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Tulpehocken Watershed Receives Conservation Funding

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
STOUCHSBURG (Berks Co.)
— When people hear the saying, "it was a real gully-washer," they could be referring to an area of a 125-acre dairy farm operated here by Richard and Nelson Troutman.

When it stormed, rains would cause such a flood of stormwater down the stone farm lane that, almost every time, the owners would have to haul stone and repair it, according to Richard Troutman.

But with the help of the conservation district and a 319 Water Quality Grant, in March last year a clean water collection system, including six collection boxes and 1,500 feet of pipe, was installed at a cost of \$6,900.

Gone were the problems of lane loss to water. The outlet system would drain into a stream that feeds into the Tulpehocken Creek. Now the farm managers could concentrate on their feed and dairy work and less on farm lane erosion.

Similar farm improvement projects could be getting a new boost for farm owners in the Tulpehocken Creek watershed area.

Areas of Berks and Lebanon counties, through Public Law 566, will have access to cost-share funds from a multi-agency program to install a wide array of conservation practices on farms.

There are several major components to the \$8.9 million program. Evaluation units include agricultural waste management, cropland treatment, riparian area treatment, wetland and floodplain conserva-

tion easements, and aquatic habitat improvement.

The Tulpehocken project allows up to \$100,000 per farm in a 10-year period at 75 percent cost-share to participate, indicated

Charles W. Wertz, Lebanon County Conservation District manager.

According to Wertz, projects include waste management structures, barnyard runoff management, soil erosion control, stream

bank fencing and crossings, riparian forest and buffer filters, and other projects.

Wertz noted the flexibility of the program. Farm managers can adopt aspects of the program to the farm. The government pays 75 percent of the total cost.

"If somebody has a serious sinkhole problem, the program could do sinkhole repair," Wertz said.

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In the spring of 1997, grass waterways were installed to separate two corn fields where Richard Troutman stands. That is one of many programs the new watershed program can provide to farmers. Troutman said that the limestone, clay-bottom ground holds water in a dry year. Last year, despite a persistent drought, the farm harvested 150 bushels per acre of corn. Photo by Andy Andrews

Dairy Options Program In Your Mailbox

GETTYSBURG (Adams Co.)
— Within the next four to six weeks, dairy producers in Berks, Bradford, Crawford, Chester, Franklin, and Lancaster counties should be carefully watching their mail. Producers in these counties will be receiving information about the Dairy Options Pilot Program that is being introduced by the Federal Risk Management Agency.

The Dairy Options Pilot Program (DOPP) is an educational effort, authorized by USDA, that provides financial assistance to producers in selected counties who want to begin using BFP milk options to limit their downside price risk. Six counties in each of

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How About A Pasteurized, Whole Egg?

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.)
— Milk is pasteurized. Why not the same for whole shell eggs? One business has learned to do

just that. Pasteurized Eggs, L.P., a New Hampshire-based food technology company, demonstrated Big Pete, its egg pasteurizer, late last week. The demonstration was held

before more than two dozen egg agri-industry representatives at the manufacturing facilities of Food Processing Systems in Greenfield Industrial Park.

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★ PROUD TO BE ★
★ AN ★
★ American ★
★ FARMER ★

On this Independence Day, July 4, 1998, we the staff at Lancaster Farming commend the farmers and agribusiness industry for your help to make America strong. Without you the nation perishes.

Farmers Should Be Prepared For Local Farm Tag Checks

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
LANDISVILLE (Lancaster Co.)
— A recent legal incident involving a hay producer using a farm license tag on a rig to deliver a load for sale in Lancaster County has left that producer uncertain about what is expected of a farmer these days.

While the incident isn't completely over, the producer this week had to give up a day's work to travel four hours one-way to attend a rescheduled (at court's convenience, with a three-day notice) hearing in a Lancaster County locality.

As a result of the district justice hearing, all but two of the charges

have been dismissed. The last two — one each for the same thing against the producer and his driver — are to be dismissed if the producer sends to the district justice, through certified mail, a notarized statement giving evidence of the leasing of the farmland from which the hay came.

Though willing to be identified, it seems that the specific identity of the individuals involved aren't necessarily important.

What seems most important is whether the incident is isolated or if it is a common incident.

According to the producer involved, in his discussions with other producers, there have been

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"Weedy Retreat Mallards," an original painting by FFA member Greg Yoder, will go to the highest bidder at the auction held following the annual Fore FFA Golf Tournament to be held July 20. The proceeds will benefit the Pennsylvania FFA Foundation. Limited edition prints of the painting are also available through special orders. For more information, read the article about Greg and the upcoming benefit auction on page B 6. Photo and story by Lou Ann Good.