

Butters Family To Host

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Following speeches made by award presenters and recipients, Sherri Elders, a director with the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), introduced the Raymond Butters family as host for the 1993 event scheduled for July 10.

Butters and his wife Peggy own a picturesque 247-acre farm which was purchased by his father in 1906. Located off of Route 414, between Liberty and Morris, the farm is also worked by Raymond's sons, David and Terry.

The Butters rent enough land to till a total of 350 acres. According to David, they plant 72 acres of corn, 31 of oats, 18 of rye, 12 of soy beans, and 100 of alfalfa. The rest goes into a timothy-alfalfa mix, while 15 acres are reserved

for pasture.

With a grade herd of 83 Holsteins, they milk approximately 77 head, and have 50 young stock.

While everyone helps out wherever they are needed, Terry said his mother deserved a lot of credit for the milking. "She's always in the barn before us, making sure things get done right and on time."

In addition to farming, Terry explained that they are set up as a small dealer in seed and fertilizer, selling to neighboring farms, and also provide a little custom work on the side, as well.

When asked what one might expect to see when visiting their farm this summer, David replied, "There will be a wagon tour planned through the woods where logging and timber management



Craig and Larena Owslett with their sons Clint and Wade accept recognition for the 1992 Farm-City Day.

practices such as thinning a woods will be demonstrated. Our neighbor has sheep and goats, and we hope to have the tour run past the fields where they are pastured."

While neither David nor Terry were anxious to work the long hours involved in the preparation necessary to ready their farm for public viewing, Raymond's enthusiasm prevailed and he convinced his sons it would be an undertaking worth their while.

A prime example of this was witnessed at the banquet when Elders introduced a special guest to speak as a result of a thank-you note the Owsletts received after Farm-City Day last year.

The note, sent by Pat Chappel on behalf of her hearing-impaired, 11-year-old son Blair, said that he wants to be a farmer some day. Blair spent most of the day in the barn with workers who were kind

and patient in answering his many questions. Because of the Owsletts and Farm-City Day, Blair's dream is becoming a reality. He now works on a neighbor's farm two days a week.

As Pat addressed the banquet audience, her story brought tears to more than a few eyes. "Blair enjoyed the day immensely, as did I," she said. "It's easy to complain, and not say 'thank you' enough. That's why I'm here. Please continue to support Farm-City Day. Other businesses will take note and learn from what you do."

"People in the agricultural community have said people don't know where food comes from, don't know what farmers go through. Farm-City Day brings urban neighbors out to the farm," said Elders who faced a major hurdle when she began organizing

the first Farm-City Day in 1991. Many thought the event would draw only 200 to 300 people. Her experience with the event in other counties told her otherwise. Reluctant at first, other groups eventually participated due to her determination.

The shock of what has evolved into a major event can still be felt throughout the county. Le-Ma-Re Farm, owned by Erick and Dixie Coolidge of Wellsboro, was the first site for Farm-City Day, and in spite of intermittent rain, the event drew 2,000 people. The Owsletts experienced an even larger crowd.

Keven Houghtaling, president of the Tioga County Fair, said of Farm-City Day, "There are some who think that it is just another fair, but the two serve different purposes. The fair is a display of

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Dennis and Arletta Owlett were honored for their part in the 1992 Farm-City Day.

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