

Chesapeake Bay Executive Council Approves Local Initiative

(Continued from Page A32)

to be formed to develop future goals and recommend policy for a basinwide effort to protect, maintain and restore "riparian forest buffers."

The word "riparian" is an adjective used to describe something living or located along the banks of a waterway, or a standing body of water.

While during the 1970s many in agriculture were encouraged by the federal government to expand tillable land through the drainage of wetlands, the removal of fence-lines, etc., many also eliminated streamside forested areas.

The typical waterway in Pennsylvania historically was a forest waterway, with mature trees and the canopies providing bank stabilization, protection of water from direct sun and thus overheating, and providing a higher constant humidity and ground-air temperature.

Even though forest plants do transpire and cause some evaporation of water, the water-retaining effects of a forest allows for a more reliable capture of rainwater and release into streams, instead of the current flooding that occurs with

human construction techniques and existing storm water drainage systems.

During long periods of heat, leaf canopies protect the ground and water from direct solar heating, reducing thermals and thus excessive losses of water from a watershed.

Through natural environmental dynamics, the loss of forested areas can be counted on to result in more variable water availability, or in other words, a situation of flooding or drought.

The statewide deforestation that occurred throughout Pennsylvania during the state's lumber heydays destroyed the capability and capacity of many large and small streams and rivers to host many important fish species.

Some of those species, such as the brook trout, are now raised by the state and private concerns which control some of the states largest springheads.

Those fish raised at large annual costs in some of the best quality water in the state are stocked into some of the worst quality streams to provide recreation.

This is done despite the fact that because of the loss of protective

forest buffers and other related water quality problems, most fish stocked in these low quality streams, if not all, are expected to die by summer because of high water temperatures.

While agriculture has fairly well reversed its trend of degrading streams by removing trees and other riparian forest plants from along the banks and floodplains, urban sprawl and other types of development have been adding to the problem by infiltrating into previously little-touched areas.

These are areas that were left untouched until now because they are marginal if not poor places to construct dwellings or conduct agrarian enterprise.

Those seeking to build homes for a profit face limited and costly areas as sites for new residential development.

However, with extensions of public sewer and water lines and rezoning if necessary to suit the needs of a developer, many of these forested riparian areas are being lost or are being poorly developed.

According to a summary of the report on the progress of the riparian forest directive, a 30-member

group has been created to develop those goals and recommend policy for riparian buffers.

The panel's members represent federal, state and local government, citizens, scientists, agriculture, developers, and those concerned primarily with the health of the environment.

During 1996, the panel is to hold a series of forums to discuss issues, hold meetings with special interest groups represented on the panel, and report recommendations back to the Chesapeake Executive Council.

The panel's mission is to recommend a comprehensive policy and strategy to enhance overall stewardship of streambank areas, retention of riparian forests where they exist and restoration where

needed.

The panel is also to develop measurable goals based on sound science; recommend flexible strategies that consider real differences in landscape, existing policy, environmental conditions, and landowners concerns; focus first on regulatory and incentive programs and add voluntary as needed; increase private and non-profit participation; recognize the roles of education, technical assistance, training, and continued research; and be responsive to the landowner while ensuring that the regulated are involved.

The panel is to meet every four to six weeks and hold additional workshops, issue forums and public meetings to discuss specific aspects of the work.

Farm Bureau Requests Milk Price Increase

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)—The drought in Pennsylvania played havoc with milk production costs and dairymen lose money every time they milk to market. This was the summation of a dairy expert requesting a milk price increase for dairymen at a hearing held here today by the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board (PMMB).

Melvin Eckhaus, dairy specialist for the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, presented testimony to

the state regulatory agency saying farmers should have a price increase of 25 cents per hundredweight of milk, because of increased cattle feed costs. The drought, starting in August, caused cattle feed prices to increase because of the crop shortages, the dairy expert said.

