

Lancaster Ag Preserve applications up 250% over '84

LANCASTER — The Lancaster County Agricultural Preserve Board has received this year's applications for preservation deed restriction sales on 15 farms in western Lancaster County. With three Agricultural Preserves established, all of this year's applications have come from Agricultural Preserve II which includes more than 27,000 acres in Conoy, East Donegal, West Donegal, and Mount Joy Townships.

Within Agricultural Preserves one of the preservation options available to farm owners is deed restriction sale by incentive payment of \$250 per acre. In most cases this amount represents a portion of the value of the deed

restriction or preservation easement on the farm. The deed restriction may be sold either permanently or for 25 years or more, in which case, the instrument can be terminated sometime after 2010 with a payback plus fixed, simple interest.

The effect of deed restrictions is to keep the farms in agricultural and directly associated uses except for the possibility of several new dwellings for family or farm employees.

In 1984 the Agricultural Preserve Board received 6 applications, all from Agricultural Preserve I in the Ephrata-Lititz area; this year the applications are as located as follows:

Agricultural Preserve II		
Mount Joy Township	9 farms	864.5 acres
East Donegal Township	5 farms	521.4 acres
Conoy Township	1 farm	196.5 acres
Totals 15 farms		1,582.4 acres

To date, 21 farms have been preserved through deed restrictions in Lancaster County. On 17 of these farms deed restrictions have been donated and on four farms deed restrictions have been sold via incentive payment. Most have been permanent deed restrictions.

While considering this year's 15 deed restriction sale applications, the Agricultural Preserve Board is working with approximately the same number of landowners who have expressed interest in deed restriction donation.

Members of the Agricultural Preserve Board are heartened by the level of interest and commitment among Lancaster County farmers.

Lancaster County has established an Agricultural Land

Preservation Fund which receives both public appropriations and private contributions. It is this Fund that is used to cover the legal and appraisal costs of accepting deed restrictions by donation and the costs of deed restriction incentive payments.

While deed restriction applications have been submitted on 15 farms totalling 1582 acres, what can be acquired with available preservation dollars are deed restrictions on approximately 1,000 acres.

The Agricultural Preserve Board will utilize their farmland ranking system, which is based on development pressure within the Preserve and productive capability of the farms to set priorities for deed restriction acquisition.

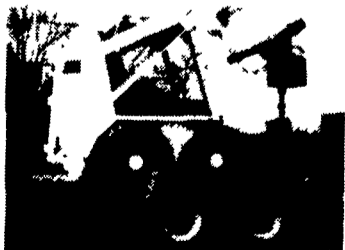


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Ag Advice

(Continued from Page D19)

standard. I have heard most of them but if you feel that you have a new one, I'd be interested.

When I was a county agent in Potter County a number of years ago, a few people who had children in 4-H found that their kids' 4-H animals were bigger, nicer looking and, did better as first calf heifers than their own.

They reasoned that the 4-H

animals had a better genetic base than their own, which may have been true, except that occasionally a regular farm calf was raised with the 4-H calf.

It never ceased to amaze me that the farmers had a whole list of reasons why that calf also was bigger, nicer looking, and did better than the other animals in the herd. Sometimes they even said that if they had put as much money into their own animals as was put into the 4-H animals theirs would have done as well or maybe even

better.

Ask your county agent to show you how to measure the calves. Also ask the county agent for a guide as to how big they should be at various ages. I dare you to measure them once.

Good dairymen probably don't do the dare because they are already aware of their calves' sizes. Poor dairymen won't accept the dare because they fear what they will find.

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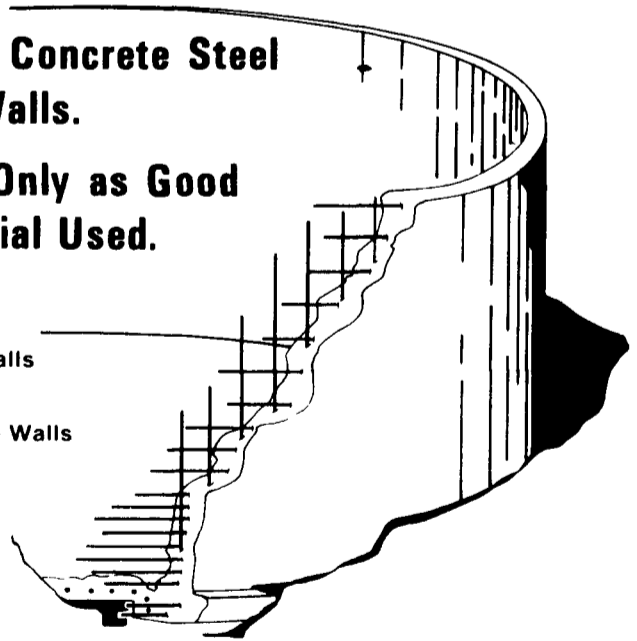
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