

Working to retain our heritage

TO THE EDITOR:

As a dairy farmer in Rahpo Township, I wanted to heartily thank the newspaper for printing the articles, the first published Jan. 13th regarding urban sprawl into land zoned agricultural. As stated, 60 percent of the growth of new housing has been in agricultural-zoned land. That is truly a reason to sound the alarm.

Lancaster County Land Planning Commission has shown its commitment to saving the ag industry and the landscape which the new home dwellers come to enjoy by appointing the chief land planner of our county to assist local municipalities in putting the brakes on development.

I was unable to attend the meeting in my area because, along with my farming neighbors, we were at a meeting fighting this very issue — development of agricultural-zoned farmland. Fortunately, after a three-month battle, the farmers prevailed helping to preserve our industry a little longer.

I want to publicly thank the Ra-

pho Township zoning board for its wisdom and stature in upholding the laws that were written to protect farmland and the ag industry and for being courageous to take that stand.

The reason people are attracted to our county is because we *are* the postcard. We have a unique landscape and culture that attracts people from around the world. The infrastructure the ag industry supports is enormous and would crumble were the farmers to be forced to leave because of further urban sprawl into ag-zoned land bases — as would the “postcard” and the culture.

I encourage the public to attend these meetings and give their support to the planning Task Force to save the beautiful views out their windows, the rolling hills — in short, the storybook landscape we have enjoyed for years and desire to protect and secure for our children and grandchildren.

Deborah Benner

Mount Joy