

The Shape Of Things To Come

Farming's Future In Lancaster County

BY PAT PURCELL

LANCASTER — More roads, more houses, more people. High land costs, zoning restrictions, air and water pollution. Labor shortages, manure disposal problems and a growing suburbia.

Will there be any room left for farming in Lancaster County? If so, what kind of farming? Will dairy, swine and poultry operations be replaced by vegetable cropping, Christmas trees or aquaculture farms?

With or without a crystal ball the future is impossible to predict. But all members of the county's farming community agree that changes are a sure bet. Changes which will challenge the best farm managers and financial wizards in the agricultural industry.

"The Future of Lancaster County Agriculture" will bring together

farmers, bankers, and educators in the county to discuss some of the challenges which lie ahead for farmers.

The conference is scheduled for Wednesday, January 5, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center and is free to the public. Contact the Lancaster County Extension Office for more information, (717) 394-6851.

- Ron T. Bailey, the Lancaster County Planning Commission director will start the conference by discussing what effects the county's physical and population changes will have on the agricultural industry. Shifts in the population will mean more changes in the road system and more zoning regulations.

- Ken Rutt, Master Farmer from Quarryville will deal with many

sensitive issues many farmers are already confronting. Rutt will discuss high land costs, farmland preservation, air and water pollution, manure/waste disposal, water quality, labor shortage, OSHA and DER regulations and their effect on farming.

- Richard Smith from Lancaster Production Credit will present from the banker's point of view the future of specific farm enterprises in the county such as vegetables, fruit, agronomic crops, aquaculture and also the future of contract farming. Smith discusses the possibility of more horticulture operations, more side businesses and less conventional farming enterprises.

- Fred Seipt, Master Farmer from Montgomery County will focus on changes for the farmer, when and how. Living next door to

suburbia, Seipt has dealt with the issues more farmers will be facing soon such as proper manure disposal and complications of increased traffic. Seipt will also discuss a variety of sideline businesses and direct marketing for Christmas trees, pumpkins and also for selling manure.

- Don Robinson, an experienced vocational-agricultural educator from the New Holland area, Robinson will discuss what it will take to be successful in farming in the 1990's and beyond. What size farm, farming enterprises and side businesses have the most potential in the county to survive in the '90s and more on direct marketing.

Each 40-minute session will be followed by 10 minutes of questions and answers. The conference will adjourn at 9:30 p.m. followed by light refreshments.

Tobacco Meeting, Show At Farm Center

LANCASTER — A tobacco management meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 4, 1989 at the Lancaster County Farm and Home Center from 11:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. The meeting is sponsored by Penn State Extension and will be held in the basement meeting room. All interested tobacco growers are invited to attend.

A variety of interesting topics related to tobacco management

will be discussed. Controlling tobacco pests is always a problem, Steve Fisher from FMC and Jeff Middleton from Ciba-Geigy will be discussing the products that FMC and Ciba-Geigy have to assist tobacco growers with the control of the many pests. The Tobacco Outlook-Pa., National, and World will be discussed by Verner Grise, U.S.D.A. Economic Research Service. Mr. Grise traces

tobacco markets throughout the world along with monitoring the planting and harvesting of worlds tobacco crops. John Yocum, Penn State Extension will be on the program discussing several topics in tobacco management. Claude McKee, University of Maryland, Tobacco Specialist will be discussing Fertilizer Programs to Improve Tobacco Quality. Claude and John Yocum have been researching the relationship

between fertility and tobacco quality for several years and have some interesting data to share with growers.

The program will have pesticide update training credits assigned.

In addition to the Tobacco Management Meeting, the Lancaster County Tobacco Show will be held at the same time. The tobacco show has both Open Clas-

ses and FFA Classes for Pennsylvania Type 41 and Pennsylvania Smoking Type Tobacco (Normally referred to as Maryland Tobacco by local growers). Anyone who would like to enter an exhibit in the show should contact Bob Anderson, Lancaster County Extension Office for more details.

Lunch will be on your own at one of the local restaurants from approximately 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. or bring a lunch along.

PDA Licensing

Poultry Dealers, Haulers

HARRISBURG — The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture is now licensing poultry dealers and haulers under a new law designed to prevent the spread of poultry diseases.

State Agriculture Secretary Boyd E. Wolff said today that licenses must be obtained by January 1 in order to comply with provisions of the law signed by Gov. Robert P. Casey on October 23.

The law requires the department to establish and enforce standards of cleanliness for dealers' facilities and vehicles that transport live poultry. Dealers and transporters must also keep records of transactions and the movement of live birds.

Dealers and transporters who have not applied for licenses should contact the department's Bureau of Animal Industry through the toll-free number, 800/AG-PENNA.

The fee is \$25 for a poultry dealer's license and \$25 for each vehicle or conveyance used in the transportation of live poultry. Out-of-state haulers who transport birds in or out of Pennsylvania are also required to license vehicles.

Dealers are those who buy,

receive, sell, exchange or transfer live poultry. Licenses are not required for butchers or processors who receive live poultry for immediate slaughter, since the law's purpose is to curb the spread of disease in live birds, Wolff said.

The term "transporters" is defined as those who use an automobile, truck, trailer, wagon or other vehicle to transport live poultry on public highways in the state. Licenses are not required for a vehicle used exclusively on a farm or on adjoining farms that constitute a single operation.

The term poultry refers to a wide range of birds -- chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, pigeons, chukars, guineas, exotic fowl and game birds raised in captivity.

"It's the department's obligation to keep Pennsylvania free of poultry diseases in order to protect the consumer and the industry," Wolff said.

Many experts in the poultry industry regard the use of dirty crates and conveyances in moving poultry and unsanitary conditions in dealers' facilities as factors in spreading avian diseases, Wolff said.

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