

Lancaster Farming

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Pennsylvania Residents Favor Farm Preservation

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — More than 70 percent of Pennsylvania residents believe farmland preservation should be given a higher priority in the 1990s, according to a public opinion survey conducted by Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

"Citizen concern over the loss of agricultural land has grown as businesses, beltways, residential developments, and shopping malls have spread into rural areas," said Dr. Stanford Lembeck, associate professor of rural sociology.

Between 1982 and 1987, the number of farms in Pennsylvania

fell by 4,000 and farmland declined by 431,000 acres, according to the 1987 U.S. Census of Agriculture. Concern over commercial and residential development and suburban sprawl prompted the passage of state legislation designed to encourage farmers to keep land in agricultural

production.

Lembeck worked with Penn State rural sociologists Dr. Donald Crider and Dr. Fern Willits to analyze responses from more than 3,600 Pennsylvanians for the survey. They found broad support in every region of the state for farmland preservation.

The greatest support came from the capital region, a seven-county area surrounding Harrisburg that includes some of the state's most fertile agricultural land. Eighty-two percent of respondents in that region wanted ag land preservation to receive a higher priority. Least likely to support farmland preservation were residents in the western and central regions, where 70 and 72 percent of respondents,

respectively, thought the issue deserved a higher priority.

"In general, the greater the market value of agricultural products produced in a given county," said Lembeck, "the greater the proportion of respondents who felt that farmland preservation should be given higher priority."

Attitudes toward some environmental and land-use issues also were related to support for protecting farmland. Those strongly supporting farmland preservation also tended to be most critical of industrial pollution and rapid economic growth, tended to support parks and open spaces, and tended to favor land-use planning to guide community growth.



With a team of grays, tobacco planting got underway in the Ephrata area this week. One grower near Strasburg said he had started to plant on May 16 last year, but his local plants were not ready this year. At least some of the early plantings in the County were reported to be Maryland type plants shipped from the South. Managing Editor Everett Newswanger found this farm family in the tobacco field late Wednesday afternoon along North Railroad Avenue, near the junction of Route 322 east of town.

Pa. Jr. Holstein Judging Schools Scheduled

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — The 1992 edition of the Pennsylvania Junior Holstein Judging Schools are in final planning stages.

All Junior members, regardless of breed organization, are invited to attend the school closest to their home. 4-H and FFA members are also invited to attend one of the schools.

The two-day schools run from noon to noon the following day.

There are usually eight to 12 classes of animals judged, and each person in attendance has an opportunity to work one on one with an experienced judge on giving reasons. All the basics of judging cattle are covered by the school official.

The school officials this year are Lee Majeski, of College Park, Md., and Loren Elsass, of Wapakoneta, Ohio.

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Pennsylvania Draft Horse Association Holds Clinic

VERNON ACHENBACH, JR. Lancaster Farming Staff
MANHEIM (Lancaster Co.) — About 80 people attended a Saturday clinic of the Pennsylvania Draft Horse & Mule Association

held at the Manheim Fairgrounds to further their knowledge of the working equine.

A number of members from around the state attended the clinic, while some attending for the

first time joined the organization.

The day-long clinic began in the morning with seminars on feeding, teeth cleaning and shoeing horses and mules. There were also short classes on braiding and care.

The afternoon session included a demonstration and discussion of breeding and the use of ultrasound pregnancy diagnosis by Dr. Jeffery Edelson, V.M.D. and some hands-on instruction on hitching and judging.

Thomas Kling, a New Holland

horse dentist, used a mule to demonstrate teeth cleaning and handling. He showed the crowd how he uses certain tools to keep the mouth open and filed and cleaned the teeth.

Nathan Yoder, a blacksmith in Peach Bottom, gave a demonstration of hoof trimming and shoeing. He also later answered questions and showed certain techniques and tools he used to prepare shoes.

Dr. Richard Peacock, representing Pennfield Corp., talking about

proper feeding rations, and about his company's products.

Perhaps the most unique demonstration was given by Dr. Edelson, who said he works on a breeding program of a large race horse operation in Virginia.

Edelson talked about the structure and function of the female horse reproductive organs, the timing and characteristics of pregnancies and the use of the ultrasound in confirming pregnancies and in

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SRBC Holds On Ag-Use Regs

ELMIRA, N.Y. — The Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) met on May 14, at the Holiday Inn Downtown, Elmira, N.Y., to review past actions and hear reports on a number of new items.

Until it gets more information, the commission decided against putting into effect its consumptive-use regulation on agricultural water use.

According to a commission statement, the regulations will not be put into force until it can complete further investigation on the

impacts of agricultural use on water flows and can consider the views and findings of an agricultural advisory committee.

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NOTICE

Lancaster Farming's office will be closed on Monday, May 25, to observe Memorial Day. The advertising department and the news desk will reopen on Tuesday.

Students Receive \$1,000 Scholarships

LOU ANN GOOD Lancaster Farming Staff
LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Ten county high school seniors each collected a \$1,000 scholarship from the Farm and Home Foundation on Tuesday evening. The scholarships will be applied toward pursuing degrees in agriculture and home economics at the college of their choice.

director of the Lancaster County Cooperative Extension, the scholarships are financed through interest earnings of a trust fund set up by the late Elmer L. Esbenshade. Because interest rates dropped almost in half this year, not as many scholarships were awarded. In the past 28 years, 331 scholarships were awarded to county students based on financial need.

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Lancaster County scholarship winners include Heather Henisee, front; second row, from left: Kimberly Robinson, Keith Zimmerman, Ben Ehrhart, Eileen Holm, and Emily Zug. Back row: Heather Becker, Brian McLaughlin, Dean Wenger, and Brian Zug.

According to John Schwartz,