



**Dauphin Conservation Farmer Of Year Reveals Erosion Control Challenges**

**Streambank Work Controls Damage From January Flooding**

**ANDY ANDREWS**  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
ELIZABETHVILLE (Dauphin Co.) — Who will forget the winter of '96? Larry Shade certainly won't.

Shade remembers the tremendous flooding the weekend of Jan. 19-21, when floodwater from melting snow and ice carved out a "40-50 foot broad river" that ran through a field, ripping up streambanks, tearing up sod, and depositing silt everywhere.

Shade said of the flooding, which also damaged homes, boat marinas, and dams in several counties in the Susquehanna Valley, "It tore a bridge out in Harrisburg, you know — and it sure ain't going to let a little grass stop it."

Acts of Mother Nature can easily destroy efforts of even the most stringent soil stewards. And there's nothing erosion control experts and conservation planners can do about it.

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**Land Preservation Celebrates Achievements, More Money Pledged**

**LOU ANN GOOD**  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Farm owners, public officials, and members of the Lancaster County Preservation Board and the Lancaster Farmland Trust celebrated a landmark achievement at the Franklin and Marshall College Field House on March 22.

Although the celebration was intended to laud the preservation of 245 farms and 20,000 acres, the 350 people in attendance were in for an additional surprise when the county commissioners presented a check for \$500,000 to be used to preserve more farmland.

With the \$2.9 million allocation from the state and \$1.25 million previously pledged from the county, the nine-year waiting list of farms slated for preservation is expected to be speeded up. Sec. of

Agriculture Brosius also indicated that the U.S. Farm Bill that is expected to pass allocates \$35 million to be used for farmland preservation over a three-year period. A portion of that money will be relayed to the county.

When the Lancaster County Agricultural Preserve Board first formed, many observers thought that farmland preservation was too controversial to succeed.

Amos Funk, a founding member, recalled the obstacles and the frustration in trying to influence farmers and officials to become interested in the program. He often questioned fellow board members, "Are we getting anywhere? Are we going to see anything come out of this?"

Last Friday, an exuberant Funk said, "I'm glad I lived long enough" (Turn to Page A24)



The Shade family farms about 235 acres (200 tillable) in the hollow below Tannery Hill in the Lykens Valley. Larry Shade, left, farms with wife Lily and sons Todd, 27, right, who works full-time and Jason, 18, center, a senior at Upper Dauphin High School who works part-time.

**National Cattlemen Post Advisory On 'Mad Cow Disease'**

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — On Tuesday this week, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association posted the following advisory regarding Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), also referred to as "Mad Cow's Disease":

Since the British Ministry of Health's statement on March 24 indicating the possibility of a link between Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in cattle and Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) in humans, the issue has

made headlines around the world.

However, the Ministry also pointed out that there was no direct evidence of a link. In addition, the Ministry noted that steps were taken in 1989 to ensure that meat and milk are safe and they remain safe today.

