Partnership

(Continued from Page A34)

bring the project to fruition.

Janet Oertly, state conservation with NRCS, said the landowner was also crucial in the success of the project.

"Without the private landowner stepping up to the plate, this doesn't go anywhere," she said.

"The earth wants to heal itself, it we give it a chance," said David Wise.

In 1998, Wise noted that 80 projects in the bay included 26 miles of riparian buffer work, 26 miles of stream bank fencing, and 175 acres of wetlands habitat restoration at a cost of \$250,000.

The work of Pequea-Mill Creek and other projects have many benefits, noted Matt Ehrhart, restoration specialist with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation — a big partner in state restoration projects. They include habitat restoration, nutrient removal and protection of streams through buffer zones, erosion reduction (one foot of erosion per year from a stream bank equals 160-170 cubic yards of soil down the river), and overall health of the bay communities.

Since Lucas started, only 50 miles of stream bank fencing has been installed in the watershed, with more such installation to

State Approves Eight Farms For Preservation

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — On behalf of Gov. Tom Ridge, Agriculture Secretary Samuel E. Hayes Jr. recently announced that the Agricultural Land Preservation Board has approved easement purchases for eight farms across the Commonwealth.

"Gov. Ridge is committed to preserving the farmlands of our hard-working farm families," said Hayes, who chairs the Board. "The addition of these farms further demonstrates Pennsylvania's commitment to our No. 1 industry - agriculture."

Created in 1989, the Pennsylvania Agricultural Land

Preservation Board oversees the state Farmland Preservation Program. The program allows the state and counties to purchase development rights, referred to as easements, to guarantee that farms will remain as agricultural land.

Including two county-owned easements accepted among the eight, to date, the Farmland Preservation Program has protected 1,075 farms in 41 counties encompassing 134,665

The eight properties, including owner, municipality, acreage and purchase cost, were.

Bucks County William H. and Rosemary P. Garges, Warrington lownship, 112 acres, \$1,616,605;

Fayette County

Wayne B. and Margaret M. Brown, Bullskin Township, 106 acres, \$117,027,

Lawrence County

Gary K. and Jeffrey W McConnell, Washington Township, 107 acres, \$107,330;

Lehigh County

Edgar A. and Beatrice M. Wehr, Weisenberg Township, 119 acres, \$262,138;

Lycoming County

Frank L and Barbara K Hartley, Cogan House Township, 151 acres, \$122,310;

Montgomery County

KG's Windard Farm Inc (Kenneth A. Geyer, president), 61 acres, \$288,016;

Union County

George P. and Ella S. Willow, Limestone Township, 79 acres, \$89,000; and

Wayne County

Peter F. and Olga Smith, Cherry Ridge Township, 90 acres, \$89,920

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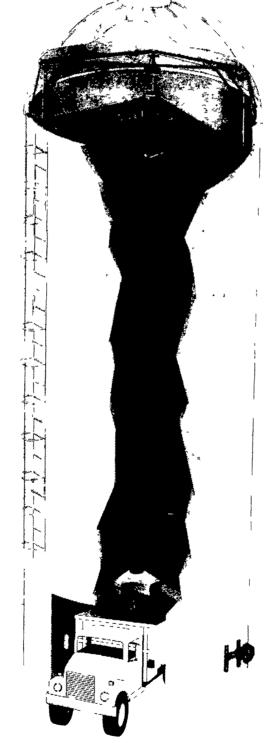
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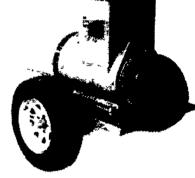
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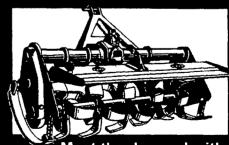
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