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Conservation A Way Of Life On Dauphin County Dairy Farm



Conservation pervades nearly all aspect of Bryncoed Jersey Farm — from the use of extensive contour stripping, rotational grazing, and using shredded newspaper as bedding and eventual soil amendment to the use of inexpensive materials to conserve on costs, labor, and time. From left, Tom's parents Carolyn and Sam, Tom, Tiz, and Sam Williams III. Photo by Andy Andrews

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
MIDDLETOWN (Dauphin Co.) — A conservation "philosophy" pervades nearly every aspect of Bryncoed Jersey Farm — from the use of extensive contour stripping, rotational grazing, and using shredded newspaper as bedding and soil amendment to the use of inexpensive materials to conserve on costs, labor, and time.

Tom Williams, Dauphin County Conservation Farmer of the Year, is concerned that, if 1995 proves to be a drought year, he has the presence of mind — and the cultural practices in place — to ensure soil retention and land productivity.

"Every drop of rain that falls on this farm, I want it to stay here," said Williams. "When it goes down the stream, it's taking my fertility and my moisture that my crops need."

For Williams, moisture is money. His father, Sam, built a farm pond 60 years ago. Forty years ago, another farm pond was constructed to retain as much moisture as possible to help "shore up" water for crop irrigation.

Indeed, much of the conservation practices on the farm were in place since the 1930s, including strips, diversions, and terraces. Altogether, 8,100 feet of terraces, 2,300 feet of diversions, and two acres of waterways have been installed. Also, the Williamses make use of a gravity-flow earthen manure pit. The manure is injected into the corn fields.

"My conservation technician says we got most everything done," said Williams.

Together with his wife, Theresa

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Governor Appoints PDA Regional Directors

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — State Gov. Tom Ridge has appointed three people to serve as regional directors for the state Department of Agriculture, according to department news releases made this week.

State Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brosius stated that he is pleased with the governor's appointments.

"I'm pleased (they) have agreed to serve as one of Gov. Ridge's agriculture advocates," Brosius said. "(They) will join a team that is working to promote Pennsylvania's number one industry, which

produces an abundant food supply for 12 million Pennsylvanians.

"We intend to meet the governor's goal of carrying agriculture forward in profitability and stature."

In addition to its headquarters building in Harrisburg, the PDA has seven regional offices. The three appointments are the first among several expected to be made within the department over the next several weeks.

All three directors are to oversee the work of PDA inspectors and services in their respective

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58 Farms Apply For Distinction

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — Leaders of the Dairy of Distinction program met Tuesday to review the program and prepare for judging of the current group of applicants. Pennsylvania State Secretary Paul Nichols announced that 58 new applications from across the state have been received.

District chairpersons were given these applications to begin the task of roadside inspection of each farm by a local panel of judges. All judging is to be completed in the month of May. The state is divided into 10 districts each with its own local group that runs the local judging and award events.

To date, more than 500 beautiful farms have been given the Dairy of Distinction designation in Pennsylvania. The program also is in operation in New York and New Jersey.

In the election of officers, all present leaders were returned to their posts. Dan Baker, president; Russ Rooks, vice president; Donna Gearhart, treasurer; Nichols, secretary; and Steve Spencer, advisor.

The group made plans to again meet the first day of Ag Progress Days in the events building. At that time the winners will be invited to get together for a social and to view the portraits of each farm that are presented by *Lancaster Farming*.

Pa.DHIA Board Of Directors Reorganizes

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — The 1995 Pennsylvania Dairy Herd Improvement Association (Pa.DHIA) Board of Directors held a reorganizational meeting Wednesday at South Ridge Motor Inn in State College.

Elected to serve as its president was Lane Sollenberger, a member from Franklin County.

Sollenberger was elected to the state board of directors in April 1992 and has served on the

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Winners of Atlantic Dairy Cooperative's 1995 Young Cooperator contest are seated from left: Jeffrey and Cindy Moore, outstanding young cooperators, and Shella Schroder and Allen Kretzing, second place. Standing, Kenneth Kehr, third place; Melissa and Steve Snyder, fourth place; and Beth and Robert Ranck, fifth place. See story on page A33.