

Delaware Low On Land Use Capacity?

NEWARK, Del. — Rapid population growth and economic development have placed considerable pressure on Delaware's land and water resources over the past decade. Is the state straining its land use carrying capacity?

"An area's land use carrying capacity usually is determined by its scarcest resource," said Gerald F. Vaughn, University of Delaware Cooperative Extension specialist in resource economics and policy.

Vaughn explains that the limiting factor may be farmland/open space, energy, highway capacity, water quality, water supply, air quality, sewer capacity, solid waste disposal, or developable land. He adds that the factor often will vary within a geographic area.

The scarcest resource in Delaware's New Castle County may be highway capacity. In Kent County, readily serviced, developable land is a limiting factor. In Sussex County, water quality issues restrict land use capacity. And lack of a sense of community is a problem in many parts of the state.

To continue growing at the pace of past development, Delaware

residents may have to change some of their ideas about how land-based resources should be used, Vaughn said. Single-family homes may be popular, but single-family lots take up much more land per capita than either apartments or townhouses.

Similarly, it takes much more transportation land to accommodate cars occupied by one or two

commuters than a mass transit system would. But the state lacks a convenient mass transit network.

The alternative, the economist said, is to study the consequences of various levels of resource use in Delaware and devise better performance standards for land development and use, based on better understanding of the ecological impacts of human actions.

PSU Offers Slide Sets On Solid Waste

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences has released a series of slide programs and fact sheets that discuss the solid waste issue in Pennsylvania.

The slide sets also are available as a video program (VHS).

"The Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Reduction Act of 1988 requires officials to develop a solid waste management plan," said Guy Temple, Penn State Cooperative Extension agent.

"We developed these materials to help government officials and concerned citizens make informed choices for their communities," he

said.

The materials stress the importance of establishing an integrated waste management system through a combination of waste-handling options: leaf composting, land disposal, recycling and resource recovery (incineration).

The five slide programs, accompanied by fact sheets, explain the advantages and disadvantages of the individual waste management processes and some key public policy choices that officials must consider before implementing each process.

Slide programs and fact sheets may be ordered from the Penn State Cooperative Extension office

"A slower pace of development may prove necessary," he said, "though we can't be sure without careful study." Vaughn predicts that continued pressures on available resources will force Delaware residents to take a closer look at the land's carrying capacity. He suggests a well-qualified study group be appointed for this purpose.

"The problem of exhausting or

polluting resources beyond limits was ignored for centuries around the world," Vaughn said, "as long as there was another frontier to move to. Is any frontier left in Delaware?"

"If Delaware resources are strained beyond limits, it won't be from lack of knowledge," he said, "but from lack of will to act on what we know."

in your county or through the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources.

The video can be borrowed from Penn State Cooperative Extension,

Free Use Of Tractor

HANOVER (York Co.) — York Farm Credit, ACA and Melvin J. Sheffer, Inc. have teamed up to offer an unusual prize to attendees of Adams County's 1992 Corn Clinic. The companies are sponsoring one week free use of a new 135 H.P. Case I.H. 7110 tractor. This tractor will be on display at the York Springs Fire Hall dur-

regional offices of DER and recycling coordinators in the Lycoming County service area, including Columbia, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Union and Lycoming Counties.

ing the Corn Clinic that will be held on Monday, January 27, between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Farmers can register for the tractor drawing at the Farm Credit display in the York Springs Fire Hall during the Corn Clinic.

For more information, call York Farm Credit, ACA at (717) 334-2812 or Sheffers at (717) 637-3808.

LAND PRIDE



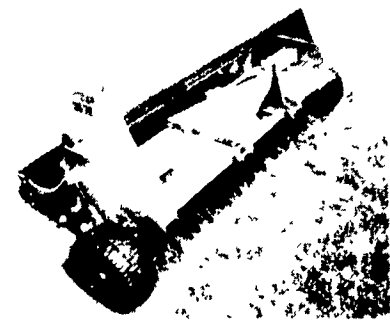
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