

10,000th Acre Of Farmland

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sen, Staufenberg said. Developers approached him after he purchased the farm, but Staufenberg said he had no interest in seeing it lost to agriculture.

Instead, "It will stay farmland in perpetuity. I like the idea of that," Staufenberg said. To be able to preserve the property to pass on to future generations "is a wonderful thing," he added.

CADB Chairman Joel Schnetzer, who was master of ceremonies for the event, recognized the former and current board members as he praised the

people who started Warren County's farmland preservation program in the 1980s.

"We wouldn't be here today without all the hard work they devoted to this," Schnetzer said. Even though farmers and landowners were cool to the preservation program when it started, the original members of the CADB persevered, Schnetzer said, adding, "Those people had a vision."

Orrie Terpstra of Knowlton, who was the CADB's first chairman, said people were skeptical about the program in those days. "We were elated to preserve the

Gibbs farm," he said, referring to the Allamuchy farm that launched Warren County's preservation effort.

Kuperus praised the State Agriculture Development Committee and Executive Director Gregory Romano, who also attended the event, for their efforts on the preservation programs in Warren and other counties statewide. "We're committed to preserving 20,000 acres a year" in New Jersey, Kuperus said.

Although it took some 14 years to reach this milestone in Warren County, "I'm hoping we can save

another 10,000 acres in five years," said Freeholder Deputy Director Rick Gardner.

Freeholder John DiMaio stressed the need for investing in farmland preservation, adding, "Mr. Staufenberg, what you're doing here is very important to Warren County."

Freeholder-elect Everett Chamberlain noted, "We have a big job to do yet but I think we'll get it done. The freeholder board is behind this program 100 percent."

"Warren County has made significant strides in retaining our traditional rural quality of life through the farmland preservation program," Assemblyman and Freeholder Director Michael Doherty said in a statement. "This is our lega-



From left, Michael Staufenberg, Warren County Freeholder Deputy Director Rick Gardner, and New Jersey Agriculture Secretary Charles M. Kuperus meet on Staufenberg's Frelinghuysen Township farm to celebrate reaching the milestone of preserving 10,000 acres of farmland in Warren County. A development rights easement on 125 acres of the farm put Warren County's total preserved acreage at 10,082.

cy to generations to come."

Also participating were Frelinghuysen Township Committeemen Thomas Charles and David Boynton; farmer Harry Schnieber of White Township, who retired after a long career teaching agriculture at Belvidere High School; and students from the FFA chapters at North Warren Regional, Warren Hills Regional, and Belvidere high schools.

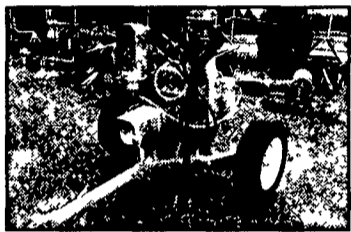
Formerly known as Future Farmers of America, FFA has 516 members active in Warren County every day, said Rebecca Schnetzer of Franklin Township, the past president of the Warren Hills FFA chapter and Joel Schnetzer's daughter. "But it's not every day the 10,000th acre of farmland is preserved," she said, adding that farmland preservation "ensures that FFA members can continue the bright future of agriculture."

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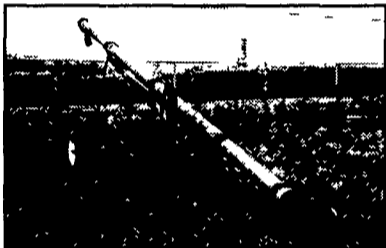


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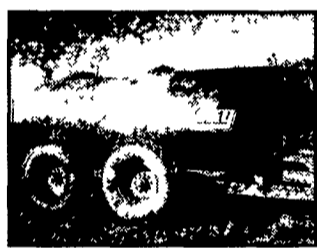


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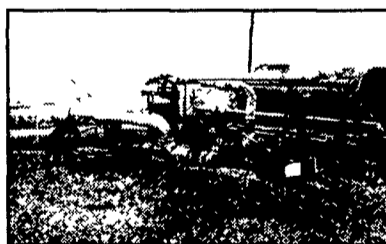
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