

Farm Bureau

(continued from Page A1)

legislators include:

• Water resource management — At least seven water resource management bills have been introduced in the General

Assembly. Agriculture in Pennsylvania is highly dependent on water resources. None of the bills proposed so far contain provisions needed to protect farmers from possible unreason-

able and severe restrictions in water use. Nor do they give agriculture priority in the event of water shortages.

• Illegal or discriminatory local ordinances — Numerous townships have passed local ordinances designed to prohibit or

strongly discourage farmers from changing or expanding their operations. These ordinances exceed and ignore state laws establishing uniformity in the regulation of agriculture in Pennsylvania. Farmers who decide to challenge these ordinances in court subject themselves to expensive legal fees. Farm Bureau supports S.B. 826, which would require townships to reimburse legal costs to farmers who successfully challenge their ordinances in court.

• Humane society police officers — The state Supreme Court has ruled that a humane society officer appointed by the court to enforce animal cruelty laws in one county may enforce the laws anywhere in the state. The ruling struck down part of a 1994 law that gave local communities a way to protect themselves from humane society officers who abused their enforcement authority. Farm Bureau supports S.B. 1302, which would create an independent board within the state Department of Agriculture to regulate private humane society enforcement officers. The board could grant enforcement power to humane society officers or revoke it if misconduct or abuse of power is committed.

• Funding for agriculture — The governor's budget proposal for the next fiscal year contains several funding cuts which affect agriculture. Instead of the proposed five percent budget cuts for agriculture research and extension at Penn State and for the School of Veterinary Medi-

cine at the University of Pennsylvania, Farm Bureau wants funding increased by about 3.25 percent for these important programs. In addition, full funding is needed for a program that helps farmers insure their crops against weather disasters.

• Other Issues — Farm Bureau supports S.B. 1253, which would provide grants to encourage production of alternative fuels and ethanol in Pennsylvania and would refund state liquid fuels taxes for three years to distributors of ethanol fuel. The bill would also require replacement over a three-year time span of the fuel additive methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) with ethanol.

To help reduce lawsuit abuse, Farm Bureau supports S.B. 406, which would give the defendant in a frivolous lawsuit the right to sue the attorney or law firm representing the plaintiff in the lawsuit. Farm Bureau supports H.B. 236 and H.B. 936, which would reduce the burden of state inheritance taxes on families.

Because Act 50 of 1998, intended to provide for local tax reform, has only been adopted by five of Pennsylvania's 501 school districts, Farm Bureau is asking lawmakers to come up with new legislation to address the problem of adequately financing school districts without imposing unfair property tax burdens on farmers.

Farm Bureau supports H.B. 2398 and S.B. 1045, which would make farmers eligible for low-interest loans under the state's Small Business First Program.

Enrolled In CREP?

Ann Mease
CREP Outreach
Natural Resource
Conservation Office

Would you like to be making \$100-\$160 per acre for the next 10-15 years from your marginal cropland and streamside pasture, regardless of weather conditions or market fluctuations?

You could be if you enroll your eligible land in the Pennsylvania Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

However, the program has an acreage cap, statewide, and the time to ask for more information or enroll your land is now.

CREP is a federal/state partnership with the goal of enrolling 100,000 acres of highly erodible cropland and streamside pastureland in conservation cover plantings. The program is entirely voluntary and works to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, improve wildlife habitat, and increase farm income on marginal farmland.

What land is eligible for CREP? Any cropland or marginal pasture within 180 feet of a stream is eligible. Highly erodible cropland greater than 180 feet from a stream may also be eligible and buffer strips, grassed waterways, and wetlands may be enrolled on any cropland.

How would I benefit? CREP pays you to place land into conservation cover. You would be reimbursed for up to 100 percent of the cost of establishing cover, including the cost of streambank fencing and crossings. Cover may include native warm season grasses, cool season grasses and legume mixtures and, along streams, native trees and shrubs. You would be paid a yearly rental rate between \$98-\$164 per acre, depending on soil type and practices implemented, as well as an annual maintenance payment. Depending on the practice, additional one-time bonus payments may also be included.

How do I enroll or find out more? If the current statewide enrollment rates continue, CREP projects that it will fulfill its allotment of 100,000 acres by this spring. Don't wait until it is too late to find out whether the CREP opportunity is right for you.

For more information, contact Ann Mease, CREP Outreach, at the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) office at (717) 755-2996, ext. 110 or e-mail Thistlebrook@juno.com.



Are you ready for a STIHL?

MS021 Chain Saw
16" Bar
35.2 cc, 2.0bhp, 9.9 lbs.

