

# Conservation A Way Of Life On Dauphin County Dairy Farm

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"Tiz," and son Sam, Williams farms 200 acres of owned cropland and 100 acres of rented property to support a 280-cow Jersey herd. The family has been a Dauphin County Conservation District cooperater since 1953.

In all, Williams tills about 250 acres, including 150 acres of corn, 100 acres of alfalfa, and 80 acres of pasture land (split between the use of pastured Barcel Fescue and orchard grass). The cows are placed on pasture through the use of rotational grazing.

Williams employs many labor-conserving practices on the dairy farm. He uses a three-wheel vehi-

Also, the use of newspaper bedding on the farm provides an inexpensive and ready flow of materials to the stalls. When he began using newspaper as bedding, Williams would put a sign out in front of his farm. Through passers-by and eventual word-of-mouth, area residents dropped off bags. Whenever he needs to increase his supply, the sign goes back up.

The use of newspaper bedding, according to Williams, goes hand in hand with conservation practices because it absorbs moisture readily and contributes carbon to the manure system — conserving nitrogen in the fields.

In light of possible droughts,

other labor-saving practices on the farm because he's "lazy."

"I say that everybody that's efficient is lazy," he said. "The only reason they're efficient is because they're lazy. And the only difference between a lazy person and an efficient person is the lazy person doesn't want to work. The efficient person wants to get the work done and doesn't want to work. And there are people in the

middle, between lazy and efficient, that don't mind if they work and work and work."

Williams installed simple bunkers for his silage system, using plywood and telephone poles. He recently purchased two used grain bins so he can get more of the mineral concentrate he feeds in his TMR in bulk "so I don't have to lift bags," he said.

This "conservation philoso-

phy" works on all aspects of his farm and contributes to profitability.

Williams said, "Conservation is only so that you don't need something later. If rain falls on this farm, and it goes away and I get a drought, then it's my fault. If rain falls on this farm and it stops here and I have a drought, then it's not my fault. It's the fault of the drought."



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cle to travel to work areas. With the use of the three-wheeler, he can open and lock pasture gates "from the seat," he said.

Williams uses simple containers fashioned from 250-gallon drums equipped with inexpensive floats for the watering system. The dairy farmer has purchased a system that uses 2 1/2-gallon plastic containers equipped with nipples to feed six calves at one time.

Williams insists on the importance of contour farming and manure injection.

"If you inject your manure, you've got that organic matter down in the soil in a nice groove that's going to retain moisture. And if you inject it on the contour, then any rain you get will be absorbed by this organic matter."

Williams said he converted to the pasture system and employed

## 'We Are Citizens Of One World'

ANDY ANDREWS  
Lancaster Farming Staff

MIDDLETOWN (Dauphin Co.) — Dairyman Tom Williams folds his business card so that the top one-third is immediately prominent. It reads: "We Are Citizens Of One World."

Williams said, "Everybody in the world eats and sleeps, so we're all the same."

In his kitchen, a map of the world is attached to the wall above the kitchen table. On the map, the United States appears merely as a nonchalant part of the world, much like the other countries, not centrally located, just a part of one big planet.

On a kitchen cupboard are attached the flags to about 15 countries. Tom's wife, Tiz, steps onto a stool and points to one that was handed to her by a mother and daughter from Brazil.

Below the cupboard, on a corkboard, are more than a hundred pictures of family guests of the Williams during more than 33 years of serving as host family for the Friendship Force Exchange and many other hosting programs.

And outside the house, next to the porch, an American flag flies. When guests from other countries come to visit the Dauphin County



Tiz Williams holds onto a Brazilian flag, from the collection of flags provided by the guest families through many exchange programs.

Conservation Farmers of the Year, "we try to get the flag for their country and fly it," said Tom Williams.

Tom and Theresa "Tiz" Williams have served as a host under the programs since 1962. In that time, they have hosted a teenager from Germany for a year and a half, a Japanese family at Christmastime, a mother and daughter from Kenya (this past Christmas), and people from India, Australia, Poland, Mexico, Africa, and other parts of the world.

Tiz, who services as the charge nurse on critical care at Dauphin

Manor, helps the visitors plant a tree. The tree is cared for. A picture is sent to the guest families as a way of keeping in touch with them after they return. It serves as a memento and a symbol of goodwill.

Tiz said that they stay in touch regularly with the families they hosted through the years. Tom said he wants to remain a host family for quite some time.

Tiz pointed to a Star Magnolia tree planted recently by a family from Kenya.

"To welcome people from other countries — that is our recreation," said Tom.

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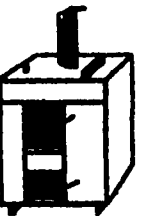
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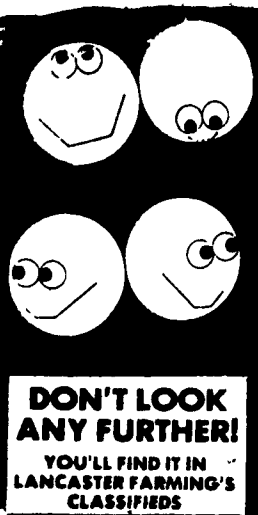
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