

# York Farm Families Honored

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the Loganville area to begin fruit farming after his employment site closed down.

Business at the family's small road-side stand had grown well beyond capacity by the 1980s. Sixteen years ago, Stan and Nona relocated the retailing site a few hundred yards south of the original location along the Old Susquehanna Trail and built a new market, including a bakery. Expansion has continued several times since, with additions including a greenhouse and picnic pavilion overlooking the orchard. With 125 full and part-time employees on staff, Browns' Orchard and Retail Market has become a York County tradition for customers from the surrounding region and south into Maryland.

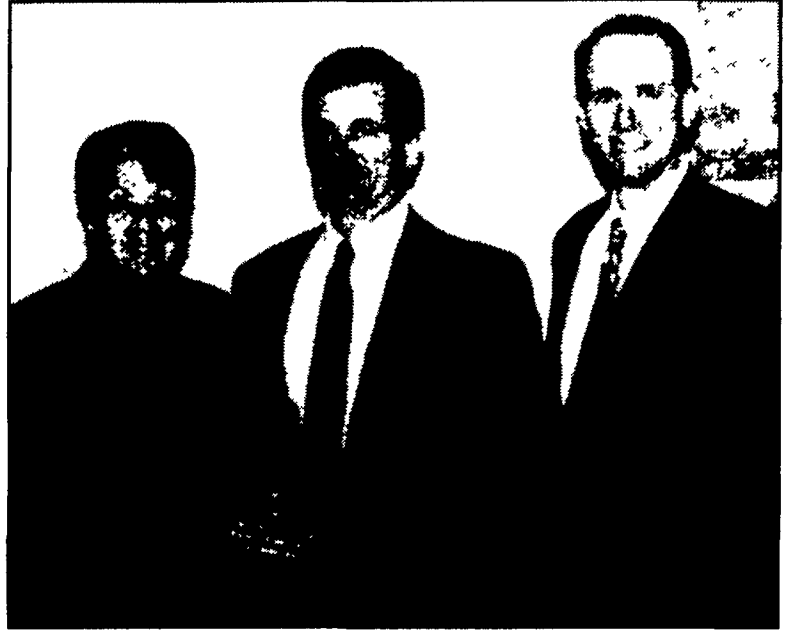
Partnering with his parents is son Scott Brown, who oversees the orchard and field production segment of the farm, and his wife, Brenda, who manages the office and staff administration. Their children, Mandy, a college elementary-education major, and 15-year-old Travis, both assist part-time at the market as the fourth-generation of Brown's orchardists and retailers.

A number of award-winners were honored during the banquet, including the presentation of a Century Farm award to Dean and Loris Crone, for their Dover area farm. Four families were recognized for opening their operations for public tour on the annual Farm Visitation Day. Visitation Day hosts included the West Wind Bison Farm, operated

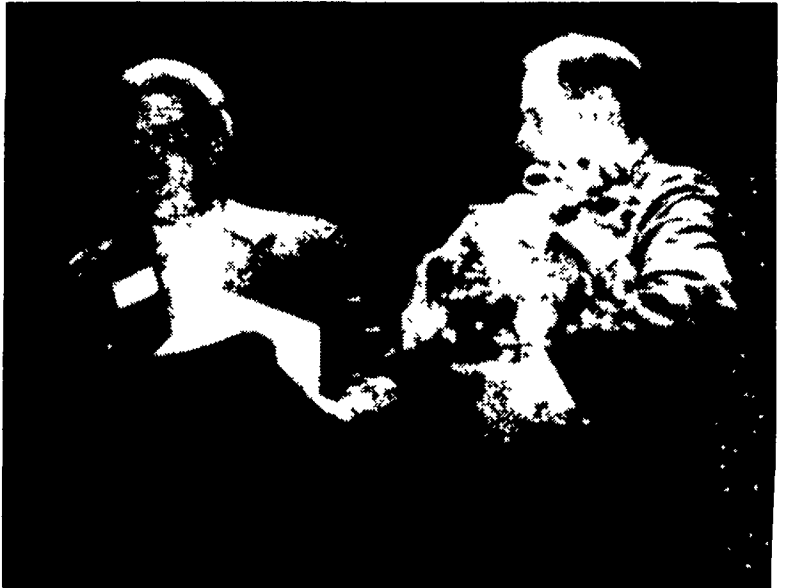
by the J.C. Hale family, the Backcross Chestnut Tree Farm of Robert and Ann Leffel, the Heindel family's Brown Cow market and Hope Acres dairy farm, and Allegro Winery and Vineyard, operated by Carl Helrich and Kris Miller.

One team participated during 2002 in the Chamber's tradition of role-exchange between agriculture producers and business representatives. Scott Brown of Browns' Orchards and Farm Market traded work days with Georgianna Schreck, representing the York County Chamber of Commerce.

Featured during the program was Keith Matheny, a "mentalist," who entertained with an array of mental and memory gymnastics.



Joyce and Rodney Smyser accepted congratulations from former Secretary of Agriculture Sam Hayes. The Smyser's dairy and crops family partnership was honored as the York Chamber of Commerce' farm family of the year.



In one of his final official appearances, former Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Sam Hayes accepted a York County fruit basket from Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Mike Waugh. Sen. Waugh operates a York County farm and raises draft horses in addition to his legislative responsibilities.

## Ornamental Germplasm Center Site Of Floriculture Forum

COLUMBUS, Ohio—The Ohio State University Ornamental Plant Germplasm Center (OPGC) will host the 2003 National Floriculture Forum, an annual event highlighting research, education and collaborative efforts within the floriculture industry.

The three-day forum, an activity of the American Society for Horticultural Science Floriculture, Floriculture Education Working Groups and the Ornamental Plant Breeding Group, will be conducted Feb. 21-23 in Columbus, Ohio. Registration is \$50.

The event is sponsored by the American Floral Endowment, along with Acme Engineering and Manufacturing, Argus, Cryo Canada, H.E. Anderson Company, Ludy Greenhouses Manufacturing Corporation, PL Lights Systems, The Scotts Company, and Wadsworth Control Systems.

David Tay, director of OPGC, said the forum is geared towards researchers, educators and industry professionals and is designed to address floriculture issues, form collaborative working relationships and share educational and research experiences.

"One of the objectives of the forum is to encourage collaboration between the USDA, universities, and professionals in the floriculture industry and botanic gardens," said Tay. "There is also a focus on germplasm conservation, plant breeding, research and teaching."

Tay said that the OPGC site for the forum provides a unique

opportunity for researchers, students and industry professionals to be introduced in the Center and its role in ornamental plant germplasm conservation and utilization.

The Center, a cooperative effort between Ohio State and the USDA's Agricultural Research Service, was developed to save, assess, and promote the use of herbaceous ornamental plant germplasm. It is the first such undertaking in the world.

"At this stage of the Center's development, it is timely to have an open forum with strong representation from universities, industries, public research agencies, botanical gardens and arboreta to discuss and contribute to the organization and formulation of a most appropriate implementation plan," said Tay. "The aim is to make OPGC into a truly national program."

The three-day event will include speakers from the USDA and the floriculture industry on such topics as funding, industry trends, information on germplasm breeding and floriculture programs and the role of botanic gardens in the floriculture industry. The conference will also include a tour of The Scotts Company, OPGC, and Ohio State greenhouses.

For more information on the 2003 National Floriculture Forum, contact David Tay at (614) 292-3708, or e-mail tay.9@osu.edu, or log on to http://hcs.osu.edu/opgc.

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