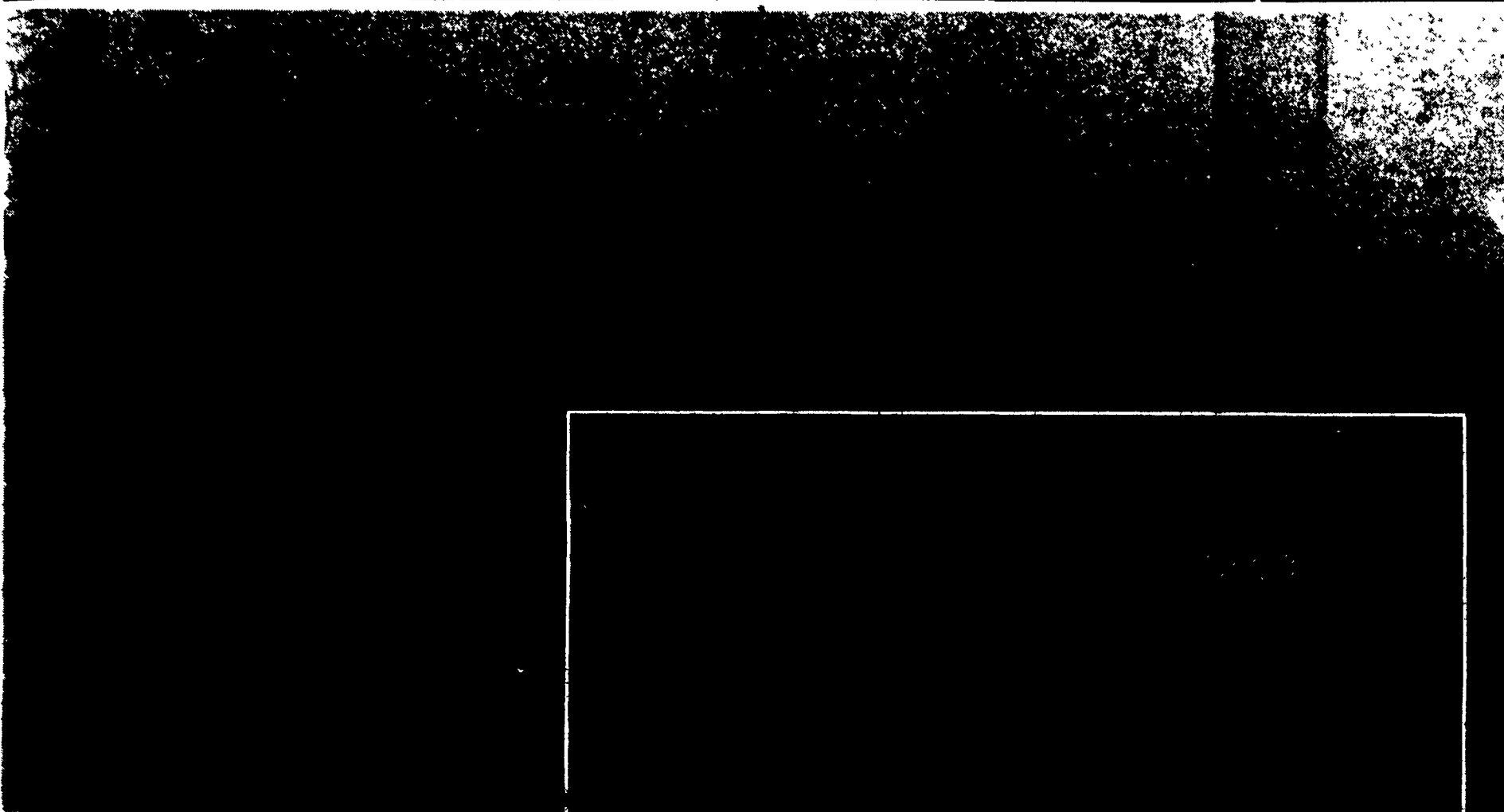


Lancaster Farming

VOL. 35 No. 3 Three Sections Lancaster Farming, Saturday, November 25, 1989 50¢ Per Copy \$12.50 Per Year



The 174-acre William and Lena Aaron farm became the first farm in Pennsylvania to receive state funding for ag preservation on Monday. The Pennsylvania Ag Land Preservation Board approved purchase of the dairy farm's easement rights for \$127,118 in county and state funds. Aaron, right, sold the easements in perpetuity.

