

Master Farmers Honored At Farm Show

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Nine Pennsylvanians from five farms were honored Tuesday by the Master Farmers Association during its awards luncheon at the Penn Harris Convention Center, Camp Hill.

A master farmer award is an honor bestowed on outstanding farmers from five states who not only have consistent exceptional production, but who are also active off the farm in leadership roles and serve as role models.

The awards program is co-sponsored by the extension service organizations in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and West Virginia and farming magazine, Pennsylvania Farmer.

This is one of the first times in years that all awards were made to Pennsylvanians.

All nominations are confidential and reviewed by two panels of judges, with the final 3-member panel consisting of Sam Garrison, New Jersey's assistant secretary of agriculture; John Crowgey, vice president of special credit with Farm Credit Bank of Baltimore; and Don Evans, assistant dean, Penn State Cooperative Extension.

This year's winners were Charles Beaver, of Millerstown; Stanley Brown, Loganville; John Hess, Gettysburg; Russell Dietrich and his three children, Bill and Brian Dietrich, and Robin Rassler, all of New Tripoli; and Joseph and Thomas Strite, of Harrisburg.

Charles Beaver

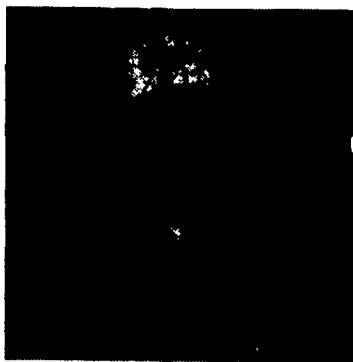
Beaver runs a 1,000-acre (600 owned, 400 rented), Simmental beef and grain farm in Perry County with his wife Virginia. The couple have three children, Douglas, Julie and Janine.

Charles uses all no-till on 700 acres to raise corn soybeans, wheat and hay, with part time help. Virginia handles the books and helps with chores, in addition to working off the farm part time. Douglas is a computer analyst for Ford-New Holland, and helps at the farm when he can.

In addition to the cropping, Beaver also raises about 80 head of Simmentals for market as fattened steer and heifers. He has also served on the local school board for 11 years, been secretary for the Perry County Farmers' Association for 17 years, and is active with Pfoutz Valley United Methodist Church. Also a member of the state Simmental Association, and Millerstown Fire Company, Beaver used to serve on his local extension and Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service committees.

Stanley Brown

Stanley E. Brown, and wife Nona own and operate a 180-acre



John Hess

orchard and a 7,500-square foot farm market (2,500 square feet for retail, the rest for storage and office space). The couple have three grown children, Scott, Linda and David.

Stanley and Nona built up the business over the past 35 years, expanding, offering a variety of fruits and vegetables, adding certain entertainment features which attract crowds and boost sales, and adding a bakery.

He employs up to 60 full- and part-time people all year. His eldest son Scott and his wife Brenda also work at the farm. Scott is orchard manager and Brenda, a former banker, takes care of all the records with a computer.

Stanley has been a school board member for 14 years, was a founding member of the Farm and Natural Lands Trust of York County (A private foundation with the goal of preserving open spaces.), serves on the York Area Chamber of Commerce, the Loganville Borough Planning Commission, and has been president of the PSU extension advisory board and the York County Fruit Growers.

He has also been chief of the Loganville Volunteer Fire Company, and was a crew member for the Jacobus Lions Ambulance Club. He is a member of the Horticulture Association of Pennsylvania, PFA, and Zion United Church of Christ.

John Hess

In Adams County, John Hess has a 217-cow Dairy of Distinction with 210 replacement heifers on 1,386-acres — 381 acres owned, the rest rented — that he crops to feed his own herd and to supplement a side business of selling silage and totally mixed rations, in addition to brokering chicken manure.

He and wife Bonnie have five children: Jennie, a York County extension agent (Her husband Dale Brown also feeds the herd and prepares TMRs for sale to area farms.); Josephine, who is responsible for milking and breeding; John II and Jayne, who are both PSU college students; and Joy.



