

# Sound Conservation Practices

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400 feet of grass waterways are used. The waterways are 25-foot wide planted in a combination of Kentucky 31 fescue and perennial rye. Strips are maintained in hay, small grain, and corn.

Sod diversions are maintained on mostly the steeper ground and can be used about 20 years before overhaul work is needed.

During the farm tour, snow showers were the norm as temperatures plunged into the 30s.



Students from Tulpehocken High School inspect the Feeg Farm's spring-fed water trough.

## Hershey Dairy Bethel

A concrete settlement basin is the mainstay of barnyard runoff control at the dairy operated by Wilbur and Arlene Hershey in Bethel.

The settlement basin, constructed at a cost of \$7,500 with Chesapeake Bay program cost-share money, collects a little more than a foot of manure and prevents it from running to a farm pond within a 100 yards of the barnyard.

Wilbur said that the farm cares for 145 milking and 120 replacement stock of grade Holstein. In all, 450 acres, included rented ground, are managed.

The farm itself includes 247 acres of corn, wheat, soybeans, and alfalfa hay. Manure is stored in

a completely earthen bank storage which holds 4-6 months of manure. The manure is spread three times a year in early spring, early fall, and late fall.

The manure is chiseled in. Bedded packed manure from dry cow and young stock is spread when needed.

A grass waterway carries water from the concrete settling-basin to a filter area in the pasture. When full, a skid loader is used to dump the settling basin manure to the earth bank storage.

Still under installation at the farm, according to Ray Hershey, is a spouting system to collect rain-water from an old bank barn, bank

feeder roof, and freestall barn roofs. The water is fed to an underground pipe which empties into the pond.

According to the district, diversions total 2,500 feet at the farm, with grass waterways totaling 600 feet and contour stripcropping in place on 67 acres.

During the tour, 10 students from Tulpehocken High School in Bernville also inspected the conservation practices. Christine Williams, ag science instructor at Tulpehocken, explained that the students, studying environmental agriculture, were looking at the various water quality control techniques on the farms.



Randy McCormack, Berks County conservationist, center with cap, reviews the conservation plans at the Feeg Farm.

# Farmers Union Inducts Two Into Hall Of Fame

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founded in 1988 to recognize members whose dedication and hard work have contributed to the success of the farm organization.

Junk said, "PFU has long tradition of working with family farmers across the state in areas of legislation, cooperation and education. The Hall of Fame is a way to recognize the hard work of those members who contributed to our success."

Bentz has been a member of PFU since its inception. "I was a member of the first annual state convention 25 years ago. Actually I was member of the advisory committee before our state was even chartered as a Farmers Union state."

In addition, Bentz is an advocate of a new cooperation movement in York County. "Grain producers in York County found themselves with no way to ship their grain. A group of us decided to get together and cooperatively meet our need for a grain handling facility," he said.

Junk commended Bentz and Rynd for their continued involvement in PFU and their contributions to rural Pennsylvania.

"Jack is an expert in dairy policy and PFU has always looked to him for advice on those issues," said Junk. Rynd, Farmers Union Milk Marketing Cooperative president, has been an active member of PFU since the beginning.

"This organization has been instrumental in shaping dairy policy, not only in Pennsylvania but also in Washington," Rynd said. "I am very proud of this award and will continue to work with PFU to make the dairy industry viable for family farmers."

Pennsylvania Farmers Union is a grassroots family farm organization working for the betterment of producers across the state.

United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Secretary Jill Long-Thompson encouraged the participants at the Farmers Helping Farmer Conference to "work together to make rural America a better place." The conference was held in conjunction with the 25th annual convention.

"We need to find new ways to partner with government and the private sector to create an opportunity for the future of rural America," Long-Thompson said. "We have a successful history of these partnerships, rural electrification, higher education and the rural water system. We need to find new opportunities for people who live on the farm and expand agriculture opportunities for them."

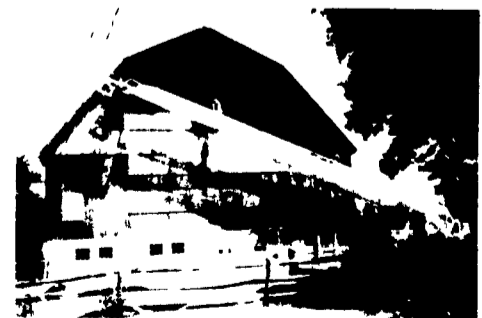
The Farmers Union conference featured experts in the cooperative development from across the state. "This conference is an excellent vehicle for producers to explore new ways to add value to their products," said PFU President Bob Junk. "Farmers Union has always supported the cooperative movement, and we encourage our producers to control more of their product to increase its value."

Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brosius also urged the participants to "work with the government to create new marketing opportunities for agriculture products." The Ridge Administration has been very active in developing new markets and we will continue those efforts.

Junk said the conference was the first step producers need to take to generate new ideas. "Our goal was to give producers an opportunity to explore new markets and to openly discuss what their possibilities are for the future."

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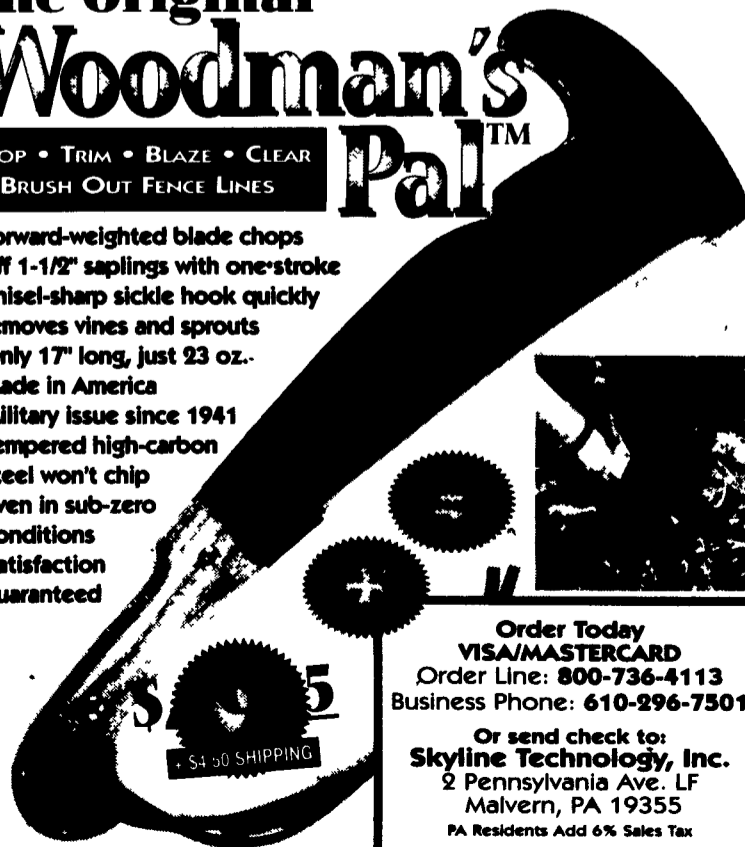
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