

Maryland Farmers May Prevent Foreclosure By Fast Action

ANNAPOLIS, MD — Of Maryland's 993 farmers who currently have loans from the Farmer's Home Administration (FmHA), 356 have received delinquent loan notices by certified mail from the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) FmHA. However, through quick action, these farmers may be able to save the family farm.

"With the deadline approaching, I urge Maryland farmers to respond to FmHA and attempt to work out new financial arrangements," said Secretary of Agriculture Wayne A. Cawley, Jr. "If this notice isn't taken seriously, the risk of losing future farm financing options through the Loan Ser-

vice and Preservation Loan program is high," Cawley continued.

The notices will state, "This is to inform you that you are serious-

ly behind in your loan payments and to inform you of your options." Farmers will have 45 days to reply to the notices. Farmers who do not respond will

most likely have foreclosure proceedings begun against them.

These notices are the beginning attempt by FmHA to review \$8.8 billion in loans which have been

overdue for more than six months, according to USDA.

For further information, contact the FmHA Office in Washington, D.C. (202) 447-4324.

State Lawmakers Exchange Committees

HARRISBURG — Two Lancaster County lawmakers have exchanged positions on a pair of state House committees.

Reps. Terry R. Scheetz and John E. Barley today announced House Republican leadership has approved an arrangement which will put Barley on the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee and Scheetz on the House Conservation Committee.

The two legislators said they share great interest in both agriculture and environmental matters, but indicated the change will allow both to pursue measures of greatest interest to them.

"I think that Rep. Barley and I would both like to serve on the Agriculture Committee and Conservation Committee to represent the best interests of farmers and all our constituents in Lancaster County and throughout the state," said Scheetz.

"Unfortunately, factors of seniority and geography made that impossible for those making committee assignments.

"As a member of the Joint Legislative Committee on Conservation and Air and Water Pollution Control. I have a genuine interest and special concern about environmental issues. These include

many ag-related issues such as manure management, well-water protection, sewer sludge and wetland preservation," Scheetz added.

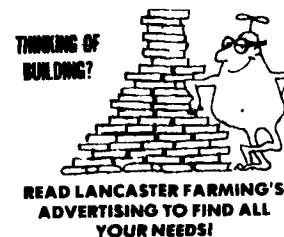
Scheetz owns and operates a hog farm in Stevens and Barley is a partner with his brother in a livestock and general crop farm in Conestoga.

"With my experience and interest in agriculture, I'm very grateful to be able to serve on the Agriculture Committee," said Barley.

Barley was recently elected chairman of the Pennsylvania Ag

Republicans, an outgrowth of the state Republican Committee. His agriculture accomplishments include being named Master Farmer in 1978 and Outstanding Young Farmer of America (the only Pennsylvanian to receive that honor) in 1979.

Scheetz said while he will not be on the Agriculture Committee, "I have no doubt that any measures of mine will be advocated by Rep. Barley and Rep. Ken Brandt, Republican chairman of the committee."



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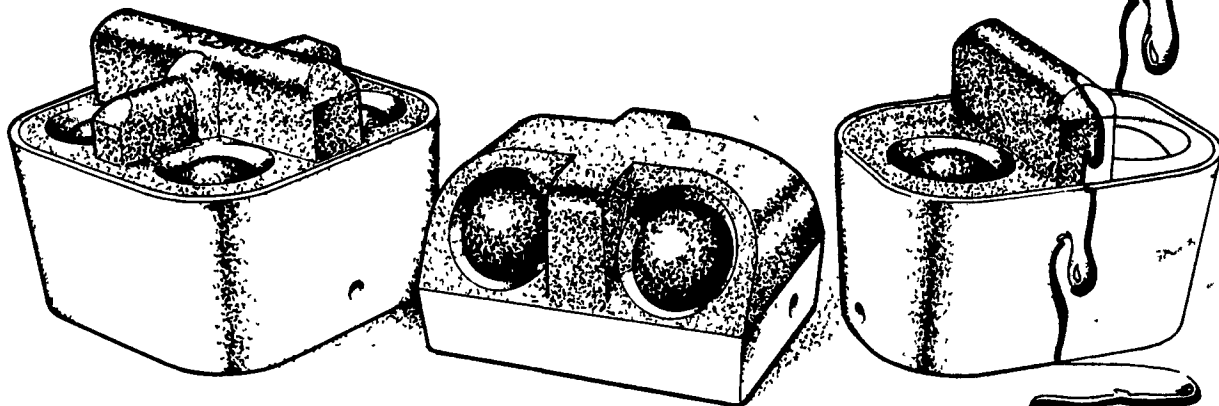
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