

Lancaster Farming

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Ralph Heffner, right, receives the Charles E. Cowan award from the Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association president Frank Orner. Photo by Everett Newswanger, editor.

Heffner, Oliver, Reibson Named At Dairymen's Banquet

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Editor
GRANTVILLE (Dauphin Co.) - A prominent dairy farmer, an educator, and a distinguished dairy woman were honored Wednesday night as part of the Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association's annual awards banquet. The event was held in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Dairy Futures Conference with 235 dairy industry leaders in attendance. Ralph Heffner, a dairy farmer from Pine Grove, received the

Charles E. Cowan award for superior management capabilities and outstanding leadership qualities. He manages the family corporation, and is a third generation dairyman on the family farm. He is a graduate of Penn State University and the University of Delaware. Under his management, Jersey Acers Farms, Inc., has grown, becoming more diversified, and has embraced new technologies. Two sons, Kent and Karl, both graduates of Penn State are in the family corporation. Daughter,

Kristen, is a large animal veterinarian who works for the vet clinic which serves the farm, and daughter Karin, is a microbiologist in Maryland.

The dairy herd of 100 Jersey cows and 90 heifers has achieved a production average of more than 16,000m 590p. The family farms 500 acres. Three hundred fifty acres are used for production of forage for the dairy herd.

A farm roadside market is managed by Ralph's wife, Annie.

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'Five Crazy Weeks' Comprise Christmas Tree Farmers' Time, Energy

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
NEW RINGGOLD (Schuylkill Co.) - When it comes to growing quality Christmas trees, Marlin L. (Buddy) Koch Jr. remembers how much his dad was first a pioneer and second, a stickler.

Marlin Sr. was one of the first in the area to grow the popular Fraser fir trees. He also was a stickler for properly sheared and shaped trees with a clean, cut bedding, for the wholesale business.

To carry on the tradition of trees during the holiday season for the Koch family, they've had to endure about two years of drought - something Fraser firs can't tolerate.

According to Buddy Koch, the Frasers, in half of the 600 acres farmed near New Ringgold, are native to North Carolina, brought up to the farm about 25 years ago. "They need more tender loving care than other trees, such as the Douglas firs or blue spruces," said Koch.

Consumers enjoy the layered look, he said, with silver underneath. Frasers make perfect dark green Christmas trees that people prefer to place gifts underneath. The firs hold needles longer than other trees, but "are the toughest trees to grow," Koch said.

The Frasers prefer a northern slope, well-drained soil (no wet

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Deadlines Set For Holidays, Farm Show Issue

Lancaster Farming has scheduled special sections in the next several weeks, up to and including the state Farm Show. In addition, because of the holiday schedule, new deadlines have been established.

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Families Honored at Mifflin Farm-City Banquet

GAIL STROCK
Mifflin Co. Correspondent
MCVEYTOWN (Mifflin Co.)

- It takes all types of businesses to get food from the farm to the table. That's why the Mifflin County farm-city committee honored one farm family and one trucking family at the Mifflin County farm city banquet held at the Penns Valley Christian Retreat Center near McVeytown.

The William and Karol Wingert family from McVeytown received the Mifflin County Farm Family Award, and the Marvin and Elaine Smith family of Smith Trucking in Strodes Mills was recognized as the Mifflin County Business Family of the Year. Later in the pro-

gram, Darren and Caryn Peachey accepted a Century Farm Award.

William and Karol Wingert farm two dairy farms and two crop farms along with their daughter, Bethany, sons Brandon and Ben, and Ben's wife, Amanda. Ben and Amanda milk on one of the McVeytown farms while Brandon serves a crop manager. Bethany helps wherever needed and is active in the Mifflin County 4-H Dairy Club. The Wingerts milk 190 Holsteins.

Dave Filson, Mifflin County's extension director, presented the award to the Wingerts. He called farming a very honorable profession and said that we can obtain

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Peach View Farm joins the ranks of Century Farms in Mifflin County. Accepting the award are from left, back, Caryn and Darren Peachey, owners and Darren's parents, Avonelle and Marvin Peachey. In front, Allyson and Chase Peachey. Photo by Gail Strock, Mifflin Co. correspondent.