the establishment of a study committee on Blue Cross rates across the state and voted to help in financing the IFYE candidate, Lois Mark of West Grove, who has been selected to represent this area in Barbados. She leaves this summer for eight months.

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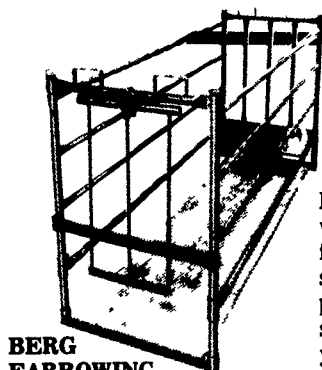
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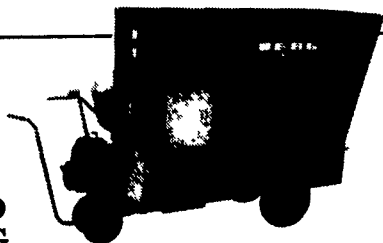
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