

Lairds are Angus Family of Year

DOVER.—“I never liked to milk cows,” grins Walter Laird, his eyes twinkling in a face creased with a permanent expression of good humor.

“But I still wanted to farm,” adds Laird.

As an “excuse” to stay on the farm, Laird and wife, Nellie, put in

Angus cattle instead of a herd of milkers.

Thirty years, or thereabouts, later, the Lairds maintain a herd of 100 purebred Angus cattle on their 200-acre farm, plus additional rented ground, on Rohrer's Church Road, R3, Dover.

Pennsylvania Angus breeders selected the Lairds as their family

of the year, honoring the couple during the Association's annual dinner and meeting on Tuesday of Farm Show week at the Penn Harris.

Why Angus?

“Everyone knows you get only prime steaks from Angus,” teases the gung-ho promoter of the popular black breed, and of the beef industry in general.

“I could also tell you about the calving ease, milking ability, and how they grade out to a higher percentage of choice than those other breeds,” he tosses in as an afterthought.

A long-time activist in breed and promotional organizations, and supporter of youth activities, Laird is a past-president of the Pennsylvania Angus Association and the South-Central Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association, and a director of the Pa. Cattlemen's organization. — J.B.



For their years of service and devotion to the Angus breed, Walter and Nellie Laird were named family of the year by the Pennsylvania Angus Association.

Bee is mightiest farm worker

BELTSVILLE, Md. — What do you feed America's mightiest farm worker when he is hungry?

Obviously, anything he wants-as long as it meets the recommended daily allowances of the adult honeybee, says Elton W. Herbert of USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

Yes, the tiny honeybee does a mighty job. By pollinating crops that provide human and livestock foods, the honeybee affects a full third of our food supply.

Now, as its just reward, there's the Beltsville Bee Diet. The BBD is an inexpensive artificial diet for honeybees that makes life easier around the hive, and more importantly, makes beekeeping more profitable, according to the Ag Research Service at USDA.

Earlier this year, the Beltsville Bee Diet went on the commercial market after ten years of bee nutrition research at the ARS Bioenvironment Bee Laboratory, one of 51 laboratories at USDA's Beltsville Agricultural Research Center in Central Maryland.

Beekeepers often use artificial diets instead of natural pollens and nectars to build up honeybee broods in time to pollinate early Spring crops such as blueberries and almonds. Artificial diets are also needed when bees are confined during extreme weather and when colonies are isolated from areas of pesticide spraying.

The Beltsville Bee Diet can allow colonies of bees to build up their populations faster and earlier in the season. Thus, bees will produce more honey in a season.

Also, the BBD is a foolproof way to avoid transmitting diseases to a colony through bee food, according to Herbert's colleague, ARS microbiologist Hachiro Shimanuki.

To find the right formula for the BBD, the ARS scientists first needed to identify the exact nutrients honeybees require to reproduce efficiently. “Then, we faced perhaps the more difficult task of making the bees eat it. We mixed and matched many ingredients until recently we hit on a diet that not only serves honeybees what we knew they needed, but also what they want to eat,” says Herbert.

To fill the Critical protein requirement—the pollen substitute—the scientists settled for, or rather the bees settled for a whey-yeast compound. Whey is a byproduct of cheese making. The yeast provides honeybees with needed vitamins and minerals. Sugars in the BBD provide carbohydrates, which also help preserve the diet.

The BBD can be kept at room temperatures for many months without spoiling or hardening—it looks like peanut butter in color and viscosity.

PDA, Penn State announce liaison program

HARRISBURG — The first Agricultural Liaison Program in history between the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and Penn State was announced last Friday by Samuel H. Smith, Dean of the Penn State College of Agriculture and Secretary of Agriculture Penrose Hallowell.

In a joint statement, Smith and Hallowell said, “The program has been designed to expand our services to the agricultural community of Pennsylvania by improving communication between Penn State and the Department of Agriculture.”

Terri Reinhart-Rallis of State College has been appointed as Agriculture Liaison, working

through the Agriculture Department's Bureau of Agricultural Development. In her new position, she will focus efforts in three major areas: public information, marketing and job recruitment.

Smith said the three areas of concentration were agreed to during a series of meetings between himself and Hallowell. “Both the Agriculture Department and Penn State provide essential services to the state's agriculture and food industry,” Smith said. “The Agriculture Liaison Program will take advantage of the strengths of both and help unite Pennsylvania agriculture.”

Hallowell said sharing of staff and communications resources can boost our ability to get information to farmers and agribusinesses quickly and effectively. “The Penn State Cooperative Extension Service with its 67 county offices can also support work in improving the marketing of Pennsylvania agricultural products,” he said. “Cooperation in providing up-to-date market information and in promoting sales of products through the ‘We're Growing Better’ program will benefit Pennsylvania farmers.”

The two agriculture leaders also said the program would yield a

formal, structured internship program. “This will provide students an opportunity to gain hand-on experience in agriculture related fields of state government,” Smith said. Reinhart-Rallis is working closely with Gene Love, associate dean for Resident Education in the College of Agriculture, to recruit students to begin internships with the Agriculture Department in the spring.

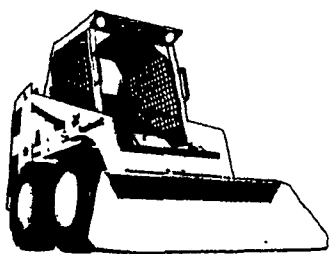
Hallowell said the Agriculture Liaison Program grew out of his desire to make the most efficient use of existing resources. “Dean Smith was extremely receptive when I first suggested the idea. He and his staff have been a great help in putting together a program which will benefit Pennsylvania farmers.”

The two said the program is a positive step toward uniting Pennsylvania's agricultural service agencies, and important in meeting agriculture's needs in a time of fiscal responsibility.

“Pennsylvania Agriculture is Growing Better,” they said. “The Agriculture Liaison Program between the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and The Pennsylvania State University will help assure an even brighter future for our farm community.”

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