

Lancaster Farming

Vol. 46 No. 5

Four Sections

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, December 2, 2000

\$32.00 Per Year

60¢ Per Copy

From 'A Pocketful Of Dreams' To Their Own Herd

MICHELLE RANCK
Lancaster Farming Staff

LITITZ (Lancaster Co.) — "All we had was a pocketful of dreams and our education," said Marie Sipler. "We went to the bank and said, 'This is what we want to do.'"

In two-and-a-half years "we went from weekend farming to owning 50 cows to owning 100 cows," said Marie.

The couple was recently awarded the Young Farm and Rancher Achievement Award from the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau.

The couple received \$500 from Dodge truck, use of a tractor for a year from Kubota, and a trip to Orlando, Fla. to compete in national competition.

The Farm Bureau has been an important part of the Sipler's involvement with agriculture. Oscar is enthusiastic about his recent election to the Lancaster County Farm Bureau board of directors and getting younger farmers involved with the Farm Bureau.

"It's nice to have an organization recognize younger people for their achievement. We've been farming two and a half years and we've been recognized," said Oscar.

The couple, both 25, has been members of the Farm Bureau for two years and attended lead-

ership workshops sponsored by the organization.

During the recent Farm Bureau conference in Hershey, Marie was a finalist in the Young Farmers and Ranchers discussion meet. The four finalists displayed their communication skills and grasp of agriculture by presenting their ideas on agricultural topics.

The couple has also participated in the Young Dairy Leaders Institute (YDLI), sponsored by the Holstein Foundation. In addition Oscar and Marie are active members of the Brown Swiss Association.

Marie has been involved with the Brown Swiss Junior Association and judges several dairy shows a year in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New Jersey.

Expansion

The Sipler family, which includes daughter Josephine, 18 months, has been in transition much of the past two-and-a-half years.

"It's always been our ambition to farm," said Marie. "When we discussed expansion with our loan officer, he suggested the Zimmerman facility. It was a really fast transition. From the time we first came to check out (the Zimmerman

(Turn to Page A28)



Beginning a venture such as farming may be intimidating to many, but for Oscar and Marie Sipler the risk was worth taking. The couple, who began farming two-and-a-half years ago, was recently awarded the Young Farm and Rancher Achievement Award from the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. Photo by Michelle Ranck

Major New Farm Equipment Feature At Harrisburg Farm Show

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Editor

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — In what Farm Show officials are calling a "first" for the industry, a new farm equipment display will be featured at the 2001 Pennsylvania Farm Show. Sponsored by the major farm equipment manufacturers, the display will be in the center of the main exhibit hall in the Farm Show Complex with members of FFA chapters on hand each day to give presentations about each piece of equipment.

"I am pleased to announce that all of the major farm equip-

ment manufacturers will be represented at the 2001 Pennsylvania Farm Show," said Dennis Grumbine, executive director. "The Farm Show represents the best of Pennsylvania Agriculture, and serves as a true showcase of the state's largest industry as well as a place for farmers to purchase their agriculture needs. In addition, the general public gets to experience agriculture hands on."

"A committee of farm equipment dealers has been working on this new feature for the past 12 months and we think we have put together an exhibit that will feature the cutting edge of the high-

market products in the farm equipment industry," Grumbine said. "The exhibit is set squarely in the middle of our main exhibition area and we are pleased with what will be a first in Farm Show history."

In addition to regular exhibit space, the new special farm equipment display will feature farm machinery that is used for soil preparation, planting and seeding, grain harvesting, silage harvesting, tractors, and material handling.

FFA members will be on hand at the display to give presentations about the equipment and

help sales representatives answer questions about the featured equipment. The participating FFA chapters are West Snyder FFA, Newport FFA, Manheim Central FFA, Upper Dauphin FFA, Mifflinburg FFA, McConellsburg FFA, Solanco FFA, Dover Area FFA, Greenwood FFA, Middleburg FFA, and Cumberland Valley FFA. Presentations will begin at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. each day.

The machinery dealers who are participating in this special event are Binkley & Hurst Brothers Inc., Hooper Inc., M. M. Weaver & Sons, Triple H Farms,

Valley Ag & Turf, and Wenger's of Myerstown.

The Pennsylvania Farm Show will be held from January 6 to 11, 2001, with one of the largest indoor agricultural events in America. The Farm Show complex has 16 acres under roof, and more than \$300,000 in premiums will be offered this year to competitive exhibits in all types of farm livestock, youth, commodity and horticulture exhibits. More than 500,000 people usually attend the five-day annual event.

(See map on page A38)



Patricia and James Hostetter, McVeytown, accepted a farm-city award for co-hosting the Third Grade Ag tour. The Hostetters operate a dairy farm.



Raymond and Susan Bratton received a farm-city award for helping host the Third Grade Ag Tour. The Brattons operate a Charolais beef farm.

Mifflin Presents Farm-City Awards

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

- Two Mifflin County farm families received farm-city awards for hosting 480 third graders during the 2000 Third Grade Ag Tour, sponsored by the Mifflin County Farm Bureau. Raymond and Susan Bratton and James and Pat Hostetter, all of McVeytown, accepted their awards at the recent Farm-City Banquet with a few humorous comments.

"We received so many thank-you notes, I felt I needed to send them some," said Susan Bratton.

"We learned a lot from the third grade kids," replied her husband, Raymond Bratton.

"No one was there at his farm the day before the tour. The day of the tour, everyone rolled in and seemed to know what they were doing. It took a lot of effort on the part of panners, workshop leaders, and tour guides. It's a good program, and I hope it keeps going at someone else's farm!" James Hostetter said.

The relaxed ambiance continued as the crowd listened to featured speaker Dr. Darwin G.

(Turn to Page A31)