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Lancaster Farming

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Maryland Young Couple To Prove You Can Make It Farming

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

RISING SUN, Md. — At Mineral Springs Farm, George and Debbie Donnon and their two small children, April, 18 mos., and Lindsey, 5, are out to prove you can make it in farming even if you don't have a farm handed to you on a gold-plated deed.

They have done all this by working for other dairymen, renting farms, buying used equipment, and sleeping on the floor until they could barter for beds and living room furniture. But they are not complaining. "What you work hard for you appreciate more," they say.

This Maryland Farm Bureau Young Farm Couple of the Year started from scratch and have developed a nice 85-head Holstein milking cow herd, along with 80 heifer replacements.

In fact, you could not find a more enthusiastic young couple with a positive outlook on life. Many times George has been on the manure spreader, fixing a broken chain under a full-load, on a cold, windy, winter day. But the Donnons say these bad days only make the good days all that much more enjoyable on the farm.

Their herd average is just over 20,000 pounds and they farm 250 acres of corn silage, haylage, ground ear corn and use a by-pass protein product to balance the TMR ration. Their herd is housed in free-stalls and milked in a double-four parlor.

This couple works as a farm team, and they are adamant that husband and wife must work together on the farm if you are

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Organic Dairy Co-op Seeks Regional Producer Interest

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff

EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) — The town of Colby, Wisconsin, is the namesake and founding location of the mildly flavored, soft, popular American cheese.

associated with truck patch crops, Hoover is a dairyman with about 117 acres and a herd of 30 milking Holsteins that he has maintained for the past eight years using rotational grazing.

It is also the home area of Aaron Hoover, a dairy farmer who grew up on a family farm in Reamstown, Lancaster County.

CROPP is his dairy market. The cooperative is marketing a variety of "organic" foods, under the Organic Valley brand name, that its members raise according to a self-created set of rules.

Hoover was in town recently to visit with relatives and was accompanied by a regional organizer for a cooperative to which Hoover belongs: Coulee Region Organic Produce Pool (CROPP) Cooperative.

Its dairy products line includes cultured unsalted and salted butter; whole milk, 2-percent milk, skim milk and half-and-half; mild, sharp, Colby, Monterey Jack, petite Swiss, and aged Swiss raw milk cheeses; reduced fat farmer, Monterey Jack and low-sodium cheddar; mozzarella, provolone

CROPP is headquartered in LaFarge, Wisconsin and is eight years old.

Though "produce" is generally

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Advertising/News Deadlines For Holiday, Farm Show Issues

The new year begins with a holiday next Wednesday and then comes the next big event for farmers in Pennsylvania—the state farm show in Harrisburg. For *Lancaster Farming* this means many of the advertising and news deadlines will need to be early this week and also for publication of the January 10 issue. Some of these deadlines are the week prior to the week of publication.

These deadlines are as follows:
January 4th Issue

- Public Sale Ads — 5 p.m., Monday, 12/30.
- Mailbox Markets — 5 p.m., Monday, 12/30.
- Classified Section C Ads — 5 p.m., Tuesday, 12/31.
- All Other Classifieds — 9 a.m., Thursday, 1/2.
- General News — Noon, Thursday, 1/2.

January 10th Issue

- Public Sale Ads — 4 p.m., Friday, 1/3.
- Classified Section C Ads — 5 p.m., Tuesday, 1/7.
- All Other Classifieds — 9 a.m. Wednesday, 1/8.
- General News — Noon, Tuesday, 1/7.

Dairy Farmers Want Immediate Action

COLUMBIA CROSSROADS (Bradford Co.) — Nearly 100 dairy farmers and business people attended the spirited Dairy Rally conducted by Pro Ag last Wednesday in Columbia Crossroads.

They shook their heads in disbelief as Pro Ag Manager Arden Tewksbury revealed how low milk prices were going to decline.

Tewksbury said, "Dairy farmers will really get the message when they open their milk checks on January 1st and realize their payment for the first fifteen days of milk in December will be \$11.67 per cwt. with the price probably declining more on February 1st."

Tewksbury read letters from both Senator Arlen Specter and Congressman Joe McDade, but the letters failed to really address the seriousness of the situation.

All three County Commissioners from Tioga County attended the Rally, as did Representative Scott Chadwick and personnel from the Pa. Milk Marketing Board.

Paul "Hap" Schatz, Agriculture Aid to Congressman Paul Kanjorski, addressed the Rally. Schatz said, "Congressman Kanjorski supports the efforts of Pro Ag." He told the farmers present, "I can't illustrate strong enough to you people how important it is for you to contact your Congressman on this and any issue." Schatz said, "If your elected officials don't hear from you, then they simply apply their time to other things." A warm reception was

given to Schatz from the crowd because of his willingness to attend the Rally.

Tewksbury praised local farmers and business people for the significant number of calls they

made to Washington. He said, "Many times I've been told that more calls have been made from northeastern Pa. than any other area in the United States."

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Although Ken and Denise Sanner, ADC's Outstanding Young Cooperative Couple, were intent on farming successfully before attending the National Milk Producers Federation annual meeting and still are, they have redefined what that means. Read about the Sanners and their Berks County farm on page B2. Photo by Lou Ann Good.