

Orndorffs receive Farm Show family award

FARM SHOW — The Charles B Orndorff Family received the prestigious 1981 Farm Show Family of the Year Award during ceremonies Monday night at the 65th Farm Show. The award was presented by Hollowell during Secretary of Agriculture's Night at the Farm Show.

"I am extremely proud to present this award to an outstanding Pennsylvania Farm Family which has greatly contributed to Pennsylvania agriculture. The Orndorff Family has always been active in the agricultural community and has long exhibited quality livestock and horses at the Farm Show," Hollowell said.

"With the record of dedication to improvement seen in the Orndorff Family, it is easy to see why Pennsylvania Agriculture is Growing Better."

The Orndorff Family's involvement with state agriculture shows began in 1910 when Charles Orndorff's father Corbly exhibited the grand champion ear of corn over all varieties. Charles still has the silver cup awarded to his father for that 1910 Johnson County white corn.

Charles and his wife Marion hail from

Waynesburg, Greene County. Their son Clark and his wife Mary Lou reside in Waynesburg. They have three children, Clarketta, Christina and Corbly.

Looking back into their history of Farm Show exhibits, Charles recalls the first time animals were included at the Farm Show. Charles and his father showed Merino sheep and Merino fleeces in the wool shows — which were held in garages throughout Harrisburg with no permanent records of winnings kept.

The family began showing Belgian and Percheron draft horses at the Farm Show in 1948, when a winning tradition carried out over the next 32 years began. The Orndorffs showed the champion stallion and mare at the 1948 show. Since then they have accumulated 27 Farm Show grand champion banners, 13 plaques and three trophies.

After three years of showing both breeds of horses, Percherons were phased out of the Orndorff operation. The Belgians proved to be quite successful. One mare, "Orndorff's Highland Lassie," has been named grand champion six times at the Farm Show and is still

producing foals. The Orndorff's Belgian show string has been undefeated twice, including last year when they exhibited in 14 classes and won 14 blue ribbons.

The Orndorff's Belgians were asked to show at the International Horse Show in Washington, D.C in 1976, a celebration of 450 Years of Horses in America. Charles Orndorff has also appeared on the cover of the Draft Horse Journal with his Belgian mares.

The Pennsylvania Farm Show is indeed a family affair for the Orndorffs. In 1948, their son Clark met his bride to be, Mary Lou Litman, at the Farm Show. They were married the following year and showed two trucks of horses and some sheep at the 1949 show. Their children are also involved with the show. At present, Christina, 24, and Corbly, 14, are in charge of the Belgian herd.

Christina was active in FFA during her high school years receiving the Keystone Farmer Award in 1973 and the American Farmer Award in 1977. Christina captured first place in the single cart hitch class at the Farm Show at the early age of 13. Both she and Corbly are preparing horses for the 1981 show.

Farm Show horse pulling contest fans will recognize Mary Lou's maiden name Litman, as her brother Vance has been pulling horses at the Farm Show for almost 30 years. Two other Litman brothers, Robert and George, have been active participants at the show. Most recently George's daughter Sandra won the state sheep shearing contest and represented Pennsylvania in the National Contest in Denver, Colorado.

Charles and Marion Orndorff have greatly contributed to Greene County and Pennsylvania agriculture. They have wintered as many as 125 head of horses in addition to

a farming operation of 125 head of cattle and 1,200 head of fine woolled sheep.

Charles was an excellent source of fine woolled rams for south-western Pennsylvania and his liberal financial agreements enabled many farmers to get work horses and improve their flocks. When tractors replaced horses, Charles switched to registered horses, while son Clark continued the tradition of helping other farmers meet their needs by establishing a used tractor business.

Charles Orndorff graduated with the first class of the Indiana Auctioneering School in 1921. He served farmers in south-

western Pennsylvania by auctioneering at Fayette County Auction, West Alexander Auction and as auctioneer and president of the Pennsylvania Livestock Auction in Waynesburg until his retirement in the 1970's.

His community activities include a 50-year plus membership in the East Franklin Grange, membership in Fairall United Methodist Church, member of the Greene County Planning Commission and tax collector for Franklin Township for eight years. He applied the same business principles to tax collection that he used in his livestock business — helping several people weather some hard times.

Weis wins award for top ag business

FARM SHOW — Weis Markets of Sunbury received the 1981 Pennsylvania Agribusiness Achievement Award during ceremonies today at the Pennsylvania State Farm Show.

The Northumberland County food retailer, which has 107 stores through Pennsylvania and surrounding states, has the unique honor of being the first recipient of the Agribusiness Achievement Award.

Presenting the award, State Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hollowell said, "Weis Markets was singled out from other businesses vying for the honor as being a leader in promoting Pennsylvania farm products."

"They have been actively involved in Pennsylvania food promotions for several years. In 1980 they became the first food retailer to become involved in the 'Pennsylvania Agriculture — We're Growing Better' Logo campaign introduced at last year's Farm Show."

The logo is the focal point in a buy Pennsylvania campaign aimed at increasing sales of state agricultural products, educating consumers and

boosting Pennsylvania's agricultural income.

"With few exceptions," Hollowell said, "Weis Markets has used the PA logo in all their advertising since last February. The logo can also be found in their stores, prominently pointing out Pennsylvania grown or packaged commodities."

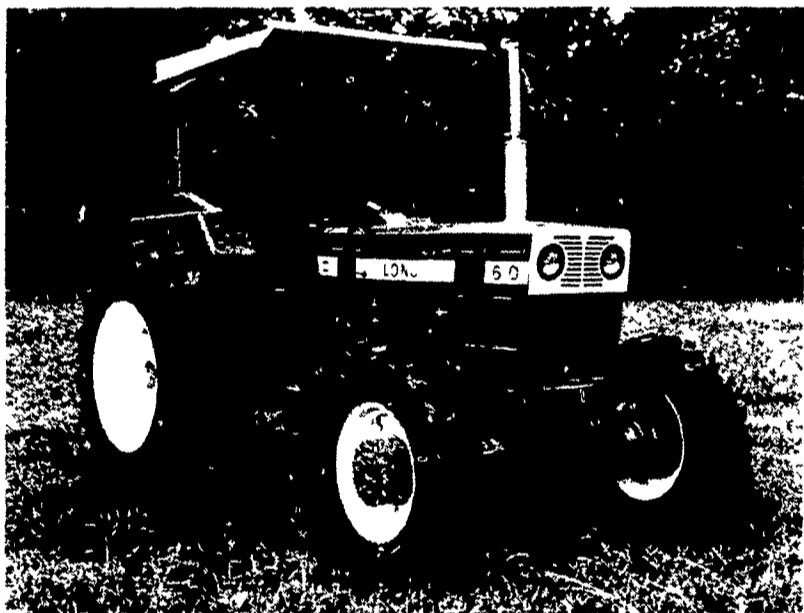
Sigfried Weis, president of the firm, said, "It makes good business to promote Pennsylvania Agriculture. Farmers are our customers, as we are theirs."

Hollowell said, "The growth of our agribusiness industries, which employ one-fifth of the state's work force, is a testament to the fact that Pennsylvania agriculture is truly growing better."

Other agribusinesses considered for the award were, The Pennsylvania Cheesemaker, a cheese processing firm located in Winfield, Union County; Nissley Vineyards of Bainbridge, Lancaster County; and Park Products, an egg producer and packager located in Valencia, Butler County.

Weis Markets was chosen by a panel of judges including Charles Wismer, Master of the Pennsylvania State Grange; Marlin Miller, Manager of the Pennsylvania Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Division of the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association, and James Sumner, Director of the Agriculture Department's Bureau of Markets.

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