

HISTORY

The first counties in Pennsylvania were established in 1681 under a charter granted to William Penn by Charles II, King of England. Settlement occurred mainly east of the Susquehanna River until the conclusion of the Indian Treaty of 1736, when the limits of Lancaster County were extended indefinitely westward. These fertile lands were soon occupied by immigrants from England, Ireland, Scotland, and Germany.

BOUNDARY FORMATION

It was under the authority of the Lancaster County Court that Dover Township was formed in 1743. It was formed out of old Manchester Township which was so large that it even extended into Adams County. The township's name, Dover, was apparently selected because of some Englishman's nostalgia for his earlier home in England.

The shape of Dover Township is irregular with its southwestern boundary resting upon what is now Jackson and Paradise Townships. To the west lie Warrington and Washington Townships, while to the east lie West Manchester, Manchester, and Conewago Townships. Its original boundaries were not well-defined, but they included part of what is today Washington and Conewago Townships, and Dover Borough.

In 1770, that area which stretches from the top of the Conewago Hills to the Big Conewago Creek, was added to Dover Township from Warrington Township. The Big Conewago Creek forms its present western boundary line. Then, in 1818, Dover residents east of the Bull Road petitioned the York County Courts to form a new township known as Conewago Township. About two-thirds of this new township came from Dover Township and one-third from Newberry Township. It is this line along the Bull Road, delineated in 1818, which forms the present eastern boundary of the township. The northern boundary is formed where the eastern and western boundaries of Dover Township meet. The southern boundary consists of a line which originally separated Dover Township from Paradise Township. Today, it separates Dover Township from both Paradise and Jackson Townships. Jackson Township was an offspring of the original Paradise Township. The southeastern boundary of Dover Township is delineated by the Little Conewago Creek up to the point where it meets the Bull Road.

The incorporation of the Borough of Dover was the last major change in the boundaries of the township. This incorporation of the town of Dover, as it was then called, took place in 1864 after it was laid out by Jacob Joner; about 1747. Since that time, the only changes in the land area of the township that have occurred, were due to a few annexations by the Borough of Dover.

EARLY SETTLEMENT

Early in the eighteenth century, Indians from the Potomac River area, Philadelphia, and Delaware River areas, mingled using the grounds between their settlements as hunting grounds. Smaller settlements were spread here and there and a group of

Indians, later to be known as the Conewagos, lived along creeks such as the Conewago Creek, Little Conewago Creek, and Fox Run in Dover Township. The original Indians of this region, the Susquehannocks, had been annihilated by tribes of the Iroquois Nation.

Place names, family traditions, and artifacts substantiate the fact that Indian settlements existed in and around the Dover Township area. At the time of these settlements, though, the township was merely an extension of the wilderness that was part of Lancaster County which was still under the jurisdiction of Philadelphia. The Indians of the York-Dover area were distributed and had, on occasion, complained to Philadelphia about the white settlers who were crossing the Susquehanna River and clearing the wilderness and planting. It became evident that the settlers were coming into the area to live and settle.

The Palatinate country along the Rhine River in Germany was the origin of nearly all of the original settlers of Dover Township. These settlers came to the new world either directly or by way of an interim life in Switzerland or Holland in order to escape religious persecution. Some of these early settlers of Dover Township were of the German Baptist Church, but most of them were of the Lutheran and Reformed Congregations. The customs of the Fatherland, the church, and the school were brought here by these early German settlers.

Much of the land in the township is fertile and produces abundant crops. The major source of income for these early settlers was farming. Corn, wheat, and potatoes were the primary crops except in the northern section where peaches and strawberries were cultivated and became an important industry in that section during the early days of the township. Other important industries during the early days of the township were weaving, tanning, quarrying, and harness and wagon-making. The sandstone for the ornamentations on the Harrisburg Court House was quarried in the township. The township location was ideal for the tanning industry because hides could be obtained from nearby butchers and dehaired with the lime from the West Manchester Township Lime kilns.

An early inventory of Dover Township (1783), showed 219 horses, 146 barns, 697 male and 670 female inhabitants; 4 slaves, 7 mills, and 23,811 acres of land. From this early inventory (1,367 inhabitants), the population of the township has shown a slow but steady increase except for two distinct periods. Before and after the turn of the twentieth century, the population showed a slight decline while during recent years, there has been a tremendous influx of people into the township.

