

Vanishing Acres: Pressured By Development, Farmers Become Neighbor Relations Experts

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the new houses going in." Fritz said that communicating the difficulties farmers face with

the farmer will expand, what kind of livestock will be cared for, when the fields will be worked, and when the manure will be spread

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the general public takes up a great deal of his time as an agent. He said that he speaks to the news media quite often and that communication is essential.

Anita Valkovec, who farms with husband John in Lehigh

and how quickly it is incorporated. In several states, specific times dictate when tractors can operate and when certain farm chores can be done. According to Valkovec, a "normal farming practice" can differ from farmer to farmer.

'I liked it here before all this development started — the traffic and all. It was much nicer before.'

County, once spoke to some neighbors who moved into the area from New Jersey and New York. She said they were making fun of the simpler, slower life of the Pennsylvania Dutch. She told them, "If you don't like it here, move away. We didn't ask you to come here. I said, I liked it here before all this development started — the traffic

"We have some people that wanted to be alerted when you spray, and so forth," said Anita Valkovec.

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and all. It was much nicer before." For Leon Ressler, Lancaster County ag environment agent who deals with farm/urban interface issues, it's essential to keep the lines of communication open.

"What I try to do is give them the options they can use and encourage them to talk to the farmer," he said. "I try to get the disagreeing parties together, because a lot of times the complainer has never even talked to the farmer."

Increasingly, according to Ressler, the people surrounding the farmer will dictate exactly what is done of the farm — when

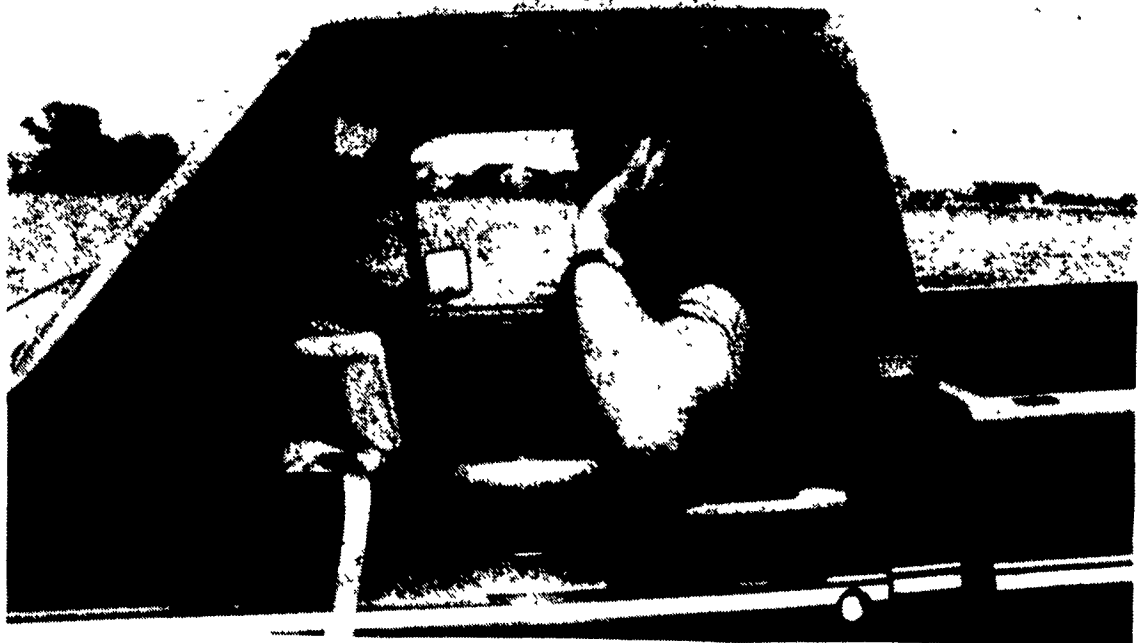
farm is host to farm tours for children in many schools in the greater Philadelphia area. "We give them a lot of hands-on attention, and I think, as a result, we get a lot of repeat business."

