



The wedding of David Rosenberry and Cindy Jo Barley combined their love for each other and farming. After the ceremony, the couple drove in the combine while the bridal party followed in the hay wagon covered with a white canopy. Shown with the bridal pair are Pamela Stetter, Gail Brene-

man, Susan Barley, Lugene Gochnauer, Brad Hershey, Kevin Ebersole, Mark Breneman, Thomas Barley, Robert Barley, Steven Gochnauer, ring bearer Joshua Bitner, and flower girl Amelia Barley.

Wedding Combines Love For Each Other And Farming

LOU ANN GOOD

Lancaster Farming Staff

ELIZABETHTOWN (Lancaster Co.) — For a groom who had disked a marriage proposal into soybean stubble and a bride who prefers farm work instead of bookkeeping, it came as no surprise that their wedding day integrated marriage and farming.

A shock of wheat, symbolic of the union of Cindy Jo Barley and David Scott Rosenberry, was a theme oft-repeated from table centerpieces to candy favors.

The couple's first introduction happened in the wheat field when David was custom-combining the Barley's Star Rock Farm.

"I met 'Barley' in the wheat field," David is fond of describing that first meeting when Cindy was running the auger cart.

From the beginning, the couple's three-year courtship was highly intertwined with farming because dating was sandwiched in-between David's work as farm manager for James Garber & Sons, a 1,000-acre farming operation in Milton Grove, and Cindy's working with steers, pigs, and fieldwork on the Barley's 3,500-acre complex in Conestoga. If the couple wasn't helping each other with chores, their conversations were dominated with agricultural lingo. For David's birthday, Cindy sent him on a two-week custom combining crew out West.

In October, David flew Cindy Jo by helicopter over a field where she read his marriage proposal in the

soil: Cindy Jo, will you marry me?

The couple wanted their wedding to reflect their love for each other and farming. They considered being married on the Barley farm with the bridal party wearing country-print dresses and bib overalls but discarded that idea. They decided that a traditional church wedding reflected their devotion to God and the church. Cindy works part-time as youth director for Crestwell Bethany E.C. Church.

Nonetheless the traditional attire had touches of the couples' agricultural ties.

The most eye-catching detail was the glistening combine, tractor and hay wagon used to transport the bridal couple, 12 attendants, ring bearer and flower girl to the reception.

Although Cindy begged to drive the combine, she deferred to David's chauffeuring the new John Deere model. The bridal attendants followed in a hay wagon pulled by a tractor. And two new truck pickups escorted the caravan.

The equipment sparked a lot of good-natured debates among agricultural-interested guests on the pros and cons of the "green" versus "red," which reportedly the Barleys favor.

For the wedding decor, a pickup truckload of wheat was harvested from the Barley fields and used in many innovative ways. Wheat blended in with the cascading rose and ivy bridal bouquets. Wheat sheaves were arranged in window and candle displays. The

six bridesmaids carried small sheaves of wheat intertwined with flowers. Each guest was given a tiny muslim feedbag with wheat inside to throw instead of traditional rice or birdseed.

A pre-ceremony video flashed many scenes of the couple doing farm work.

The wedding meditation by Rev. David Hall correlated marriage with hybrid seed. "Two people from different families, backgrounds, and experiences come together with the hope that, together, they will be better than they were by themselves. A good hybrid seed is developed to take the strengths from two different strains, leaving the weaknesses behind," he said.

Hall emphasized that with the help of the Lord — the master technician of all hybridizations — and by maintaining good "soil" conditions in marriage, two people can yield to hybridization to become something new, something better than either would have been single.

At the reception, the table centerpieces were shocks of wheat tied with burgandy bows. The groom's mother made candy favors from chocolate peanut butter molded into a wheat shock for each guest.

After a wedding trip to the Bahamas, the couple will reside in Conestoga. The couple's dream is to own their own farm someday.

Cindy is the daughter of Rep. John Barley and his wife Jane. David is the son of John and Nancy Rosenberry.



The wheat theme was carried out in candy favors molded into wheat sheaves and in wheat grains thrown instead of rice or birdseed. The wheat grains were placed in the muslim bags stamped with the names of the bridal pair and tied with string.



A pickup truckload of wheat harvested from the Barley farm was used for bridal arrangements, table centerpieces, and even on the cake.

HOMESTEAD NOTES