TABLE 1
POPULATION HISTORY 1783 - 2000

<i>Year - Population</i>	<i>Year - Population</i>	<i>Year - Population</i>
1783 1,367	1880 2,378	1950 3,864
1820 1,816	1890 2,349	1960 6,399
1830 1,874	1900 2,313	1965 8,049

1840	1,920	1910	2,211	1970	8,975
1850	1,918	1920	2,209	1973	10,472
1860	2,258	1930	2,652	1980	12,581
1870	2,281	1940	3,019	1990	15,576
				2000	19,406

Several of these settlements of people in Dover Township reach back into its very earliest days of existence. The oldest settlement was Emig's Mill where a Dietrich Updegraff took up land in 1745 and where a house of public entertainment existed. Later, a roller mill which originated as a mill in colonial times, flourished here. Also, many Indian artifacts have been found by collectors along the Little Conewago Creek from Emig's Mill to its mouth at York Haven.

Davidsburg, a village situated in the center of a fine agricultural region in the western part of Dover Township, has been an interesting area since its beginning in the early part of the nineteenth century. Part of its importance can be attributed to the fact that it is located along the Shippensburg Road (now the Davidsburg Road). During colonial times, this was a well-known route of travel from York to the Cumberland Valley. Its importance later grew as a wagon trail for farm products being carried from York Country to the Baltimore area for sale. Some of the early enterprises of importance in Davidsburg were a harness-making business, the sale of farm implements, a cigar factory, general merchandising businesses, and a village hotel.

Admire is a small village in the southwestern part of the township a few miles south of Davidsburg. It was originally called Slabtown; then Newport, and for a brief period of time it was known as Voltaire before receiving its present name of Admire. A store and a post office existed there around the turn of the twentieth century.

Mount Royal was a cluster of houses in the northern part of the township along the road from Dover to Rossville, a village in Warrington Township. A store and a post office had existed there for many years. Both of these were under the direction of a Robert Kunkle around the turn of the twentieth century.

When it received its name in 1825, the village of Weigelstown was a small hamlet of about half a dozen houses near the southern boundary of the township. Its name is believed to be derived from two of its early settlers named Weigel; one of whom was a blacksmith, while the other was a tavern keeper. The village grew from six houses in 1825 to over 200 people by the turn of the century. Several of the early village structures still stand today.

CONFEDERATE INVASION

On June 28, 1863, General Jubal Early and about 6,000 Confederate soldiers passed through the lower part of Dover Township on their way to York. They traveled West Canal Road south of Davidsburg and then passed through Weigelstown enroute to York. On June 30, having been ordered to fall back to Gettysburg, he returned by the same route he had entered. He stopped in Davidsburg for dinner. It was at this time

that they heard cannons to the southwest, but they continued on their assigned mission to Gettysburg. The cannons they had heard were from a confrontation between the Union forces of Kilpatrick and the Confederate forces of Stuart at Hanover. On July 1, the morning after Early's retreat from York, General Stuart and his defeated force of about 6,000 men passed through Dover Township. They captured a large number of farm horses and left their tired mounts in return. The horses captured were never returned and many were probably killed two days later along with Stuart's troops at the battle of Gettysburg.

WORLD WAR I

There is not much information about participation in World War I. However, the involvement of young soldiers must have affected the population, for the school noticed a decrease in enrollment.

WORLD WAR II

Dover area was not without representation at the fronts in World War II . . . 45 young men and women from the borough and 144 from the township were listed in the armed forces.

KOREAN AND VIETNAM CONFLICTS

The Dover area was also represented in these conflicts.

RELIGIOUS AND EDUCATIONAL INFLUENCES

During the early period of settlement, the churches played an important role in development of the township. The construction of a church was a unifying element in early settlement because the members of a congregation would all join together and participate in the building of the church. The church also contributed indirectly to the growth of these small villages since the people would settle near the church, not only to be within close proximity of the church, but also for mutual protection.

Salem Church or Strayer's Church, as it was familiarly known, was one of the first churches established in the township. The area which surrounds the site of the church, southwest of Dover Borough along West Canal Road, was first settled in 1736. In 1757, twenty-eight members of the Lutheran and Reformed denominations entered into an agreement for the purposes of founding a church.

In 1825, trustees of the Mennonite congregation purchased eight perches of land from John Brubaker for \$1 to build a meeting house. The land along the road leading from Jacob Frick's mill to Philip Smyser's mill. This church later became a part of the Codorus charge which had churches in Washington and Codorus Townships. Another Mennonite church stood in the southwestern part of the township near the village of Admire.

