

Cattlemen's Association

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the Dillsburg Farmer's Fair.

Masonic Homes, a continuing care retirement community situated on 1,400 acres in Elizabethtown, Lancaster County, was named Seed Stock Breeder of the Year.

Frank Stoltzfus manages the farm, which includes a notable purebred Shorthorn seed stock operation. Stoltzfus has been working with the herd since the mid 1980s. Through selective use of AI and an embryo transfer program, the herd has expanded to about 150 cows. Offspring are marketed through several sales and beef expositions.

Goals of the Masonic Homes Shorthorn enterprise include continuing to expand Shorthorn genetic availability and increase grassland use on the farm.

Ed and Mike Buckwalter of Lancaster County were recipients of this year's Cattle Feeder Award.

Cattle feeding is a long tradition in the Buckwalter family. Joe Buckwalter, Ed and Mike's father, has been buying and selling steers for more than 50 years. Brothers Ed and Mike joined the farm operation in 1977. Over the years, they have expanded and modernized the feeding operation by renovating barns and adding silos and stationary mixers.

The Buckwalters feed and sell about 1,200 finished head of cattle a year from operations in the Litzitz, Marietta, and Salunga areas. Their feeding program generates average weight gains of 2.7 pounds per animal per day. Most of the cattle are sold directly to a packer, and some are con-

tracted. The Buckwalters also direct-market halves and quarters to individuals.

Bob and Kate Boyce of Lil' Ponderosa Angus, Carlisle, received the Environmental Stewardship Award.

Over the past 17 years, the Boyces have developed a highly productive, environmentally sound, intensive grazing operation on the farm. Bob has implemented a soil improvement program to preserve and develop topsoil, and worked with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to install stream bank fencing and crossings and build buffer strips and fence to keep cattle off steep slopes and out of waterways.

The Boyces have also erected a dry manure storage and winter feed station. They use a no-till drill developed in New Zealand to establish and renovate pastures.

Kristy Dietrich, Hamburg; Kyle Hershey, Mountville; and Emilie Miller, Womelsdorf, were awarded PCA scholarships at the banquet.

The three youth, all high school seniors, have demonstrated exemplary commitment to agriculture and the beef industry, as well as scholarly excellence.

Dietrich and Miller are both students at Tulpehocken High School in Berks County. Hershey attends Lancaster Mennonite High School.

Dietrich and Hershey plan to pursue degrees in animal science at Penn State. Miller will attend Kansas State University, also to study animal science.



New Farmers, New Generation

Marion Bowlan

Pennsylvania Farm Link

The Life Cycle of a Farm
Even though "old man winter" has been reluctant to release his icy grasp, spring is showing its face on the horizon with the progressively greener shades on our landscape.

Before we know it, that time of year will be upon us when we will have more to do than we can possibly accomplish. Each new day will sprout new plants or animals to tend, and new smells and textures to awaken our senses. Perhaps, in spite of ourselves, hope will spring eternal that this year will be a good one. Everyone knows we need it.

Just as each year we begin anew with the seasons, a family farm goes through a business or life cycle that is constantly changing but predictable. Each farm goes through certain definable stages with different styles of leadership and management needed at different stages as the business grows. Not every stage progresses smoothly often there are major setbacks or sudden leaps forward. No two farms or farm families are alike.

Birth of the farm business. In the beginning of a new farm venture, the entrepreneur is filled with vision and dedication for what lies ahead. Even though many new farm businesses fail, enthusiasm and initiative abound. Hard work and perseverance abound. New relationships with family and business partners are started — new ventures are taken on and too much is going on to work out many of the details. Family members are expected to help. Survival is the

utmost concern.

Growth and development. As the farm business grows, new responsibilities and opportunities appear on the horizon. In the early years, it may have been good enough to make decisions "by the seat of your pants," but now decisions need to be made that will affect the farm's future ability to change and grow. The owner may no longer be able to make all the decisions and growth may necessitate delegating or sharing responsibility with others. Family members may be reluctant to "pitch in" if they can't share in the profits and decision-making. New employees may be hired and need to be schooled in the values and ways of your farm's operation. Identification of those who possess leadership abilities needs to be identified for the future of the operation.

