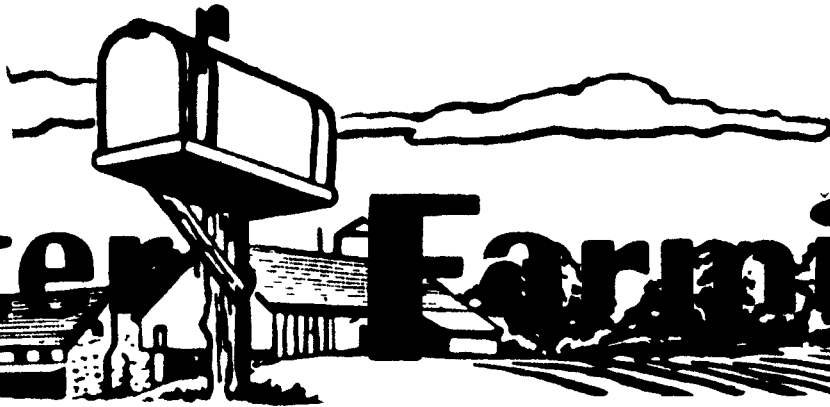


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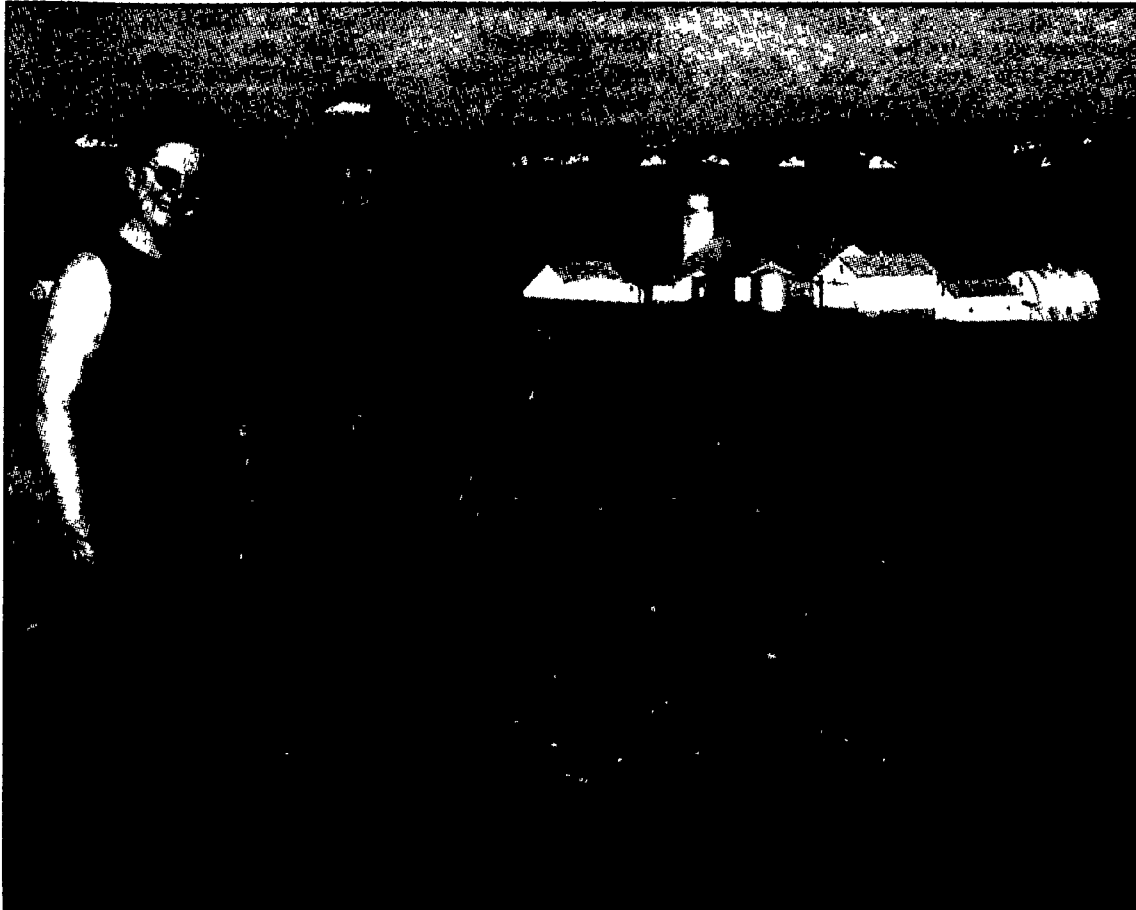
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Lancaster Farming



