

Lancaster Co. farm tour to be this weekend

By KENDACE BORRY
MANHEIM — Outside of Manheim, there is a farmer that is a son of a son of a son of a son of a farmer. In fact, the first Hershey bought the farm in 1832, and the Hersheys have been settling there ever since.

Today Daniel K. Hershey and his family run a 400,000 broiler, 150 steer, and 200 pig operation. Besides that they grow tobacco, corn, wheat, barley, and timothy on their 92 acres.

Their farm is one of the eight farms that will be included on the Lancaster County Farmers Association Farm Tour that is being held today and tomorrow, November 18 and 19. The farms are open both days from 1 to 5 p.m.

According to Hershey, he "just turned out" to be a farmer.

"I like the independence," he stated. "Around here, there's to time clock to punch."

He has always fed steers, as long as he's been involved with farming. He usually buys his stock around 800 pounds of weight, bringing it up from Virginia. Then he fattens them out, selling them on the market at about 1100 to 1200 pounds.

He feeds hogs too, buying them from auctions or farmers at about 50 pounds of weight and selling them around 220 pounds.

The broiler operation was

started about eight years ago.

"We have always had some laying hens, and with my boy becoming more interested in farming, we decided to get the broilers," he explained. "You're not so tied down with broilers as"

you would be with a laying flock."

Thinking of farming today, he noted that he thinks it is "pretty hard" for a young man to get started. "You almost have to get into something big today to survive," he explained.

"Otherwise you just won't make it."

He himself had been born in the house on the homestead. First he had worked with his father and now the farm has been his own for the past 22 years.

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Daniel K. Hershey feeds his steer while daughter Wanda and wife, Joretta, get involved in helping him. The family farm has been in the Hershey line since 1832.

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