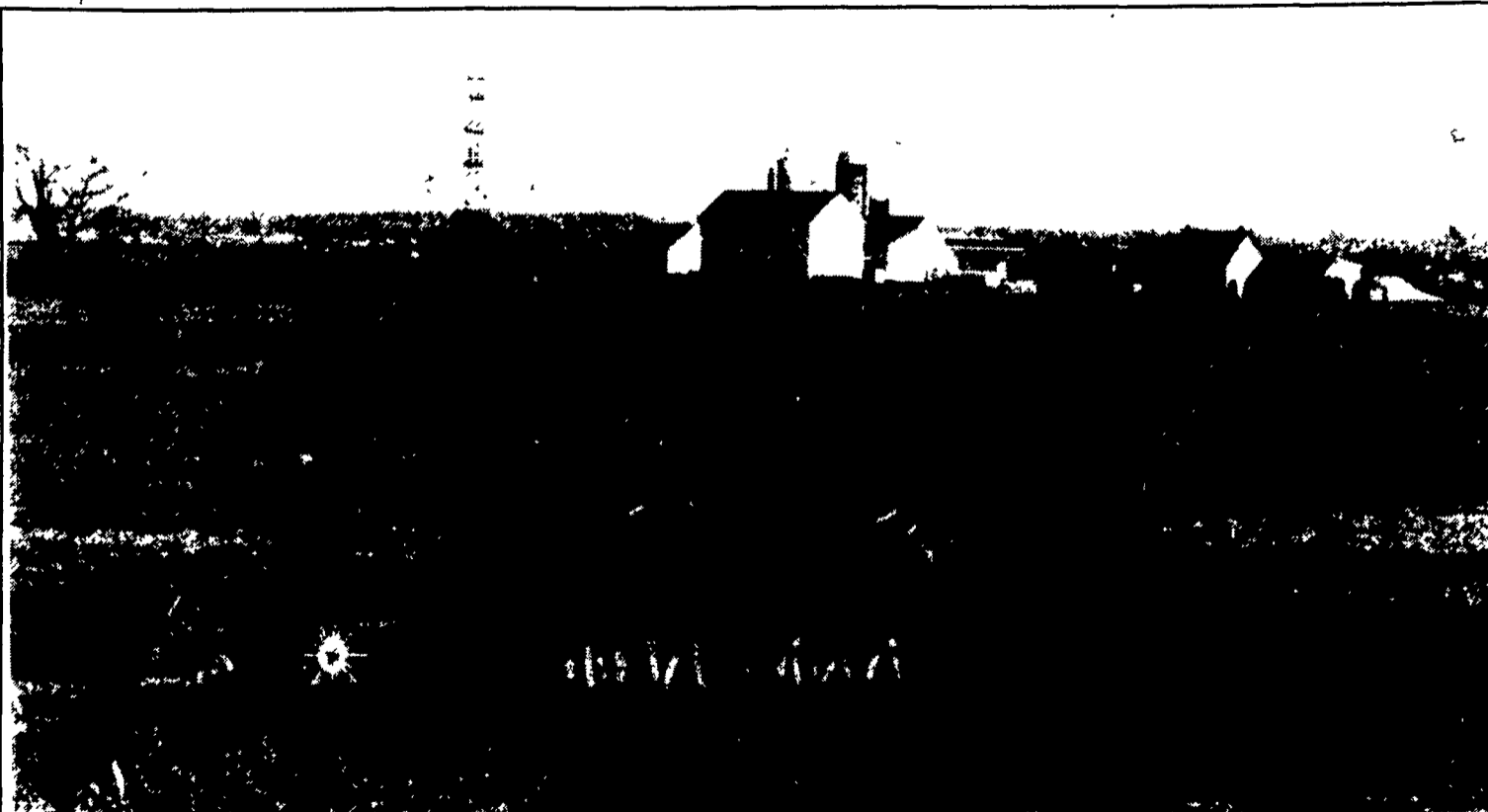
Based upon 10 years of monitoring and surveillance data in the United States, we can confirm that there is no BSE in the U.S. and there are a number of long-standing, aggressive programs to prevent BSE from ever entering the U.S. Consumers should be reassured about the safety of U.S. beef.

The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) imposed a ban in 1989 on the importation of live ruminants (cattle, sheep, etc.) or products from countries where BSE has been found. In addition, the USDA Food Safety Inspection Service said that no beef has been imported from the UK since 1985.

In addition, since 1986 the U.S. has maintained a sophisticated and aggressive BSE surveillance program involving 250 APHIS veterinarians who conduct field investigations of suspicious symptoms. In addition, more than 60 veterinary diagnostic laboratories around the country work on BSE surveillance in cooperation with the National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Ames, Iowa.

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association is working with scientists and appropriate government agencies to consider additional steps to ensure we are not at risk

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While spring has arrived according to the calendar, the weather doesn't let go of winter. But we saw a tractor with rubber tires, a tractor with steel wheels, and quite a few horses and mule teams in the fields this week, around the Lancaster Farming office.

In the photo, our Amish neighbor had his team working along Rockvale Road east of Strasburg Pike late Wednesday afternoon. The bright low sunlight cast deep shadows

across the fields and highlighted the white farm buildings in the background. By Thursday, the snow, sleet, and rain took away the thought of spring, and did nothing for the farmer's plowing and planting disease that overtakes every true person of the soil about this time each year. Surely the weather will catch up with the calendar soon. Photo by Everett Newswanger, managing editor.