

Bylers Receive Mifflin County Award

GAIL STROCK
Mifflin Co. Correspondent
MILROY (Mifflin Co.) — The Ray Byler family of Penn Canal Farms received the Farm City Business Award at the Mifflin County Farm-City banquet held at the Milroy Fire Hall recently.

along with his wife Arlene, son Steve, and daughter-in-law Juanita, said that to be successful, you must surround yourself with good people. He acknowledged his nephew Ben Zook with whom he started farming in 1976.

Byler began whitewashing dairy barns in 1959. He and Zook began farming in Centre County in 1976. At that time, Byler started Union Mills, a fertilizer and spray operation in Belleville. Byler sold Union Mills in 1985 and formed Penn Canal Farms, a wholesale fertilizer and grain import business. He sold

the grain operation in 1995 but continues to farm 1,200 acres of corn, soybeans, wheat, and green beans in Mifflin and Huntingdon Counties with his son Steve and nephew Ben Zook.

The City Family Business Award went to the Hartley family.

Celebrating 60 years in business, Hartley's Potato Chips was started in 1935 by Carl Hartley's grandparents. Hartley operates the business along with his son Dan and daughter Kellie Johnson.

The business employs 19 local people and five independent contractors who distribute Hartley's Potato Chips to Harrisburg, Sunbury, Williamsport, Bedford, and Selinsgrove. The business uses 65,000 pounds of potatoes each week.

Frank Bonson received the Farm Service Agency Award for

30 years of service in ASCS, now called Farm Service Agency (FSA). Carl Shaffer, chairman of FSA, presented the award to the dairyman, recognizing his dedication for 30 years as country and community committee man.

Featured speaker was Keith Eckel, president of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and a partnership farmer with more than 1,400 acres, 300 of which are green wrap tomatoes.

"It is appropriate that Farm-City week occurs in November, the week before Thanksgiving," said Eckel. "For 374 years, our country

has been coming together to appreciate each other's work."

Eckel told about the first Thanksgiving that was held in 1621. About 102 Pilgrims landed but only half survived. At the end of the first year, they celebrated and gave thanks. In 1621, everyone was a farmer. Now only 1.4 percent of the population is engaged in production Agriculture. Of that, 1.4 percent, 27 percent produce three-quarters of the food and fiber for our country. In 1933, one-third of the population were farmers.

Eckel said that in 40 years, our

world population will have doubled. This presents agriculture with a tremendous challenge to increase productivity while remaining environmental friendly because there are less acres cultivated today than in 1900.

Eckel encouraged everyone to walk in the other's shoes. He said Farm-City Week is geared towards gaining a better understanding between rural and urban occupations.

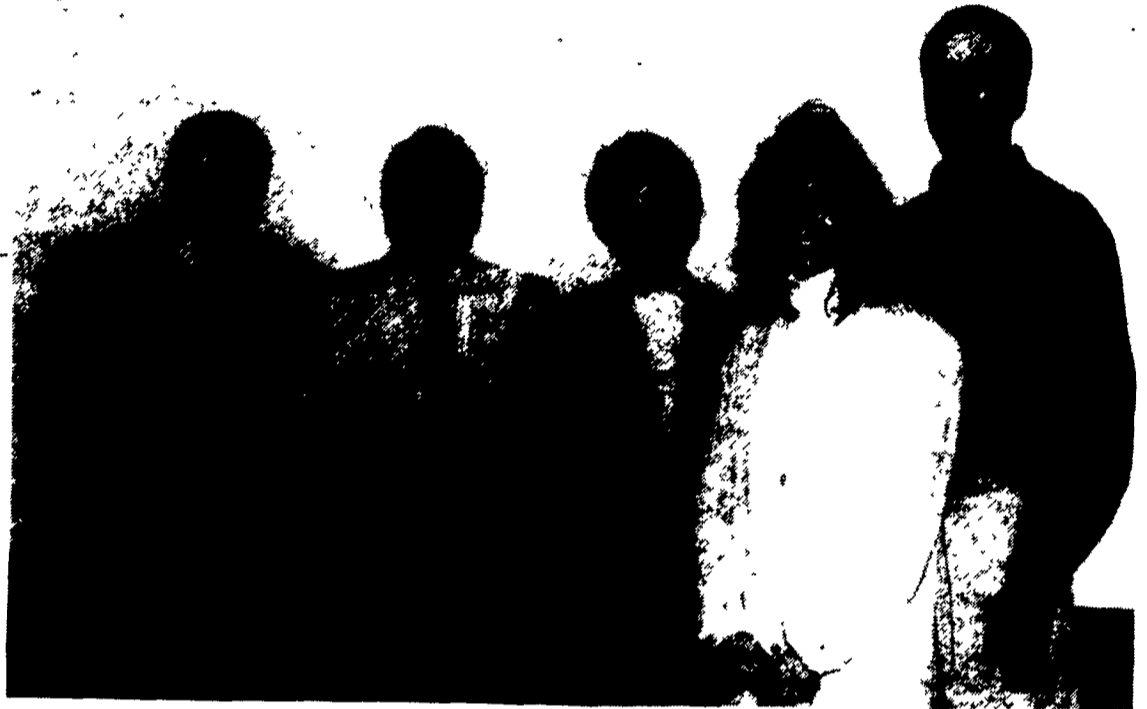
"Our message to our urban neighbors is that we do need your help. We need public policy driven by scientific fact, not emotion."

Spina Bifida Craft Show

QUARRYVILLE (Lancaster Co.) — The Spina Bifida Association Open House and Craft Sale will be held at 209 E. State St., Quarryville, in the Stone Business Center from now through December 21, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday-Friday. Amish-made wooded items, ceramics, Christmas decorations and ornaments, as well as items made by the children will be available.

Christmas cookies, poinsettias and other plants will also be for sale. Country Cooking II cookbook and Que Bueno! (Tex-Mex cooking) cookbooks will both be

available. Entertainment books (half-price dinner books) available for Lancaster/York, Harrisburg or Berks County are only \$25 each. Several pieces of used office furniture are also for sale.



Pennsylvania Farm Bureau president Keith Eckel, left, joins Farm Family Business Award recipients Ray Byler, his wife Arlene, and son Steve and wife Juanita.

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