

## York Salutes Agricultural Leaders

BY JOYCE BUPP

York Co. Correspondent

YORK — York County's agriculture history and leadership took center stage January 28 at the Chamber of Commerce's first annual Agriculture Recognition Banquet, at Rutter's Restaurant.

The Emory Kilgore family of Airville was saluted with the Farm Family award, and George Williams, Codorus Fertilizer Service, was named winner of the Distinguished Service to Agriculture award.

### FARM FAMILY AWARD

Emory and Maybelle Jennes Kilgore began farming in 1929 with three horses, eight cows and a flock of 300 chickens. They purchased from Emory's mother 110-acres, owned by the family since 1804. Acquiring neighboring farms over the years, the Kilgore eventually expanded their acreage to more than 800 in the southeast corner of York County.

Sons Gene and Bill both returned home after college to dairy farm, each purchasing a farm from the Kilgore land. While each continues to maintain an independent dairy herd, the acreage is farmed together by Emory and his sons, cropped primarily to feed the two dairy herds.

Gene, Doris, and their son Doug milk 75 head of Holsteins. Doug and Pam's two daughters, Rebecca, 5, and Rachael, 3, are the fourth generation currently living on the Kilgore farm.

Bill and Daune's 75-head milking herd includes Holsteins and Brown Swiss. Daughters Lisa and Kelly Kilgore Miller assist with milking chores as needed.

The Kilgore family has maintained a long tradition of agriculture and community leadership.

Emory is a former county commissioner, having served from 1955-63. At age 85, he remains avidly interested in the political scene. He is a division director for Dairymen, Inc., and past corporate board director, director of the Baltimore-area Dairy Food and Nutrition Council and Southeast United Dairy Industry Association.

Kilgore has headed as president the Dairy Council, Mason-Dixon Lions Club, York County Agriculture Extension Service and York County Cow Testing Service, and served as a director for numerous others.

Maybelle is a former York County Society of Farm Women president, state Farm Women director and state scholarship chairman. Both she and Emory are active in various programs at the Chanceford Presbyterian Church and Sunday School.

### DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO AGRICULTURE AWARD

George Williams founded his Codorus Fertilizer Service in 1964, on the site of the former Codorus Canning Company. Though a native of Philadelphia, his interest in agriculture traces to his boyhood summers spent on a small Chester County orchard his parents had inherited.

After earning a degree in animal science at Penn State, he served three years in Army military security. Prior to opening his own business, Williams worked for five years in Virginia for Southern States ag supply cooperative.

Codorus Fertilizer serves primarily local ag clientele, providing custom blending and spreading of fertilizer and lime, plus sales of seed and agriculture chemicals, and lawn and garden products.

Diversification balances the seasonal nature of the fertilizer business. Williams most recent venture is cleaning and packaging sunflower seeds, marketing to the booming interest in feeding wild birds. He has also begun tapping the export demand for sunflower seeds for human consumption. Codorus Fertilizer's first overseas sunflower seed shipment went out last Fall to Spain, where the roasted and salted seeds are a popular snack food.

Williams and his wife, Annaliese, have two daughters, ages 16 and 20. He serves on the board of PennAg Industries and the advisory board of Peoples Bank of Glen Rock. The York County Ag Extension Service honored him last year with its Outstanding Service

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The Emory Kilgore family of Airville is York Chamber of Commerce's Outstanding Farm Family. From left, front, are Lisa, Maybelle, Emory, Pam and Doris; left rear, Kelly and Ronnie Miller, Daune, Bill, Doug and Gene.



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