Rohler's Church, situated in the northern end of the township, was built of sandstone at a cost of \$800 in 1870. The land was first acquired in 1800 from Jacob Rohler for one pound and ten shillings. He deeded to the trustees, one acre of land on which a

new schoolhouse and the Union Meeting House were to be built.

The Dover Baptist Church was erected in the northeastern part of the township in 1760. It was erected in the midst of a small settlement of Baptists from Dover township and the adjoining areas of Conewago and Warrington Townships.

Harmony Grove Union Church was a frame church building erected about 1870 near Detter's Mill. It has been used by the Lutheran and United Brethren congregations. Another United Brethren Church was erected in 1858. It was located in the township along the Bull Road near the boundary line with Conewago Township.

The cornerstone of a new Salem Church was laid May 21, 1854, and the church was consecrated the following May. Preaching was done in English and German. After years of minor repairs and electrification in 1913, a building program was formulated in 1944. Steps were taken in 1954 to raise \$200,000 for rebuilding the church and adding a Sunday School wing.

Since 1900, several new churches have been built. Dover United Church of Christ in 1902; St. David's Evangelical Congregational Church in Weigelstown, 1961; Dover Assembly of God Church, 1943; Rohler's Assembly of God Church, new building, 1963; Mt. Royal Full Gospel Church, 1957; Dover Fellowship Church, 1958; and in 1962 this name was changed to Faith Tabernacle.

The public school system, created under an act of 1834 was not accepted in the township until the passage of another act of 1848. Under this act, all school districts within the state were recognized as having accepted the public system. It was at this time that the township had to change over to the public school system and the operation of the private and parochial schools was discontinued. The children of the township were at a great disadvantage though, since they spoke the German language at home and on the playground, while having to be taught from English textbooks. Progress was made, and by the turn of the twentieth century there were sixteen schools within the township successfully instructing the children of the township.

The names of these early schools were as follows: Ramer's, Davidsburg, Julius', Emig's Weigelstown, Lenhart's, Ruppert's, Stough's, Hoover's, Sheffer's, Rohler's, Mount Royal, Harmony Grove, March's, and Trimmer's. Since that time, the school district has closed the one-room schools and now serves the area with modern, educational facilities.

In 1921 there were two schools; primary and secondary, housed in a three-room brick building on West Canal Street in Dover Borough, accommodating 73 pupils. A third class high school had been opened in 1912 but was discontinued in 1914. Students went out-of-town for the rest of their schooling.

In 1925, Dover Borough and Dover Township signed an agreement to form a jointure and in June of 1928, a contract was let to build a four-room high school building for

\$16,850. The graduating class of 1929 was the first to graduate from a four-year high school in Dover. Until then, students took the two-years at Dover and transferred to West York or York.

During 1950, Washington Township became part of the Dover Jointure and in 1955, the three-party jointure became a merger. In the merger, the political subdivisions lost their identity so, instead of each having five directors, one director was elected from each district and four-at-large to form a school board of seven members.

1957-1963 saw phenomenal physical growth and considerable curricular progress.

In 1957-1963 there was a small high school capable of housing 400 students and by the Fall of 1959-1960, a \$1,500,000 addition was completed which boosted the capacity to 1,040.

In 1968, a new intermediate school opened, serving grades 6 through 8 and a \$2,500,000 project in 1982. The first Comprehensive Plan was completed for the township in 1970.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The first means of public transportation to Dover Borough from York came with the construction of an electric trolley line by the York Traction Company in 1901. Brookside Park was a stop along this line. The company became the York Railway Company, a subsidiary of Edison Light and Power Company. In 1941 the York Railway Company was purchased by the York Bus Company; all the street cars having been replaced by buses. In 1970 the York Bus Company ceased operations and shortly thereafter, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission granted a temporary franchise to Reliance Motor Coach Company. When the York Bus Company declared bankruptcy, Reliance applied for and received a permanent franchise, including scheduled service through Dover Township to Dover Borough from York. York Area Transportation Authority (YATA), served the township from York to Dover through 1986 with bus service.

REGIONAL SETTING

Dover Township, located in the northwestern part of York County, is about three miles from the city of York. The cities of Carlisle and Harrisburg are both approximately the same distance (26 miles) from the township. Harrisburg is directly north of the township while Carlisle is to the northwest.

