

# York Farmland Preservation Gets Boost

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York Co. Correspondent

YORK (York Co.) — The outlook for maintaining agriculture land in York County got a further boost recently with the hiring of an executive director for the York County Farm and Trust.

Julie Ann Gustanski was officially introduced as executive director during the York County Farmland Trust's first annual

meeting, held March 21 at Rutter's Family Restaurant.

Gustanski, former director of the Bucks County Agriculture Preserve Board, brings a background of education and experience in land use and conservation. Her degree and graduate studies at University of Minnesota, Duke University and abroad at Edinburgh, Scotland focused on legal and economic issues of land plan-

ning and use.

The York County Farmland Trust is a recently-organized private effort toward preserving the county's fast-disappearing agriculture acreages. With a modest beginning budget of about \$50,000 and nearly 100 members and contributors, the Trust is geared to work in concert with state and county preservation programs already in place.



Julie Ann Gustanski, left, executive director of the York County Farmland Trust, discusses preservation goals following the group's first annual meeting.



Heading up the York County Farmland Trust are, from left, president Stan Brown, treasurer Art Freas, secretary Jeanne Reilly, and assistant treasurer Katina Snyder. Absent from the photo is treasurer Douglas Campbell, Jr.

"Our objectives are to broaden community awareness of the importance of agricultural land, to minimize conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses, and to provide alternatives for landowners," Gustanski noted in outlining the Trust's goals.

The trust aims at acquisition of land development easements from

ag landowners through a variety of methods, including donations, bequests and purchases of development rights. Land to be considered must meet standards of the Trust's purposes, and be in accordance with applicable government policies. The trust will also work closely with the county's Agriculture Preserve Board to coordinate ag land preservation efforts.

Loganville orchardist and retail marketer Stan Brown heads the Trust as president of the board of trustees. In his remarks, Brown noted the value of the county's land, including the natural rainfall with which Pennsylvania is usually blessed.

"If we cover the whole East Coast with macadam and depend on the West Coast for much of our food supplies, we're going to be in trouble," Brown warned. He cited the five-year drought which continues to plague California, where production depends on heavy use of irrigation, compared to the non-irrigated farmland of the East.

Officers elected to serve with Brown for 1991 are Douglas Campbell, Jr., vice-president; Jeanne Reilly, secretary; Arthur Freas, treasurer; and Katrina Snyder, assistant treasurer. Also serving on the board are Irvin W. Allot, Jr., Louis J. Appell, Jr., E. Wayne Beshore, Richard Bono, Kevin Clark, Tony Dobrosky, R. Jack Dunn, Jr., David Evans, Arthur J. Glatfelter, Robert Kinsley, Morton Kise, John D. Miller, Jr., Esq., Olive Padden, Gerritt Strathmeyer, Patricia Sueck, Gretchen Swartz, and Filloyd Warner.

Ann Orth, Pennsylvania field representative for the American Farmland Trust, reviewed regional and national efforts toward ag land preservation. The American Farmland Trust, headquartered in Washington, D.C., offers technical assistance and educational information to ag preservation programs, and serves as a political advocate for preservation efforts.

The York County Farmland Trust is presently operating from a temporary office provided by the York County Planning Commission at the county's Pleasant Acres Complex until permanent quarters are arranged. Landowners interested in more information on the York County Farmland Trust may contact executive director Julie Gustanski through the Planning Commission, 118 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17402, phone 717-771-9550

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