

Lancaster Farming

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Atlantic Dairy Cooperative Celebrates 75th Anniversary



These were part of the founding member families of ADC: Anna Davis, Beth Bickel, Harry Bickel, Walt Moore, Naomi Moore, Sally Moore, and Bill Moore.

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff
LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Seventy-five years ago, Atlantic Dairy Cooperative was formed to serve dairy farmers.

During a two-day convention held November 19 and 20, the Cooperative celebrated its successful history and grappled with changes needed for current market conditions.

This past year, the Cooperative marketed more milk than it ever has in its history. The fiscal year ended with one of its best financial performances, posting sales of \$582 million and a net margin of \$7.5 million.

"The strength of the cooperative is found in the loyalty of its mem-

bers," Dr. Paul Hand, Atlantic's general manager, told the 1,100 guests attending the annual banquet.

In recognition of 34 founding member families who have held continuous membership since the cooperative's beginnings in 1917, Dr. Hand presented each founding family a bronze plaque. The families also received a copy of Atlantic's 75th anniversary booklet and a video.

The following were recognized as Founding Member Families: H. Karl and Marjorie Beegle of Bedford; Michael and Linda Behrer of Spruce Creek; Harry and Beth Bickel of Airville; Willaim and Kathryn Brinsfield Jr. of Cordova.

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Groundwater Protection More Than A Fence Around The Wellhead

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
NEW HOLLAND (Lancaster Co.) — Protection of groundwater is more than simply putting a fence around the wellhead and asking people to stay out. It's an ongoing program that identifies the site that feeds and discharges the groundwater and knowing ways in which to manage that site for farm, herd, and family health.

And it's important for farmers as well as municipalities to know the land area and history of the area surrounding the well and check for past or future threats to groundwater quality, according to Mark Nelson, senior hydrologist.

Nelson, from Horsley Witten Hegemann, Inc., Cambridge, Mass., spoke about tools for groundwater and wellhead protec-

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The Lancaster Farming office will be closed Thursday, November 26, in observance of Thanksgiving. Deadlines for the week of Thanksgiving are as follows:

- Public Sale Ads — Noon, Mon., 11/23
- General News — Noon, Wed., 11/25
- Classified Section C Ads — 5 P.M., Tue., 11/24
- All Other Classified Ads — 9 A.M., Wed., 11/25

Wilkinson Receives PFA Service Award

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff

HERSHEY (Dauphin Co.) — Leon Wilkinson, a Landenburg dairyman, was honored Tuesday evening during the legislative banquet of the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association, held at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey.

The Pennsylvania Farmers' Association is one of the strongest,

if not the strongest, agricultural lobbying groups in the state. It is the state chapter of the American Farm Bureau, a farmer representative group at the federal level.

PFA honored Wilkinson during its legislative and recognition banquet, part of its annual four-day PFA convention.

Wilkinson, a Chester County dairyman and currently a member

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As Thanksgiving Day Approaches, Family Grateful For Harvest

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff
LEBANON (Lebanon Co.) — The crops are harvested. The silos stuffed. It's been a bountiful harvest — 50 percent better than last year's drought-afflicted one for the Jay Calvin and Thelma Zimmerman family.

They, as do many farm families, brim with gratefulness during this Thanksgiving season. Calvin said, "This year's crop is the best we've had in the past 25 to 30 years."

Calvin echoed the sentiments of the Plymouth pilgrims who observed the first Thanksgiving when he said, "I'm thankful to God for my great family and that we can share these blessings together. I'm thankful to the Lord for providing for me so that I can work with the soil and animals."

Being thankful is a lifestyle and not merely a once-a-year event for the Zimmermans, who work together to milk 150 Holsteins, feed 150 replacements and calves, and crop 250 acres with corn, hay, rye, barley, and soybeans.

Social and work duties are so intertwined it is difficult to say where fun begins and work ends. Whether it is competing in tractor pulls or working in the fields, the parents and their children, Jeff, 14; Jared, 9; Janelle, 6; and Jason, 4, find pleasure in all of it.

Both parents, who grew up on Lancaster County dairy farms, sought to find a spouse who wanted

to farm. After they married, they worked on a Lancaster County farm until they found the farm on which they now live. They began to rent-purchase the farm in 1978,

and in 1991 they bought it. The farm is made up of a combination of several smaller farms. Calvin said, "We were fortunate to be able to buy it in parcels."

The buildings did not require renovations.

"The farm was ready to go when we moved here. The milking parlor was built in 1966 although it isn't

as modern as some, it is sufficient for us," Calvin said.

The Zimmermans feed a total mixed ration and have a herd average of 17,500 pounds milk for their partly registered herd, which Calvin is working toward turning into fully registered.

In addition to each family member working on the farm, the Zimmermans also employ one full-time man and two part time teenagers.

"We have our full-time hired man for 10 years and just love him," Thelma said. "He is always on time and we can always depend on him to take care of things."

Morning and evening milking begins at 3:30 and takes about 3½ hours.

Thelma helps with evening and weekend milking.

Jeff does most of the feeding and scrapes the barn.

In the evening, Janelle feeds the calves. Although the others help out with calf feeding, Calvin said, "She is the only one who really loves the job."

The Zimmermans have a roller mill, which they use to produce high moisture corn. They raise their own forage and buy some additional grain and soybeans.

Because the harvest was 50 percent less last year, Calvin estimates that it will take two to three good years to catch up economically. But other methods of doing things

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'I'm thankful for big turkeys, mashed potatoes, Dad, Mom, Jeff, Jared, and Janelle.'



Ice cream, each other, and living on a farm are a few of the things for which the Zimmerman family are grateful as they contemplate Thanksgiving Day. From left: Janelle, Jason, Jared, Calvin, Jeff, and Thelma.