



Rosenberry describes his first meeting to Cindy as the time he met Barley in the wheat field. Since both love farming, he felt it only appropriate to disc his proposal into the soil. He etched the words into the soybean stubble by discing 100x170-foot letters into an area that covers 1,300x600-feet.

Will She Marry Me? 'Soil' She Will

LOU ANN GOOD

Lancaster Farming Staff
MOUNT JOY (Lancaster Co.)

— When Cindy Barley heard the drone of a helicopter flying over her parents' farm in Conestoga, she thought it was having trouble. Barefooted, she ran outside as the helicopter landed in the yard.

One of the helicopter's occupants rushed to Cindy's side and kidnapped her by pulling her into the helicopter and taking flight.

Fortunately Cindy recognized her kidnapper as her boyfriend David Rosenberry. She wasn't a bit scared but knew something special was in the air.

Instead, the specialness was in the soil beneath the couple as they flew over Star Rock Farm in Mount Joy.

Disked in the soybean stubble beneath were the words: Cindy Jo, will you marry me?

The 100x170-foot message that covers 1,300x600-feet was clearly visible from the air.

Although the proposal was a surprise to Cindy, David's mother felt confident enough to prepare a "yes" sign for Cindy to hold after landing and standing next to the question carved in the soil as photographers snapped pictures.

Twenty-year-old David thought it was the only appropriate way to propose since both he and Cindy love the soil and plan to stay in farming forever.

He refers to their first meeting "as the time I met Barley in the wheat field."

That first meeting was three years ago when David was custom combining and Cindy was running the auger cart on the farm of her parents, Rep. John Barley and his wife Jane.

That first day, David promised Cindy that he would take her out if she cleaned his combine windows.

After that, the relationship deepened as they discovered their mutual love for each other and farming.

David, the son of John and Nancy Rosenberry, started combining for James M. Garber and Sons when he was 14 years old. He is now their crop manager. The Garbers allowed David to use ground they rented to display his proposal.

Nineteen-year-old Cindy works full time on her parent's 3,500-acre farm that is highly diversified.

A wedding is being planned for next fall. The couple promises their love for farming will definitely be entwined in a very unique wedding ceremony.



This is the helicopter, piloted by Charles Hollinger, used to kidnap Cindy and fly her above the soil-etched marriage proposal of David Rosenberry.



Cindy answers David's proposal by holding a simple "yes" sign, which had been prepared by David's mother in advance. Although the proposal was a surprise, the family was confident Cindy's answer would be a positive 'soil' I will.

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