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Lancaster Farming

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Good Conservation Practices Make Good Neighbors, According To Chester County Farmer

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
HONEY BROOK (Chester Co.)
— What bothers conservation farmer David Horning is seeing the telltale dirt and silt on piles of snow alongside road drainage ditches in the wintertime.

That's a sure sign of erosion — erosion that could have been prevented if farmers would not moldboard plow late and would use some kind of cover crop.

With this in mind, this Chester County farmer takes time every year to make sure that erosion is contained on his farm by using cover crops and ensuring no plowing is done in the winter season.

Many farmers who don't use a cover crop ignore the fact that, as a result of the bare topsoil, tons of good farm soil are being "blown away," said Horning.

At this year's Chester County Crops Day, Horning, 25, manager of DH Lone Hill Farm, was honored as 1994 Conservation Farmer of the Year.

Intensive use of cover crops has been a consistent practice at DH Lone Hill Farm. Together with

wife Tracy and daughter Lindsey, 6 mos., and David's parents Donald and Joyce, Horning manages about 67 acres at the home farm just south of Honey Brook. He rents an additional 75 acres for a total of 133 tillable.

Dairying is the mainstay at DH Lone Hill Farm. The Horning family take care of 60 registered and ID grade Holstein, in addition to some Red and Whites. There are about 50 replacement calves in the herd. The Pa. DHIA herd average for the farm stands at about 20,000 pounds, 3.7f, 3.2p, for a herd total of 685 pounds fat and 624 pounds protein.

David Horning said a "boyhood interest" drew him to raising the Red and White portion of the herd. "It's something that always intrigued me," said Horning. The original Red and White, on the 352-day lactation, recorded 30,000 pounds of milk, he said.

For his dairy, he looks for cows that have good production and good overall health, with adequate udders and good feet and legs. For his conservation practices, Horn-

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Lancaster Conservation District Honors Farm Managers

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
NEW HOLLAND (Lancaster Co.) — Conservation was evident in almost every facet of the four farms. Photos of clean fields, farmland, and homesteads "spoke about conservation on their own," said slide narrator Gerald Heis-

tand, assistant administrator/Chesapeake Bay Program.

The Rohrer family, Manor Township, were honored with the Outstanding Cooperator Award Thursday evening at the 44th annual Lancaster County Conservation District banquet at Yoder's Restaurant.

At the banquet, the district offered a slide presentation "tour" of the Rohrer Farms, located west of Millersville along Blue Rock Road. Altogether, four farm managers were honored for work in

conservation.

According to Heistand, Wilmer Rohrer purchased the original farmland in 1944, milking a dozen cows. The land needed a lot of work — Wilmer discovered gut-

ters from a wheat/barley field that had 10-inch trees and "you could have buried a car in them." Rohrer closed up the holes and reworked the fields into strips.

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Pa. Celebrates Ag Day, Confirms Brosius As Secretary

JOYCE BUPP
York Co. Correspondent
HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Acting Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brosius had just finished his lunch as the honored guest at the Ag Day luncheon, held Tuesday at the Capitol, when an acquaintance stepped up to congratulate him.

The Senate had just made his cabinet post official, confirming the appointment of the Chester County mushroom producer as the new head of the state's Department of Agriculture.

Appropriately enough, Secretary Brosius had, just a short time before, welcomed the large group gathered in the Rotunda of the East Wing of the Capitol building, praising the productivity of the American farmer and agriculture's vast contribution to Pennsylvania's economy as the state's largest industry.

"Each of our farmers today feeds 129 people, 97 of them in the United States and 32 of them abroad," Secretary Brosius told the Rotunda assembly. "Agriculture

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About the same time that the state Senate confirmed his appointment, State Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brosius gives opening remarks to attendees of a National Agriculture Day event in the state Capitol.



Producing and promoting pork goes hand in hand for Anna Marie Schick of Berks County. Turn to page B2 to read about the Schick family, who make farming a family affair. Photo and story by Lou Ann Good.