As part of York County, Dover Township finds itself located in close proximity to major cities along the eastern seaboard of the United States. Because of this location and proximity to these major cities, the township as part of York County, is considered to be on the fringe of "Megalopolis", the emerging super-city conceived to be developing along the Atlantic Coast from Boston, Massachusetts to Norfolk, Virginia. As this super-city develops, its economic, cultural, and social influences will be felt within York County and within the township. This is especially true for Dover

Township because presently it can be classified primarily as a "bedroom" community. By this it is meant that the community lacks a substantial amount of basic industry and the majority of the residents commute to other municipalities; the City of York and the Greater York Area for employment. It is for this reason that influences exerted by the developing super-city of Megalopolis on the Greater York Area will be felt directly by the residents of Dover Township.

Several highways are readily accessible to the residents of the township to provide access to the major cities of the region. U.S. Route 15 and U.S. Route 30 provide access to cities such as Gettysburg, Harrisburg, Lancaster, and points east. Interstate 83 provides access to Baltimore and Washington, D.C. to the south and Harrisburg, Philadelphia, New York, and other cities to the north via the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Pennsylvania Route 74 (Carlisle Road) which traverses the township from northwest to southeast, provides connections between Carlisle and the City of York.

Because of the extensive area of the township, 40.59 square miles, it can be stated that the predominate character of development in the township is rural. As can be seen from general observation, there are acres of farmlands and forests within the township's boundaries. Although this may be the predominate land use in the township, it cannot be said to be the most influential. There is a definite trend toward suburbanization within the township as evidenced by the many subdivisions and commercial activity taking place in the southeastern part of the township, especially along Route 74. It is evident that this emerging pattern of residential and commercial uses will have an important effect upon the overall development of the township. Therefore, as the region and the Greater York Area develop and grow, the effects of this development and growth will be felt in Dover Township. There is an effort to preserve "important farmland" since it has been plotted and described.

NATURAL FEATURES

Natural features play an important role in planning for the future development of a community. Such factors as geology, soils, topography, drainage, and flood plains help to determine the amount, type, and location of various land uses within a community. While not following a specific development pattern or plan, past development to some extent, at least, has occurred in Dover Township within the limitations imposed upon it by the physical environment. It is the intention of this section to inventory and analyze the physical features of Dover Township in terms of development potential. This data is utilized in the formulation of development plans.

Just as the natural environment may encourage development, as in the case of an abundant groundwater supply or suitable building soils making possible a residential subdivision, it may also inhibit development as in cases where natural features such as steep slopes or flood plains would render land unsuitable for development purposes. This direct relationship between the natural environment and the direction and force of development will continue in the future. The natural features will help in determining what types of land should be located in certain areas. For example, while residential development can be found in areas with slopes of fifteen percent,

industrial development is generally limited to those areas where slopes are less than five percent. Therefore, it is necessary to understand where and how natural features are important in land development in order to utilize fully their positive aspects and to avoid their deterrents.

A lower more sandy and arkosic division is called the New Oxford formation while the upper and more shaly division is called the Gettysburg shale.

The New Oxford formation, which comprises a good portion of the township, crosses York County in a northeasterly direction, occupying a belt of low upland from four to six miles wide. This low upland is 500-560 feet in altitude and trenched to depths of 50-200 feet by the Conewago and Little Conewago Creeks and their tributaries. The New Oxford formation is composed of red shale and light-red to buff sandstone and interbedded arkosic sandstone. The arkosic beds, which are characteristic of this formation, are somewhat harder than the enclosing beds and therefore form low ridges. In the lower part of this formation there are many beds of fine conglomerate and coarser pebble beds as evidenced by the quartzous conglomerate bed extending into the southeastern corner of the township.

The upper formation, or Gettysburg shale, lies northwest of the New Oxford formation and occupies a belt 10-12 miles wide that crosses York County from the Susquehanna River southwesterly to its western boundary. The Gettysburg formation, consisting mainly of red shale and sandstone, is injected by several large bodies of diabase or baked rock in the formation of thick sills connecting with large cross-cutting bodies. The shale and sandstone adjacent to these intrusive rocks have been hardened by metamorphism. These hardened rocks and diabase are more resistant to erosion than the other Triassic redbeds and, therefore, have formed high hills and ridges. Because of these characteristics, the topography of the Gettysburg shale is less gentle and more elevated than that of the adjacent New Oxford formation. The Gettysburg shale formation denoted by the symbol Trcw, represents the hardened rock and conglomerate beds of what is termed the Conewago conglomerate. These hard conglomerate beds thicken northeastwardly and just beyond Harmony Grove, make a ridge that is 400 feet higher than the lowlands just southeast of it. The hard thickness northeastwardly to form the Conewago Mountains with a ridge attaining 1,097 feet altitude at its highest point, which is south and southwest of Andersontown in Conewago Township. From this point, the conglomerate beds thin out rapidly in a northeastwardly direction into fingers of red shale and sandstone northwest of Strinestown.

