



Now that Mel Wenger has sold his farm supply store and his farm, he puts his energies into helping nonprofit organizations such as Kraybill Mennonite School. He solicits businesses to donate Winross trucks and toy tractors to be sold at the school's annual benefit auction.

## Agribusinesses Donate To School's Benefit Auction

**LOU ANN GOOD**  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
MOUNT JOY (Lancaster Co.)  
— When it comes to helping the community, agribusinesses often generously donate items, money, and talent.

Some of this generosity surfaced recently in preparation for the annual Kraybill Mennonite School Auction when Landis Brothers Inc., a John Deere dealer, and Mel Wenger, a retired farmer and agribusiness owner, pledged donations to the school's Winross truck auction.

The Winross truck sale is part of the annual benefit auction to be held on the schoolgrounds on May 12-13 at 598 Kraybill Church Road, Mount Joy.

For many years Wenger has been in charge of contacting businesses to donate Winross trucks and toy tractors for the auction.

The monies earned at the auction provide funds for the ongoing costs

of the school.

Wenger and his wife Marian have four sons that attended the school. Now five of his 11 grandchildren are students at the school.

"I believe in providing good teachers and a good education with a Christian emphasis," Wenger said of his interest in the school.

In 1951, Wenger had purchased a 95-acre dairy farm in Mount Joy. After 15 years, he sold the herd but retained the cropland while concentrating on managing his farm supply and animal health store, called M.W. AgriServices. About three years ago, Wenger sold his farm to a son and his business to another agri-service business.

For many years, Wenger had donated shovels, forks, brooms, scrapers, boots, and numerous other items of interest to farmers to Kraybill's Benefit Auction.

Then "Winross fever" swept the agriculture community. The trucks brought high prices at auctions.

Wenger saw the interest in Win-

ross trucks was a way to help the school make some profit.

Through trial and error, Wenger has learned that Winross trucks bring a much higher price if the quantity is limited.

He had 800 trucks made with his company logo.

"If I had it to do over, I wouldn't have made so many," Wenger said. "They sold but at lower prices. Florin Feeds made only 125 trucks. The demand is so intense that prices for one of those is \$1,000."

A brand new Winross truck with two tractors will be available for the first time at the Kraybill School Benefit Auction.

Phil Wimer, one of three owners for Landis Brothers, said that his company has been donating toys to the auction since 1988. This year, the business is donating a prototype of their soon to be released Winross flatbed hauling two tractors — a 1928 Model D and a 1995 model 7800 cab tractor.

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Phil Wimer shows off the prototype of Landis Brothers' soon-to-be-released Winross flatbed hauling two tractors — a 1928 Model D and a 1995 model 7800 cab tractor. This prototype is the only one available and will go the highest bidder at the Kraybill Mennonite School Benefit Auction on May 12.

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