

## Districts Honor Cooperators

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culture is examining ways to give farmers more leeway in processing their own products and being able to sell them directly to consumers from the farm in an effort to encourage greater profits from farming.

"The best value of farmland should be for farming, not to sell it for development," Young said.

Ernest S. Christian, Willows Farm Company, at Union Bridge was presented with Frederick County's Cooperator of the Year award. Christian has owned the 200-acre farm for almost 20 years. He works off the farm as an attorney in Washington, D.C.

In the last five years, the Christians have become interested in

breeding Limousine beef cattle. The herd consists of 20 registered Limousines and approximately 40 Black Angus and Shorthorn crosses.

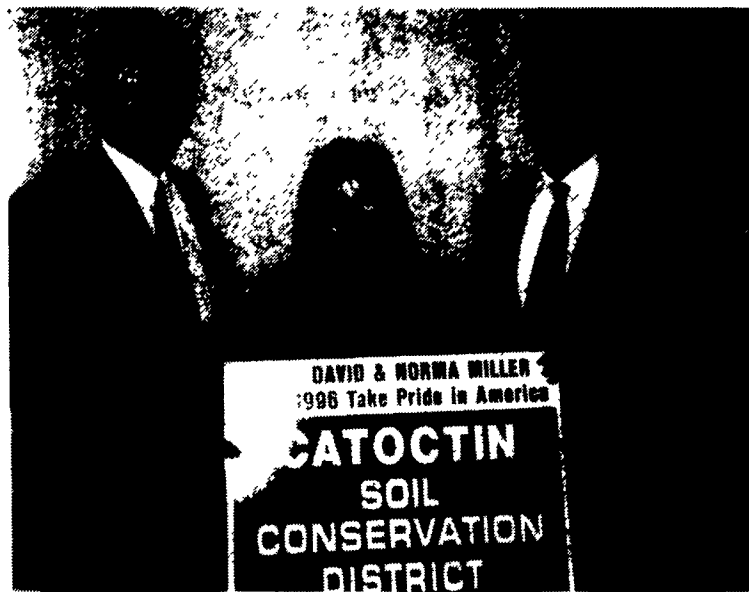
According to Gene Bollinger, herdsman for the operation, the Christians have implemented a rotational grazing system that was updated last year. There are eight paddocks fenced with seven strands of high tensile wire, with four hot. They have fenced out a stream and installed a gravity flow waterer from a farm pond. All the acreage is in hay — mostly grass, including orchardgrass and matua grass, with a little alfalfa being grown as well. Christian plans to start a flushing program, and will sell Limousine stock.

Glenn and Jean Eaves and family, Oak Bluff Farms, were honored with the Raymond Keilholtz Memorial award. Oak Bluff Farms is family owned and operated, and includes Mr. and Mrs. Eaves, sons Doug, Glenn Jr. and his wife Rebecca, and Richard and his wife Tammy. There are also seven grandchildren, ranging in age from 2-15 years.

Oak Bluff Farms was established in 1957. A total of approximately 2,600 cows are milked on two farms, in what has been grown by the Eaves family into one of the state's largest dairy operations.

The Eaves have been cooperators with soil conservation since

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David and Norma Miller were honored with the Take Pride in America award. On the right is Richard McBride, vice chairman for the Catoctin district.



Cooperator of the Year for the Catoctin district was awarded to Paul and Val Jean Bussard and family. From the left, Walter Bussard, Kendra Bussard, John Summers, supervisor of the Catoctin district, Val Jean Bussard, and Paul Bussard. Not present in the photo are Donny and Diane Harne, the Bussards' daughter and son-in-law.

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