SRP \$179⁹⁵ SH55 Blower
SRP \$229⁹⁵

Handheld Vacuum/Shredder

Available at these servicing dealers

Abbottstown

MESSICK'S
7481 Lincoln Hwy. Rte. 30E
Abbottstown, PA 17301
717-259-6617 866-285-0225

Gap/Quarryville

GAP POWER
RENTALS >> PLUS
Gap: 717-442-8970
Quarryville: 717-786-2221

Reamstown

EAGLE
RENTAL CENTER
Rt. 272, Reamstown Traffic
Light
717-336-3945

Allentown

LEHIGH AG EQ. INC.
3670 Ruppaville Rd.
610-398-2553
1-800-779-3616

Hummels Wharf

HUMMEL'S TEXACO
Rt. 11 & 15
570-743-7459

Ronks

A & B SALES
& SERVICE
370 Newport Road
2 Miles South of Rt. 23
Along 772 Thru Monterey

Carlisle

TRI-BORO
CONSTRUCTION
SUPPLIES
1490 RITNER HWY.
1-800-248-6590

Lititz/Lebanon

BOMBERGER'S LAWN
& GARDEN
Lititz: 717-626-3301
Lebanon: 717-272-4155

Schaefferstown

MARTIN'S
EQUIPMENT CO.
Rt. 501 1 1/2 Miles South of
Schaefferstown, PA
717-949-6817

Dallastown

TRI-BORO
CONSTRUCTION
SUPPLIES
435 Locust St
717-246-3095
1-800-632-9018

Oxford

DEER CREEK
EQUIPMENT, INC.
6600 Limestone Rd
610-932-8658

Shippensburg

CEDAR GROVE FARM
STORE
1120 RITNER HWY
717-532-7571

East Earl

GOODS LAWN &
GARDEN CENTER
Route 23
717-445-4490

Palmyra

HERR'S REPAIR
SHOP
RD 2, Box 115A
717-838-1549

Hagerstown, MD

EBY'S LAWN &
GARDEN
16409 Fairview Road
301-733-4158

Elizabethtown

MESSICK'S
187 Merts Drive
(Rheems exit of Rt. 203)
www.messicks.com
717-367-1319, 800-222-3373

Palmyra

WEAVER'S LAWN &
GARDEN
740 W Main St
717-838-5999

Cockeysville MD

SUBURBAN SALES
10757 York Rd
410-785-2277

Ephrata

WES STAUFFER
ENGINES & EQUIPMENT
23 Pleasant Valley Rd.
717-738-42150

Peach Bottom

A.K. SAW SHOP
214 Peach Bottom Road

Whiteford MD

DEER CREEK
EQUIPMENT, INC.
720 Wheeler School Rd.
301-879-5090

Pequea

DREXEL AUTO SUPPLY
333 Steinman Farm Road
717-284-2916

STIHL
NUMBER ONE WORLDWIDE

DISTRIBUTED BY NORTHEAST STIHL

Northwest Savings Bank To Open 5th York County Office

YORK (York Co.) — Northwest Savings Bank is opening a new, full-service banking facility at the intersection of Roosevelt Avenue and Route 30 in the late spring of this year.

Formerly a branch office of Fulton Bank, Northwest Savings Bank's new Roosevelt Avenue Office will be its third office in metropolitan York and its fifth banking location in York County.

In making the announcement, Lynn Baker, region manager, said, "It is a real pleasure to say we're opening this new office to better serve our York customers, both old and new, with the convenience, full-service banking and personal, home town service

they want and deserve."

Baker explained that the new office, located at 1700 Roosevelt Avenue, will mark another milestone in Northwest's service to York County, which, in one form or another, began in 1915.

Founded in 1896, Northwest Savings Bank specializes in serving smaller communities in 33 counties in Pennsylvania and Ohio. With \$3.9 billion in assets, the company operates 118 community banking locations, plus full-service brokerage plus Investment Management and Trust services. The stock of Northwest Bancorp, Inc., Northwest Savings Bank's parent company, trades on the Nasdaq system under the symbol "NWSB."

Custom Post-Frame Buildings

Premium Storage
Building Offer
\$ 13,500

Garages-Commercial
Agricultural-Horse Barns/Arenas



30' x 48' x 12' Storage Building
(2) 10'x10' Overhead Garage Doors
(1) Entry Door w/ 9 Light Window
(2) 4'x2' Sliding Windows
12" Vented Eave Overhangs
40' Ridge Ventilation

FABRAL Painted Metal Roofing and Siding
The above options delivery taxes materials
and construction of this building are included in
the price. Site preparation and permits if required
are the responsibility of the customer. Price listed
is good for a limited delivery area and until
April 15, 2002

FABRAL

- Custom Post-Frame CONESTOGA Buildings
- Call today for your free estimate, brochures, or to talk with one of our Professional Salesmen
- Company Employed Crews for Quality Construction
- Many Options and Custom Sizes

Visit Us at
www.conestoga-buildings.com



C B Structures, Inc. producers of

**CONESTOGA
Buildings**

1-800-544-9464

202 Orlan Road New Holland, PA 17557