

# Arthur Schlappich wins Kutztown OYF award

By LAUREL SCHAEFFER  
Berks County Reporter  
MOHRSVILLE, Pa.

When Arthur Schlappich was asked why the Kutztown Young Farmers Association chose him as the Outstanding Young Farmer under 30, he didn't have an answer. "I am just doing what I have always done since I took over the family farm," he said with a slight smile.

Schlappich was raised on the land he now farms. It has been in his family for five generations, encompassing well over 100 years. "Right now," Schlappich said proudly, "we have four generations living here under one roof."

The large stone house was built 170 years ago, LANCASTER FARMING was told. "There is a date stone upstairs that is marked 1807," the young farmer's wife, Liz, related.

Schlappich rents the home farm from his father, as well as some neighboring land. All totaled, he is farming about 300 acres and milking 50 cows. The cows are mostly grade Holsteins. "We are working towards a totally registered herd however," said Schlappich, adding that it takes time.

In referring to registered cattle the young farmer said: "They are more interesting to us." As Liz put it, "It is a goal to work towards and something to look forward to." And indeed they are always looking ahead, presently their herd average is at 13,000 pounds of milk and 505 fat, and it is still on the 'rise'. They recently remodeled the stanchion barn and have room for 66 head of cattle. "When we remodeled," Schlappich



Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Schlappich represent one of four generations living under one roof.

explained, "we set up the barn so we can go to handling liquid manure when the need arises."

The Schlappichs do all of the work themselves, except for the help of a high school student who works after school and during the summer. All of the milking is done by Arthur and his wife.

"I don't want all of the credit," Schlappich insisted, "My father and grandfather help whenever they can. I

have two children who pitch in at times also. Lee is 8 and Tammy is 10," the young farmer added with a proud grin. Liz raised the calves besides taking care of her other chores and household duties. "When we have the room," Schlappich grinned, "she also raises the bull calves for vealers."

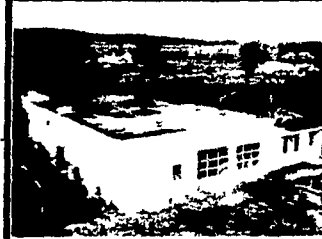
Schlappich attributes most of his experience to his childhood and working with his father before taking over for himself. However,

he does not rely on past experience entirely. The Schlappichs like to know everything they can about improving their farming practices. As an example, they take forage samples three or four times a year and have them analyzed for basic nutrients through the Penn State University program. "After receiving the results and feeding recommendations, I try to pick a happy medium," Schlappich explained, "usually it lies somewhere between Penn State's recommendations and what I know I can afford."

This progressive young farmer feels the test results tell him a lot of information. When to mow hay is an example. "This year I will try to mow it earlier than I did last year," he said, "because the protein levels

were high in my younger always something to be learned. The Young Farmer Schlappich feels there is [Continued on Page 120]

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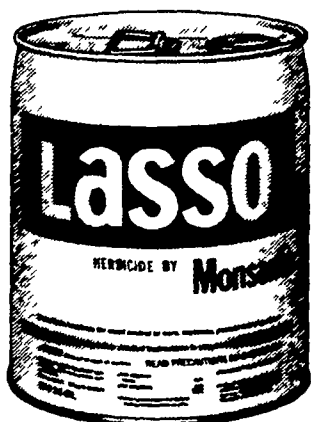
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