

Ag-Industry Honors Irwin

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To keep good rapport with neighbors, he said that farmers should chisel plow manure and not spray on windy mornings.

Three to 10 years ago, it would have been heresy for the college to form an alliance with Rodale Institute, Hood said. Rodale methods were considered contrary to production agriculture, but now it is clear that we need to modify agriculture practice to sustainable methods.

"Both Rodale and the college have moved from extreme positions to form a coalition," he said.

The ag industry must be willing to be involved in the public arena, he said.

"Although many agriculturists look down their noses at environmental groups, we must recognize that they are well organized. The 1995 farm bill has already been shaped. Our challenge is to figure out how to get together with these people," he said.

Top issues of the '90s will be environment, food safety, and water quality.

"Make sure we have developed key answers for those issues," Hood said.

He stressed the importance of supporting research and extension educational programs.

Century farms

Two farm families received century farm plaques for the vital role they played in the heritage and prosperity of Lancaster agriculture by keeping the farm in the family for more than 100 years.

The farm of Amos and Ruth A. Conley of 1097 Prospect Road,

Mount Joy, was purchased in 1847 by Christian Musser. Amos, as the great, great grandson of Christian Musser, continues to farm 126 acres and milk 50 cows.

The farm of Edward and Miriam Hess, 1130 Creek Road, Leola, was purchased in 1891 by David Lehman. It has been a sheep herding farm for 100 consecutive years. The Hesses raise 50 purebred Hampshire ewes and their lambs on 81 acres.

George Delp award

Jay Irwin, retired extension director, received the George C. Delp Award for his significant contributions to the agricultural community of Lancaster County.

The award was created 1989 in honor of George Delp, an ag industry pioneer, who headed the New Holland Machine Company for 33 years. The award is given annually to a county resident who has been the most influential in the agricultural industry.

"He is a selfless community servant. He devoted 24 years to counseling farmers. He touched the lives and businesses of thousands. He always focused on solutions when others saw problems," Kenneth Meck said of Irwin. "He worked tirelessly during the Avian Influenza epidemic to guide the poultry industry in eradicating the disease."

Irwin responded that "I can only humbly accept this honor on behalf of everyone here as it is only through others putting forth effort that has made this possible for me."



Jay Irwin, retired extension director, right, receives the George C. Delp Award from George Delp, center. The award is given annually to the person who makes a significant contribution to the ag industry in Lancaster County. Dean of the College of Agriculture Dr. Lamartine Hood, left, was the featured speaker at the 16th annual agriculture industry banquet.

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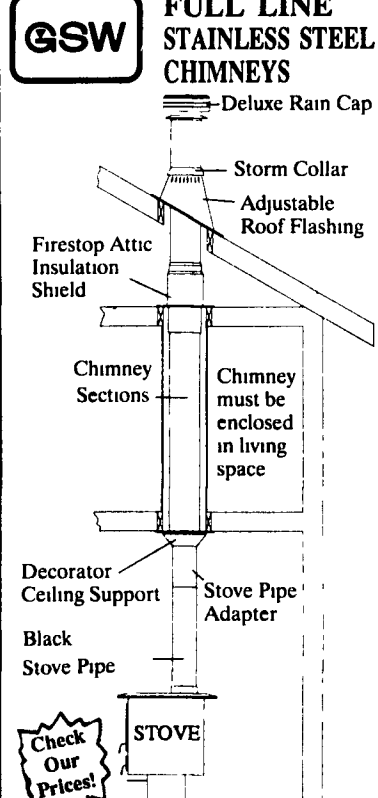
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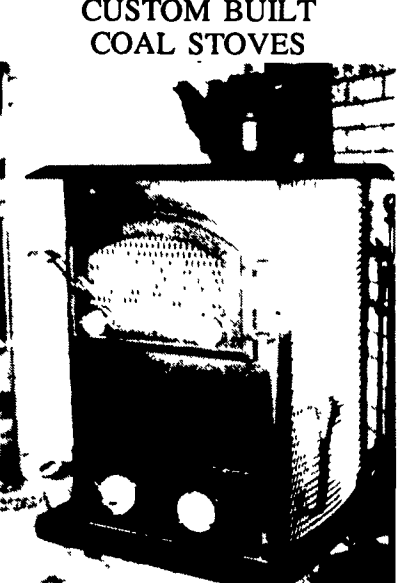
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