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Berks County To Celebrate Farmland Preservation Efforts



Mark and Nancy Wolfskill built a progressive dairy facility on this farm with the help of preservation funds. The Wolfskills have sold development rights on about 400 acres of land north of Robesonia. Their farm will host a field day June 7 celebrating 25,000 acres of farmland preserved in Berks County. Photo by Dave Lefever

DAVE LEFEVER
Lancaster Farming Staff
ROBESONIA (Berks Co.) — Longtime farmers Mark and Nancy Wolfskill have a thriving

gram, a move that has helped them expand and update their operation. They will host a field day on their farm June 7 celebrating a county milestone of

operation to pass on to their son David and his family.

A dairy setup completed in January of 2000 includes a double-12 parallel milking parlor and a freestall barn with manure storage underneath the slatted floor. With the help of several hired persons, the Wolfskills milk 230 Holsteins, finish upward to 250 beef cattle each year, and grow most of the crops that feed and bed the livestock.

According to Mark Wolfskill, the decision to preserve land has helped ensure the family a future and a livelihood in agriculture.

Funds from preserving two of the family's farms went toward the purchase of another neighboring farm four years ago and toward the dairy facility they built on it.

25,000 acres preserved — a number that is rapidly growing.

The county ranks second in the state and 11th in the country in number of acres preserved, according to program directors Susanne Sharadin and Tammy Hildebrand. Since the 25,000-acre mark was reached last winter, six more farms have been preserved in the county, totalling 27,208 acres on 219 farms preserved since 1990.

Sharadin said the program got a big boost in 1999 when the Berks County commissioners decided to take out a \$30 mil-

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Poultry Farming Is Best Job Of All, Says Bartho Family

LOU ANN GOOD
Food And Family Features Editor

"This is the best!" Sharon said when comparing farm and non-farming jobs the couple have experienced.

"You aren't tied down as much as milking cows required, and it's cleaner than hogs," Bartho said.

"It's clean. You don't need to trample through pigs or neuter them," Sharon said.

But the best thing, the couple

reiterates, is that they can work together as a family.

"What other job offers the opportunity and flexibility to work together as a family at home?" she asks.

"We are probably the only chicken house with a playroom," Sharon said. The fully enclosed room is decorated like a family room, complete with sofa, television, and video recorder.

The Barthos said the playroom was a requirement, and one that required reviewing many plans to figure out how it could best fit into the operation.

The room has a large window facing the packing area so that

Sharon can see at a glance what the children are doing.

"If they need supervision, I can shut down the lines and go into the playroom," Sharon said.

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Applications Of GIS Focus Of Conference

MICHELLE KUNJAPPU
Lancaster Farming Staff

and Convention Center this week.

The two-day conference, sponsored by Penn State Harrisburg, featured sessions addressing environmental GIS issues, public safety GIS issues, and new trends in GIS.

Sherrill Davison, associate pro-

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Producers Highlight Dairy Issue

Lancaster Farming plans its annual festive Dairy Month issue June 1. The issue will be packed with dairy farm features from around the region. Scheduled to appear: Bedford County dairy expansion plans, a family-operated creamery in the Shenandoah Valley, a dairy goat feature, York County dairy family feature, distinguished Jersey breeders, dairy princess feature, and a young couple feature from Mifflin County. Also scheduled will be dairy recipes and columns of interest to the dairy producer.



Bill and Sharon Bartho with Sarah, 3, and Nicholas, 5, are thrilled with the opportunity to work together in their new poultry layer operation.

Photo by Lou Ann Good, food and family features editor

MEMORIAL Day

May 27