

# Eighth generation operating Bannerview Farm

MARIETTA — Bannerview Farm of Irwin and Grace Engle, R1 Marietta, has been in the family for eight generations and was purchased in 1802 by the first Engle family to set foot in the United States from Switzerland.

The Engles, spelled "Engel" in those days, settled by the Susquehanna River on land adjoining the present farm in 1754. In 1802, Irwin's ancestors purchased his present farm for the sum of "4,000 pounds of current Pennsylvania money in gold or silver coins." This averages 19½ pounds per acre for the original 203 acres but Engle says he's not sure of the value which that represented.

The original land was eventually divided between three families, with Irwin's father retaining 85 acres. In 1944, his father purchased back 24 of the original acres; in 1968 he purchased 44 acres; and last year Irwin purchased an additional 79 acres to bring the total acreage to 233, with 230 of it tillable.

According to Engle, the farm has been in a variety of crops over the years, including tobacco, wheat, barley and corn, and he and his wife presently raise corn and alfalfa as the main crops.

They are milking 145 head of Holsteins and have about 212 heifers. Irwin's brother Melvin also helps with the barn and field work. The Engles have one daughter, Daphne, 7, who helps feed calves.

The dairy business began with the marriage of Engle's parents about 50 years ago when they began "having a few cows and eventually had a stable for 16, which were milked by hand," Engle



Photo from 1900 shows farm buildings of Engle farm, which are believed to have been built around time land was purchased in 1802.

said. By the time he was 10, Irwin remembers having increased the herd size to about 30, and because his father had a heart condition, his mother, the children and hired help accomplished the work.

Engle studied vocational agriculture at Elizabethtown High School, and was a member of its FFA chapter. He began buying dairy cows at that time and added one

row of ten cows of his own to his father's herd. Following graduation, Engle worked with his father for three years until his death and then worked for his mother for another 1½ years before purchasing the farm from her.

He said, "We gradually increased the size of the herd." The cows are contained in a free-stall barn and are milked in the older

barn in 16-cow units.

Engle said he had always been told he was the fifth or six generation to farm the land, but closer study revealed his family to be the eighth generation. His searching was made somewhat easier because of an Engle family history, a bound volume covering the years of the family from their Swiss beginnings to their home at Wild Cat along

the Susquehanna up until the year 1927. He speculates that they settled by the river because of its importance as a transportation source.

Engle says he imagines their chief reason for leaving Europe was for religious freedom and remarked that the original Engles founded the River Brethren Church on their farm. Part of that sect became Brethren in Christ.

While no dates can be found on either the large farm home which was constructed in two sections or the barn, it is assumed that they were built shortly

after the land was purchased.

The Engles are active members of the Maytown Brethren in Christ Church, and belong to the Lancaster County Holstein Association and Lancaster County Farmers Association. Engle is a member of the Elizabethtown Young Farmers Association.

With accurate records and a family history, the Engles are proud of the history of their family, but are quietly carrying on the long tradition of farming spread over the eight generations which lived in this country.

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## York 4-H beef club meets

YORK — The monthly meeting of the York County 4-H Baby Beef Club was held on November 10 at the 4-H Center.

At the recent York-Adams baby beef roundup and sale, members received an average of 87 cents a pound for the steers sold. Also, there were 14 steers selected

to represent the county at the Pennsylvania Farm Show to be held in January at Harrisburg.

An election of officers was held and the new officers are: President - Bill Wise, Vice President - Bob Livingston, Secretary - Tammy Eisenhower, Asst. Secretary - Chris Shive,

Treasurer - Annette Walters, Asst. Treasurer - Chris Kinsley, Reporter - Julie Myers, Asst. Reporter - Tim Kinsley, Historian - Deb Hoffman, Asst. Historian - Cathy Shive.

Committee meetings for the upcoming banquet were held following the business meeting.

PENNSYLVANIA AGRICULTURE



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## Manorfield Farm

(Continued from Page B5)

A dairy kept by an aunt in the family records that she watched the Columbia Bridge burning "from a hill above the farm" during the Civil War. The second Jacob in the line of descendants, who owned the farm from 1830, operated a still and transported whiskey to Philadelphia in barrels.

Charles and Mary have three grown children. David C., pastor of Ross Street United Methodist church; Judith Boll, Hummelstown; and Karen Troop, Quarryville.

Shellenberger does all of the crop farming, but is also

president of the board of directors of Manor Mutual Insurance Company and has his own agency. He is active in the Mountville Lions, and the Masonic Lodge. Both Charles and Mary are members of the Mountville United Methodist Church and Mary belongs to Farm Women Society 4 and is a member of the Mountwaybia Club. She retired after 25 years as a librarian in the Penn Manor School District.

This picturesque century farm continues as a working farm after seven generations of being tilled by Shellenbergers.



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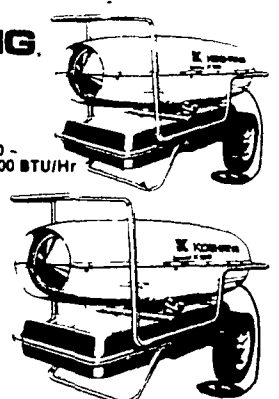
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