

Life Sci

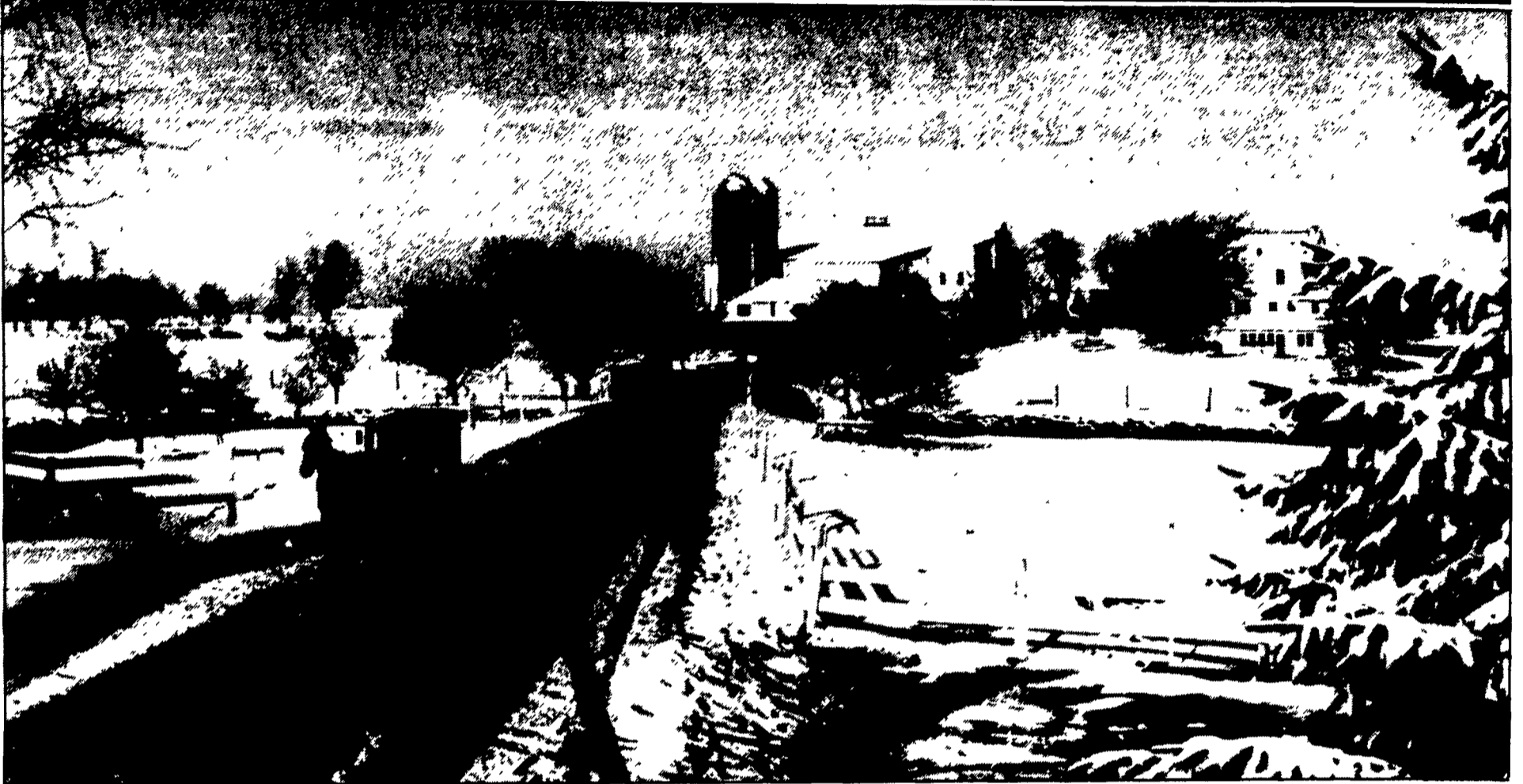
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Lancaster Farming

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While many parts of the region have had anywhere from one inch to three feet of snow on the ground before this week, southeast Pennsylvania in general and Lancaster County specifically had no snow on the ground to amount to anything until Tuesday night. Even then, to see the beautiful farm scenes, you had to get up early before the sun melted the snow off the trees.

Photographers like to use these trees to frame pictures. This Amish farm scene is southwest of New Holland where South Groffdale Road runs between the house and barn between Scenic Road and Musser School Road. For the week ahead the forecaster calls for weather that is warmer and drier than normal. Photo by Everett Newswanger, managing editor.

Chesapeake Bay Executive Council Approves Local Initiative

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
RESTON, Va. — The six members of the Chesapeake Bay Executive Council met in Reston, Virginia, on Thursday and signed several new agreements on how to best protect and continue to upgrade the quality of the Chesapeake Bay and its basin. Part of that new agreement is a "directive" that outlines how actions by the Chesapeake Bay Program have "... presented local

governments with significant opportunities to contribute to our efforts to protect and restore Bay resources." In 1987, the Chesapeake Bay Program Executive Council agreed to reduce nutrient flow into the Chesapeake Bay by 40 percent. For Pennsylvania that goal has been to reduce nitrogen flow by 40 percent and was the main reason Pennsylvania adopted the Nutrient Management Act which currently requires high-density livestock

production operations to develop and implement an approved total-operation nutrient management plan. It also provides for voluntary planning for those under the livestock density threshold and protections for those who voluntarily plan. While regulations to implement the Nutrient Management Act are in the process of being finalized, the council acknowledged that its needs the help of local government

to achieve the environmental goals it has set. If the entire effort is successful, residents of the Bay Basin should expect a stronger economic base because of the increase in variety and volume of renewable, commercially important species and conditions. According to the agreement, affected would be the "1,653 local governments located within Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia (that) are

now and will become increasingly important partners in many aspects of the Bay restoration effort." The agreement, Local Government Partnership Initiative — Directive 95-1, outlines specific commitments by council members that are designed to increase the amount of local government input into making Bay-improving decisions, and also increase technical and financial assistance from the Bay Program to local (Turn to Page A32)

Streambank, Conservation Work Catches Eye Of Neighbors, PACD

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff

BEDMINSTER (Bucks Co.) — Fruit grower Ken Bupp has heard the saying before: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." But he believes if something has the potential to be broken, or shows definite signs of strain, you better get in there before the situation turns disastrous. Years ago, he noticed how, after a heavy rain, a local tributary, which feeds into the Tohickon River and eventually to the Delaware, would overflow and spill tons of water and some soil material onto neighbors' properties. He knew something had to be done. So after contacting the county conservation district and working closely with the Soil Conservation Service (now the Natural Resource Conservation Service) and the state fish commission in the early 1990s, Bupp made extensive repairs to the streambank. He also installed crown vetch and netting to stabilize the banks. Bupp, who was recently honored for his work in water quality and conservation efforts with the statewide 1995 Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) Award, said the work helped the neighbors with homes that, in the past, were threatened with flooding.



Ken Bupp was recently honored for his work in water quality and conservation efforts with the statewide 1995 Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) Award and the 1994 Conservation Farmer of the Year Award.

"It's more to their benefit than it was ours, but we went ahead and did that in order to help them out so it wouldn't flood their properties," he said. (Turn to Page A37)