

# Lancaster County To Develop A Water Management Plan

**LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.)** — A project to plan for the protection of water resources in Lancaster County is under way.

As a first step, a Water Resource Protection Planning Workshop directed toward local officials and water authority personnel who operate public water systems was held on Wednesday, at the Farm and Home Center in Lancaster.

Small informal groups will discuss wellhead protection techniques and plans that have been successful in other communities.

Residents of Lancaster County have identified water as a "sacred resource" that must be protected.

In response to this concern, the Lancaster County Commissioners have committed funding and personnel to develop a water resource management plan to assure that safe drinking water is available for future generations.

As part of this project, R.E. Wright Environmental, Inc. (REWEL) was recently awarded a contract for the second part of a three-step program to develop a Water Resource Plan for Lancaster County. REWEL is to be working with Gehring-Roth Associates, a Lancaster County planning firm, to develop a water supply and wellhead protection plan.

The first part of the water resources project, already under way, includes computer mapping by Millersville University, with the help of ACER Engineers and Consultants, Inc., of areas with possible groundwater problems.

The second part of the project will involve developing a plan to manage water resources, including ways to protect the County's groundwater resources from overuse or contamination.

The third part of the project will focus on a public education program.

The primary objectives of this study will include:

- An update and review of planning information of the water resources in Lancaster County.

- A review of water supplies, including municipal supplies, and public and private wells.

- Creation of a computerized GIS (geographic information system) map of all current and projected water service areas.

- Development of a water supply plan.

- Development of a wellhead protection program.

- A public information program.

The water supply plan will evaluate the availability and quality of the County's water supplies, and will project the need for water through the year 2010.

The wellhead protection program will include geologic studies to determine which areas must be

protected to assure the safety of our drinking water.

Four pilot studies will be conducted to develop guidelines and methods for communities to use when they develop their own wellhead protection programs.

Because water knows no political boundaries, strong cooperation among municipalities will be imperative.

The Water Resources Plan for Lancaster County is a cooperative effort involving the Lancaster

County Planning Commission, the Conestoga Valley Association, Franklin and Marshall College, the League of Women Voters of Lancaster County, Millersville University, the Pennsylvania Rural Water Association, the Penn State Cooperative Extension, and the Lancaster County Conservation District.

If you think this project is important to your community, please contact your public officials and encourage them to participate.

## DER Recognizes Twin Cedars Club

**HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)** — Twin Cedars Gun Club in Gratz was recently recognized by

the state Department of Environmental Resources Bureau of Forestry as a forest steward.



From the left, Paul Troutman presents a forest stewardship honor to members of the Twin Cedars Gun Club, John Grow, secretary, Douglas Harrison, president, and William Morgan, member.

The designation is an honor bestowed by the DER to forest landowners who have made a commitment to managing their forest resources, to ensure forest health and productivity for years to come.

Paul Troutman, service forester for the Bureau of Forestry, presented the award to the club at its property, where club members have been managing its 551-acre forest for wildlife.

Donald P. Oaks, district forester for the bureau's Weiser Forest District, said the club started the process of becoming a forest steward by having a forest stewardship plan prepared by Paul Hyde, a Thompsettown forestry consultant.

The stewardship program was initiated by the National Associa-

tion of State Foresters. It was authorized in the forestry title of the 1990 Farm Bill and is administered through the U.S. Forest Service.

In Pennsylvania, the program is directed by DER's Bureau of Forestry, with guidance from a stewardship steering committee.

The bureau has been using the help of Penn State University to build public education and awareness of the award.

In a news release, Oaks said the stewardship program challenges landowners to understand the natural process taking place in the forest, and to ensure that changes to the forest are made in such a way as to guarantee the resource will continue to provide for wildlife and humans.

## Food By-Products Vary

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to three different destinations. At noon, the buses will return and lunch will be served by the PCA's Keystone Ribeye Sandwich crew. After lunch, Charles Brosius, Pennsylvania secretary of agriculture, will address the group. The afternoon schedule will include a repeat of the sessions from the morning.

Scheduled to speak at the field day are the following:

- Harold Harpster, Penn State research on feeding food processing by-products.
- John Comerford, Penn State

beef specialist, on how to interpret good feed efficiency in cattle.

- John Burt, Lancaster County conservation district technician, on controlling soil erosion and feedlot runoff.

- An ag engineer to discuss new facilities.

Also scheduled is a tour of the Cameron Estates and Donegal Plantation for the spouses. There will be a lot of activities for children at the park.

For more information, contact Chet Hughes at the Lancaster County Cooperative Extension, (717) 394-6851.

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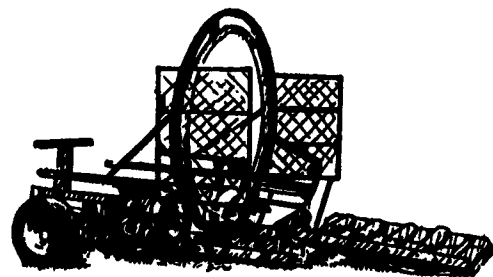
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