

(Continued from Page A1)

land in Pennsylvania's Lancaster County. Since it was established in 1988, the trust has saved 27 farms and their 2,120 acres of fertile land.

The group has also assisted the county government's Agricultural Preserve Board when funding or time would have made it impossible to complete a protection transaction.

"The Lancaster Farmland Trust is making one of the best efforts I've seen to protect the farmland in an area that has been increasingly threatened by urbanization in recent years," said AFT President Ralph Grossi. "They've employed innovative strategies to acquire conservation easements while meeting the financial concerns of the farmers involved. And this year, the trust acquired the nation's very first easement from an Old Order Amish farm family. There's no doubt the group has become a national model for local land protection."

Other recipients of the 1991 AFT Agricultural Conservation Awards are: NATIONAL POLICY AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT, Ferdinand Hoefner of the Sustainable Agriculture Coalition of Washington, DC for his influential work in all areas of policy related to government sustainable agriculture programs.

STATE POLICY AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT, Delaware for its commitment to preserving agricultural resources and its qualifications for federal farmland assistance.

LOCAL POLICY AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT, Sonoma County Farmlands Group for its active and innovative approach to protecting agriculture in a Northern California county.

CORPORATE MODEL LAND PROTECTION, James River Corporation for its restoration of the historic 1,800-acre Upper Brandon Farm on the James River about 15 miles upstream from Jamestown, Virginia. The project demonstrates the compatibility of well-managed agriculture and wildlife preservation.

NATIONAL PUBLIC EDUCATION, Soil and Water Conservation Society for two new publications that offer information to help policymakers evaluate and improve current conservation programs.

STATE PUBLIC EDUCA-

## Farmland Trust Receives National Award

Drake University Law Center for its well-written and easily understood book that reviews how environmental laws and regulations apply to farmers.

LOCAL PUBLIC EDUCATION, Faustino N. Munoz of

University of California Cooperative Extension for advising and teaching small farmers over the last 10 years how to conserve natural resources and increase profitability.

CORPORATE PUBLIC EDU-

CATION, Webb Division of Intertec Publishing for launching Operation S.A.V.E. (Sustainable Agriculture that's Voluntary and Economical) and carrying a series of articles in The Farmer magazine about farming techniques that

address environmental, economic, and social concerns.

HONORABLE MENTION, Howard County, Maryland for developing an innovative way to leverage purchase of development rights funds.

## FmHA Offers Loans For Socially Disadvantaged

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) has a loan program designed to help members of socially disadvantaged groups, including minorities, acquire land for farming.

Under the new program, FmHA is to try to find persons in these

categories who are interested in farming and can qualify for a FmHA farm ownership loan.

The agency is also prepared to sell or lease a farm held in its inventory.

Additionally, the FmHA can also provide other loan and techni-

cal assistance, if needed, to help the borrower get started.

The program was included in the Agricultural Credit Act signed in 1987, and funds have been reserved for farm purchases based on the population of socially disadvantaged persons. Population

groups involved are Hispanics, Native Americans, Blacks, Asians, and Pacific Islanders.

Those who think they may be eligible and who are farming, or would like to farm, are urged to contact their local office of the FmHA.

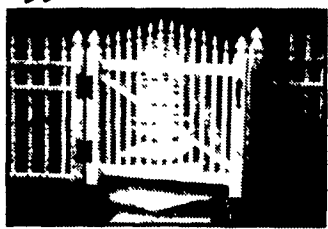
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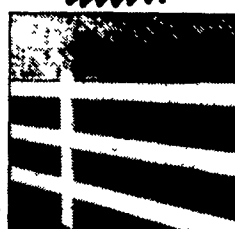
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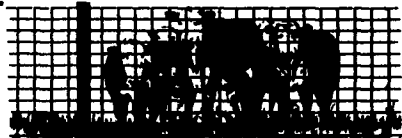
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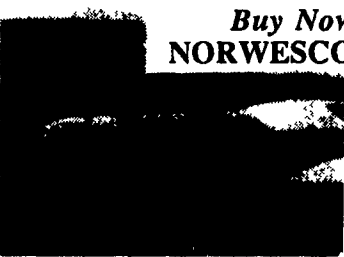


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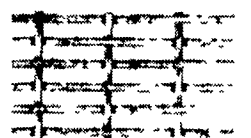
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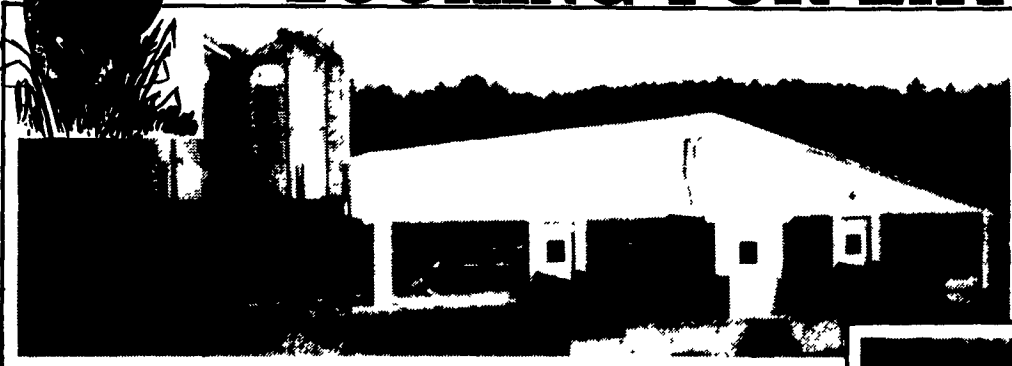
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