

Grower & Marketer

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Tomato Processor Honors Growers At Luncheon



BJ Farms, represented by Gregg and Frank Baitinger, right, receive an outstanding grower award from James Kohl, left, at the tomato luncheon.

ANDY ANDREWS
Editor

HERSHEY (Dauphin Co.) — A man who has saved the tomato processing industry "countless thousands of dollars," noted James Kohl, vice president of Furman Foods, was honored with a service award in early February.

Cyril Smith, professor emeritus of plant nutrition, was honored for 42 years of service by Kohl of Furman Foods.

The award was presented in front of about 50 growers and agri-industry representatives at the annual Pennsylvania and Maryland Tomato Awards Luncheon during the Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center.

Smith's band fertilizer placement was crucial in cost savings and improvement in nutrient use by the plant, now adopted widely

by the industry.

Smith's contributions "saved us a substantial amount of money in our cultural practices," Kohl noted.

The Master Grower Award for 2001 was presented to BJ Farms, Bridgetown, N.J., represented by Gregg and Frank Baitinger.

Kohl spoke about the recent acquisition by Furman of Tri-Valley Growers in California.

Furman Foods now owns all brand Tri-Valley labels, Kohl said. Tri-Valley processed about 800,000- 850,000 tons of tomatoes per year, compared to Furmans' 65,000 tons, but Furmans has plans in place to ensure continue production at similar scales.

"You have to move forward, or be left behind," said Kohl. "We expect to get better at (processing), and be bigger at it." This will enhance their total East Coast processing.

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Three Generations Part Of A Growing Business In Landisville

MICHELLE RANCK
Lancaster Farming Staff

LANDISVILLE (Lancaster Co.) — Urban sprawl, though a challenge to farmers, can also be an opportunity, as David and Lois Landis have discovered.

Warm summertime temperatures seem to stir local

residents' tastes for fresh produce from the farm, as customers forego their daily stop at the grocery store to purchase food grown on the acreage behind the roadside stand at Landisview Produce.

Consequently, the combination of availability of customers and their eagerness to

purchase the product has led to a full-time job for the Landis family.

David and Lois have four children — David, Sharon, Danny, and Darvin — plus eight grandchildren. Darvin, who lives on the home farm, helps with the cantaloupe, watermelon, and pumpkin

fields.

Landis' father, John S. Landis, 85, and mother, Anna, also still help at the stand.

Sweet corn, potatoes, tomatoes, peppers, green beans, egg plants, and zucchini are just a few of the varieties of produce sold at the Lan-

disview Produce stand. David Landis estimates that 90 percent of what is sold at the stand comes from the farm's fields.

Tomatoes, along with Silver King and Argent sweet corn, are the hottest sellers for Landis. "That's what

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Geraniums, Impatiens Fill Plots At 'Flowering' Research Center



LANDISVILLE (Lancaster Co.) — About 800 different flower varieties were on display in trials here last year at the Penn State Southeast Agricultural Research and Extension Center.

In this photo from mid-July, the two largest trials involved geraniums and impatiens at the entrance to the facility, according to John Yocum, research and extension center manager.

Yocum said the variety studies, on about an acre at the center,

have been under way close to 10 years, when "we stopped growing tobacco at the station," he said. Alan Michael, Penn State horticulture, is coordinating the trials.

Last week the center was busy transplanting new varieties in the greenhouse. Work last year looked at full sun and partial shade impatiens varieties and a wide variety of other flowers.

Photo by Andy Andrews, editor