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Franklin Co. Correspondent
CHAMBERSBURG (Franklin Co.) — When John Z. Shearer came to Franklin County in 1960 as a Penn State cooperative extension agent, there were no such things as no-till farming, integrated pest management, a county fair, and freestall dairy barns.

"There's been a lot of change in agriculture," Shearer said while reminiscing about his career at his retirement reception July 11. "It's good that some things have changed. It's good to live through changes."

A farm boy who received his bachelor's degree in agronomy from Penn State in 1951, Shearer farmed for a few years, then became an assistant county agent in Columbia County. He worked there for five years, then came to Franklin County as county agent, associate rank, on July 1, 1960. He retired June 30, 1993.

"I've enjoyed my career in cooperative extension. I feel good about it. I hope I've helped, that I've made an impact on some lives," he told the audience. "It was a privilege to work and associate with you. I didn't do that much by myself. You determine



Franklin County Cooperative Extension Director John Z. Shearer retired June 30 after 38 years, 33 of which were spent in Franklin County.

what a county agent does. You have made an impact. You've been a great part of my career and my life."

Shearer, 65, said that while he is happy that he no longer has to write reports and attend administrative meetings, he leaves "with a little regret." He received a stand-

ing ovation from the 280 people attending the reception at the Lighthouse Restaurant.

Commissioner Sam Worley read a proclamation from the Franklin County commissioners in Shearer's honor. He noted that in 1965 Shearer helped to start the Franklin County Fair and to introduce no-till farming to the area. In 1976-1978, Shearer oversaw the release of the parasitic wasp to control the cereal leaf beetle. In the early 1980s, he oversaw the development of the Franklin County Crop Management Association. He was also instrumental in starting Farm-City week in the county.

Linda Golden, former president of the cooperative extension board of directors, read a proclamation from Representative Alan Egolf and the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Dr. Paul Wangsness, capitol region director for cooperative extension, gave Shearer a Penn State football Jersey numbered 38 1/2, for the number of years Shearer has been an extension agent. "It's a one-of-a-kind shirt for a one-of-a-kind guy," Wangsness said.

Presentations were also made by Dean Carey of Knouse Foods,

Inc.; Dick Fusting of the Franklin County Horticultural Society; Clifford Hawbaker of the Franklin County Extension board; Larry Yeager, president-elect of the Pennsylvania Association of County Agricultural Extension Agents; and John P. Harris, retired county agent from Perry County.

Shearer's wife, Pauline, received an engraved planter from the citizens of Franklin County in re-

cognition of her years of service.

Bob Kessler, who replaces Shearer as cooperative extension director, presented Shearer, an avid fisherman, with a trolling motor, battery, and fishing rod from the citizens of Franklin County.

Kessler told Shearer that the crowd represents "the respect and love that the people of Franklin County have for you."

IH Collectors To Form Pa. Chapter

PERKIOMENVILLE (Montgomery Co.) — The International Harvester Collectors, a worldwide organization, for those who have an interest in IH products and history, is conducting a survey of members and prospective members who are interested in forming a Pennsylvania chapter.

The national club was organized in July 1990 and now has more than 2,200 members who collect Farmall and McCormick-Deering tractors, International

trucks, gas engines, and the many other products of IHC.

Pennsylvania has been selected as the site for the 1994 Red Power Roundup, an annual gathering of members and their equipment.

If you have an interest in the formation of an International Harvester Collectors Chapter for Pennsylvania, contact Roger W. Dietrich, 1412 Perkiomenville Road, Perkiomenville, PA 18074, (215) 234-4132.

Kreider Farms

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- Lancaster Chamber's Agricultural Exhibit Tent
- The Kunzler hot air balloon "Top Dog"
- Dairy Princesses
- Information videos on farming & the food industry
- Scrumptious food, ice cream, and beverages including farm fresh Kreider ice cream cones & milk shakes all under the big food tent

—Farm equipment expo

It's educational and fun for the whole family! Wendall Woodbury, TV personality, will be the emcee for the day.

The public will be invited to tour the Farm and Dairy Plant via continuously running shuttle buses; ride right through the barn where the real milk producers live. Experience ice cream in the making!

The 2nd Annual Kreider Farms Dairy Fest & Farm Tour means a Saturday full of farm tours, food, Pennsylvania Dutch delights, information and entertainment.

The Kreider family philosophy emphasizes high quality, hard work, a willingness to take risks and a strong faith in God. These principles and beliefs have led to a sizable and diverse business 57 years after the family arrived in Manheim.

In the spring of 1936, Noah W. Kreider and his wife, the former Mary R. Hershey, and their two young sons, Richard and Noah Jr. moved from Bird-In-Hand to her parents' farm on Doe Run Road. Mary was born and raised on the farm which had remained in the Hershey family since it was first settled in 1739. Her father, John B. Hershey, a distant relative of Milton Hershey, sold the farm to Noah and Mary as his health was failing. As Mary recalls, they started small with 103 acres of land, a dozen dairy cows and 200 chickens, "In the early years we took vegetables, grown in our garden, to Manheim and peddled them from house to house."

As Noah and Mary's sons grew older and married, adjoining farms were bought and the Kreider Farms operation was up and running. Continued dairy expansion led to the decision in 1972 to build a processing plant and retail store here at this site, where Kreiders started processing, bottling and selling their own milk and making their own ice cream. In 1980 Kreider Farms expanded their retail business to include a family restaurant and dairy store on Route 72 outside of Manheim. Since then they have added restaurant locations in Hershey, Lebanon and Lancaster.

Today, Noah and Mary's sons, Richard and Noah Jr. as well as their grandsons Ron and Jim head a farming and retail operation that employs a dedicated staff of 450 people. The operation consists of 1000 cows and 1.7 million laying hens, supplying their three farm stores and four family restaurants with farm fresh milk, ice cream and eggs.

