

Fruit Grower, Ag Lender Honored In York County

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A retail market, wholesaling and pick-your-own are all offered today at the Raab Fruit Farm near Dallastown, encompassing a full array of produce from early season strawberries to late fall pumpkins and apples. Conservation practices have long been commonplace on the Raab land, where strip cropping was implemented years before it became a readily-accepted means of stewardship and saving soils.

In addition being a forward-looking agriculturist, Joe Raab held numerous leadership positions within the local community and political arena. He served nine years as a supervisor in York Township, and in 1968, was elected a York County commissioner. During his tenure as head of the county board of commissioners, both the 911-emergency system and the county's extensive park system were initiated. In fact, Raab is often affectionately called the "grandfather" of the York County Park System and the county's newest park addition has been

named in his honor.

Now retired from his beloved fruit farming business, Raab has passed the reins down to his children. Daughter Jane Lehman and son Joseph B. Raab lease the Raab Fruit Farm in partnership, with 114 acres owned and an adjoining 50 acres of leased land. Jane's husband, Gary, and Joe's wife, Candy, help with the farm when not at their full-time jobs. Also lending hands as needed are the seventh generation, Joe and Candy's children, Joanna, Chris, Lisa and John, the eldest, at present a full-time farm employee.

York Farm Credit was named the 1995 Ag-Industry Award winner, for its long-time service to the region's farmers and support of the agri-business community. With corporate headquarters in York and branch offices in surrounding counties, York Farm Credit serves farm and rural home lending needs in Adams, Franklin, Fulton, Cumberland, Perry and York counties. Membership includes more than 2,300 farmers across that area, governed by a



Fruit and vegetable producer Joe Raab, left center, accepts his award as the 1995 York County Family Farm winner. The presentation was made by Jay Rush, right, president of York Farm Credit, sponsor of the award. Family members joined him at the podium for the acceptance.

board of directors elected by the membership.

Under the management of president Jay Rush, York Farm Credit also helps provide leadership and support for adult and youth cooperative education efforts, commodity and agriculture management training for farmers, vo-ag and 4-H programs, scholarships for ag students and ag-education aimed at the consuming public. One of York Farm Credit's most recent outreach efforts has been in helping support the Ag In The Classroom program, which educates teachers about modern agriculture.

Recognition was also extended during the program to key participants in several York County farm-city events held through the

past year. Farm Visitation day host was Bailey Farms, Spring Grove R2, which toured several hundred visitors in November through its large egg production facility.

Farm-City Tour hosts recognized were Wayne and Barbara Mummert, East Berlin R1, Codorus Fertilizer Service, owned by George Williams, Codorus, Gerald and Norma Jean Stermer, East Berlin R2, and Round Hill Foods, Inc., New Oxford.

Four "teams," each consisting of one farmer and one non-farmer, took part in the Ag Day Exchange, in which the two participants of each match-up take turns visiting at each other's place of business. Exchangees were: Mark Ottemil-

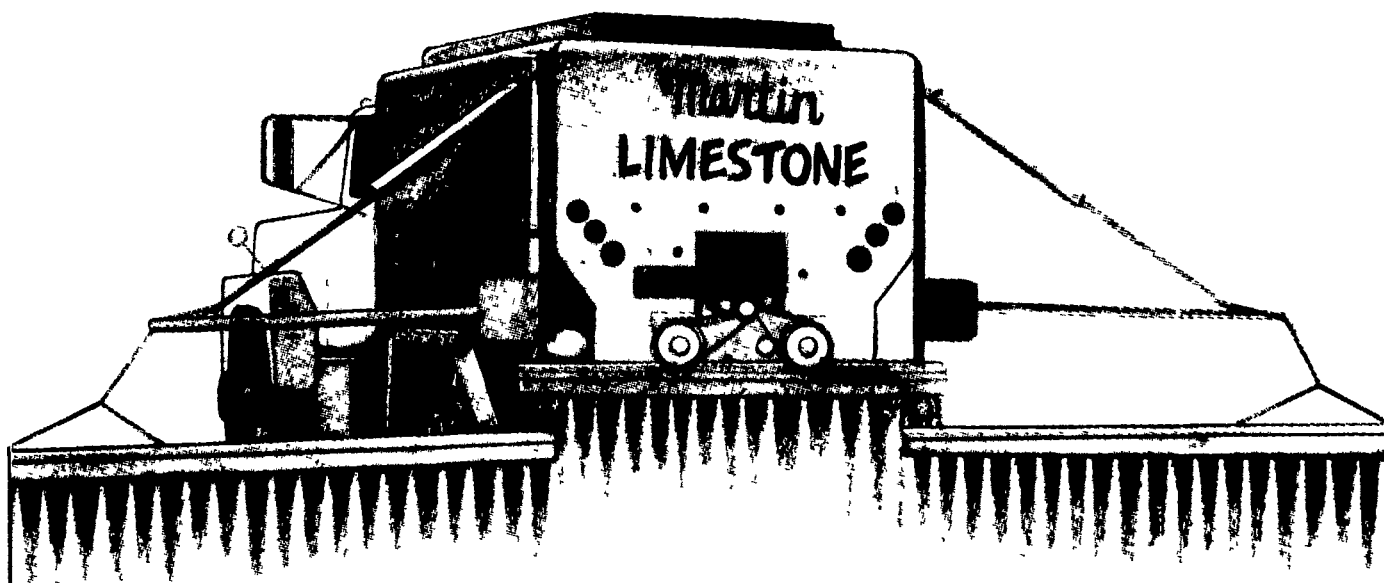
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York County's 1995 Ag Industry award winner is York Farm Credit. Accepting the honor for the ag lending cooperative are Jay Rush, left, and Jim Sigler, right. Tony Debrosky, center, made the presentation for sponsoring Agribusiness Insurance Agency.



Abe Lincoln impersonator James Getty entertained attendees at the York Ag Recognition dinner with tales of the Lincoln administration's involvement with farm issues.



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