



(Continued from Page A10)

When people are crowding each other, they are more likely to get irritated and upset at each other.

I think a lot of development would also increase the crime rate in rural areas. We also would not be able to "get away from it all" and go for a nice walk or drive in the country as easily.

Development is robbing us of fertile soil that can be used to provide locals with fresh food. Crops that are grown locally do not need to be shipped as far, and therefore are less expensive. Also, on construction sites there is often a lot of erosion because the ground is bare. Much of this rich soil is washed away into rivers and streams, which is a more important problem than some think. When the land is farmed, the crops grown in the fields help to prevent erosion.

If we don't stop development now, or at least limit it to right outside of towns, Lancaster would not be as popular a place to visit. Our tourism would go down quite a bit since most visitors come to enjoy our rural areas.

Now, rather than long stretches of farmland in between cities and towns, the countryside is becoming increasingly more dotted with long stretches of development.

I think that in order to prevent our area from losing its attractiveness and quality, we need to keep towns separate from country and limit the flow of people from towns to developments. I can understand why people would want to move to the country, but I don't think they should bring the town with them because it destroys countryside.

Instead of building large developments on farmland, I would ra-

PDA Names Farmland Protection Director

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Agriculture Secretary Charles C. Brosius has announced the appointment of Raymond C. Pickering, Honey Brook, as director of the Bureau of Farmland Protection.

Pickering presently serves as director of the Chester County Agricultural Land Preservation Board and the Chester County Agricultural Development Council.

He was instrumental in promoting the successful Chester County Open Space referendum which allowed \$50 million to be used in protecting open space and farmland. Under his leadership, Ches-

ter see people living in a few houses here and there so that we can still enjoy the surroundings and so can they.

Farming is a tradition here. In a world where so many traditions are broken and few are kept, I think it's important to keep this one.

Angie Breneman
Elizabethtown

ter County has permanently protected 6,600 acres of farmland.

"Raymond Pickering brings a long history of proven experience in preserving Pennsylvania's farmland. His 10 years of work on the county level will be valuable as we focus on the most effective way of continuing to keep farmland in agriculture," Brosius said.

In his new position, Pickering will administer the state farmland protection program, and work closely with state, county, township and other government officials responsible for the implementation of farmland preservation regulations.

Pickering earned a master's degree in urban and regional planning from Virginia Tech and has a bachelor's degree in political science and public administration from the Christopher Newport College of the College of William and Mary.

In 1994, Pickering was recognized with the Chester-Delaware Farmers Association Achieve-

ment Award, and he received the 1993 National Association of Counties Achievement Award for design of the Chester County Agricultural Preservation Program.

The Farmland Protection program was instituted in 1989, with a \$100 million bond issue approved by Pennsylvania voters. The program allows the state and counties to purchase development rights to guarantee that farms will remain as agricultural land.

Thirty-eight counties have county Farmland Preservation Boards. Nearly 70,000 acres of farmland are now protected on 561 farms around the state.

Pickering will oversee the implementation of new guidelines for the state program, including revision of the subdivision guidelines and changes to county programs to meet changes mandated by Act 43.

There will also be revised minimum criteria for eligibility for state funds, a farmland ranking system and summary report changes to simplify paperwork.

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