

Public wants to preserve ag land, Delaware poll finds

DOVER, DE — The Delaware Department of Agriculture released the results of an opinion survey of adult Delawareans conducted by the University of Delaware indicating that 88% responding think that farmland loss is a serious problem in Delaware.

In other responses 75% supported a new north/south highway with minimal impacts on Delaware farmland while 86% disagreed with the concept of lowest cost roads regardless of the impacts on farmland.

"This shows that the public is squarely behind state projects only if they respect our best farmland," according to Agriculture Secretary, William B. Chandler, Jr., "The survey results show that the public supports the kind of cooperation we saw between agriculture and the Department of Transportation during the Route 13 route selection process."

In another question people were

Butler named to promotion board

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Agriculture Richard Lyng today named Carl Butler of Pine Plains, New York, to the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board.

Butler fills a vacancy created by the resignation of board member Leon Brown of Westown, New York. Butler's term of office expires April 30, 1987.

The National Dairy Promotion and Research Board was established by the Dairy and Tobacco Adjustment Act of 1983 to develop and administer a coordinated program of promotion, research and nutrition education.

The board designs programs to strengthen the dairy industry's position in domestic and foreign markets. The national program is financed by a mandatory 15-cent per hundredweight assessment on all milk produced in the contiguous 48 states and marketed commercially by dairy farmers.

asked whether they would support the purchase of development rights from farmers in order to preserve farmland. Responses were split with 49% saying they would support such a program while 51% said they would not. Those polled were also asked how

they thought such a program should be funded.

"We will be studying the results of this survey as we develop program proposals for farmland protection over the next few months," said Michael McGrath, Manager of Agricultural Lands

Preservation, who added, "One thing for sure, Delawareans recognize the problem of farmland loss and want to see positive steps taken to stem the loss."

The Delaware Household Survey is a scientific sample of all adult Delawareans that yields results

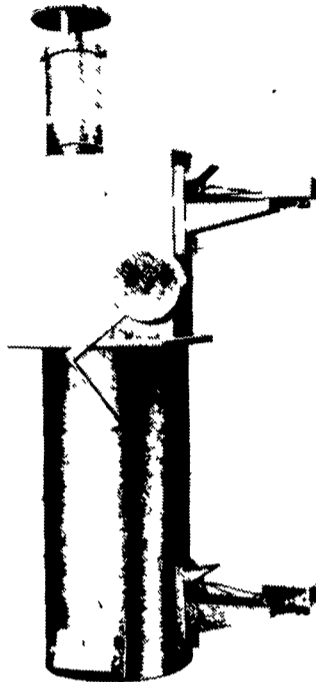
accurate to ± 3%. The survey is directed by Robert A. Wilson of the College of Urban Affairs and Public Policy.

For further information about the survey call Michael McGrath at 736-4811 or 800-282-8685 (New Castle or Sussex Counties).

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