One of the other geologic formations found in the township is alluvium which is present in the flood plains of all of the larger streams in the county but has been mapped only along the Susquehanna River, the Codorus and Conewago Creeks. In the township, it has been mapped along the upper part of the Conewago Creek where terrace gravels are also well developed. The alluvium covered flood plains occur along the streams between stretches where the creek flows in steep-sided gorges with little or no alluvium. The flood plain soil is very fertile and is cultivated in most places.

The other formation found in the township along the Conewago Creek is the Lower Terrace Gravels. These deposits of terrace gravels have been observed and mapped 20-60 feet above the stream on flat-topped spurs in meanders of the stream.

Virtually all of the aspects of the natural environment of an area can be traced back to its geology, making it one of the basic studies needed if development patterns are to be explained and forecasted. However, the influence of rock formation on development is largely indirect and manifested through soils, topography, drainage, groundwater availability. This topic is discussed in more detail in the utilities section of this report. Geology, particularly bedrock formations, may play a more direct role in other areas such as water pollution and sewage disposal problems and in construction costs for roads, buildings, and other improvements.

SOILS

Soils, more so than any other natural feature, play an important role in the development of a community. To the average person most soils look alike, but there are differences which have a direct bearing upon the capability of the land to accept various types of land use activities. Soil characteristics such as depth to bedrock, height of the water table, permeability, load-bearing capacity, and slippage play a vital role in determining which soils are suitable for various types of development activity.

The physical and chemical characteristics of the soil will vary greatly within a relatively small area. Consequently, this information is of a more generalized nature. The soils information within this report is basically from the York County Soils Survey and interpretations of this data by soils experts.

Soils showing similar distribution patterns in a locality are grouped in soils associations. The soils within an association may have similar characteristics in the kind and arrangement of soils layers but may differ from each other in properties such as slopes, depth, density, stoniness, natural drainage, erosion, and other features affecting their use. Dover Township consists of three soil associations. They are the Penn-Lansdale-Readington Association; the Penn-Readington Association, and the Penn Association.

The Penn-Lansdale-Readington Association covers approximately 51 percent of the township. The topography of these areas is predominately nearly level or gently sloping but there are some short, moderately steep slopes along drainage ways. The Penn soils are shallow to moderately deep and have a reddish subsoil. The Lansdale soils have a yellowish-brown to grayish-brown subsoil. The Readington soils are deep and moderately well-drained and are mottled in the lower part of the subsoil. Of minor extent in this association are the poorly drained Croton soils, which occur in depressions; the well-drained Bermudian soils; the moderately well-drained Rowland soils, and the poorly drained Bowmansville soils, all of which are found on flood plains. There are also very small areas of the well-drained Birdsboro soils; the

moderately well-drained Raritan soils, and the poorly-drained Lamington soils, all of which occur on terraces within the association.

The second major association is the Penn-Readington Association covering about 31 percent of the township. The topography of this association is rolling and is characterized by moderately broad to narrow ridges and by short, steep slopes next to streams and drainageways. The Penn soils here are also moderately deep and have a reddish subsoil. The Readington soils are nearly level or gently sloping and moderately well-drained; they are reddish-brown in the upper part of the subsoil and mottled in the lower part of the subsoil. Of minor extent in this association are the Birdsboro, Raritan, and Lamington soils which are located on the terraces, mostly along the Conewago Creek. Also within this association and located along the flood plains of the Conewago Creek and smaller streams are the Bermudian, Rowland, and Bowmansville soils. The Croton soils appear in depressions within this association.

The third association, which occurs along the Conewago Mountains, is the Penn Association. The Penn soils in this association are shallow to moderately deep. The slopes range from gentle to very steep but are predominately moderate to moderately steep. Of very minor extent in this association are the poorly-drained Croton soils and the moderately well-drained Readington soils, both of which occur on the slopes and in depressions along drainageways. This association covers approximately 18 percent of the township.

Soils surveys were originally developed for agricultural purposes; however, only in recent years has their potential application to urban planning and engineering been realized. From such surveys, based on the latest information from the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, soils information and interpretive maps in this report have been prepared.

One of the most important uses of soils surveys is to indicate, in a general way, the relative suitability of soils for the proper functioning of on-lot sewage disposal systems.

