

Risser voted OYF by his neighbors

By DIETER KRIEG
ELIZABETHTOWN, Pa. - "I was raised on a farm and I guess I had that much ag in me that I couldn't throw it off," Brian Risser said modestly in answer to a question as to why he entered the farming profession. It's not that he ever wanted to be anything else, but he could have been. According to his wife, the former Jean Zimmerman of Hershey, Risser was the valedictorian of his class and had been encouraged by his teachers to become a doctor. "He decided to go into farming and I think that's wonderful," Mrs. Risser said with obvious pride gleaming from her eyes. Last Friday night the Elizabethtown Young Farmers voted Risser as

their outstanding young farmer. The honor was bestowed on him during the annual banquet which was held here at the town's new fire hall. Pennsylvania's Secretary of Agriculture was on hand to participate in the program. A more detailed report on those proceedings and Shelhamer's speech can be found elsewhere in this edition of Lancaster Farming.

Risser was quick to point out that he was not the only one involved in the farming operation near Bainbridge in northwestern Lancaster County. He's in partnership with his father, Harold, and brother, Donald. The elder Risser owns the real estate, a modest 68 acres, but all told they farm 375 acres and maintain a herd of 100 cows. In addition the family has 120 head of youngstock, including some dairy beef.

Risser does not believe a farmer has to increase his operation just for the sake of getting big, but does admit that his family has had to make some decisions along that line in order to cope with economic pressures. The

main thing, he believes, is to watch the business closely and adapt to changing trends.

The Risser's have a substantial record for doing just that. Some years ago they were the second family farm east of the Mississippi to install a Slurrystore manure handling system. Currently they're directly involved with Agway's research programs on alfalfa management and hay curing. Another relatively unique idea employed at the Risser farm is the mixer wagon.

Risser is a 1968 graduate of Lancaster Mennonite High School. After that he served two years in the service and in 1970 the formal partnership between him and his father and brother was formed.

"I personally have a good outlook for the farming business," Risser told this reporter, expressing considerable satisfaction with his work. He's optimistic of having a good future and said "I hope to be a farmer for a number of years."



The Outstanding Young Farmer award in the Elizabethtown area was bestowed on Brian Risser last week. Congratulating him for the honor is Ken Brandt, legislator from the area, who was an invited guest to the second annual banquet of the Elizabethtown Young Farmers.

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Red Rose club reorganizes

LANCASTER, Pa. - Last Wednesday evening, the Red Rose Beef and Sheep Club held its reorganizational meeting and chose officers for the coming year. This year approximately 100 club members will be feeding steers and lambs for the state farm show.

At the get-together, the club voted to hold their meetings on the first Wednesday of every month. Marty Burkins, Holtwood R1, 1976 county and district champion, also gave a report on her last year's steer project.

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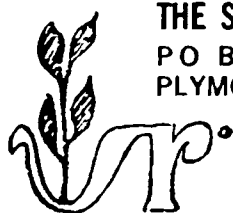
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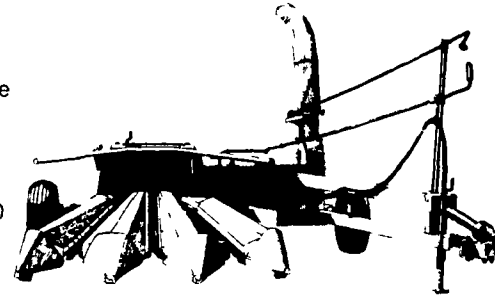


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