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# Lancaster Farming

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## Dairy Family Demonstrates Five-Star Care For Cows, Environment

DAVE LEFEVER

Lancaster Farming Staff

KEYMAR, Md. — The Martz family of Winterspring Farm believes that keeping cows comfortable pays off in the long run.

With the average productive lifespan of the Martzes' Holsteins at about 10 years and with the oldest cow in the herd still producing at 17 years, that philosophy seems to be working.

The current high cost of replacement dairy stock makes longevity even more profitable, according to Jamie Martz, who partners with his parents Kermit "Bill" and Sandy Martz and younger brother Dane in running the operation.

The family keeps a total of about 250 dairy animals on the 188-acre farm. They milk about 130 cows and grow much of their own feed on 500 acres, including rented land.

The Martz's keen attention to animal health, cleanliness, and the environment has earned them a Five-Star Stewards of the Land recognition from the Dairy Quality Assurance (DQA) Center, a national dairy monitoring organization with headquarters in Iowa.

In place since 1990, DQA has independently reviewed nearly 20,000 dairy operations nationwide. The recently started Five-Star program has chosen only a select few dairies as Five-Star operations, according to Colette Johnston of the DQA Center.

"These are dairies that have taken the initiative to be the best they can be," Johnston said.

The DQA review includes evaluating milk safety and quality, animal care, environmental stewardship — including nutrient management — and the

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The Martz family of Winterspring Farm. From left, Jamie, Dane, Bill, and Sandy, with dog Lizzie. Their dairy operation was recently honored with a Five-Star designation by

the Milk and Dairy Beef Quality Assurance Center for the Martz's commitment to animal care and stewardship of the land. Photo by Dave Lefever

## Walker Selected Granger Of The Year At Convention

GAIL STROCK

Mifflin Co. Correspondent

ALTOONA (Blair Co.) —

What does it take to be selected Granger of the Year by the Pennsylvania State Grange?

How about signing up new members on your wedding day!

Ruth Walker, this year's recipient, has been a dedicated Grange member for the past 67 years and secretary for 35 years and, according to a friend, she even took in new members at an evening meeting the day she married.

Walker, of Buffalo Grange in Washington County, accepted the award in front of more than 600 fellow Grangers at the Jaffa Mosque in Altoona this past Monday evening during the 129th annual Pennsylvania State Grange Convention banquet.

"This is very unexpected, and I've enjoyed every moment (being a Grange member),"

Walker said. Later, when asked what she wanted to tell others about the Grange, she said, "The young people should be in-

cluded. We need people of all ages. There are so many people (in the Grange) you can look up

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## More Than 300 Support Poultry Association Banquet

LOU ANN GOOD

Food And Family

Features Editor

WILLOW STREET (Lancaster Co.) — Newly-elected Lancaster County Poultry Association president Andy Bradford believes that no other county supports the poultry industry like Lancaster.

"If it wasn't for you, we couldn't educate the public and support producers like we do," Bradford said at the association's annual banquet, attended by 317, at Willow Valley Con-

vention Center Monday evening.

Bradford said the poultry association is the only ag organization that provides an annual dinner for family and consumer science teachers in the tri-county area. The purpose is to provide the latest scientific findings on poultry and eggs and encourage teachers to share the information with students. This has proven an effective educational and public relations tool

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Lancaster County Poultry Ambassador Rebecca Highley, right, her mother Patty, left, and sister Rachel discuss how a non-farming background did not keep Rebecca from immersing herself in ag-related activities. Turn to page B12 for more about Rebecca, a member of the Pennsylvania FFA Poultry Judging Team competing for the national title this week in Louisville, Ky. Photo by Lou Ann Good

### It's Time To 'Fall Back'

With the arrival of fall comes Eastern Standard Time, providing fewer hours of daylight for farmers.

It's time to "fall back" to Eastern Standard Time, which begins tomorrow. We "fall back" one hour at 2 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 28.

So turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed tonight. Remember, animal feeding and milking schedules need to be adjusted accordingly.

### Office Closed Thanksgiving Day

Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 22, Lancaster Farming office is closed. The office will reopen Friday, Nov. 23.

For the Nov. 24 issue, there are some deadline changes:

Public Sale and Mailbox ads, 5 p.m., Friday, Nov. 16.

Classified, Section D ads — 3 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 20.

Classified, Section C, Farm Equipment ads, 9 a.m., Wednesday, Nov. 21.

General News — noon, Wednesday, Nov. 21.