

Lancaster Farming

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Four Sections

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In the Lyons' den. From left, Terry, Rich, Joe, and Joey Lyons.

In The Lyons' Den You Find What's Good In Farming With Family

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

MILLVILLE (Columbia Co.) — When you drive in the farm lane, you are greeted with the sign, "Lyons' Den," on the barn. This little humorous referral to the Joe and Betty Lyons family who live here makes you smile at the takeoff on the family name. Subconsciously, you have a warm feeling for those involved in this farming operation.

The three sons and their families are all a close-knit part of the 600-acre farming operation. Included in the family on the farm are Rich and Cheri and their children Emily 8, and Wesley 5; Terry and Cindy; and Joey and Angie and their children Caleb 14, Katie 11, Nathan 7, and Shelby 2. You could say this is a pride (family) of Lyons. Daughter and son-in-law Linda and John Dent own and operate a nearby horse farm.

The family dairy farm enterprise started

in 1965 when Betty's father gave an oral agreement to begin the transfer of the farm to Joe and Betty. Monthly payments for the cows and machinery began, and by 1972 the farm was turned over to the present generation and a partnership was formed. Through time, the partnership evolved to where today father and sons have equal ownership in the value of the entire operation.

From 16 cows in the first year of operation, the herd has grown to about 85 milk cows and another 80 replacement heifers. The growth has been gradual using home-raised replacements to increase the herd size. For many years the herd average stayed at about 16,000 pounds. When the herd size had reached the desired number and the opportunity came to cull the low end of the herd, production reached 21,000 pounds. But in recent years, a small amount of BST has been used and 3x milking has been started. This has taken the

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

We, the staff at Lancaster Farming,
wish you a very joyous New Year

Pfautz Brothers' Fantastic KILE Hog One For The Books

ANDY ANDREWS

Lancaster Farming Staff
LITITZ (Lancaster Co.) — One day, Cory and Kevin Pfautz were pouring over a black and white swine sire catalog when they noticed an entry that stood out.

A Hampshire boar from a company in Chrisman, Ill. showed a sire potential for a 9.28-inch loin eye.

The brothers thought that was pretty intriguing. So they wondered about mating the Hampshire with Kevin's Hampshire/Duroc sow.

Could the family obtain some litters with barrows reaching a 9-inch loin eye (a respectable size for a side of meat, considering some of the highest in the industry reaches only about eight inches at best)?

What's there to lose?

It was worth a try. After all, the dam was out of a Premier John 7-2, which had potential for some genetically explosive results.

Sure enough, Cory, son of Rick and Sue Pfautz, Lititz, along with Kevin and their sister Lisa, bred a hog that was sired using the Illinois

genetics. In October they took it to this year's Keystone International Livestock Exposition (KILE) at

the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg. They entered it in the barrow on-rail competition.

And of course, there were fireworks — of sorts. The "genetic

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After turning up a hog with a 12-inch loin eye at KILE, the Pfautz family is preparing for the state Farm Show in January. This family was also honored at the recent Lancaster County 4-H banquet. From left, Lisa, Cory, and Kevin Pfautz. Photo by Andy Andrews

News/Publication Deadlines Set

Next week is New Year. And the second week in January farm families get ready to make their annual trip to Harrisburg for the Pennsylvania Farm Show. For Lancaster Farming, this means many of the advertising and news deadlines will need to be early to accommodate the publication of the January 3, and January 9 issues. Some deadlines fall in the week prior to the week of publication. These deadlines are as follows:

January 3rd Issue

Public Sale Ads — 5 p.m., Monday, 12/29.

Mailbox Markets — 5 p.m., Monday, 12/29.

Section D Classified Ads — 5 p.m., Tuesday, 12/30.

Farm Equipment Ads — 9 a.m., Wednesday, 12/31.

All Other Display Ads — 5 p.m., Monday, 12/29.

General News — Noon, Wednesday, 12/31.

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