

N.E. Pa. Open Space Conference Set

WILKES-BARRE (Luzerne Co.) — An upcoming conference is to address new and creative ways to preserve and maintain community open spaces in north-eastern Pennsylvania.

On Friday, March 22, "Creating Opportunities for Community Open Space" will bring together local planners, conservation groups, developers, and natural resource professionals for a luncheon at noon, followed by an afternoon conference.

Award winning author, lecturer and rural town planner Mr. Randall Arendt of Natural Lands Trust Inc. will be returning to the area to discuss ways to develop a community-wide open space network and techniques that can improve the appearance and vitality of local downtowns.

Other presenters include Howard Grossman of the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania, discussing the newly formed Northeast Pennsylvania Conservancy; Steve Pitoniak of the Lackawanna County Regional Planning Commission explaining how the comprehensive plan for the Lackawanna Valley will try to preserve open space; Beth Pilling of the Montgomery County Planning Commission discussing the \$10 million they are spending to preserve open space; and Bernie McGurl of the Lackawanna River corridor Association and Annette

Schultz discussing the development of a 40-mile trail that will follow the river from Scranton to Carbondale.

"Creating Opportunities for Community Open Space" is to be held at the Holiday Inn in Dunmore from 12 p.m. until about 5 p.m. and include a buffet luncheon and a full packet of written material as part of the \$15 registration fee.

This conference is sponsored by the Northeast Pennsylvania Community Tree Association in cooperation with the Lackawanna County Regional Planning Commission, Penn State Cooperative Extension, DCNR, Natural Lands

Trust, the Pennsylvania Urban and Community Forestry Council, the Lackawanna River Corridor Association, Lackawanna County Conservation District, and the U.S. EPA.

This project is supported by funds provided by the USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Areas, State and Private Forestry and with the assistance of the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry.

For a registration flyer or further information call Penn State Cooperative Extension at (717)825-1701 or the Lackawanna County Regional Planning Commission at (717)963-6400.

Berks Volunteers Offer Garden Seminars

LEESPORT (Berks Co.) — The first of four Berks County extension garden seminars, "Soil Testing - Does Your Soil Have What It Takes?", will be held March 21 at 7 p.m. at the River Road Recreation Building.

The seminars will be presented by Master Gardener Volunteers of the Berks County Extension Office of Penn State. The cost for the seminar will be \$5.

Topics to be discussed include the importance of nutrients, pH, and soil testing, as well as how to read a soil test and fertilizer label.

Call the Muhlenberg Township Parks and Recreation Department at (610) 929-1503 to register.

Everyone is welcome, however the class size will be limited, and registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Bradford Dairy Days

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tully see some better times ahead."

During the course of his presentation, Muller offered ways to reduce costs and become more efficient producers of milk.

"The economic facts," Muller said, "are that milk prices have been stable until fairly recently, when we've seen some improvement. Our input costs are increasing. That means our margins are decreasing, which means for all of you the cost of living is a little bit tighter."

He suggested for future competitiveness, dairy farmers should look at ways to decrease costs.

Among other things, Muller noted that you could try to improve production management, improve business management, use the tools that are available for financial management, and use the tools and technology that are available, such as BST or intensive grazing.

"Many of you have heard of a fairly famous football coach at Penn State who says if you do the little things right, the big things will take care of themselves," Muller noted.

In gaining competitiveness, dairy farmers must better manage all the resources on the farm including land, labor, cattle and management.

"How can we better utilize those resources?" Muller asked.

Changes can also be considered in the feeding program especially by considering by-products, making sure you're feeding the best forage to the top producing cows, and reducing waste.

Other keys are to use DHIA

records, test feed regularly and balance rations accordingly, use the scale carefully and analyze the mix when feeding a total mixed ration, and consider buying commodities in bulk.

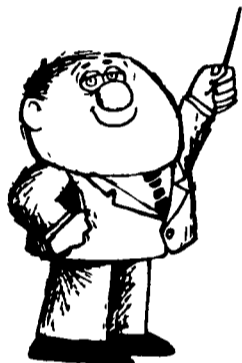
Setting up an intensive grazing system is also a possibility for the coming months.

"I know some of your in this room are doing some grazing," said Muller. "Maybe some more of you are thinking about it. The feed costs are the biggest costs. Grazing systems are a component of the forage system. It does require different management and there's no guarantee that there will be a positive impact, but it's something to consider. Basically, intensive grazing is managing cows and pasture to optimize the production of both."

In addition to the main presentations, producers also had the opportunity to attend a breakout session on pesticides lead by County Extension Agent Mark Madden. One core and one category point were offered to those who listened to his two presentations, "What's new for 1996 in weed control materials?" and "Integrated pest management for corn."

The programs were well attended, according to Bradford County Ag. Agent Tom J. Maloney, who estimated attendance to be more than 300.

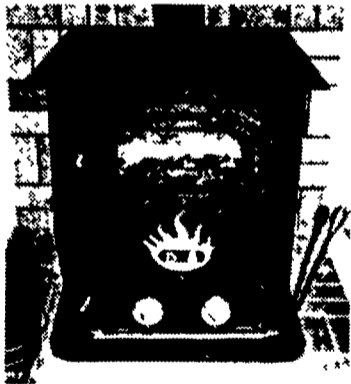
"It was a successful day," said Maloney. "We try to add something new every year. This year it was the skin cancer screening. Next year we'll try to have hearing screening. We try to get the whole family involved."



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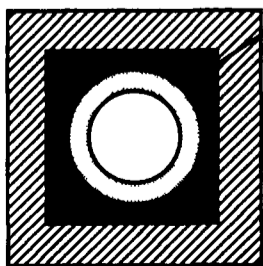
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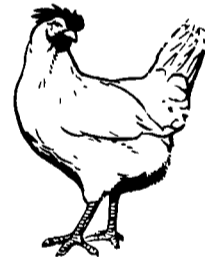
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