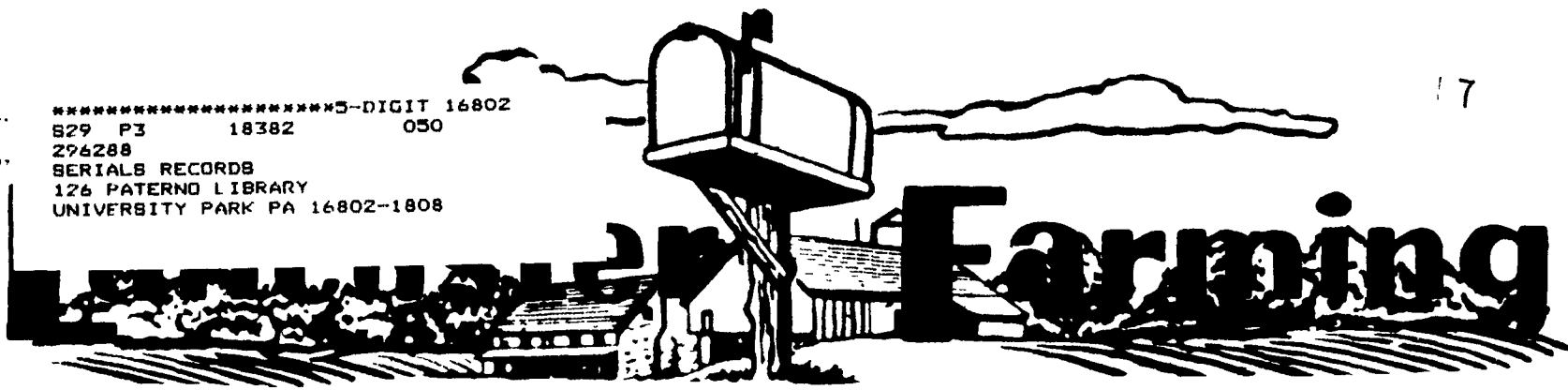


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Big Changes On The Farm Front

New Face Of Nutrient Management Planning Could Be Phosphorus In Act 6 Revisions

**CHARLENE M. SHUPP
ESPENSHADE**
Lancaster Farming Staff

to a phosphorus-based plan (P-based). In Pennsylvania, the selected method of phosphorus

management will be through the Phosphorus Index (P-Index). The State Conservation Com-

mission is charged with the administration of Act 6 and review of the current law and the recom-

mended changes to be made.

Doug Goodlander of the State Conservation Commission said the decision to move to a P-Index was one that was carefully evaluated between several options available to manage phosphorus on a farm.

Goodlander stresses that the majority of soil loss, the major transport mechanism for phosphorus, is handled through a farm's conservation plan. "But there are certain situations on certain farms that erosion controls will not control the phosphorus. The commission is trying to find those situations and trying to address them."

A study commissioned by the State Conservation Commission at Penn State found the P-Index the most economical way to handle phosphorus on a farm and

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Editor's note: Farmers will soon face new challenges as they begin to cope with changes to the state's Nutrient Management Law. This two-part series will explore those changes.

Part 1 of 2

MOUNT JOY (Lancaster Co.)
— When Pennsylvania embarked on its first nutrient management law in 1993, it was noted as a major breakthrough. Pennsylvania became one of the first states to implement a Nutrient Management Act.

Since its official implementation in 1997, the law — a challenge on all fronts to farm owners and land managers — has come up for review. In the proposed changes, it includes a switch from a nitrogen-based plan (N-based)



Luke Brubaker and Kevin Seibert discuss points of the farm's nutrient management plan. Photo by Charlene Shupp Espenshade



Farm preservation honors went to several landowners at the annual Lancaster Farmland Trust banquet Wednesday evening at the Quality Inn and Suites. From left, Mae and Paul Kline, Warwick Township; Herma Losensky, Warwick Township; and Karen Wenger, Elizabeth Township. See story page A22. Photo by Andy Andrews, editor

Centre County Conducts Farm-City Banquet

ASHLEY D. BIRD
Special To Lancaster Farming
SPRING MILLS (Centre Co.)
— On Thursday, Oct. 30 members of the farm and urban community of Centre County attended the 2003 Farm-City Banquet here at the Penns Valley Area High School.

Festivities began at 6 p.m. with a hospitality bar comprised of different kinds of cheese, crackers, and a mild punch. The bar was served by Ashley Bird, 2003-2004 Centre County Dairy Princess and sponsored by the Centre County Dairy Promotion Committee. Guests were then treated to a delicious ham and turkey dinner served by the Penns Valley Band Boosters.

Approximately 175 people at-

tended the banquet and enjoyed listening to several speakers for the evening. In the audience for the evening were Pennsylvania state officials, politicians, county officials, and other community leaders

Master of Ceremonies was Kathleen Matason, past president of the Kiwanis Club of State College and director of operations at Ben Franklin Technology Partnership. Matason welcomed everyone and introduced Dr. Richard Deitrich, spiritual life director at Spring Creek Presbyterian Church. Deitrich gave the invocation and presented the entertainment as an Elvis impersonator singing several Elvis Presley songs.

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Don Robinson Reflects On 36-Year Career In Lancaster County Agriculture

LOU ANN GOOD
Food And Family Features Editor

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.)
— The name "Don Robinson" is a familiar one to Lancaster County's ag community. For 26 years, he headed the adult farmer instructor program for Eastern Lancaster County School District, and for the past 10 years the Lancaster County Conservation District (LCCD).

Robinson, 65 years old and successfully recovered from heart and prostate problems, plans to retire at the end of this year. The event causes him and others to reflect on a career that has touched so many lives.

Robinson's hands-on technical help with individual farmers in-

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- ✓ Poultry Seminar page A32.

cluded developing farm management skills, soil testing, fertilization, weed control, crop management, balancing feed rations, forage analysis, record keeping, tax management, farm business analysis, and more. This work provided a strong background for his duties as district administrator for LCCD to oversee conservation of soil, water, and other natural resources.

Robinson's agriculture career is quite surprising, considering he grew up in suburban Philadelphia with no farming background.

"In high school, I took an ag

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After 26 years as Eastern Lancaster County School District's adult farmer instructor and 10 years as administrator for Lancaster County Conservation District, Don Robinson's sphere of influence is remarkable. Photo by Lou Ann Good, food and family features editor