

Loy Farms Raise \$10,000 For Cancer Research

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PINE GROVE (Schuylkill Co.) — "Happy thoughts produce happy molecules," said Bob Loy.

He's had his share of happy thoughts lately, which he believes will help in his offensive fight against bladder and prostate cancer.

"I don't even think of having cancer. Every day is a holiday to do something for someone else."

Bob and his brother Dennis recently did a really big thing when they organized a fundraiser to benefit cancer research at John Hopkins Hospital. More than \$10,000 was raised.

"We just wanted to give back," Bob said of their reason. The family has had more than their share of cancer. Their mother, a sister, and Dennis' son Keith, who farms in partnership with him, has watched his wife successfully undergo a bone marrow transplant five years ago. In addition several other friends and relatives are fighting cancer.

Bob Loy was so impressed with the treatment that he received at John Hopkins that he wants to do his part in helping researchers find a cure for cancer.

"You need entertainment to get people to give money," Loy said. About 85 businesses and individuals help sponsor the event that featured Stanley and the Coal Miners Polka Band and a sit-down pig roast dinner. Through word-of-mouth advertising, 280 people attended the event on Aug. 18.

The Loy family was delighted with the turnout and the financial response.

"So many people helped," Bob said of the event held at the nearby Flying Dutchmen Motorcycle Club and catered by Red Lion Cafe.

Lots of photographs of the event recall delightful memories of such incidents as a 91-year-old

man doing the polka.

Two weeks after the fundraiser, Bob had another big event to prepare. His and his wife Anna Faye's daughter Bobbi Ann got married on the home farm.

"When I was in the hospital and not looking too good, Bobbi Ann said she wanted to get married on the farm. I think she did it more for me than her," he said. "She gave me a long list of things to do."

If so, her scheme worked. The idea of a wedding looming ahead pushed Bob to get out of the hospital and get busy. He purchased \$40 worth of flower seeds to plant on the farm. All the bridal bouquets and other flowers used for the wedding were raised on the farm.

Even the family dog, a Golden Retriever named Cooper, were involved in the wedding.

"That dog is super human," Bob brags. "He's one smart dog."

It seemed natural to have the dog to walk down the aisle behind the bride. With the red barns and two white tents, the farm wedding turned out to be a happy event.

With the two big events in the past, the brothers are planning another good deed. In conjunction with Make a Difference Day on Oct. 28, the brothers plan to take decorate the Bethany Children's Home, Wolmesdorf, with pumpkins. Make a Difference Day is a national day to help others. In recognition of the day, more than \$2.8 million in grants and awards are given out by Walmart, Points of Light Foundation, and Newmans. The Loy family filled out a 5-page application for a Walmart Grant to be awarded to Bethany Children's Home, which they say was accepted.

Of the work involved in planning the cancer fundraiser, Dennis said, "Work isn't near as



"It's a chance to give back," the Loy family said of their reason for planning a community event to raise \$10,000 for cancer research. From left are Brothers Bob and Dennis with his son Keith.

hard after it's over and it's been a big success."

Bob said of his brother Dennis, "He's very generous and helps a lot of people, but he doesn't want others to know about it."

Dennis and his son Keith farm 200 acres on a farm Dennis purchased in 1959. Called Loy's Piglet Outlet, the Loy family has 250-275 sows and raise about 11,000 piglets. They strive to keep the animals in the best health to enable them to sell breeding stock.

The Loy family is proud to be independent farmers and have no contracts.

"We learned the hard way. We took a beating many years ago when we had a contract. We found out a contract is only as good as the people who make it. If the price drops, they break it," Dennis said.

They are concerned that the family farm will not survive because so many people are unaware of the part farmers play in the economy of a nation.

"People say they don't care if there aren't any farmers because they'll just buy food in the store," Dennis said. "We (farmers) made this country what it is. What do we have to export except farm products?"

But the Loy family doesn't waste time worry about the future.



"Every day I'm alive, I want to do something for someone else," Bob Loy said after two bouts with cancer.

"We just do whatever needs to be done," Dennis said.

Bob continues to look forward to new adventures. He said,

"Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today's a gift."

Bob prefers to use that gift by daily visiting others who are ill.



An incentive for Bob Loy to get well was his daughter's wedding held on the family farm in August. In the spring, Loy planted \$40 worth of flower seeds in preparation for the wedding. The flowers were used for bridal bouquets and table arrangements in addition to beautifying the area surrounding the red barns and the white tents erected for the wedding. From left, are Jeremy Lengel holding with the family's "almost human" Golden Retriever named Cooper, Bob, Anna Faye, Bobbi Ann, and Jonathan Luster./