Eckhaus cited figures from the PA Agricultural Statistics Service (PASS) which reveals farmers lost money for the 12 months ending


September 1995. "This means that the average Pennsylvania farmer lost money for every hundredweight of milk they produced," he testified. PASS figures do not include any financial returns for management and the equity capital of the farm, nor the cost of federal government assessments. If these cost items were included, Eckhaus said, farmer losses would be even greater.

Shortages of feed crops and increased feed purchases will have its most dramatic effect on the dairymen during the winter months, according to Eckhaus. The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau conducted a survey of dairymen in October which estimated the cost of purchased feed would increase more than 18 cents per hundredweight of milk.

"The total cost of milk production for farmers for the 12 months ending September 1995 is \$16.87 per hundredweight. The average price received by farmers was \$13.49 per hundredweight. That's a loss for the average dairyman of \$3.38 cents per hundredweight," according to Eckhaus.

Citing figures from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Eckhaus noted that the supplies of fluid milk are tight nationwide. In fact, he said, USDA announced its estimate of Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) purchases in 1996 to be



(Turn to Page A38)



Petersheim's Cow Mattresses
Rubber Filled Cow Mattresses
 117 Christiana Pike (Route 372)
 Christiana, PA 17509

The Answer to Cow Comfort

- Fits Any Stall
- Reduces Bedding Costs
- Polypropylene Bag Filled with Rubber

- Sewn Every 4" To Prevent Shifting
- Easier For Cows To Get Up And Down
- **NEW!** Non-woven 50 oz. Top Cover - Less Abrasive

ALSO: Custom Loop Stalls For Existing Barns
 INSTALLATION AVAILABLE. CALL FOR DETAILS
SAM PETERSHEIM 610-593-2242

J. David Russell **C.S. Supply**
 RD 4, Box 386, Tyrone, PA 16686 RD 1, Mill Hall, PA 17751
 814-684-7486 717-726-6760




LANCO CONCRETE WALLS

Agricultural • Commercial • Residential

WE DO SCS WORK - ALL TYPES OF POURED WALLS

- Retaining Walls
- Manure Pits (circular or rectangular)
- Footers
- Bunker Silos
- Slatted Floor Deep Pits
- Flatwork

CONTACT: STEVE PETERSHEIM, JR.

P.O. Box 256, Bird-In-Hand, PA 17505
717-291-4585 • (FAX) 717-291-4686

WHITENING with ADVANTAGE FARM WHITE

- DRIES WHITE
- NO WET FLOORS
- IS COMPATIBLE WITH DISINFECTANT AND FLY SPRAYS
- DOES NOT RUB OFF EASILY
- WASHES OFF WINDOWS & PIPELINES EASILY

BARN CLEANING SERVICE AVAILABLE WITH COMPRESSED AIR

To have your barn cleaned with air it will clean off dust, cob webs & lots of the old lime. This will keep your barn looking cleaner & whiter longer.




CALL US ABOUT ON THE FARM FLY CONTROL
 Serving Southeastern Pa. And More

BEITZEL'S SPRAYING
 Witmer, PA 17585 717-392-7227 or
 Toll Free 1-800-727-7228 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM
 CERTIFIED COMMERCIAL APPLICATORS
 LICENSED 32 Years Experience INSURED

5 Trucks For Air Cleaning And Whitewashing
RADIO DISPATCHED TRUCKS
 Barn Spraying Is Our Business, not a sideline.
 Spraying Since 1961

CALF KENNELS



Choice Of Front Or Rear Feeding

Also Available: Calf Hutches, Emu Shelters, Plywood Bulk Feed Bins, Horse, Sheep & Hog Shelters, Kennels With Door & Feeding Alley. Open Shelters. Made To Order. Truck & Trailer Beds & Side Racks Repaired Horse Barns w/Tack Room

Locust Posts • Fence Boards
 Delivery Available

MFD. BY: **STOLTZFUS WOODWORK**
 613 White Horse Rd. - Gap, PA 17527
 717-442-8972