

More than 700 Attend Lebanon Farm-City Banquet



Honored at the banquet are emcee Alletta Schadler, for decades of serving the county through extension services, and Zachary Gibson, coloring contest winner for the Farm Tour.



To have a better understanding of agriculture and business, these four persons participated in the job exchange. From left, are Daniel Hogeland, Irv Lutz, Kim Moyer, and Linda Krall.

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Irv Lutz, plant manager for Murry's Inc., which processes meat, poultry, and frozen food, and Daniel Hogeland, vegetable grower, paired up for the farm exchange.

Both were amazed and fascinated to discover similar equipment was needed to operate their individual jobs. Hogeland and his wife operate a 300-acre farm, one of the largest vegetable farms in the state. They harvest 600-800 tons of carrots seasonally and plant 130 acres of string beans. Lutz was impressed that of the farm's 16 tractors, none were newer than 1978 but in super condition. In fact, a 1948 model was still being used. The Hogelands transformed different pieces of equipment such as a street sweeper transformed into a sprayer with hydraulics that shoot 60 feet of water in either direction.

The exchange gave a fascinating view of food production such as millions of bees swarming to sustain a cucumber crop.

Since 1972, the Hogeland farm has the state record for potato growing. During Lutz's visit, the farm was in the middle of delivering 30 tractor-trailer loads of carrots to Philadelphia within 12 days.

"We both deal in large quantities of perishable foods. Yet they have a few people to produce products while we have many (275 associates)," Lutz said.

The exchange amplifies the complex business of farming, the large monetary investment, the medical, technical skills, inventory control, and commitment and long hours that farmers need, and problems caused by weather and prices.

"Every time I pour a glass of milk, I think of the Krall's long, hard hours of work on the farm," Kim said.

Century farm family Lynn and Coleen Struphar were presented a plaque for keeping their farm in the family for 117 years. Struphars are the fifth generation to farm 140 acres in North Annville Township. They milk 35 cows and raise barley, corn, and oats. They have two children, Kevin and Amanda.

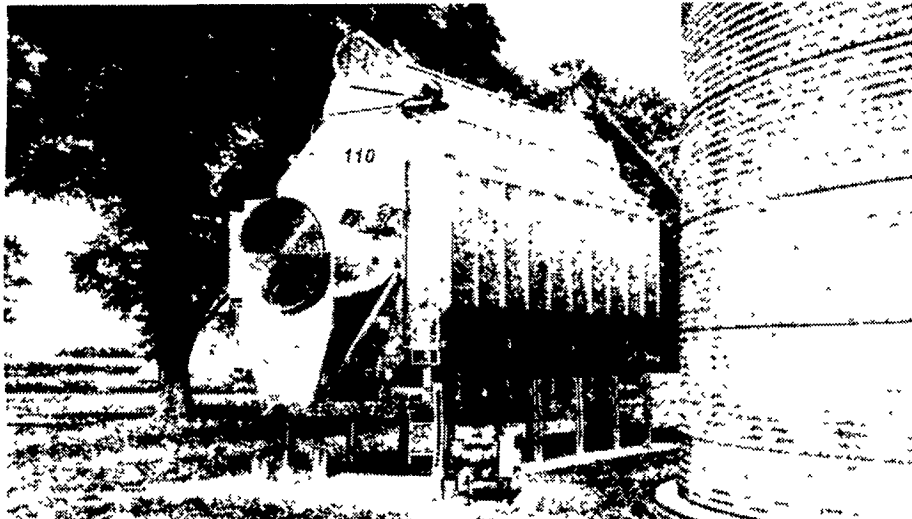
The century business award went to Kohl Brothers. Nancy Gettle, great granddaughter of the founder of the company, and her husband James accepted the award.

Pennsylvania Ag Spokesperson Shirley Krall, who with her husband Tom farm 150 acres in Lebanon County, told the audience how she attained the title and presented the speech that clinched the title. Her speech, "Farm Tours That Count" tells about children's reactions and the educational value of such tours.

Coloring contest winner was Zachary Gibson.

During the banquet, a shawl was completed during the sheep to shawl demonstration. It was auctioned for \$450 to Rothermel Funeral Home.

Lebanon County has 985 farms that produce \$32 million worth of products in a county that is almost equally divided between urban and rural.



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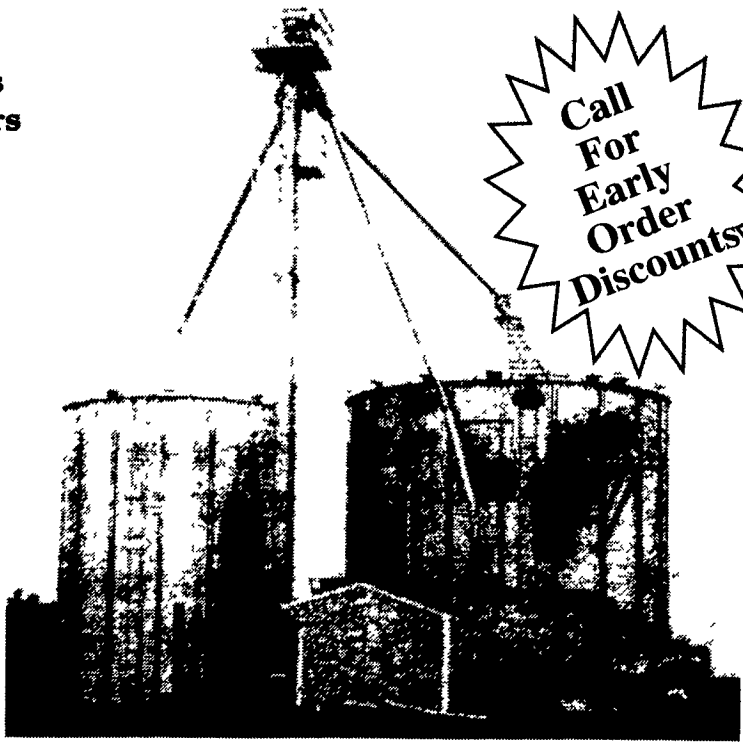
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