

# Tall, Presidential Tasks

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main farm. "I have a Black Angus herd down there" and then he chuckles — one of the herd is red. "They (officials) said something to me, but I said, 'Hey, I bred the cows to a black bull' but I think there's a red factor in one of the cows. There is a Red Angus," he explained.

He has 37 head of Black Angus in the herd.

Wilbur goes on to explain that the farms are numbered one, two and three. "Farm one is where Ike lived — it is bounded by Red Rock Road, Pump Station Road, Millerstown Road, and Old Route 15. Farm two is right beside the first one and then the third one. They're all in a line," he said.

He has some of his 240 head of cattle in four different pastures on the Eisenhower Farms.

The partnership that includes his sons has about 80 milk cows. Replacement heifers and a couple Holstein steers and 34 calves, in addition to the Black Angus.

Wilbur notes that anyone wanting a good view of the farms can get it from the tower on the battle-field. "Everything is strip farming," he said of the farms' fields.

But that's not all the land the Martins farm. They also rent land from several other properties so that with their own farm and the Eisenhower Farms they operate on 804 acres.

They plant soybeans, corn, wheat, hay, and oats which in most cases is fed back to their animals.

He said he must send copies of soil tests to the Department of Interior "so that they can see that we're keeping up our end of the deal."

As Ike wanted to "leave the place better than I found it." The Martins too are interested in protecting the land.

They built a free-stall barn and every day they hauled manure to the fields. But when the snow got too deep they started putting it out behind the barn and depending on weather conditions sometimes they ended up with a two-foot hole in the ground.

Then the Martins signed up for Chesapeake Bay Program assistance in May of 1992. They were looking for the technical and financial assistance in planning and constructing a manure storage pit.

"We realized we had a problem with stacking manure and milk-house waste, not to mention the runoff," Wilbur said.

Sam remembers looking at various options and touring different types of pits.

The pit they built looks like concrete. Wilbur said, "And we really like it. When it gets full we empty it and when it rains it washes the sides and it looks clean. It's been three years and we're really tickled with it."

"We try to get the manure into the ground 12 hours after we haul it. In fact I follow the manure truck, when he's spreading it. We have someone come and do that," Wilbur said.

Wilbur added that he grew up on a farm and started farming intensively at the age of 16. He remembers that conservation was something that they just did. "When I bought this farm I just did what my father taught us," he said.

"You want to do something difficult, try farming across corn rows on the contour while sitting on a steel seat of an old M Farmall. That's conservation," Wilbur said with a laugh.

When they entered the Bay Program, the Martins didn't have to



Sam Martin, his son, David Martin, and Wilbur Martin discuss farming at Martin Acres.

make many changes in the fields because they were already doing it right.

"We've gotten farms offered to us because the owners saw how we treat the ground," Sam said.

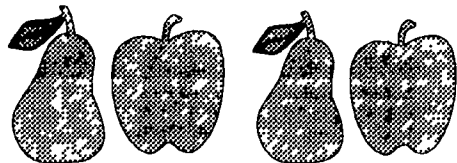
## Field Day Cancelled

Because of drought conditions, the field day, scheduled for Middletown, DE, by Brubaker Agronomic Consulting Service on July 29 has been canceled. The September 4 field day in Lancaster will proceed as scheduled.

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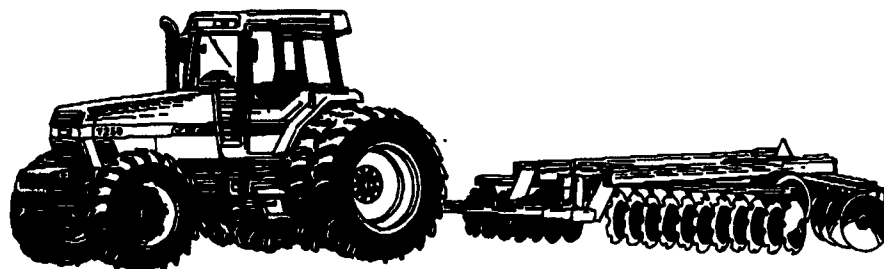
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