

Farmland Preservation— It's worth it



Williamsburg, Blair County

Photo by Laura England

Farm Credit names new manager

BY JACK HUBLEY

LANCASTER — Following the recent retirement of general manager Carl Brown, the Lancaster Farm Credit Associations recently welcomed Scott Owens to their Lancaster office.

As the firm's new general manager, Scott will assume responsibilities for both Production Credit and Federal Land Bank lending in the Lancaster Associations' Lancaster-Lebanon-Dauphin County area.

A native of Tioga County, Owens joined the Farm Credit System in 1970 as assistant manager of the Headwaters Associations comprising Tioga, Potter, Elk, McKean and Cameron Counties.

"When I first started with Farm Credit a 120-acre dairy farm in Tioga County would sell for \$35,000 to \$40,000. That same farm today is worth \$150,000 to \$175,000," Scott remarks.

Owens' next move was to the 16-

county Northeastern Associations where he served for 11 years, being named associate manager in 1975, and associate general manager and chief operating officer in 1981.

Living in Lewisburg during his tenure with the Northeastern Associations, Scott observes that production agriculture in that part of the state is very similar to the Lancaster County area. One big difference, however, is in the population density here and the much greater density of individual farm units.

"The intriguing thing to me about this area," Scott points out, "is the proximity of agriculture, industry and suburban living. In as small an area as one square mile you can see examples of all three."

One of nine Farm Credit divisions statewide, the Lancaster Associations account for the largest loan volume, and rank in the top three throughout the entire Baltimore District, which includes

five eastern states and Puerto Rico. According to Owens, about 25 percent of Pennsylvania's production agriculture is located in the Lancaster Associations' area.

"I'm really excited about the


move," says Scott, pointing out that he considers the chance to service the area's agriculture in this capacity to be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. "I think you're really challenged to per-

form here," he adds.

Officially assuming his position on July 1, Owens will reside in East Petersburg with his wife, Jane, and two children, Jill and Steve, ages 12 and 10, respectively.



Scott Owens has recently been appointed general manager of Farm Credit's Lancaster Associations. The Tioga County native has 14 years experience with the Farm Credit System.



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