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Land And Community
A Penn State focus
on rural/urban issues

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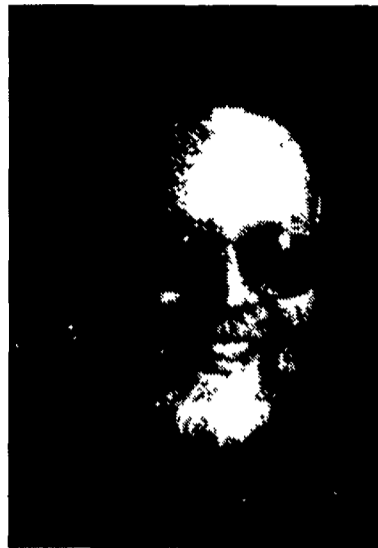
Tim Collins
Capitol Region
Community and Economic
Development Agent

"Land and Community" is a central theme in the work of Capitol Region Community and Economic Development Team members. Our new monthly column reflects our educational efforts with both farmers and non-farmers as individuals and as part of the communities where they live.

Rural land and communities are woven together. For centuries, farming has been integral to the fabric of rural southeastern and southcentral Pennsylvania's economic, political, and social life. Yet, for many, agriculture is changing fairly quickly. At the same time, our communities are changing as they are absorbed into the expanding East Coast urban corridor.

A new publication from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, Planning for Agriculture, notes two trends that have affected Pennsylvania's economy and the agricultural sector: shifting land use and increased public concern for the environment. The publication points out that most farmers are in something of a double bind. First, they face highly competitive global markets that squeeze their profitability. Second, nearby development puts them closer to nonfarm neighbors than ever before, increasing the potential for conflict. New development tends to push up taxes and may bring about increased restrictions on farming operations.

Communities in our area also are in a bind. As populations grow, they face extremely com-



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plicated land use problems, including water quality and quantity. How do they preserve agriculture in the face of rapid growth? How do they deal with the declining number of farms brought about by the squeeze on profits and the lure of the high price farmers can fetch by selling the land for housing or other new construction? How do communities encourage and retain ag-related businesses, such as equipment and feed dealers? What other types of businesses should they support? How do they deal with new residents who love the view, but don't necessarily understand how farms work?

In the coming months, members of the Capitol Region Community and Economic Development Team column will look at some of these issues from their various perspectives. We will address how we can sustain farming and community life in changing

times. Some of us will offer tips that farmers can use to improve their operations. Others will discuss the relationship between farms and communities.

Here's a tentative lineup of what we have planned over the next year:

- "Getting started selling to restaurants" and "Agritourism as a potential pathway to sustainability" by Steve Bogash from Franklin County.

- "Local governments and land use planning" and "What is a 'sustainable community?'" by Tim Collins from Adams County.

- "Benefits of business planning" and "Starting an agricultural business" by Lynn Kime from Adams County.

- "Conservation funding programs for farmers and landowners" and "Income from woodlot management" by George Hurd from Franklin County.

- "Monitoring a well during drought conditions" and "Water testing to protect your family" by Tom McCarty from Cumberland County.

- "Living to farm or farming to live" and "What is value added?" by Winifred McGee from Lebanon County.

If you have any comments or column ideas, please contact Tim Collins at tuc1@psu.edu, or (717)334-6271, ext.317. I look forward to hearing from you.

'Timber 2003' June 13-14

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The Pennsylvania Forest Products Association (PFPA) announced that "Timber 2003" will be conducted here at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex, Friday and Saturday, June 13-14.

"We're very proud to offer a venue in which the forest products industry — the state's fourth largest industry — can share its services, equipment, and technology," said Paul Lyskava, PFPA executive director. "Timber 2003" is an excellent networking opportunity for the providers of all of the essential components of this modern and productive industry."

Lyskava noted this is expected to be the largest wood products industry trade show in the Mid-Atlantic this year.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both June 13 and 14. The Website is www.hlma.org/timber2003.

Exhibits will be in the new exhibition hall of the Farm Show and also will be set up outside of the complex. In addition to forestry, logging, saw milling, pallet manufacturing, and trucking, there will be service and business assistance exhibitors.

Visitors can tour the Pennsylvania WoodMobile, a traveling public education exhibit. The WoodMobile truck and trailer were donated by Deer Park Lumber, Tunkhannock, whose president, Ron Andrews, is chair of "Timber 2003."

More than a dozen free seminars are being offered to attendees during the event, including sessions on marketing, emerging technology, current issues, and sustainable forestry programs.

There is a \$7 admission fee, with no admission for children under age 16. There also is a \$5 parking charge at the Farm Show Complex.



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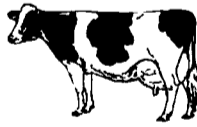
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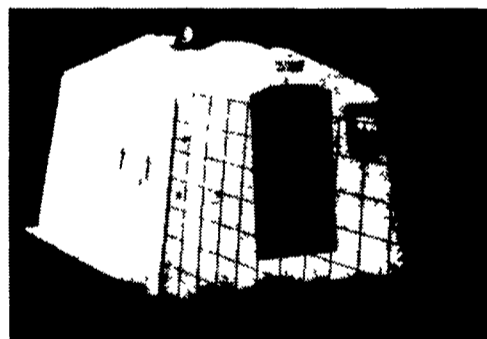
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