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Lancaster Farming

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Sheep Milk Cheese Anyone?

Wajswol tends his young East Friesian dairy ewes. After lambing next their milk will be used exclusively in Wajswol's specialty cheesemaking on. See story on page A32. *Photo by Dave Lefever*

House Rejects Bill That Could Have Jeopardized Farmland Preservation

CHARLENE M. SHUPP ESPENSHADE
Lancaster Farming Staff

NORTH WARREN (Warren Co.) — House Bill 66 was defeated Tuesday afternoon in the House of Representatives with a vote 150 to 50.

This decisive vote closes a chapter on a bill that has the potential to set precedent with farmland preservation on state-owned farmland.

The bill introduced by State Rep. Jim Lynch (R-Warren County) was set to remove the agriculture use restriction on 22.7 acres of land outside of North Warren, clearing the way for the commercial development of the land.

The projected plan for the farmland was for the construction of a Wal-Mart.

Agriculture organizations who lobbied hard for the defeat of the

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Trout Deal Bad For Pa. Growers

DAVE LEFEVER
Lancaster Farming Staff

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Pennsylvania trout growers say that the bidding terms for contracts to supply trout in the state helped give competitive advantage to an out-of state fishery.

The commonwealth recently awarded a North Carolina trout farm a contract to stock 650,000 rainbow trout in 96 Pennsylvania lakes during the next five years, according to Frank Kane, spokesman for the Pennsylvania Department of General Services (DGS), the agency that handled the contracting process for the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC).

Tellico Enterprises, Inc. of Franklin, N.C. won a contract to supply all of the fish — 130,000 annually through February of 2009 — for a bid of $141,541.

According to Pennsylvania trout growers at a recent Pennsylvania Aquaculture Association meeting, Tellico's advantage was partly because fish disease testing in North Carolina is performed free of charge.

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Awards Banquet Honors Jennings For Environmental Excellence

Y BROWNLEE
a Correspondent

AWFORD, Va. — On Nov. 13, Thomas Jeffings of Luray, Page eceived the Environcellence Award for Virginia at the fourth annual Environmental Awards Banquet hosted by the Pilgrims Pride organization.

In garnering the top honor, Jennings also received a company sign and a cash award. John Gangwer, director of environmental affairs, made the presentation for Pilgrims Pride.

Gangwer mentioned how tributary strategy is everyones business because Virginia joins other states that are in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

He discussed animal feed operations (AFO) and explained for chicken and turkey growers what identifies a concentrated animal feed operation (CAFO).

"Changes are coming quickly," he said. "The more involved you are, the more you know, the better off you are."

On the Jennings' farm, the South Fork of the Shenandoah River is the waterway that passes the 500-acre spread of cropland, pastureland, and timberland. Jennings said he has fenced the stream banks there, so his beef cattle cannot get to the river.

The 120 head of beef animals that comprise his cow and calf stocker operation have access to water that is piped to a trough from a well. Jennings said the cattle are on a rotational grazing system.

He is making headway toward his goal to clean up the farms six ponds. The one thats already done had fencing installed, as well as a culvert. It controls the water level and functions in a way that benefits a wildlife area on the property.

These things take time, but Jennings is ready to begin fencing the next pond. He also plans to install pipe to facilitate the flow of water into a trough by gravity.

Jennings keeps 14,000 chickens in a 624-foot-long double broiler and breeder hen house. The egg and gathering room in the center is flanked on either side by a unit of 7,000 birds. Jennings said the 4-year-old facility is serving its intended function very well.

"I've been very pleased with the way it works," he said.

The chickens are not caged. Instead, they are free to roam before moving to the nest at egg-laying time. The eggs are automatically conveyed to the gathering room. There, an employee takes charge of their care.

Another piece of equipment Jennings invested in following the 2002 avian influenza (A.I.) outbreak was an incinerator.

"Thats been a great help," he said. "I love it. My experience with composting was not good."

Jennings is the ninth generation of his family to live on the land. He and his wife, Winn, have three sons — Joe, 16, Phillip, 13 and John, 10 — who comprise the 10th generation.

On 80-100 acres, Jennings sows corn. He puts hay on 50 acres, soybeans on 30, alfalfa on 16, and barley on 15 acres.

"Were not cropping on highly erodable land," he said.

Five farms were Environmental Stewardship winners. They were Cathy Alger, Luray; S&F, LLC operated by Bud Shaver of Weyers Cave; Ray J.

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nas Jeffrey Jennings, left, of Luray was named of the Environmental Excellence Award for Virgin-n Gangwer, environmental affairs director for Pil-Pride, made the presentation.
by Gay Brownlee, Virginia correspondent.

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✔ Peanut Butter Heritage page B17.

Office Closed Christmas Day

On Christmas Day, Thursday, Dec. 25, [illegible] *Farming* office is [illegible] office will reopen Fr[illegible]

For the [illegible] there are some d[illegible]

Public [illegible] ads, 5 p.m., [illegible]

Classi[illegible] ads, 5 p.m. [illegible]

Cla[illegible] Farm Equi[illegible] Dec. [illegible] Dec. 22.

General news — noon, Wednesday, Dec. 24.