

# Elizabethtown FFA Agribusinessman

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Following his sophomore year in high school, Dwight's parents Mr. and Mrs. Raymond D. Martin, moved to their present home in Marietta R1. Since that time, Dwight has been involved in the family grain business using work experience as his FFA project work.

Dwight explained that his father had gotten into the grain business quite by chance.

"We were hauling in corn for our steers and soon many farmers were coming to our farm to buy corn when they ran low."

"Before long we found ourselves buying up corn and either selling it to the mills or dealers. We've expanded to small grains now and also can do custom harvesting work."

Dwight's job has been truck driving as well as much of the mechanical work around the operations. Three days a week, the youth leaves school at noon and works the remaining school hours with his father. The other two days he remains in school for his regular academic work.

Although Dwight has done a little of everything to help out in the grain business he admits that the mechanical work as well as the truck driving is the most interesting to him.

I've found the business to

be quite interesting as the prices fluctuate every day but I guess I like doing the mechanical work on the trucks as well as driving the best."

As the Martin's grain business could be considered a "middle man operation" since the Martin's buy grain from farmers and resell it to dealers, Lancaster Farming ask Dwight just how he felt concerning the pressure by consumers in outstanding the middleman.

"Everyone naturally complains about the high prices and I guess that we get most of the blame, but really we pay prices comparable if not exactly to what the dealers do."

"The farmers must feel they need our kind of business or they wouldn't keep coming."

"I think most consumers fail to realize that prices could be higher elsewhere than in this country."

FFA Leader

As an FFA member for the past four years, Dwight has served as president, vice-president and news reporter for the chapters he has belonged to.

One of his main obligations this past year was to purchase a van for the FFA Chapter at Elizabethtown. Dwight's committee was responsible for ordering the truck and taking care of the details.

Dwight has traveled to Penn State to participate in FFA days both on the livestock judging team and the meats judging team. He has also won several awards for his record book keeping. This past year, Dwight was awarded a gold medal on state level for his record book on work experience.

A Keystone Degree holder, Dwight was the Star Red Rose Farmer last year and has been named the most valuable FFA member in the Elizabethtown Chapter.

When asked what FFA had meant to him, Dwight commented, "I think FFA has to be the greatest organization in school."

"FFA has much to offer youth - there is the challenge to win awards and the opportunity about FFA is that you get out of it only what you put in.

Conserved with the environment, Dwight has used the topic for many of his FFA public speaking contest talks. Last year his speech was on the Food Crises.

"I learned a lot about the true meaning of agriculture by working on that speech," Dwight commented.

"I guess once you move off the farm you begin to realize that the land is quickly being taken for development."

"That is the main reason that I wanted to speak on land use and the food crises, it meant a lot to me.



Dwight enjoys doing the mechanical work around the grain business especially working with the

trucks. One of his projects in school has been repairing a garden tractor.

Dwight would like to stay in the agribusiness field following his graduation in June. For the present he plans to continue working with his father in their grain operation - a field he finds quite interesting and crucial to agriculture.

## Growing Degree Days

The Average temperature in Lancaster County for the week ending May 12 was 60 degrees-normal for the season. Growing degree days for 40 degrees from April 1 numbered 436 quite

less than normal. 50 degree growing days numbered 144 or 28 less than the normal. Rainfall for the week totaled .39 inches with the total from April 1 being 6.21 inches.

### WEATHER SUMMARY

The past week began with mostly cloudy skies and an easterly flow of cool moist air. Temperatures on Monday afternoon remained in to 50's to low 60's. Showers and thunderstorms broke out early Tuesday in western and central sections of the Commonwealth and spread eastward during the day ahead of an approaching low pressure area. Following the passage of this system the weather began to slow but steady improvement that continued into the weekend. Sunny skies and light winds produced pleasant spring weather with temperatures in the 60's to low 70's Wednesday gradually rising to the mid and upper 70's by the weekend. The warmest temperature of the season was recorded Sunday the 11th when Huntingdon recorded 80 degrees. Nights were generally fair with quite cool temperatures mid week when most areas fell to the 30's and low 40's. Philipsburg recorded the lowest temperature of the week with 26 degrees Thursday morning. By the weekend over night low temperatures were mostly in the upper 30's to low 50's. Some widely scattered showers and thunderstorms broke out over the weekend, but in general the mildest and most pleasant weather of the spring was noted across the state. Weekly temperatures averaged 2 to 4 degrees below normal in the north central region near normal in the east and northwest and about 2 degrees above normal in the southwest. Rainfall ranged from 0.5 to 0.75 inch along the northern border to less than 0.1 inch in the mid Susquehanna Valley.

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|                                    | 80% Moisture<br>Im-Pruv-All<br>Alfalfa Silage | 60% Moisture<br>Im-Pruv-All<br>Alfalfa Haylage | 40% Moisture<br>Alfalfa Haylage | Baled<br>Hay |
|------------------------------------|---|--|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Lbs. Dry Matter Harvested per acre | 10,000  | 10,000   | 10,000                          | 10,000       |
| Field and Handling Losses          | 0   | 6%   | 13%                             | 22.4%        |
| Lbs. Dry Matter Stored             | 10,000  | 9,400  | 8,700                           | 7,760        |
| Storage Losses                     | 12%   | 7%*  | 7%*                             | 3.6%*        |
| Lbs. Dry Matter to Feed            | 8,800   | 8,740  | 8,090                           | 7,480        |
| Feeding Losses                     | 0   | 0  | 0                               | 5%           |
| Lbs. Dry Matter Consumed           | 8,800   | 8,740  | 8,090                           | 7,100        |
| Lbs. Protein Consumed per acre     | 18.2%   | 18.6%  | 18.0%                           | 16.9%        |
| Lbs. TDN Consumed per acre         | 61%   | 57%  | 54%                             | 55%          |
| Lbs. Beef per acre                 | 910   | 655  | 532                             | 518          |
| Value of Beef at 25¢/lb.           | \$227.50                                      | \$163.55                                       | \$133.00                        | \$129.50     |
| Lbs. Milk per acre                 | 10,395  | 9,130  | 7,645                           | 7,330        |
| Value of Milk @ \$5.00/cwt.        | \$519.75                                      | \$456.50                                       | \$382.25                        | \$366.50     |

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