

# Knapers Named York Family Of The Year

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at the York Expo Center.

In his acceptance of the family farm award, Emerson Knaper credited strong religious beliefs with giving them encouragement and strength to persist as stewards of the land. The Knaper farm, located near Dallastown, was acquired in 1850 by Emerson's great-grandfather, Henry Knaper, an immigrant from Germany, and has remained in Knaper ownership by descending generations.

Emerson Knaper was born and raised on the family homestead. He began helping on the farm when he was just a boy. He and Ruth, a farmer's daughter from Red Lion, married in 1944. The first few years of their marriage was spent on the original family farm, until 1949, when they purchased a farm from his father. That remained their home until 1978, when they added a new house that overlooks the original property.

Nina Knaper-Grove, their daughter, her husband Les, and sons Jamie and Travis Reid now own the Knaper farm. It is cropped to hay and pasture and supports a herd of beef cattle. The Reid twins have been active in the county's 4-H programs and livestock exhibiting. A second daughter, Susan Dutrey, and her family operate a farm in Clark County.

Ag industry awards winners Jim and Miriam "Mim" Waltemyer farmed grain and potatoes for several years before opening their own John Deere equipment dealership in 1986. However, they evolved into the equipment side of agriculture much earlier, in the mid 1970s, when they began doing repairs for farm neighbors in their own farm shop.

"If you're honest with everyone, you don't have to remember what you said," Mim Waltemyer said as she summed up the business philosophy by which they have always operated. The couple, married for 42 years, still work together every day operating the equipment business and continuing to farm 100 acres of crops.

The Waltemyers also board about 20 horses and enjoy riding, though the dealership and farm keep them too busy most of the time to saddle up their own mounts.

A special award went to Alan and Denise Taylor, Delta, for Alan's outstanding representation of York County and Pennsylvania in the American Farm Bureau Federation's annual discussion meet speaking competition. Alan was selected earlier to represent Pennsylvania at the Federation's recent meeting in Texas.

The son of Donnell and Peggy Taylor, Alan and his three brothers are still involved in the family's 130-cow dairy operation. Alan acknowledged that growing up in a family of four sons gave him some early practice in holding his own during dinner-table discussion meets.

The Century Farm of Daniel and Thelma Baugher, Brodbeck's, was recognized as the county's latest addition to the prestigious listing of farms that have remained in a family for at least 100 years. Sponsor of the Century Farm recognition is the Pennsylvania Department of

Agriculture, which designed the program to acknowledge the importance of longevity of farm ownership and the state's rural traditions.

Six ag operations in the southern part of the county were saluted for serving as Farm Visitation Day Hosts. The Chamber's annual Farm Visitation is always held on the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving, when participating farms open their door to the public for this educational event.

Farm Visitation Day participants for 1999 were the American Seed Company, owned by Mike and Wanda Rishel, Troubled Acres Goat Farm, Thomas and Rosemary Sprenkle, Twin Pines Farm, Robert and Jeanine Ilyes, Swamp Fox Farms, Joseph "Brud" and Laura McCabe, the Utz Family Farm of Brian and Donna Utz, and Glatfelter's Tree Farm, P. H. Glatfelter Company.

Recognition was extended to three teams of farm-agribusiness representatives who exchanged a day of work with one another. The exchange teams were Greg Whitecomb's of Whitecomb's Produce and 196th District Representative Todd Platts; Joyce Bupp, Bupp Lynn Farms, who traded a day of work with Kent Ketterman, Peoples' Bank/Codorus Valley Corporation; and Bill Buser, Buser Farms, who shared work days with Larry Hicks, columnist for *THE YORK DISPATCH*.

Speaker for the Chamber's ag-salute was Tony Schiano, president and chief executive officer of Giant Food Stores, Inc., headquartered in Carlisle. Giant Food Stores, Inc., headquartered in Carlisle. Giant Foods is owned by Ahold USA, a world food conglomerate, and operates 150 stores in six middle-Atlantic states with \$3.5 billion in retail sales annually.

Schiano noted that, though Ahold operates around the globe, the philosophy is to recognize local marketing and focus on local interests, while enjoying the purchasing and distribution synergies of large scale economics.

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Emerson and Ruth Knaper, front, were honored by the York Chamber of Commerce as the Family Farm of the Year. With the Knapers are children Susan Dutrey, Les Grove, and Nina Grove.



Alan Taylor, with his wife, Denise, is the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau discussion meet winner, and recently represented the state at national competition in Texas.



Tom Brant, director of the York County Parks, and Ellie Shoemaker, volunteer, were honored during the Chamber of Commerce awards presentations for their efforts to restore into operation the historic Cross Mill.



Jim and Miriam "Mim" Waltemyer received the York Chamber of Commerce's recognition as Agribusiness of the Year for the John Deere equipment dealership.