

# Fourth generation Farming tradition

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to be too much work for just Paul and Emma. Their third daughter, Patti, is eight-years-old.

"We slowed down so we didn't have to quit farming," Paul said.

His farm now houses 80 Holstein heifers, which are sold as replacement heifers. Paul can remember when his grandfather had 12 cows, and that was considered an average herd size.

Another difference is the way Paul farms the land.

"Conservation change is the biggest difference," Paul said.

He explained that the land has been contoured since about 1940, but he included waterways and terraces in 1970. The farm now has a pond, located adjacent to the house, which catches all of the runoff water. This prevents pollution from the farm from running into nearby rivers and streams.

"Very little soil leaves the place now," Paul said.

Another new addition are the solar panels located atop the front porch roof. Hardly visible at first, they are proof that the farm has

kept up with the times.

Not all of the changes have been physical alterations. Some have affected people.

"Farm women have to work harder than they ever did," Emma said. "Years ago, we could afford to hire a hired hand more than we can now."

But while some changes have been necessary, a feel of permanence pervades the farm.

When the farm was originally purchased it had 82 acres, it still boasts the same amount today. The grape arbor has also remained, as has the "summer house," which is now being used for storage.

The original part of the home built in 1830, before it belonged to the Krantz family, still stands, however, additions have been made.

Will the fifth generation continue the farming tradition, adapting the farm to changes that may take place in the future?

The question remains unanswered as Paul states firmly, "I haven't said I'm ready to quit yet."



Emma and Paul Krantz represent the fourth generation to live on the Krantz farm, located off Bunker Hill Road, Strasburg. Their daughter, Patti, eight-years-old, thinks she may enjoy farming when she gets older.



The Krantz homestead is nestled in a picturesque valley in Strasburg, Lancaster County. The farm pond catches almost all the runoff, preventing pollution from the farm from running into nearby streams and rivers.



## Farm remains in family name 101 years

WASHINGTON BORO — For the past 101 years, a small farm located in Manor Township, southeast Lancaster County, has

been the home for descendants of the Jacob Hershey family.

Now owned by Clarence Shearer Jr. and his wife, Grace, the farm has been the homestead for six generations of the Hershey family. A seventh generation of the Hersheys has been born, and as Grace pointed out, the farm has the possibility of continuing in the family name.

The parents of four girls and one son, Grace and Clarence said they hope their son, Rich, will follow in the family footsteps. Rich, 18, is married as are his sisters Bonnie, 26, Vickie, 24, and Jane, 21. All four are parents - the children representing the seventh generation. Daughter Pam, 14, is the youngest and is still in high school.

The history of the Hershey-owned farm had its beginning in 1882 when Jacob bought the farm from his mother. Raised on the farm which was originally established in 1840, Jacob farmed the 32 acres located along Anchor Road in Washington Boro until he sold the land to his son, Eusebius.

Following the footsteps of his father, Eusebius remained on the farm, but in addition to working the land he also taught school. Eusebius graduated from Millersville State College with a degree in education and taught at a little schoolhouse, Spring Valley School, which was down the road from the farm.

Eusebius, the father of two, sold the farm to his son Harry. Harry also farmed the land, sharing the

responsibilities with his wife and daughter, Elizabeth, who currently lives on the farm with her son Clarence and his wife and family.

Representing the fourth generation of Hersheys to own the farm, Elizabeth farmed with her parents after completing the eleventh grade of high school. Married to the former Clarence Shearer, Elizabeth said she decided to settle on the farm with her parents and help them. This was during the Depression era.

"At that time," Elizabeth said, "we raised just corn, tobacco, wheat and hay. We had milking cows at one time which we milked by hand."

Elizabeth said she enjoyed



growing up on the farm and wouldn't have stayed if she didn't like it. Her sincerity towards farming was passed on to her son, Clarence, who now enjoys living on

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## Charles farm

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great grandfather - married a neighbor girl and came to this farm.

"The Charles' holdings later grew to more than 500 acres in the area.

"The family came from Switzerland in 1734 and stayed for a time in Germantown. They came to Lancaster in 1742 and the patent from the Penn family on the original homestead dates back to 1752."

Dorothy goes on to read about Jacob Charles, the son of immigrant Henry Charles who married the neighbor Neff girl

and came to the farm across the road which they now work as the sixth generation.

"His physical stature was large. His mental equipment was in good order.

"And in his last year - the 98th of a long and productive life - he still walked the 14 miles to and from Lancaster."

With a start on the farm like that, it's no wonder that it heads this year's Century Farms.

Now it makes me wonder if Jacob dug the original well that still serves the farm.

If so, his legacy continues to flow on.



Elizabeth Shearer displays a water pump, an original structure on the farm which was established in 1840.