

# Farm-City Day

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teins average about 15,000 pounds of milk. There are also 25 replacement calves and heifers.

The family raises about 25 acres of corn and 45 acres of hay but must buy additional hay since the expansion of a manufacturing plant took some of their cropland. During the haying season, their daughters and sons in law also help on the farm.

A former New York State Star Farmer, John Ogden and his mother moved to the present farm in 1948 from Addison, N.Y. After his mother died in 1950, John farmed alone. He made many friends in the area and actually met his wife, Sandy, who was also a neighbor, at a Dairymen's League meeting.

In 1961, John and Sandy were married. While farming together, they raised four daughters, Doreen Alice, Deborah Ann, Darlene Agnes, and Deniese April. Another daughter, Dorinda Amy, passed away when she was 22 days old because of a heart defect.

The loss of a daughter was not the only tragedy the Ogdens have experienced during their farming tenure. In 1970, the original barn burned, taking with it the majority of the milking and replacement animals.

The fire was discovered by the milk hauler who found a single bale of hay on fire. The hauler immediately notified Sandy and ran back to the barn to get the hay bale out of the barn. Sandy notified the fire company and then went out to help release all the cows. When the fire company came, they thoroughly checked the barn and found no further signs of fire, so the Ogdens put the cows back in the barn, milked them, fed them, and settled down for the night.

Around 10 p.m., a neighbor called and told them their barn was on fire. This time they lost the entire structure and all but two cows.

To make matters worse, the fire marshal determined that the fire was deliberately set.

The Ogdens milked replacement cows at a neighboring farm until their barn was rebuilt in 1972.

In addition to farming, Sandy is employed by the Northern Tioga School District as a custodian. John is a 50-year Grange member and they are members of the Holstein Association and Dairyland Cooperative.

Many other organizations joined in the day's events, manning educational exhibits, food booths, and a registration table.

One popular stop was the animal petting zoo. Children of all ages enjoyed cuddling the baby chicks, goats, rabbits, and chickens. A horse and a baby calf were also on hand to give visitors an up close look at farm animals.

Another exhibit was designed to educate consumers about the pests Christmas tree growers fight to produce a perfect tree. Wool-spinning demonstrations, milking demonstrations, machinery exhibits, and a wagon tour of the farm as well as other activities were also part of the day's events.

Event Chairperson Bonnie Keil thought the day was a "tremendous success," she said. "We had a steady flow of people all day and we had a great location. We attracted a lot of people not related to agriculture. That was the intent of the day, to share and educate people about agriculture and to give them some information. I think we accomplished that."

John Ogden agreed that the event was a success. "Everything went well. We had a good crowd and everyone's happy," he said at the close of the day.

Plans are already under way for the 10th anniversary farm-city day to be held at Sunset Mountains Farm in Delmar Township, hosted by Doug and Jenny Lawton and family.



Volunteers make farm-city day possible. Here announcer Jim Welch, also known as "The Farmer from Mansfield," talks with event chairman Bonnie Keil.

## Bureau Urges Help

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little to boost commodity prices nationally, Donaldson said. "Nonetheless," he added, "our Pennsylvania farmers will not only experience little returns from their investment in raising crops, many will now have to purchase feed for their dairy and livestock production.

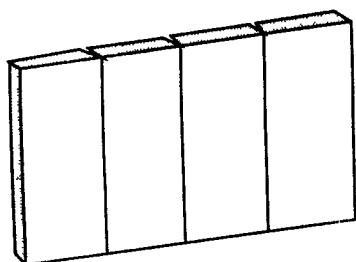
"I urge your prompt action in seeking all avenues of assistance to help mitigate the severely negative financial impact on our state's agricultural industry created by the current drought situation," Donaldson wrote the Governor.

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