Farmland Preservation

Aaron Farm First In Pennsylvania To Receive State Funds

BY LISA RISSER

QUARRYVILLE (Lancaster Co.) — Bill Aaron is a self-possessed man comfortable with silence, as are many farmers. He walks with the long, sure stride of someone who knows where he's

been and where he's going to. He and his wife, Lena, have taken a step into the future and have preserved their farm for future generations of farmers. This week the State Agricultural Preservation Board approved state fund-

ing toward the purchase of easement rights for the Drumore Township property:

The Aaron farm is worth about \$5,850 per acre for building development and about \$5,100 for farm use, according to an appraisal con-

ducted by the county. The Aarons will be paid the difference between these values in exchange for the legal assurance that the land never will be developed.

"We wanted the easement rights purchased in perpetuity," stated 62-year-old Aaron. "We felt that if we were going to do it, we might as well do it all the way. I can't see much sense for the 25 years.

Meetings led to preservation. The Aarons began thinking about farmland preservation about a year ago. "I had been to some town meetings last year where they talked about it," Aaron recalled. "Then the farmer across the road (sold his easement rights), and it got me to thinking more seriously

about preserving our farm. If you look 100 years ahead, someone's going to be angry at us people for not saving the farm land, the way we're using it up. We wanted to preserve our farm for the future."

Bill and Lena purchased the 174-acre farm in 1961 for about \$400 an acre. They slowly expanded the farm into its present form of a 165-head herd of registered Jerseys and a pullet operation with 65,000 birds. Their sons, Tom and Larry, work in partnership with Aaron. Tom is responsible for book work, milking, breeding cows, and field management; Larry does the feeding and mechanical work; Bill cares for the chickens.

(Turn to Page A24)

Lancaster's Century Farms and 'Mr. New Holland' Are Honored

BY PAT PURCELL

WILLOW STREET (Lancaster Co.) — Lancaster County agriculture and business leaders gathered Tuesday evening to celebrate the county's proud agricultural heritage and to honor those who have

helped make farming the number one industry in the county.

The 13th Annual Agriculture-Industry Banquet held at the Willow Valley Resort and Conference Center was sponsored by the Lancaster County Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Chamber members not only heralded past achievers, but were also encouraged to become tomorrow's leaders in the agricultural industry by Keith Bjerke, Administrator of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS),

(Turn to Page A39)

Need For Landfill Pits County Government Against Frederick Farm

BY KARL BERGER
Special Correspondent

FREDERICK, MD — A casual visitor to Frederick County, Md., probably wouldn't notice anything out of the ordinary about the Schrodel farm should he come to it one sunny fall afternoon from the north along the meandering course of Bartonsville Road. After driving past a jumble of modest houses and uncropped fields, he would emerge in a mile or so at the top of a ridge with a view of neatly alternating strips of corn and alfalfa sloping gently across a small valley ringed by trees.

To the right, sprawled against the woods at the top of the ridge, a tangle of metal barns and bins, concrete silos and brick and wood houses testify to the busy nature of a working dairy farm, with its cattle and machinery spilling out into the open and little pockets of manure accumulating, like petroleum deposits, around the edge of the pasture.

Straight ahead, to the south, the pleasing pattern of the contoured cropland gives way to more forested hills against the backdrop of Sugarloaf Mountain, 10 miles distant. This view, unspoiled by the presence of even a single house, recalls what much of the county must have looked like in the days when agriculture was the main way of life.

You develop a different perspective on the future of Frederick County if you approach the Schrodel farm from the west along Reich's Ford Road, driving out the three miles from the city of Frederick. Here, too, the road rises and falls past a similar mix of houses and unused fields demarcated at one point by a thick row of white pine trees. The evergreens obviously were intended as a screen, meant to block the view of an open patch of ground to the south from which a cloud of dust is rising. But the pines seem, in this otherwise deciduous landscape, more like neon signs, doing even

(Turn to Page A34)