Each kind of soil has definite characteristics and qualities. Knowledge of this information permits the grouping of soils according to their limitations or suitability for various uses. For example; depth to bedrock, depth to seasonal water table, and permeability are soil properties of significance in the development of interpretations for urban planning purposes. It is obvious that there would be difficulty in building subsurface sewage absorption fields, excavating for basements or utility lines, or constructing roads on shallow soils close to bedrock. Furthermore, soils having a higher water table or rapid permeability, can cause improper functioning of on-lot sewage disposal systems and possible result in the contamination of the underground water supply upon which the township depends.

TOPOGRAPHY

The topography of Dover Township has an important influence on development

patterns in Dover Township. The topography expressed in terms of elevations and slope conditions can either prohibit or permit various degrees and types of development. Local topographic influences play a major role in the location of selection of roadways, public utility systems, many other types of land uses, and facets of development.

Elevation - Dover Township basically consists of two topographic formations, the Gettysburg Plain and the Conewago Mountains. The elevations of the Gettysburg Plain range from a low of 380 feet along the Little Conewago Creek and Fox Run to a high point of 573 feet along Admire Road just east of Admire. Overlooking the Gettysburg Plain, the Conewago Mountains in the northern part of the township, are a dominant feature of the landscape. These mountains begin in the general area of Harmony Grove and extend in a northeasterly direction.

The elevation of the mountains in the Harmony Grove area is about 600 feet. As they extend northeastward they rise sharply to a ridge line elevation of about 900 feet and a high point of 957 feet along Sky Top Trail west of Route 74. There is a drop in elevation to about 680 feet at the point where Route 74 crosses the mountains. Then they begin to rise sharply again to a high point of 1,097 feet located just west of the Bull Road about two miles north of the Butter Road intersection. These mountains afford many scenic views and are a valuable asset to the community. The Conewago Mountains also act as a major dividing point with regard to the drainage of water to the Conewago Creeks.

Slope - Along with elevations, there is a corresponding slope condition. Slopes are generally expressed in terms of a percentage with regard to the number of vertical feet of elevation for every 100 horizontal feet. The different degrees of slope affect the suitability for land use.

Land with 0-8 percent slope is generally considered suitable for all uses, with the more level land being ideally suited to industrial development. From the slopes map it can be seen that almost 60 percent of the township is in this 0-8 percent slope category. Farming, a major industry, is suited on slopes from 0-20 percent.

Slopes of 8-15 percent are generally considered suitable for residential and associated uses only. These areas are scattered throughout the township and comprise about 22 percent of the township's land area. These areas are too steep for large commercial and industrial buildings and would require considerable and expensive grading in order to be utilized for such uses.

The next category, 15-25 percent, is generally suitable only for very low density or scattered residential only for very low density or scattered residential development. In many instances, especially when the slopes exceed 20 percent, they are suitable only for woodlands, natural preserves, scenic areas, and other related uses. The 15-25 percent category covers about 14 percent of the township.

The last category, over 25 percent, contains about three percent of the township's land area. These areas are found along the major ridge line of the Conewago Mountains and the steep slopes of the Conewago Creek. In these areas construction costs are generally prohibitive and farming is very difficult, causing erosion of these steep slopes and stream siltation. As previously mentioned, the value of these slopes is generally related to their use as scenic overlooks, woodlands, and natural preserves. However, in order to achieve maximum benefits, development of these scenic slopes must be carefully controlled.

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture still plays an important role in the economy of both York County and Dover Township. Data has shown that York County ranks high in agriculture production in the Susquehanna River Basin. Also, a Study of Agriculture and Important Farmland, has pointed out that over 12,280 acres of the land in Dover Township is "Important Farm Land." Because of this and the fact that development is steadily increasing in Dover Township, it is important that the best agricultural lands, wherever possible, be preserved for agricultural use. In many instances, though, this will present problems since the best agricultural lands are usually also the best suited lands for development purposes.

Agriculture is an important activity in York County. In terms of number of farms, 2,510, the County ranks second in the State. In terms of Statewide ranking in the production of specific agricultural commodities in 1989, York County can point with pride to the following:

- 1st - Barley, Wheat, and Soybeans
- 2nd - Corn
- 4th - Potatoes and Peaches

Agriculture is just as important if not more important in Dover Township as it is for the county as a whole. In comparing data, it is noted that 7 percent of the farms in the county were located in Dover Township. This helps to point out the fact that agriculture still forms a strong and stable part of the economy of Dover Township.