

Perrydell Farms Honored For York Extension Involvement

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York Co. Correspondent
YORK (York Co.) — A third-generation dairy and milk retailing operation has been honored by the York County Extension Service for its participation in farm and community outreach programs.

Perrydell Farms, York, was honored during the annual York Extension dinner and meeting, conducted Nov. 3 at the 4-H Center.

Owned and operated by the families of Greg and Tom Perry, Perrydell Farm has long been in the business of serving the public. Their on-farm milk sales store, near Leaders' Heights in southern York County, is a regular stop for hundreds of area consumers on their weekly shopping trips. Along with purchasing their milk needs, customers enjoy

the Perry's delicious ice cream, assorted other food products and especially the store's popular selection of bulk candies.

In the retail milk business since 1963, Perrydell Farm was founded in 1922 by Howard Perry, whose sons George and Roger vertically integrated the dairy cow and crops enterprises into the on-farm juggling operation. Cousins Tom, Greg, Chip, and Jeff continued to grow and expand the business, with Jeff selling his share of the family partnership to Tom and Greg last year to pursue an off-farm career.

Greg's wife, Laurie, and Tom's wife, Donna, are both actively involved in the farm and retailing businesses. Tom and Chip handle most of the juggling and consumer sales, while Greg oversees the cattle and crops enterprises.

Perrydell's farm is located just south of York city, an area of the county which saw some of the first urban sprawl as York metropolitan area crept outward. Judicious farming practices and sensitivity to "neighbor" issues have allowed the Perry family to successfully maintain their 140-head Holstein herd and 320-acres of crop production while surrounded with urban growth. Customers — many now second-generation buyers of Perrydell products — prize the opportunity to purchase direct almost at their back door.

With a long history of involvement with agriculture extension and community outreach programs, the Perrydell operation is a frequent host to educational tours and events and support numerous 4-H activities like Ag-Science Camp and day camps,

various banquets and field days. The farm was one of the host sites for the 2000 Farm-City Tour conducted in October.

During the extension group's annual business meeting, four retiring board directors were cited for service. Retiring were Jerry Breeding, Scott Barr, Lourdis Dandignae and George Williams. A search is underway for a new county extension director for York, following current CED Roxanne Price's decision to step down from that administrative position to work more closely with programs.

A special presentation by "graduating" 4-H'er Heather Bankert featured a look at "the faces of 4-H." Heather has completed 11 years of participation in a wide range of 4-H programs and activities and is currently a freshman at Millersville University majoring in special education.

Featured speaker for the program was John Yocum, scientist-in-charge of the Southeast Agricultural Research and Extension Center of Penn State, Landisville, Lancaster County.

Yocum illustrated his informative summer discussion on the research center with slides showing some of the varied projects undertaken at the experimental crops farm. According to Yocum, research done at the Landisville center takes a different focus

than that done on crops at the State College facility because of a milder climate in the southeast corner of the state. The regions mildness and accompanying humidity generally create more disease problems than in colder, shorter-season regions.

Originally established as a tobacco research facility, the center tests varieties, fertilization, weed and pest control especially appropriate to Pennsylvania's southeast corner, where 50 percent of the state's corn crop and 60 percent of the state's soybean production are grown.

The "applied research" or research which can be directly applied by producers to their agronomy problems and needs, spans dozens of crops and hundreds of tests of some of the main commodities produced in the southeastern region. One of only two soybean test sites in the state, the center did testing on nearly 100 varieties of the oil crop this year, about half of that devoted to herbicide-resistant strains.

Some 30 to 50 alfalfa varieties are under study for forage growers and between 500 to 1,000 weed control plots studied annually test materials aimed at a range of crops. Along with extensive field crop studies, the center researches florals and ornamentals. About 700 different flowers under test provided a wealth of color through the growing season this past summer, and 70 to 80 varieties of flowering crabapple trees are planted in a long-term study of the popular landscaping species.

Yocum, who mans the Southeast Research Center with two technicians and some part-time summer assistants, noted with humor that "if there's no equipment to do what we need, we'll build something." With test plots generally planted and harvested on a very small scale, normalized farm equipment is difficult to adapt for use. Thus the center utilizes such things as a specialized combine machine with a three-foot cutting head, quite an improvement from earlier years when every plot was hand-harvested.

Additional information on the programs and research projects carried out at the Southeast Research Center may be obtained by contacting the Cooperative Extension Service.

Safety Group Names Kreher

To Executive Committee

GLENMONT, N.Y. — New York Farm Bureau Workers' Compensation Safety Group #486 announced that Brett Kreher, a long-time member of the group, was nominated to the Executive Committee as a temporary committee member.

Kreher will fill the position left vacant by the unfortunate passing of Ed Wright. Brett and his family run a poultry farm in Clarence.

"We are happy to have Brett on board," said Daniel Hooker, director of member services. "Kreher's Poultry Farm has been a member of the Safety Group since its inception in 1967. We are grateful for Brett's loyalty to the Safety Group and are sure that we will benefit from his experience."

The Safety Group's Executive Committee is responsible for overseeing all business activities of the group, determining dividend expenses and approving new classifications for the group.

The New York Farm Bureau Safety Group writes workers' compensation policies for nursery, sod, dairy, horse boarding and breeding operations, fruit, vegetable, berry, grape, poultry and greenhouse operations, in addition to feed manufacturing and retail grain and seed stores. Farm Bureau members needing workers' compensation insurance or those farmers not yet members of New York Farm Bureau can obtain more details by calling (800) 342-4143.

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