

Coleman Farm Honored For Commitment To Clean Water

RONKS (Lancaster Co.) — Jack and Donna Coleman, owner/operators of the Cherry-Crest Farm in Paradise Township, Lancaster County, have been known for years for their Amazing Maize Maze. However, the Colemans have recently made a name for themselves as a recipient of the Chesapeake Bay Clean Water Farm Award.

The Clean Water Farm Award, initiated in 1986, recognizes farmers within the Chesapeake Bay watershed who strive to protect local water quality. The Colemans were nominated for the award by the Lancaster

County Conservation District board.

In nominating the Cherry-Crest Farm, the conservation district reported that the Colemans enjoy working with new technology and strive to improve the environment, while at the same time reducing the input cost of production.

Their farm consists of 70 milking cows, 250,000 broilers raised per year, and 175 acres of cropland. They began dairy farming in Lancaster County in 1987 and have had their farm management plan in place since 1988.

Each year the Coleman family

converts a 10-acre cornfield into a maze designed specifically for their farm by a professional from Britain. Last year, more than 50,000 people paid for the privilege to walk through the cornfield during the hot, dry summer.

Last year the Coleman's created an American flag, using red, white and blue petunias that could easily be spotted from the neighboring Strasburg Railroad.

However, the Coleman family's true love has always been farming. Working with the mazes and other enterprises is a result of working with limited acreage.

The Lancaster County Conser-

vation District reports that the Colemans take the utmost care in managing their limited acreage though. In 1990, a liquid waste storage unit that holds 550,000 gallons of dairy manure was installed on the Cherry-Crest Farm. This device has allowed for the proper management of issues such as unnecessary odor and protection of water quality while helping to maximize production. With the wise use of the manure, they are able to save money and only purchase the fertilizer nutrients that are lacking in the manure.

Jack and Donna have also taken on several voluntary man-

agement practices to help curb runoff from their farm. Through the Chesapeake Bay Program, they voluntarily participate in a program to control barnyard runoff of some 13,240 square feet.

The Colemans are long-time members of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, have hosted legislative tours on their farm, and have attended legislative meetings in Washington, D.C. Jack Coleman is presently serving on U.S. Congressman Joe Pitt's Agricultural Advisory Committee and has served and has served on the Lancaster County Chamber of Agriculture Committee.

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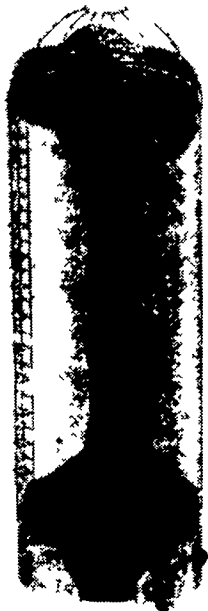
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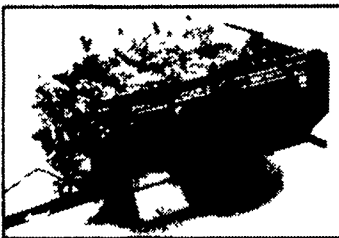
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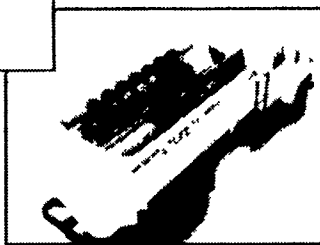
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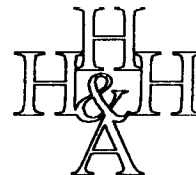
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