



Gathered around the payloader used to fill the wagon from the new double wide bunker feed storage system are from left Marshall and Cindy Meador with son Lucas; Luke and Barb Brubaker with granddaughter Molly; Tony Brubaker holding Zachary Marshall; and Mike and Lisa Brubaker.

Family Togetherness Thrives At Brubaker Farms

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Lancaster Farming Staff
MOUNT JOY (Lancaster Co.)
—More than 600 people from several states recently toured Brubaker Farms in Mount Joy.

Awed by the size, the convenience, and the latest in technology, the crowd often expressed that the complex is a farmer's dream.

It is the dream of not one but three farmers, Luke Brubaker and his two sons, Mike and Tony, who worked together to design a building expansion that would be economical and support three families.

The Brubakers researched ideas by touring a lot of farms.

"We'd talk to anybody who'd talk with us," Mike said. "The nice

thing about farmers is that they are open to giving their opinions and ideas on what works and what doesn't. It isn't like other businesses where the owner tries to keep everything secret."

The Brubakers took what they thought was the best bits and pieces from each one and from that designed their own plan.

"We tried to build something economical and labor efficient while keeping animal health and comfort a priority," Mike said of the diversified operation, which includes 300 cows, 48,000 broilers, and 1,200 hogs.

The father and sons said that they work together well because none of them are scared to compromise.

"We all three had ideas in building that we needed to convince the other two to agree," Luke said.

"Sometimes one gets a dream and another one seems too conservative to even consider that dream, but the third one will be the mediator to balance things out.

"We didn't even have an actual blueprint," Luke said. "We'd just tell the builder what we wanted to do and he did it."

The complex includes a new dairy facility with a 400-cow capacity free-stall barn and a Surge Double Ten Parallel parlor with individual release feature and parlor manager computer. A commodity building was erected to hold the bulk feed since commodities are purchased by the tractor-trailer load. A trench silo for for-

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"Future herdsman" for Brubaker Farms is Brett, grandson of Luke and Barb and son of daughter Cindy and her husband Marshall Meador, who live on the farm homestead.

Homestead Notes



More than 600 people attended the open house at Brubaker Farms on November 18.



Barb Brubaker watches as her sons, Mike, center, and Tony check the computer screens to determine what's happening in the barn.