

State Champion Tomato Growers, from left, Ike Martin, Cliff Charles, Camerer Farm representative, Dale Peters, and Orville Schultz. James Kohl of Furman Farms presented the champion growers with jackets instead of the usual plaques.

Top Tomato Growers Receive State Awards

LOU ANN GOOD Lancaster Farming Staff HERSHEY (Dauphin Co.) -Cliff Charles of Lancaster County knows how to raise tomatoes.

Not just any tomato, but the highest quality and lots of it.

Not only does he harvest 2,835 tons annually, but most of those are top grade.

In recognition of Charles' consistent production, he received the first-ever Master Grower of the Year Award at the Tomato Awards Luncheon last week during the Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention in Hershey.

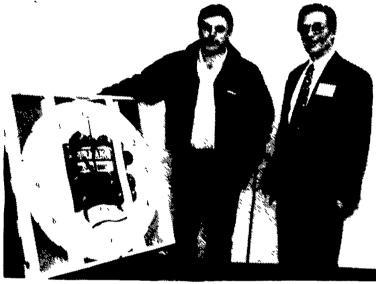
"He is consistently in front for several years," said James Kohl of Furman Foods, which with the help of Pennsylvania State University Cooperative Extension Service sponsors the awards.

The State Champion Tomato Growers' Club annually recognizes growers who produce outstanding yields of tomatoes for processing.

Winners are determined by reports submitted by processors based on the growers' entire acreage that has been measured by the fieldman or representative of the extension. Total yield is the net weight of usable tomatoes delivered to the processing plant and does not include the weights of culls.

Awards are broken into categories based on the amount of acreage devoted to tomato production.

In addition to being named "Master Grower," Charles also received the Grower Award for



Master Grower of the Year is Cliff Charles, left. James Kohl, who presented the award, said Charles was selected for consistently producing top quality tomatoes on 80

those competing in the 60- to 100-acre category. After grading, the Charles farm yielded an average of 24.06 tons of grade A fruit per acre.

Of his accomplishment, Charles said, "I guess it's paying attention to details - spraying at the right times and stuff."

He also attributes the dry weather of 1988 to producing healthy tomatoes.

Ike Martin, in charge of the fields for Furman Farms, topped the 100-plus acreage category.

"It's not a one-man operation," said Martin, who oversees a team of workers that harvested 5.918 tons of tomatoes on 219.2 acres. After grading, Furman Farms

yielded an average of 15.48 tons of grade A fruit per acre.

Camerer Farms, Inc. located in Jersey Shore, Clinton County, won the award for the highest tomato yield in the 45 to 59-acre division. They harvested 2002.3 tons of fruit on 53 acres for a 37.8 tons per acre average yield. After grading, Camerer Farms yielded an average 22.37 tons of A grade fruit per

Another Clinton County farm took first place in tomato yields. Ramm Farms of Lock Haven placed first in the 30- to 40-acre division. They harvested 1,474 tons of tomatoes on 38 acres for a 38.8 ton per acre average yield. After grading, Ramm Farms yielded an average of 21.6 tones of A grade fruit per acre.

Clinton County must have the soil and conditions conducive for tomato growth. Another Clinton countian, Dale Peters, took first place in the 15- to 29-acre division. He harvested 1,131.5 tons of tomatoes on 28.4 acres for a 27.15 tons per average yield. After grading, the farm yielded an impressive 27.15 tons of A grade fruit per

Orville Schultz of Danville, Montour County, took first place in the 15-acre and less category. Schultz harvested 482.1 tons on 14.4 acres for 33.48 tons per acre average yield. After grading, the

(Turn to Page B14)





NEW HOLLAND

DEALER FOR DEPENDABLE **EQUIPMENT & SERVICE**

PENNSYLVANIA

Abbottstown, PA Messick Equipment RD 1, Box 255A 717-259-6617

Annville, PA BHM Farm Equipment, inc. RD 1, Rte. 934

717-867-2211

Carlisle, PA R&W Equipment Co. 35 East Willow Street 717-243-2686

Elizabethtown, PA Messick Farm Equipment, Inc. Rt. 283 - Rheem's Exit 717-367-1319

Greencastle, PA Meyers Implements, Inc. 400 North Antrim Way 717-597-2176

Halifax, PA Sweigard Bros. R.D. 3, Box 13 717-896-3414

Honey Grove, PA Norman D. Clark & Son, Inc. Honey Grove, PA 717-734-3682 Loysville, PA 717-789-3117

New Holland, PA A.B.C. Groff. Inc. 110 South Railroad 717-354-4191

Oley, PA C.J. Wonsidler Bros. R.D. 2 610-987-6257

Pitman, PA Schreffler Equipment Pitman, PA 717-648-1120

Tamaqua, PA Charles S. Snyder Inc. R.D. 3 717-386-5945

West Grove, PA S.G.Lewis & Son, Inc. 352 N. Jennersville Rd. 610-869-2214 1-800-869-9029

MARYLAND

Frederick, MD Ceresville Ford New Holland, Inc. Rt. 26 East 301-662-4197 Outside MD, 800-331-9122

Hagerstown, MD Antietam Ford Tractor, Inc. 2027 Leitersburg Pike 800-553-6731 301-791-1200

Rising Sun, MD Ag Industrial Equipment Route 1, 50 N. Greenmont Rd. 1-800-442-5043

NEW JERSEY

Bridgeton, NJ Leslie G. Fogg, Smith Tractor & Inc.

Equip., Inc. Canton & Stow Creek 15 Hillcrest Ave. Landing Rd. 908-689-7900

609-451-2727 609-935-5145



Woodstown, NJ Owen Supply Co. **Broad Street &** East Avenue 609-769-0308

Washington, NJ





James Kohl of Furman Farms congratulates Elvin Stoltzfus who receives the Industry of the Year Award.