

Chester County's Largest Ag District Adopted

WEST CHESTER — Chester County's twelfth and largest Agricultural Security Area was adopted by the West Marlborough Township Board of Supervisors on January 24. The district encompasses 7,265 acres and has 52 participating landowners. According to Ray Pickering, director of the Chester County Agricultural Development Council, there are now 35,000 acres included in agricultural districts in Chester County. An additional 5,000 acres are proposed for agricultural district designation and landowners in another fifteen townships have expressed interest in the program.

Statewide, there are now more than 100 agricultural security areas in place with 360,000 acres participating.

Agricultural security areas provide farmers with protection from nuisance regulations and ordinances that might restrict normal farming practices such as the spreading of manure and hours of operation. Also, proposals for condemnation of farmlands by public agencies must be approved by the State Agricultural Land Condemnation Board, the County Commissioners, the Township Supervisors and the local Agricultural Advisory Committee.

Agricultural security areas also

form the geographic basis for Pennsylvania's pending agricultural preservation program. Farms must be located within agricultural security areas to qualify for

application to the county and state for sale of conservation easements.

For further information on agricultural security areas and the

pending easement program, Chester County farmers are encouraged to contact Ray Pickering of the Agricultural Development Council, at 344-6285.

Mount Joy Vo-Tech Students

Win Farm Show Ribbons

MOUNT JOY (Lancaster) — Seven students from the Mount Joy Area Vocational Technical School were recognized with ribbons at the Pennsylvania Farm Show.

The Floral/Nursery/Landscape Design students, members of the Plants Unlimited Chapter of Future Farmers of America, competed in a variety of floral design categories.

Gregory N. Beatty, a Hempfield High School senior, earned first place with his floral pedestal arrangement. Other firsts were won by Columbia Borough High School seniors, Cindy Donley for her fruit basket arrangement and Robyn Hogentogler for her dish garden.

Second place ribbons were won by Sue Graybill, Columbia, for her fresh bridal bouquet, and by Beatty for his wall arrangement. Beatty also placed third with a silk flower arrangement.

James Lease, a student at the Landisville Learning Center placed fourth with a wreath. Sheila Reider, Elizabethtown, placed fourth with her Poinsettia entry. Tim Rhine, Donegal, also placed fourth with a fruit basket arrangement.

Ms. Hogentogler also earned two fourths with a large buffet table centerpiece and a silk corsage. Ms. Graybill captured a fifth with a Christmas wreath, and Ms. Donley also earned a fifth with a wrist corsage.

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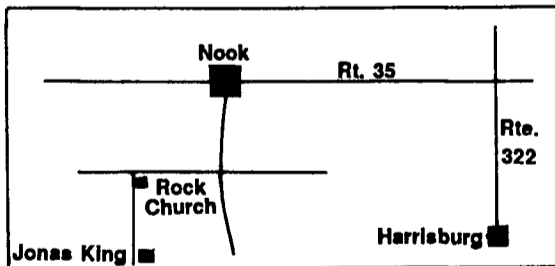
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