Charles Beaver



Stanley Brown

In addition to farming, John has served as president of Adams County Holstein Association and the county farmers' association, is a member of Dairy Herd Improvement Association, Dairy Shrine, Agway, Bethel Mennonite Church and his chamber of commerce's agriculture committee.

Russell Dietrich family

There were four plaques presented to Lynnacres, in New Tripoli, home of the Russell Dietrich family farm partnership.

The 1,019-acre (129 owned, 890 rented) dairy farm is operated by Russell and his wife Elaine and three of their four children. The three children working on the farm have families of their own and are in partnership with their father to run a 240-head registered Holstein milking herd, raise replacements, and take care of crop operations.

Russell and Elaine's children who are in partnership and also received Master Farmer awards include Brian Dietrich (wife Fay), Robin (husband Bryan Rassler), and William Dietrich (wife Imogene).

They also have a fourth child, Curtis, who left the farm to teach and now farms part time, milking 30 cows on his own.

In leadership roles, Russell is vice chairman of the Lehigh County Land Preservation Board, a delegate for Atlantic Dairy Cooperative and has been president of the county farmers' association, local Lehigh Valley Farmers Coopera-



Joseph and Thomas Strite

tive and the Atlantic Dairy Co-op local. He also served on the township planning commission for 14 years.

His children are also heavily involved in community agencies and organizations.

Joseph and Thomas Strite

In Dauphin County, brothers Joseph and Thomas Strite are second generation master farmers.

The Strites have taken over their father's 277-acre Harrisburg-city

vicinity fruit and truck farm and made it support their two families.

They do mostly direct marketing. The orchard farm is completely surrounded by housing development, which, in effect provides them with a direct market for their 55 to 60 different fruits and vegetables.

Joseph's wife is Sharon and they have two children Jason and Stephanie. Thomas and Sheryl have three children, Matthew, Jonathan and Bradley.



Brillion's HFC cultivator features a five-bar, three-inch by four-inch frame with a 26-inch under-frame clearance. Thirty-two-inch spacing between shank bars gets you through heavy residue without trash buildup.

Brillion HFC Field Cultivator Manages Residue

BRILLION, Wis. — Brillion's new HFC high-clearance field cultivator helps you manage crop residue with ease. It also helps improve efficiency while working more ground faster, without trash buildup.

"Our new HFC cultivator features a five-bar, three-inch by four-inch frame with a 26-inch under-frame clearance," said Michael Irish, marketing manager. "Thirty-two-inch spacing between shank bars gets you through heavy residue without trash buildup. This is especially important today as more emphasis is placed on conservation tillage and residue management."

The quality of Brillion's HFC cultivator is unsurpassed in the industry, said Irish. The pivot point of each shank features a one-piece cast ductile iron bracket that is stronger than traditional formed

steel brackets. A hardened steel bushing and grease zerk fitting provide lubrication to the pivot point, reducing wear and extending the life of the shanks. A point pressure of 142 pounds maintains the sweep at a constant depth in the hardest ground.

"The quality of our shank is something that we're proud to stand behind," said Irish. "That's why we offer an exclusive four-year warranty on all C-shanks. No other manufacturer can make that claim."

What's more, the shanks on six-inch spacing are arranged to split the pattern of the rank to the front, resulting in more uniform tillage, improved chemical incorporation, and level seedbeds.

For more information, write Brillion Iron Works, Inc., Brillion, WI 54110, (414) 756-2121.



Bill, Russell, Robin, and Brian Dietrich

PennWest Hires Loan Officer

MERCER (Mercer Co.) — Daniel D. Morrison, Meadville, has been recently hired as a loan officer in the Meadville branch of Penn West Farm Credit, ACA (Agricultural Credit Association).

Morrison comes to the job with five years experience as a loan officer with Farm Credit Services of Mid-America, ACA, at the Wooster, Ohio, branch. He was

raised on a beef operation in Muskingum County, Ohio.

Prior to becoming a loan officer, Morrison attended Ohio State University, Columbus, and earned a bachelor's in agriculture with a major in agricultural economics.

He will be servicing loans and providing credit to qualified farm customers in the Meadville area.