

Farmlands Approved For Preservation Program

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)—Agricultural Secretary Charles C. Brosius announced the approval of easement purchases for seven farms encompassing 1,144 acres of prime farmland.

"The easements approved for purchase today will preserve quality farmland," Brosius said. The purchases were approved by the Pennsylvania Agricultural Land Preservation Board, which is chaired by Brosius.

The Farmland Protection Program was initiated in 1989 with a \$100 million bond issue approved by Pennsylvania voters. The program

allows the state and counties to purchase development rights—referred to as easements—to guarantee that farms will remain as agricultural land.

Brosius told the Board that the monies from the initial bond issue will soon be depleted, and he will study ways to get additional revenue to allow the program to continue.

"I would like to find funding that will also allow us to accelerate the rate at which we save farmland," Brosius said.

"We must initiate a review of the statute and its limitations, and

recommend changes to the legislation which will improve the program's effectiveness."

With today's easement purchases, 537 farms in 30 counties will have joined the program or had easements approved, protecting 67,663 acres of farmland. As of January 1, easement purchases have been approved for 6,922 acres on 53 farms in 18 counties.

The following is a county-by-county listing of those properties approved, including owner, township, acreage and purchase cost.

•Adams—Ray E. and Nancy L. Reichart, Mount Pleasant and

Mount Joy townships, 206 acres, \$331,231.

•Berks—Grace H. Schaeffer Estate, Oley Township, 126 acres, \$251,560.

•Chester—Elizabeth Powell, West Marlborough Township, 89 acres, \$373,343.

•Cumberland—Clyde W., Phyllis J., Victor G., and Cheryl A. Barrick, Penn Township, 412

acres, \$696,711.

•Mercer—Larry L. and Luanne Moose, East Lackawannock Township, 139 acres, \$76,450.

•Lehigh—George S. and Christa K. Iredell, Lower Milford Township, 112 acres, \$325,080.

•Montgomery—Paul and Florence H. Weaver, Limerick Township, 60 acres, \$513,740.

Honey Producers To Meet

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — The Lancaster County Honey Producers will meet June 20 at the home of President Ralph McLaughlin. There will be an inspection of active hives at 6 p.m. See new honey in the comb. A busi-

ness meeting follows at 7 p.m. Hear how bees are essential to many farm food enterprises.

McLaughlin lives at 1138 Fishing Creek Road, Quarryville. Call (717) 548-3798 or (717) 336-5860 for more information.



To Meet At Wye Research Center

EDGEWATER, Md.

— The annual meeting of the Maryland Grain Producers Association (MGPA) will have a "new look" this year.

Slated for Thursday, July 27, the meeting will move from its traditional site at the Queen Anne's County 4-H and Youth Park to the University of Maryland's Wye Research and Education Center, just a few miles to the south, near Carmichael.

The new location offers MGPA officials the opportunity to expand the format of the meeting to include tours of University of Maryland ag research plots there, offering grain producers a first-hand look at some of their checkoff dollars at work.

Four stops will include wheat studies being conducted by Ron Mulford, manager of the Poplar Hill Research Farm near Salisbury, and nutrient research by Dr. Frank Coale, extension soil specialist. Both projects are being supported by grants from the Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board.

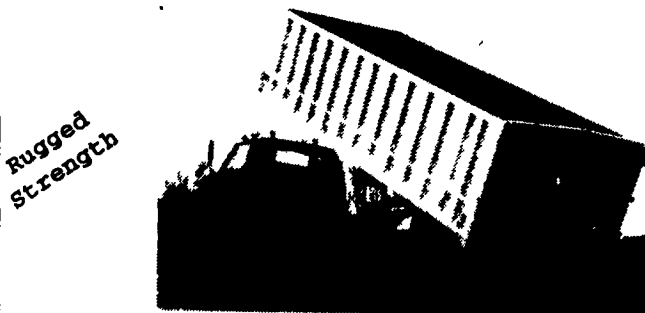
MGPA officials indicated that their July 27 crops tour would in no way anticipate or duplicate tour stops slated for the annual Wye Research Center field day to be held Aug. 17.

The July 27 tours will be available from 10 a.m. to noon. Lunch will be available. The program will get under way at 1 p.m. and conclude at 4 p.m. with MGPA's traditional crab feast and chicken and pork barbecue.

Featured speaker for the program will be Dr. Marshal D. McGlamery, one of the nation's foremost weed control specialists.

For more information, call the MGPA office at (410) 956-5771.

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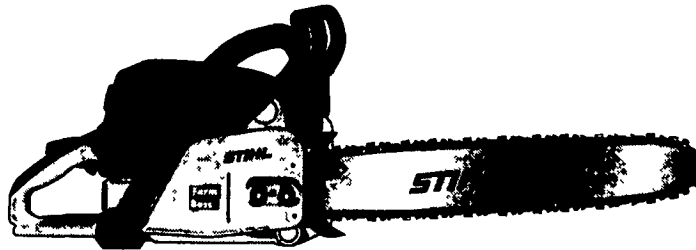
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