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Lancaster Farming

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Effort By Conservation Farmer Restores Farm Vitality

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff

ATGLEN (Chester Co.) — Conservation farming know-how and lots of hard work helped John Peter Stees take an eroding, dilapidated beef farm in shambles and turn it into a strong and successful dairy operation.

Stees' work on the farm, in cooperation with the Chester Co. Conservation District during the past 24 years, garnered the dairy farmer the Conservation Farmer of the Year Award recently at the Chester Co. Crops Day.

Stees milks a herd of 50 registered Holsteins on a 106-acre (70 tillable) farm in West Fallowfield Township, where he lives with his wife Sally and two sons, Hutch, 14, and Clinton, 12.

Stees has managed the farm since 1965. He took grazing pastures that showed clear signs of erosion and "gullies that we could drive a little Ford tractor through," he said, and turned them into grassland waterways and contour strips.

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First Maryland Farm Families In Hall Of Fame

SHARON B. SCHUSTER
Maryland Correspondent

BALTIMORE, MD. — Three Maryland farm families were inducted into the first ever Maryland Agriculture Hall of Fame on February 7 near Baltimore. Over eight hundred people attended the fifth annual Maryland Agriculture Dinner in honor of Governor William Donald Schaefer, members of the Maryland General Assembly, and the U.S. Congressional delegation. Sponsored by Maryland Agriculture Week, Inc., the purpose of the evening was "to celebrate the importance of Maryland agriculture, its people, and its products."

The first ever inductees into the Governor's Agriculture Hall of Fame represented various facets of the industry from dairy to sheep to grain operations. Maryland's Secretary of Agriculture, Wayne A. Cawley, Jr., introduced the recipients of certificates from the Governor, who said that "it's important to give credit to people who work hard. These farmers are symbolic of farmers who work so hard."

Y.D. Hance said he was "overwhelmed and humbled by receiving the honor." The Calvert County farmer was the first secretary of agriculture in the state. He also raised grain and sheep.

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John Peter Stees was recently honored as Conservation Farmer of the Year by the Chester Co. Conservation District. Stees' work on rebuilding the farm, in cooperation with the district during the past 24 years, garnered the dairy farmer the award recently at the Chester Co. Crops Day. Photo by Andy Andrews.

State Young Farmers Hold Convention

JUDY PATTON
Centre Co. Correspondent
STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — The Pennsylvania Young Farmers' Association (PYFA) honored farmers with the Outstanding Community Service and Outstanding Young Farmers awards at the 31st annual PYFA banquet here on Feb. 6.
The convention, held from February 5 through 7 at the Days Inn, also featured educational workshops and speakers, farm and

Penn State tours, election of new officers and a variety of social activities.
The Outstanding Community Service Award went to Don and Cherrie Wenger of Manheim. Cherrie is the assistant director of Living Water Ministries in Maintenance, a rehabilitation center for women. Don also helps at the Ministries, is a part time driver for Graybill's Dairy, assists with local FFA projects, and umpires community softball games.

Together the Wengers coordinate Family Fun Night activities at the Pennsylvania Farm Show.

They milk 25 Brown Swiss cows and raise crops on 130 acres. Winner of the Outstanding

Young Farmer Award in the Under 30 category was John
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Dairy Of Distinction Seeks Farms For 1991 Recognition

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor
COVINGTON (Tioga Co.) — The Northeast Dairy Farm Beautification Program, Inc., is ready to receive applications for 1991. This program rewards clean, well-kept farmsteads to help with consumer acceptance of dairy products in the store.
State President Dan Baker, dairyman from Covington, Tioga County, said the program has received great acceptance in the past and officers look forward to a good response again this year. "There are plenty of good looking dairy farms out there that have not been judged," Baker said. "And

even those who have entered the selection process in past years should enter again."
The program provides rewards of recognition to producers who maintain attractive production sites. This recognition benefits the entire dairy industry as well as individual dairymen. Not only does the favorable publicity generated by the program in the general press help bring modern farm practices to the attention of urban people, farmers use the distinction to promote their own operation or seek and hire farm labor.
Paul Nichols, the secretary for the Pennsylvania program, said applications may be sent in now to
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Phil and Cindy Garber run a top-notch farming operation with dad James and brother Roger. They farm 1,000 acres in additional to truck, feed mill, custom combine, and poultry operations. The Garber family includes, from left: Scott, Cyndi, Ryan, Rodney, and Phil. Turn to page B5 for story. Photo by Lou Ann Good.

Pork Congress Set

CAMP HILL (Cumberland Co.) — The 13th annual Keystone Pork Congress (KPC) will be held February 20 at the Penn Harris Inn in Camp Hill.
This year's KPC will feature a trade show with more than 40 exhibits, a "Pork Bowl" contest and public speaking competition for 4-H and FFA members, educational seminars, and the annual banquet of the Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council.
Dr. Kelly Donham, a veterinarian from the Institute of Agricultural Medicine at the University of Iowa, is the featured speaker on the educational program and will discuss "Human Health Risks in Your Swine Facilities."
Banquet speaker is Jane Hieb, of Stone Meadow Communications in Strum, Wis.
For a program copy, contact your county extension office. To make banquet reservations, call Stephen Burkholder, (215) 682-2871.