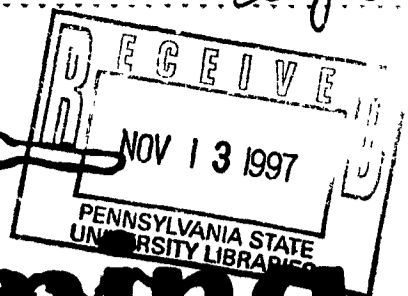


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Lancaster Farming

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Farm Store Livelihood Depends On Conservation

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
SCHNECKSVILLE (Lehigh Co.) — "You don't pass the buck in this operation. You can't say it's the farmer who grew the grain or the farmer who milked the cows or the plant that processed the product."

And taking the responsibility for what goes on at the farm extends throughout the operation, including managing the land — and caring for the soil — on which the Sell family's livelihood rests.

Crystal Spring Farm was recently honored as the Conservation

Farm of the Year by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts. The farm is managed by Hubert and Grace Sell and their family, sons Scott, Ron, and Gary, and daughter Audrey.

The farm encompasses 310 acres, of which 130 are owned and

180 are rented. A total of 250 acres are tilled. The Sells maintain about 20 acres in pasture and nine acres in woodland and wetland.

The dairy includes 150 milk cows and 75 replacements of grade Holstein. The Sells are not Pa.DHIA members, and do their

own production tests using a computerized milk system. The herd averages about 21,000 pounds.

Hubert said that he began farming the land, leased from his father Frank, in 1960, with 24 milk cows. The same year his father died, in

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For Hubert Sell, owner of Crystal Spring Farm in North Whitehall Township, those words ring true for any family farm that sells its own products. Crystal Spring is a farm in the Lehigh Valley that sells the products it produces at its own farm store.

Scams Now Running On Lancaster Farms

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) - An officer of the Pennsylvania State Police at the Lancaster headquarters called in a warning Wednesday afternoon about several large-scale scams under way that threaten Lancaster County farmers.

Most recently, an Amish farmer in the Kinzers area was approached by the perpetrators with an offer to install lighting rods on his barn. The cost was quoted at \$200-\$300. When the job was finished, the farmer was handed a bill for more than \$1,000. Even if the police could find the people behind the scam, since some work was done, they could not be prosecuted.

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Crystal Spring Farm was recently honored as the Conservation Farm of the Year by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts. The farm is managed by Hubert and

Grace Sell, pictured here, and their family, sons Scott, Ron, and Gary, and daughter Audrey. Photo by Andy Andrews



Trudy Dougherty, left, presents the 1997 State Honorary Family and Consumer Science Award to Lou Ann Good.

Good Receives Honorary Award

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Lou Ann Good, staff writer for *Lancaster Farming*, received the Pennsylvania Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences State Honorary Award on Thursday. The Association pre-

sented the award at its annual recognition breakfast held at Atherton Hotel, University Park.

The award is given for promoting, fostering, and upholding the ideals of extension family living

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PFB Selects Finalists For Award

CAMP HILL (Cumberland Co.) — The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau has announced its finalists for its Young Farmers and Ranchers Achievement Award.

The winner will be announced during PFB's annual meeting, Nov. 17-19, at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey.

Several hundred farmers, including 171 voting delegates, are expected to attend the annual meeting to elect leaders and adopt policies for the statewide farm-advocacy organization. PFB represents 25,207 farm and rural families in 54 local county farm bureaus. It is also affiliated with the 4.7-million member American Farm Bureau Federation.

Relevant policies adopted during the annual meeting will be sent to the AFBF for consideration in developing national policy.

One of several awards to be presented during the convention, the PFB Young Farmer and Rancher Achievement Award is open to PFB members aged 18-35 who

have exhibited exceptional business and leadership achievements.

The winner of the award will be announced during the President's Luncheon, at noon on Tuesday, Nov. 18. Prizes for the statewide winner include a \$500 cash award from Dodge Truck, and a trip to compete for national honors during the AFBF convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, in January.

The three finalists are A. Louis and Gail Diamond of Masontown, in Fayette County; Patrick Greaser of Sewickley, Beaver County; and Myron and Lorene Bonzo of Rochester, also in Beaver County.

A. Louis & Gail Diamond

A. Louis Diamond operates a 500-acre farm with 155 milk cows in a three-way partnership with his father and a brother.

In the three years since Diamond has been involved with the partnership, milk production has improved from an average production per cow of 18,500 pounds of milk to a herd average of 21,600 pounds.

During that time, the operation has gone to three-times-per day milkings, hired an independent nutrition consultant, purchased a

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Deadlines Change For Thanksgiving

The *Lancaster Farming* office will be closed Thursday, November 27 in observance of Thanksgiving Day. News and advertising deadlines for that week are as follows:

- Public sale ads — Noon, Monday, 11/24.
- Mailbox markets — 5 p.m., Friday, 11/21.
- General news — Noon, Wednesday, 11/26
- Section D ads — 5 p.m., Tuesday, 11/25.
- Farm equipment ads — 9 a.m., Wednesday, 11/26.
- All other classified ads — 5 p.m., Wednesday, 11/26.