Maturation. At this point, the business has grown and is stabi-

lized. The next generation is old enough to participate fully in the operation and the question of long-term viability surfaces. Will the farm stay in the family? Is there a successor willing and able to take over? Is the older generation ready to turn over the responsibility and the authority to handle the operation? Coincidentally, this stage usually occurs when the farm reaches its height in productivity, making it the best time to consider transition to the next generation.

Decline or renewal. Change is constant and cannot be avoided. Any farm business that refuses to change will erode and degenerate. At this point the older generation is tired and reluctant to take on many changes — renewal through the next generation is needed. If there is no one in the family willing or able to take on management, then the farm may pass to outside ownership and/or management. If the next generation (whether heirs or unrelated parties) is not enticed to begin anew, the farm business will most likely wither and die.

As you begin a new cycle in this year's growing season, consider the stages of growth on your farm and what you can do to contribute to that ongoing process. For more information on getting started or transferring your farm to the next generation, contact Pennsylvania Farm Link at (717) 664-7077 or e-mail us at pafarmlink.net.

Pa. Milk Production For February

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Milk production in Pennsylvania during February 2003 totaled 841 million pounds, 1.2 percent below last February's production of 851 million pounds, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service (PASS). The number of milk cows in the state during the month averaged 588,000 head, down 2,000 from January but 5,000 more than February 2002.

Production per cow averaged 1,430 pounds in February, 110 pounds less than January's production per cow of 1,540 pounds and 30 pounds less than February 2002.

Milk production in the 20 states surveyed during February 2003 totaled 11.6 billion pounds, up 1.7 percent compared to production in these same states during February 2002. January revised production, at 12.5 billion

pounds, was up 1.8 percent from January 2002. The January revision represented an increase of 1 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major states averaged 1,485 pounds for February, 13 pounds above February 2002.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major states was 7.81 million head, 66,000 head more than February 2002 but 3,000 head more than January 2003.

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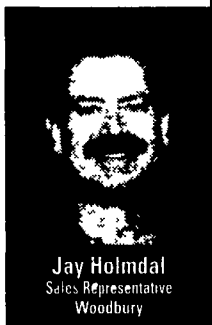
There never seems to be enough time each spring to apply fertilizer and crop protection products, and plant corn or soybeans as well. So anything that will reduce trips across the field can keep tasks on time and help make the difference between average and outstanding yields.

That's why you should consider partnering your grass and broadleaf herbicides in one timely preemergence or preplant tank-mix application.

Hornet® WDG herbicide is the perfect addition with any of today's leading soil-applied herbicides. Whereas most soil-applied grass herbicides control grasses and small-seeded broadleaf weeds like waterhemp, pigweed and lambsquarters, Hornet WDG also takes out large-seeded broadleaf weeds like common and giant ragweed, velvetleaf, cocklebur, marehail and sunflower.

In fact, Hornet WDG is the perfect partner with any of Dow AgroSciences' acetochlor products — Surpass®, TopNorth®, FullTime® or new Keystone® and Keystone LA herbicides. Acetochlor is the top active ingredient for soil-applied control of both grass and broadleaf weeds. In most Midwestern university trials it gets higher weed control ratings than products with the active ingredient metolachlor — Dual II Magnum or Bicep II Magnum — for control of many broadleaf weeds.

To learn more about turning your soil-applied herbicide application into a one-pass program by adding Hornet WDG with your grass herbicide, contact your local ag retailer.

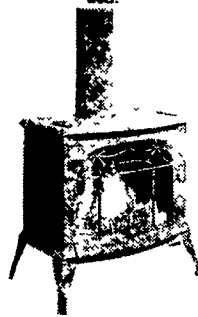


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