It's an "educational thing, not just an entertainment thing," he said.

Neighbors who live next to the Jacob Stahl Farm in Lititz often comment on the cattle Joe raises.

"Children enjoy watching the cattle in pasture," said Jacob.

In the meantime, farmers are often called on to educate the public about what they can and cannot



For "entertainment farmer" Fred Seipt, of Freddy-Hill Farms in Landsdale, providing a service is the key to maintaining good community relations. But development pressure still has him worried. Here, he looks over an area he used to farm, now under construction.

do near a farm, such as dump yard waste, which includes plants highly toxic to animals, in the fields.

Joe Stahl said that the chance to meet many more urban neighbors allows him to talk to many different and interesting people.

And building those relationships may be the key to survival for many farmers.

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Lancaster County ag environment agent. "Their tolerance for inconvenience coming from your place will be less."

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State Crop Report Indicates More Oats, Barley, Wheat

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)—Based on July 1, 1995, forecast for yield and production, the Keystone state's farmers expect to produce more barley, wheat and oats than in 1994.

Pennsylvania's 1995 planted potato acreage is estimated at 18,000 acres, down 5 percent from last year. Harvested potato acreage is estimated at 17,000 acres, down 6 percent from last year.

Oats acreage for harvest at 16,000 is the same as last year. The July 1, 1995, oats yield forecast is set at 60 bushels per acre, up 7 bushels from 1994. The resulting oats production of 9.6 million bushels will be 13 percent more than last year.

Winter wheat acres to be harvested will total 185,000, 12 percent more than last year. The July 1, 1995, winter wheat yield forecast is set at 51 bushels per acre, up 3 bushels from 1994. The resulting winter wheat production of 9.44 million bushels will be up 19 percent from the previous year.

Barley acreage for harvest at 75,000 is the same as 1994. Barley yield is expected to be 69 bushels per acre this year for an expected production of 5.18 million bushels, which is 6 percent above last year's production.

Based on July 1 conditions, the state's peach production is forecast as 90 million pounds. Peach production in 1994 was insignificant due to freeze damage.

At the United States' level, oats production is expected to be 181.5 million bushels, down 21 percent

from last year. If realized, this would be the lowest oat production since records were first kept in 1866. The expected yield per acre for oats is forecast at 55.9 bushels, compared with last season's average of 57.2 bushels. Oats harvested acres is estimated at 3.25 million acres, 19 percent less than last year.

Winter wheat production at 1.53 billion bushels is down 8 percent from a year ago. Harvested winter wheat acreage is estimated at 41.3 million acres with a yield of 37 bushels per acre. Barley harvested acres is estimated at 6.42 million, down 4 percent from 1994. Barley yield increased from 56.2 last year to 59 this year, and production is expected to go up 1 percent to 378.7 million bushels.

For the United States, fall potatoes are planted on 1.22 million acres this year, down 1 percent from last year. Harvest is expected from 1.2 million acres, 2 percent above 1994.

Peach production is estimated at 2.49 billion pounds, down 1 percent from last year.

Monfort Packing Joins Angus Beef Program

WOOSTER, Ohio — The nation's third largest beef packer, ConAgra DBA Monfort, Inc., has joined the Certified Angus Beef (CAB) Program as the newest licensed packer/fabricator.

Monfort will process and market Certified Angus Beef™ product at its Des Moines, Iowa, facility, reports Louis "Mick" Colvin, CAB program executive director. Production began in mid-

July.

"We are excited to have Monfort as a licensed Program participant," Colvin said. The tremendous growth of the CAB Program has made it a challenge to fill Certified Angus Beef product demand. Monfort will provide an opportunity to increase the availability of Certified Angus Beef product and boost its market share."



In all areas of the township, John Valkovec, who milks 50 cows and farms a total of 500 acres, said similar problems confront those who farm. This is not only true of towns in Pennsylvania, but in other parts of the country. On the tractor is John Valkovec, Jr.