

# Conservation In Place From '60s Till Now At Krantz Farm

**ANDY ANDREWS**  
**Lancaster Farming Staff**  
**NEW HOLLAND** (Lancaster Co.) — Narrator Gerald Heistand of the Lancaster Conservation District repeatedly showed two different slides of lush, beautifully maintained fields to reveal that the conservation practices evident in the Willis Krantz Farm in the 1960s, he said, "are still there in the 1990s."

And for a multitude of efforts in order to promote conservation and soil stewardship, the family was honored Thursday night as the 1993 Outstanding Cooperators by the district.

More than 120 were present at the banquet, which also honored contributions made by individuals to the district through the years.

The Krantz family — Willis, wife Mim and sons Jim, Bill, Dave, and daughters Donna Spangler and Debbie Chinworth, together with hired hand Erik Samuelson — farm 268 acres (215 tillable) at Drumore Center in East Drumore Township, near Quarryville. Willis has been working with the conservation district for 30 years. They milk 102 registered and grade Holstein from a double six parlor and manage 86 heifers and calves. Crops include 115 acres of corn (plus 50 acres rye, double-cropped for forage), 68 acres of hay, and 12 acres of rye, and they manage 44 acres of woodlot and 15 acres in pasture.

Willis, who went to Lampeter-

Strasburg High School, worked for his father for 10 years, and then rented a farm for six years. In 1962, he purchased the home farm (148 acres) and in 1966 purchased the Bleacher Farm (120 acres) nearby.

Since that time, the family has been practicing conservation. In 1991 they installed roof runoff management through the Chesapeake Bay cost share program.

In the 1970s, a new barn measuring 208 feet by 68 feet with 134 freestalls was built. Later on, a 62 foot by 14 foot circular manure storage was constructed, designed for six months of storage. A pond built earlier was not holding water because of the shale parent material, according to the district, so Willis decided to put in a sealed structure instead of a manure pond.

The contour strips on the farm is the main conservation practice used to control erosion, according to the district. On the southern farm, undisturbed sod is left to serve as a waterway, and on the north farm, constructed waterways are used. Manure is incorporated, except when spread on the cover crops or on a no-till field. They soil test regularly, and have tested their manure.

Jim Krantz has been working on the farm since high school, and has now bought more than half of the herd. Donna is on a crop farm with her husband Dave Spangler in Fulton Township. Bill Krantz works as a carpenter, and Debbie



For a multitude of efforts to promote conservation and soil stewardship, the Krantz family was honored Thursday night as the 1993 Outstanding Cooperators by the district. From left, Jim, Dave, Willis, Erik Samuelson, Mim, Jim Chinworth and wife Debbie. Not pictured are Jim's wife Debbie and Donna and Dave Spangler, Bill and wife Melody. Photo by Andy Andrews.

Chinworth is a registered nurse in Lancaster. Dave Krantz recently received his bachelor's in art from Kutztown University.

Willis has been active with the Solanco Young Farmers and received the Outstanding Young

Farmer Award in 1968. They are members of the Mechanics Grove Church of the Brethren, where Mim has been teaching two-year-old Sunday School Class for 30 years. They have been with the Atlantic Dairy Cooperative for 38

years, and Willis serves on the board of the Lancaster County Farmers Association.

Other awards presented at the  
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