

# Farm-City Activities Offer View Of Lifestyles

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**NAUVOO (Tioga Co.)** — Like any good story, this one was full of suspense, romance, tears, laughter, and was brought to a satisfying end while leaving the observer wanting more. It was the third such story in a series entitled Tioga County Farm-City Day, which concluded with a banquet honoring the 1993 hosts, the Raymond Butters family of Nauvoo.

For Tioga County, Farm-City Day began as a dream of Sherri Elder, an ASCS office employee in Wellsboro who worked hard to make her dream come true. Having been involved with numerous Farm-City Days throughout the state in the past, she outlined one for Tioga County in 1991 with Erick and Dixie Coolidge of LeMa-Re Farm serving as host. Despite heavy, gray skies and sporadic rain, nearly 1,000 visitors ventured to this Dairy of Distinction farm to see what "A Day in the Life of a Farmer" was like.

As with any event, Farm-City Day was a success because of a multitude of people pitching in.

Several months later, an appreciation banquet was given to honor the host family and all the volunteers who helped. Seventy turned out for the meal.

The second year, Glenside Dairy in Middlebury Center, owned by father and son team of Dennis and Craig Owlett, served as the location. This time the weather did cooperate, with nearly 2,000 guests attending the event. The appreciation banquet that followed was attended by 120 people.

For the Butters this past July, another gorgeous day brought, according to Elder, almost 3,000 people to Silverlea Farm. The appreciation banquet swelled, too, with nearly 200 attending.

Commenting on the most recent Farm-City Day, Elder publicly thanked the Morris Fire Department for their extraordinary services. "Whatever we needed, tables, chairs ... they were here, all year long. They (the Morris Fire Department) just don't get any better than this," said Elder.

Besides plaques of appreciation, hosts Raymond and Peggy



Standing, left to right Farm-City Day Vice Chairman Ralph Brugger and Farm-City Day Committee member Tom Brown look on as 1993 Farm-City Host Raymond Butters thanks the audience for the gift of aerial photos. Seated, left to right, are son Glen and wife Peggy, and daughter-in-law Tessie at the far left.

Butters and their sons, David, Terry, Glen, and Gary received aerial photographs taken of the farm during Farm-City Day.

Others acknowledged for their participation in the event included Gordon Wood for providing tents, Betty and Larry Gee of B&L Portable Toilets for donating portable toilets, the Farm-City Day Committee, plus numerous individuals who served as drivers or guides on wagon tours, manned exhibits, organized contests, provided publicity, parked cars, or otherwise took part in some other capacity as volunteers to make Farm-City Day the success it was grown to be.

And that success has not gone unnoticed outside the county, as Glenn Butters, who helps out on his family's farm when he is not

teaching school in Troy, Bradford County noted. "A lot of people in Troy complimented us on what Tioga County was able to do this year (for Farm-City Day)."

If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, then Tioga County has received the highest compliments imaginable as the counties on either side organized their own Farm-City Day for the first time this year. Bradford County (east) and Potter County (west) each saw several hundred guests visit their respective host farms.

Her eyes glistening with tears of happiness, Elder said of this year's Tioga County's Farm-City Day, "I don't know how we can possibly top that."

Her next words were choked with sadness as she announced her "retirement" from chairing the

annual event.

"I don't know how I got to be so lucky," Elder said as she looked around at the Butters family. The emotional ties that had developed between Elder and the Butters family over the long months of preparation for Farm-City Day '93 were strong indeed. With a heavy heart and many sighs, Elder told her captive audience that, although she enjoyed organizing Farm-City days, she felt it was now time to step down and spend more time with loved ones.

Elder announced that replacing her in the 1994 event are co-chairs J.W. Welch and Harold "Bud" Robson, who, along with Bud's wife Leona, is also hosting the next Farm-City Day at their Gray Valley Farm on Pickle Hill.

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Sherri Elder, left, introduces Leona and Harold "Bud" Robson of Pickle Hill, Mansfield, as the hosts for the 1994 Farm-City Day in Tioga County.

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