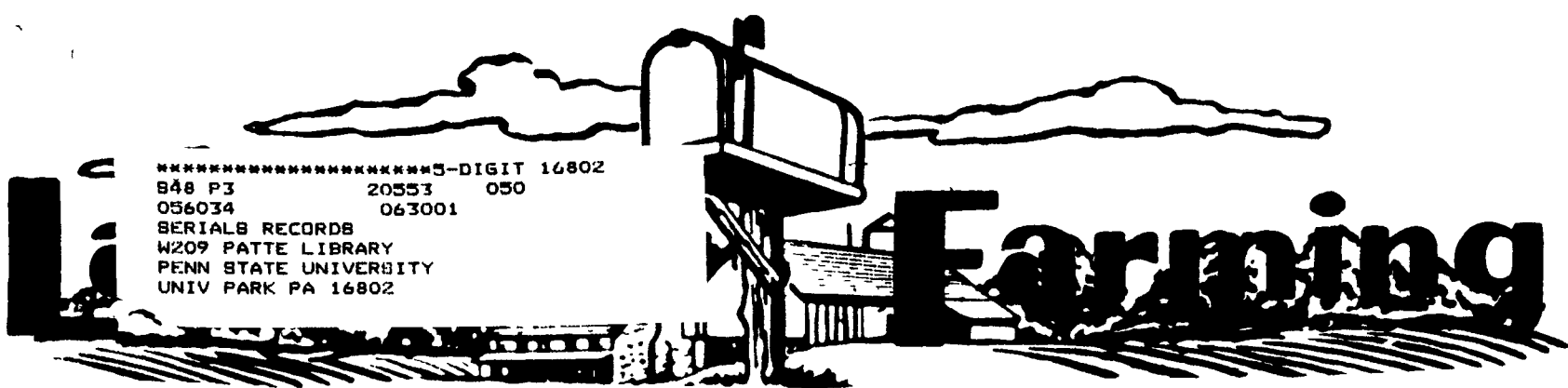


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Love Of Farming Guides Outstanding Farm Family

MICHELLE RANCK
Lancaster Farming Staff

TOPTON (Berks Co.) — Managing a family owned-and-operated dairy farm requires the cooperation of all members.

The Schantz family of Show Top Farms, Inc., knows well the value of cooperation and working together to managing the farm — an element essential to success on both the farm and the family's many activities.

The family will be honored at Reading Fair's 47th annual Outstanding Farm Family Awards Banquet Wednesday, July 25 at 7 p.m. at Virginville Grange Hall.

Farm chores are evenly divided between the Schantz family, David's family, and a full-time employee. "Everybody has their responsibilities," said Kathy. Although the children help with many aspects of the farm, mostly Megan helps take care of the cows while the boys, who enjoy driving the tractor, work in the field.

David, Kathy, and the children farm in partnership with David's parents, Burd and Joyce Schantz. The dairy phase of the farm began when Burd, at age 11, bought his first registered cow to put on the family's chicken farm. His son, David, was raised on the farm and worked there all of his adult life. After David met Kathy at a Grange dance and the couple married, they built a home near the farm.

The Schantz children are the third generation of dairy farmers and plan to continue the dairy farming heritage.

"We were brought up on it," explained Megan.

"We really like our cows," said Kathy, who, although her grandparents were farmers, did not grow up on a farm. "My boys are just like their dad — they like being outside, being in the field, working the ground."

The Schantz hope to expand their farm to support the three children who hope to stay connected to farming life in the future. Megan attends the vocational agriculture program at Kutztown High School to learn veterinary science, horticulture, and agriculture technology. "I want to stay on the farm, so that will help me get ag-related experience," said Megan.

"The kids all want to come back and help on the family business," said Kathy.

The new addition to the existing barn created a unique "L" shape. Each of the four people who are milking takes a section of the tiestall barn.

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David and Kathy Schantz and their three children will be awarded the 2001 Reading Fair Outstanding Farm Family distinction next Wednesday evening at the Reading Fair's Annual Banquet at the Virginville Grange. The family farms 505 acres and milk more than 160 registered Holsteins. With David and Kathy are children Nathan, 8, Matthew, 13, and Megan, 15. Photo by Michelle Ranck

From Eggs To Layers: Chicks Hatched In Elizabethtown

MICHELLE RANCK
Lancaster Farming Staff

ELIZABETHTOWN (Lancaster Co.) — The egg is back.

After a decline in demand in the '80s, recent studies which shed more light on cholesterol increased consumer confidence and demand.

Two major hatcheries, Hy-Line International, a layer hatchery, and Longenecker Hatchery, are located here in Lancaster County. Each facility fulfills a different market in the chicken industry.

According to Bob Kreider, regional manager of Hy-Line International, "egg demand has increased after an all-time low in the '80s because of the cholesterol issue," he said. Recent studies by the egg nutrition center and private studies that show no relation between dietary cholesterol and blood level cholesterol.

On the production end, Iowa is first in layer numbers, followed by Ohio, California, and Pennsylvania, said Kreider. "Pennsylvania has always, since records have been kept, been in the top five as an egg-producing state," he said.

The company was founded in 1936 by Henry Wallace, Iowa, who also started Pioneer Seed

Company.

The Elizabethtown facility, one of seven of the company's locations, has a ready market. Approximately 44 million layers are found in Pennsylvania, New York, and parts of Canada, the area serviced by Hy-Line's Elizabethtown branch. The facility has an annual pullet chick ca-

capacity of 20 million and markets three strains of chickens that produce varying sizes of eggs or a brown egg.

The company is also in the fertilized egg business, as they incubate the eggs for 10 days for laboratories which need the eggs for the human influenza vac-

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Bob Kreider, regional manager of Hy-Line International, checks the quality of the eggs from the farm. Photo by Michelle Ranck



Doyle Paul, left, accepts award for 36 years of outstanding service as an agriculture teacher at Berlin Brothersvalley High School in Somerset County. Presenting the plaque is LeRoy Dreibelbis, president of the Pennsylvania Association of Agricultural Educators.

Teachers, Young Farmers Gather To Learn

DAVE LEFEVER

Lancaster Farming Staff
STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — Through 36 years of teaching agriculture to Pennsylvania high school students, Doyle Paul has seen some major changes — both in agriculture and in the educational system.

In the early years of his career, most of Paul's students at Berlin Brothersvalley High School in Somerset County

came from working farms. The students "could actually take the information (learned in class) and use it right away," he said.

Today only about half of the students in his ag classes are from farms — in a distinctly rural school district. Paul said that teachers now must offer "a meaningful ag experience" to diverse students who might choose from a wide range of ag-

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