

# Farmers Appeal Lancaster Reassessment Values

**ANDY ANDREWS**  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Six Lancaster County landowners firmly believe that the county's reassessment values are too high, and they're doing something about it.

Early in June, the farmers met at the farm of county Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB) president Jane

Balmer to file a class action appeal with the county's reassessment board.

The appeal lawsuit claims the county's Clean and Green value, set at \$1,220 per acre, is too high and must be corrected to more accurately reflect the actual value of cropland.

Also, the first-acre assessment figure at \$40,000 is also unreasonable, according to group spokes-

person Earl Newcomer, county PFB membership chairman.

The farmers who filed the class action appeal include:

- Jane Balmer, county PFB president, Mount Joy. Balmer manages layers and grows about 100 acres of various crops.

- Earl Newcomer, Manor Township. Earl grows 80 acres of various grains and tobacco.

- John and Abe Barley, Star Rock Farms, Conestoga. This diversified farm operation encompasses about 3,000 acres.

- Harold G. Rohrer, Lampeter. This farm includes 140 acres of general crops and a 50,000 layer operation.

- Robert K. Rohrer, Quarryville. This operation measures 77 acres.

- David L. Neff, Central Manor. This 350-sow hog operation measures about 42 acres.

The Clean and Green value "is too high for what we can grow" on the land, said Newcomer. He said that farmers who rent land for crops would have to charge at least \$120 per acre, unreasonable in light of depressed corn prices, to make up for the high figure.

"You don't always get a good year for corn," said the spokesman.

In addition, corn must be rotated with other crops regularly to

ensure good yields under a conservation program. As a result, "a crop like hay is less profitable than corn," he said.

Also, using cash corn value as a scale is also unreasonable, considering that other crops such as wheat, hay, barley, or oats also fall victim to depressed prices.

"A lot of farmers are dissatisfied with the Clean and Green program," he said. "People are still suspicious."

Also, the first-acre figure of \$40,000 is "terribly unreasonable," said Newcomer.

Jane Balmer, county PFB president, said that more farmers should "get involved." The group was told that the hearing before the board is scheduled next month.

As a result of an appeal to extend the Clean and Green deadline, farmers have until Sept. 1 this year to sign up for the program.

If successful, according to Balmer, the county's Clean and Green figures will be lowered to more accurately reflect crop values.

"It's benefitting every landowner," said Balmer. "Whatever results we get out of it will help everybody."

For more information, contact Balmer at the farm bureau, (717) 653-5916.

## FFA Golf Outing, Auction Features Handmade Items

**STEVENS (Lancaster Co.)** — The Hoss's 3rd Annual Fore FFA golf tournament and dinner auction is scheduled Monday, July 17 here at the Foxchase Golf Club.

For the \$75 entry fee, FFA supporters can include on the list of daily activities a lunch from 11 a.m.-noon. At noon, the golf shotgun scramble begins. Dinner is

scheduled for 4:30 p.m. at the center pavilion.

For those who don't want to golf, but want to show their support, the dinner/auction is \$30. Auction items will feature items made by FFA members, including an oak picnic table, jewelry box, working mallard decoy, rollback

porch glider, dog house, and other items. Other auction items include a pre-64 Model 94 Winchester 30/30, 12-gauge model 1300 Winchester, turkey hunter special, sports tickets to various events, collector toy trucks and tractors, and other items.

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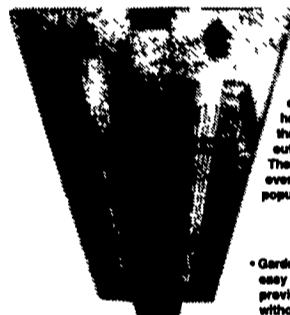
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