



(Continued from Page A10)

gram unfolds, I believe it will increase our ability to preserve agricultural land throughout the state. Combined with Maryland's existing nationally recognized Agricultural Land Preservation Program (number one nationally with 128,000 acres now permanently preserved) Maryland will have an opportunity to continue, in a more rapid pace, its leadership in land preservation.

The administration of the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Program will continue under its existing structure. In addition, it will be an active partner in the acquisition of agricultural land preservation easements purchased with Rural Legacy funds. As an amendment to the proposed legislation, Governor Glendening has pledged \$14 million in new dollars from the rural legacy fund to the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation to meet ongoing, statewide agricultural

preservation beyond the rural legacy areas. This offers a much needed monetary enhancement to our existing program for its continued success.

The net result of the passage of this important Smart Growth initiative is the creation of a Rural Legacy Program working with local governments and environmental and agricultural industry groups in a cooperative effort for the protection of the cultural, environmental and economic well-being of Maryland.

I urge strong support for the Rural Legacy Program. It is an opportunity we cannot afford to lose.

Lewis R. Riley, Secretary,
 Maryland Dept. of Ag

Editor,

Who will feed the people?

This is a question that needs to be asked as farms are disappearing from this country. Without the farmer, the people in this country will starve!

Talking with some people about

farmers dumping milk, the response is, "It doesn't concern us because we can buy milk at the store." Well ... where does the store get their milk?

Does anyone in Washington know the cost to the farmer to produce this milk? No.

On an average it costs approximately \$8.13 a day per cow just for feed (hay — \$4, silage \$1 and feed/mineral \$3.13). The feed cost is increased if the farmer has to purchase prepared feed. This is not the only cost incurred by the farmer to produce milk. You must add labor (hired help), fuel, equipment and equipment repairs, planting and harvesting costs, breeding costs, and veterinarian

costs. Sometimes the farmer is forced to take out loans and then has to repay these.

With the recent drop in milk price, the farmer will no longer be able to produce milk. On an average, the farmer makes approximately \$2.24 an hour for his time and labor (the farmer labors about 14 hours a day). This is a mere pittance for a job that requires so much. The farmer will never be rich.

Family farms that have been around for generations are becoming extinct. The little farms are going under. What happens to the farmer who now has to find a job? Some are too old while others are

told they have no experience. What does this do for the economy?

Our Cooperative Extension Board in Montour County is concerned about the fate of our farms and farmers.

Please take time to listen to the farmers and help them keep the beautiful farms alive in this country. We don't need our farmland developed for homes and industries. They are part of our past and our future.

Deb Alpaugh
 President,
 Montour County
 Extension Board

Lancaster Conservation District Sets Annual Meeting

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — The Board of Directors of the Lancaster County Conservation District wishes to invite the general public to their 46th Annual Dinner Meeting on Thursday evening, March 20, 1997 at 6:45 p.m. at Yoder's Restaurant, Route 23, New Holland.

Our guest speaker, The Susquehanna River, friend or foe? What is your relationship to the mighty Susquehanna? Susan Q. Strana-

han, award winning author of "Susquehanna, River of Dreams" and staff writer at The Philadelphia Inquirer, will present slides and speak on the river that contributes 50 percent of the fresh water going into the Chesapeake Bay.

In 1979, Susan's news stories about the Three Mile Island nuclear accident were a major component of the articles that earned The Inquirer the Pulitzer Prize for general reporting. She

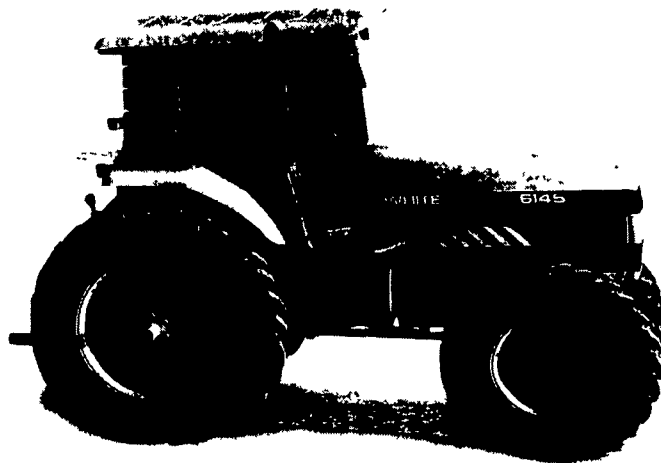
has won a number of other state and national reporting awards, and has a wealth of knowledge on our region as it relates to the river.

You won't want to miss this presentation on the river that begins in Cooperstown, New York and flows through Lancaster County as part of its 444 mile trip to Havre de Grace, Maryland.

Tickets cost \$13.50 each and can be secured from any director, associate director or by calling the District Office at (717) 299-5361.

For additional information please contact Nancy J. Burkhart, Office Manager.

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