

Smart Growth Conference To Focus On Lancaster County

ANDY ANDREWS
Editor

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Lancaster County's farmland preservation efforts look at many factors, but one that stands out:

Did you know that only 15 percent of the housing units account for a whopping 66 percent of loss of good agricultural land in the county?

Yet the county planners know that Lancaster remains "on the cutting edge of planning practice in U.S.," said Ronald Bailey, who spoke about the Envision Lancaster County Initiative at the Agricultural Issues Forum meeting Thursday morning at the Landis Valley Farm Museum.

Bailey, director of the Lancaster County Planning Commission, spoke to about two dozen agri-industry representatives.

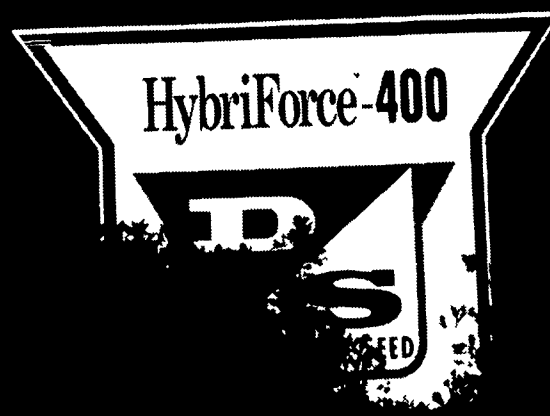
Bailey spoke about the upcoming "How Do We Grow From Here?" a conference about smart growth sponsored by the Lancaster County Planning Commission. The conference will be conducted from 8 a.m.-9 p.m. on April 29 at the Student Memorial Center at Millersville University.

The conference will present an extensive slate of speakers, workshops, and programs designed for every level of interest and expertise in smart growth. Along with nationally recognized smart growth experts, this event will include hands-on activities, a Smart Growth Expo, and a luncheon address entitled "Creatively Coping with Change" by Dr. William R. Klinger, CRTS, Penn State. A special evening program will feature a keynote address by William H. Hudnut, III, senior resident fellow with the Urban Land Institute.

Registration deadline is April 24. Register via the Website, www.envisionlancastercounty.com or call (717) 299-8333.

The Envision initiative will look at ways to come up with common zoning standards (Lancaster County itself has 550 different zoning districts, Bailey noted), consider long-range plans for road and urban growth boundaries, examine transportation and land use, and search for ways to promote livable communities with a strong emphasis on agriculture.

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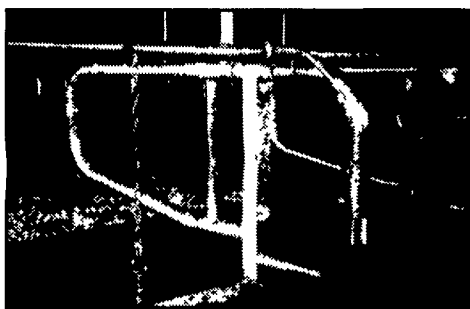
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