

Conservancy Groups Successful

WYOMISSING (Berks Co.)—The Berks County Conservancy sent three representatives to the National Land Trust Conference held recently in Chattanooga, Tenn. Nearly 1,100 local and regional conservation groups are rapidly protecting land in communities across the country, according to a new survey by the Land Trust Alliance. The survey shows that in the last four years alone, the amount of land the Berks County Conservancy and the nation's other land trusts helped protect grew by more than one million acres.

The Berks County Conservancy has concentrated its efforts on the preservation of open space and agricultural land in Berks County. The Conservancy has protected over 1,000 acres in the last two years through acquisition or enactment of conservation easements.

The Land Trust Alliance surveyed local and regional land trusts with these results:

- Land trusts have helped protect 4.04 million acres—an area larger than the state of Connecticut—protecting over 1,300,000 acres since 1990.
- Land permanently protected through conservation easements—voluntary agreements with landowners that permanently conserve their land—has grown from 450,000 acres to 737,000 acres.
- The number of land trusts is

increasing at a rate of close to one per week. Half of all land trusts now in existence have been formed in the last ten years.

- In the Mid-Atlantic states, protected land increased 39%. The numbers of land trusts in New Jersey and Pennsylvania doubled.

Survey figures were released at the nation's largest land conservation conference, the seventh National Land Trust Rally. The Berks County Conservancy was represented by Phoebe Hopkins, executive director, Ann Orth, director of land projects; and Joe Hoffman, director of environmental management, at this gathering of more than 700 land trust professionals and volunteers, government agency personnel, and other conservationists. Topics included the latest in the innovative and often highly technical conservation techniques land trusts use.

"People are forming land trusts like The Berks County Conservancy because they want to safeguard the open spaces that make their communities and neighborhoods livable," said Jean Hocker, Land Trust Alliance president.

"They refuse to let shortsightedness cheat them out of their heritage, and that of their children. And they are not waiting for someone else to take action; they're doing it themselves. Land trusts give people a choice. And they are choosing conservation."

Government agencies and the

business world have recognized the potential of land trusts' brand of conservation.

"The future of successful natural resource conservation rests with private citizens working in association with each other and with government agencies, conservation groups, corporations, and other landowners," said Mollie Beattie, director of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and a National

Rally speaker. "The growth of land trusts is a sure sign this spirit of partnership is taking root in America."

Hocker calls land trusts' philosophy of voluntary, common sense land conservation a key to their success. Typically, land trusts work closely with willing landowners to help them develop a voluntary plan for conserving their land. Land trusts often buy land or accept it as a donation; however, of particular significance is their

growing use of conservation easements.

A conservation easement is an agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government agency in which the landowner permanently restricts development and use of his land.

Conservation easements allow landowners to protect their land while continuing to own and use it, and to sell it or pass it along to their children.

Pennfield Makes \$500,000 Investment In Dairy Feed Manufacturing Equipment

MT JOY (Lancaster Co.)—To increase mill capacity and palatability and digestibility of their

dairy cow rations, Pennfield Corp. has installed two new large state-of-the-art crimpers at their produc-

tion headquarters to produce what they call "super flakes." This type of equipment is used in the western feedlots and California and Arizona dairy facilities to increase milk production, along with protein in the milk.

According to Don Mahlandt, Pennfield dairy feed sales manager, milk pounds and milk protein pounds may be increased by as much as 10 percent with steam flaking versus steam rolling in tests reported by the Journal of Dairy Science. In addition, steam flaking produces a flatter, more digestible corn flake with a 28 lbs./bu density while the present system produces corn at 38 lbs./bu. density. In early production runs at the Pennfield mill, barley has also produced beautiful results.

Randy Adams, vice president feed operations, said the old crimper was installed when the mill was opened in 1987. Because the production needs for dairy feeds have doubled since that time, this machinery is inadequate to meet their needs, thus the present half-million dollar investment in new equipment.

"We could have just installed another crimper and increased our capacity for a lot less money," Mahlandt said. "But we were looking to the future as we help dairy farmers feed their high producing cows to their genetic capability. This is an investment in the future."

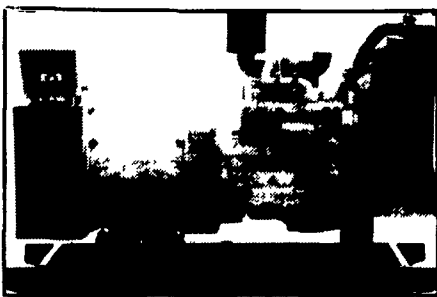
When considering the nutritional value of the new flaked feeds, Dr. Tim Snyder, manager of lab and nutritional services, said the process improves ruminal digestion of starches that can increase microbial growth. As a result of this digestion, the production of milk protein can increase.

At present, the new equipment is on line and customers have started to see the new feed on their farms.



In the lower left of this construction photo the two new half-million dollar "super flakes" machines are shown in place before the outside walls were installed. The installation work has been completed and production of the new higher quality dairy feed has come on line.

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| Program | |
|--------------|---|
| 9:30-10:00 | Registration (Coffee & Donuts) |
| 10:00-11:40 | "Breeding Barn Management" Dr. Warren Wilson |
| 11:40-12:00 | Vet Tech Service |
| 12:00 | LanChester Pork Board Update |
| 12:40 | Free Buffet Lunch |
| 1:00 to 2:00 | Annual meeting, and election of Pork Board Nominees |
| 2:00-3:00 | Choice of two seminars: A. Pork Quality Assurance Level III 1st Time Certification Dr. Tim Trayer B. Pork Quality Assurance Level III Recertification and Review Dr. Robert Graybill C. Farrowing Room Management Dr. Warren Wilson D. Vet Tech Service - Miles Annual Health |

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