

FARM FORUM OUR READERS WRITE

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condemn this land as opposed to ours? If this property is purchased by a developer and subdivided, are his property rights different than ours?

Now many would say that this property, if subdivided, will bring added tax revenues to not only the school district, but to the local municipality. I think that anyone who follows the evolution of residential development will find that the supposed benefits of additional tax revenues are merely municipal propaganda. The costs of goods and services do increase, but with heavy residential development, these increases go beyond what a government body can legally levy on real estate. Sure that \$300,000 home next door pays a lot in taxes. But are these taxes enough for the services the property requires?

A case in point. Our family has lived on this farm for 142 years. We live on a secondary road that will become impassable during heavy snows. If the road should drift shut now, great hue and cry will arise from the newer residents because they can't get out. If the township cannot get to this road, I will keep it open with my equipment at no financial compensation to me. When milk was shipped by cans, we sometimes hauled our milk to the nearest open road. We did not complain to the township, we hauled that milk because we had to.

I was elated to see the recent legislation on land preservation was passed. But, is the framework of this law strong enough to bear

the assaults of police state municipalities and school districts? Or am I being more suspicious of these laws than I should be? Does anyone care to answer?

*William G. Dawe
Lehman*

Editor:

I am a subscriber of your newspaper and I am interested in farmland and what should and should not be applied to the land. I am, also, a charter member of the Patuxent River Civic Association. I live beside the Patuxent River on a farm of 69 acres and farm there.

I have seen reported in your paper several times articles concerning this subject, Sludge. Could I make the request for such items to be sent to me for use in my fight to protect my land and other lands along the Patuxent River. I have your latest written by Dr. George F.W. Haenlein and enjoyed it very much.

The City of Bowie, Maryland has purchased the land next to mine and 2 other pieces within 5 miles of my land. They are trying to pludge this land and I and our association are trying to keep them from sludging it. You see, most of the acquired lands lie along the river and within the tidewaters and is in the Chesapeake Bay Clean-up area.

I think if I had your articles on Sludge I might have more to fight this battle between us and the City of Bowie.

Thanking you for all your help!
*Mary Bottner
Mitchellville, MD*

Editor:

Our issue of LANCASTER FARMING arrived on Saturday and I was very pleased and flattered to see that you had written a front page article about the West Marlborough Township Zoning Ordinance.

We realize that the approach we have taken to protect the agricultural land in our township is unique. We are, however, committed to the preservation of our rural way of life.

Perhaps the favorable light in which you have portrayed our zoning efforts will encourage others to consider or adopt these same methods to save their farm communities.

Thank you for writing about us and for your continuing personal support.

*Charles C. Brosius
Chairman, West
Marlborough Township
Supervisors
West Grove*

Editor:

In your December 17 editorial you refer to a writer expressing opposition to using the Farm Show as a platform for a lottery event. I strongly agree with the writer. The farming community is a support organization that is too often taken for granted. The lottery is the wrong kind of "glitz" to have at the Farm Show!

*Edward Parent
Hamburg*

Competitors Exhibit

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and showing sheep takes a lot of time and as the general sales manager for a large car dealership in Clarksburg, Gary doesn't have much free time to give.

"It is a lot of work. It really is. It takes a lot of time, but we take pride in it and enjoy doing it. And it's something we do together and we enjoy that. But it's a hobby that turned into a business," explained Gary.

Showing sheep has caught on. Not only do Steve and Ruby enjoy showing, but Gary's brothers and sisters have joined the show, too.

"Now, it's not just my Dad and I," said Gary. "My neices and nephews show in the junior show, too. It really is a big family project. It gives us time that we can all spend together that we might not be able to spend together if we weren't showing sheep. I guess that's why we enjoy it so much because we can all be together."

Educating The Buyers

For other exhibitors, the hard work and long hours pays off in different ways. Rose and Harold Schneider of Rolling Ridge Farm in Karns City, have been showing Simmental beef cattle for 10 years.

Originally the Schneiders raised Hereford-Angus crosses, but switched to the Simmentals in 1972. Rose does all the breeding and feels her selections are starting to payoff. A collection of grand champion plaques attests to that and all of them from the Pennsylvania State Farm Show, the only show for them.

When asked why do they show, Rose paused and finally said, "I

don't know. I can't answer that. It does take time and it is a lot of work. But you like to go and see what everyone else is doing and you're showing what you have to local people. You are showing your best animals to potential customers."

But it's more than merely advertising, Rose added. It is mostly educating the buyers.

The Simmental breed is relatively new to this country. They first came to the United States in 1969 and now it's the third largest breed in the America, according to Rose. It took three years for the Schneiders to catch on to these lean, large fast growing imports from Switzerland.

Internationally the Simmental comes in second only to Brahma.

Rolling Ridge Farm will exhibit 10 of the best of the Schnieider's farm.

Better Than A Billboard

John and Cindy Batchelder of Oxford, in Chester County show strictly for the advertising benefits.

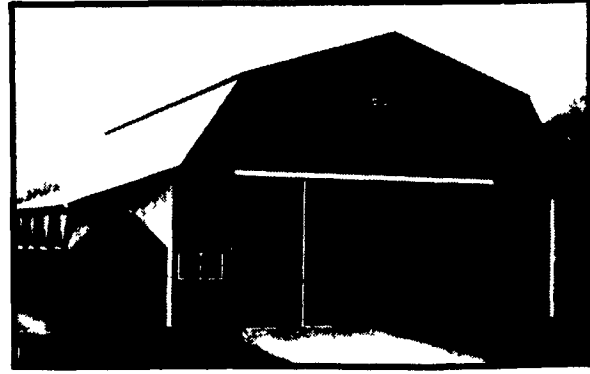
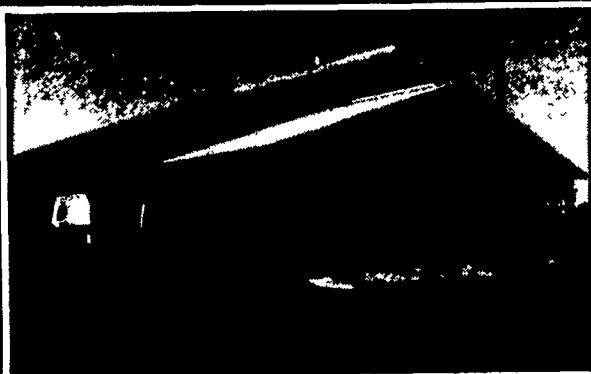
"It's an extremely good show. It's as strong a Jersey show in Pennsylvania as the All-American," said John.

The judge is not the only one sizing up the animals in the show ring, potential buyers are there, too. And what better way to promote your herd than by winning a strong show.

Last year the Batchelders took only two of their registered Jerseys to the Pennsylvania State Farm Show and captured the grand championship with My-T-Fine MMC Grace. The Batchelders

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