



Rudy and Reba Wolgemuth are all set to take off on this combine following the wedding reception.

'Just Combined'

LOU ANN GOOD

Lancaster Farming Staff
MOUNT JOY (Lancaster Co.)
— The season was a bit early for harvesting, but the combine lumbering through Mount Joy streets on the night of March 20 had a special job to do.

The sign on the front of the silver Gleaner R60 warned oncoming traffic with the words: Caution: Nervous groom at wheel.

Traffic in back slowed when drivers noticed the sign in bold letters that proclaimed: Just Combined — Rudy and Reba.

The combine was the mode of transportation that farmers Rudy Wolgemuth, Elizabethtown, and Reba Brubaker, Mount Joy chose for their getaway from the church to their honeymoon.

The combine seemed the appropriate vehicle choice since the couple had spent hours of their courtship in the combine's cab as Rudy finished late night combining jobs in the area. He and his brother Eric operate a custom combining business and E&R Farms in Elizabethtown. The brothers crop farm about 1,000 acres and fatten steers, but their main job is custom combining in nine different states of the wheat belt from Texas to Idaho.

Reba is a partner on her family's dairy farm in Mount Joy. Her parents are Martin B. Arlene Brubaker and she works with her brother Doug in partnership.

The wedding and reception held at Crossroads Brethren In Christ Church, Mount Joy, incorporated much of the bridal couple's agriculture background. The cake, made by sister of the bride Rachel George of Mount Joy, had a bottom layer designed to look like a field and a replica of the Gleaner combine at work. The middle layer had confectioners' decorations of cows, milk can, and garden produce. The top had the traditional

bride and groom replica.

The bridal couple made the table centerpieces, which were heart-shaped candleholders molded with grain, soybeans, barley, wheat, and corn.

The dinner for about 300 guests included vegetables and pickles that Reba had preserved from her garden.

Before the ceremony began, a

slide presentation showed the life of the couple from infancy to present with many pictures of their farming operation.

The groom's parents are Earl and Joan Wolgemuth who operate a poultry farm.

After a honeymoon to Williamsburg, the couple will get down to real "combining" business.

Senior Citizen Farmers Should Reduce Risks

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Nearly 33 percent of Pennsylvania farm fatalities between 1985 and 1989 involved farmers aged 65 and older.

Unlike people in many professions, farmers often continue working into old age. Increased vulnerability to injury and illness should prompt senior farmers to reduce safety and health risks, says an expert in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

"If you are older, be careful not to exceed your limitations to the point that you risk injury or illness," says Dr. Dennis Murphy, professor of agricultural engineering. "Consider your age and health when deciding what you can do safely. Give up tasks that are too demanding, in the interest of your safety and that of others."

Two-thirds of Pennsylvania farm fatalities involving farmers 65 and older were tractor-related, with a large majority involving an overturn, Murphy notes. "This may support the notion that older workers lose their abilities to safely operate tractors in many specific situations."

Senior farmers should have a physical exam at least once each year. "Have your vision and hearing checked, too," Murphy suggests. "It's vital to be aware of your physical limits and not push

them just to get a job done. Your life is more important than any task."

Like any other farmer, seniors should prepare for a safe day of work. "Get enough rest, have a good breakfast and choose the proper dress and footwear for the job," Murphy says. "Take work breaks to conserve and extend energy. Stop when you are tired."

Find the least taxing way of doing things to avoid undue fatigue and stress on the joints or back. "Get help rather than struggle with heavy loads and use mechanical aids when possible," says Murphy.

Many medical conditions require patients to take prescription drugs. "Many common prescriptions and even over-the-counter drugs can affect your ability to safely operate farm equipment," Murphy says.

"Ask your doctor about the effects of your prescription on job performance and driving. If you take multiple medications, be sure to ask about the effects of any possible drug interactions."

"If you're in good health, there's no reason to stop farming just because you're a senior citizen," says Murphy. "But there are many reasons to be more vigilant than ever about hazards on the farm."

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