

Monsours Receive Loan

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Jack also breeds and sells his well bred and trained dogs.

Guests might watch sheep shearing. One lady who loved sheep got to bottle feed a lamb.

Those visiting the Monsour farm might also go biking or bird watching, cross-country skiing, or shoot clay pigeons.

"Each group is different," Kathy said. "Some like to visit the surrounding areas, some like to meander the streets of Bedford, and still others enjoy staying on the farm."

Kathy said, "A lot of people come for family reunions." Since Bedford is centrally located, it is easy for those traveling from various parts of the state can meet at the Monsour farm.

The land easily dates back to pre-Revolutionary times. There is a pre-Revolutionary cemetery on the farm that has attracted at least one guest who is doing her genealogy and will arrive from Arizona later in the summer.

Guests at the vacation home come from both the city and country. Fall Foliage is always booked solid. Fishermen like the nearby streams. Skiers love Blue Knob in the winter.

No matter who arrives, they will be met with something homebaked. "Sometimes it's an apple pie and sometimes it's a birthday or anniversary cake," Kathy said. "We try to make everyone's occasion special."

The Rendell loan will allow the Monsours to both purchase more lambs and also the adjoining farm which will give them a total of 520 picturesque acres.

"Vacation homes seem to be in growing demand," Kathy said.

Part of the loan will be used to finish the "Shepherd's View" apartment, a second story chalet that will sleep six comfortable and located on the present farm. A large deck will offer a spectacular view of the rolling pastures and Evitt's Mountain. It will be heated in winter and cooled in summer.

The additional farm includes a farm house, which is a five bedroom country estate suitable for a large reunion of 15. The home features a wrap-around porch, fireplace, a spacious kitchen, and a game room. Guests can fish in their own private farm or picnic in an indoor pavilion.

Kathy has designs on a out building located on the property. She wants to turn it into a playhouse for children.

The fourth home will be for those who enjoy "roughing it" a bit. A primitive one-room cabin sits atop the highest peak on the farm and offers an amazing view of the Allegheny Mountains.

Reminiscent of days of old, the cabin features an antique stove, outdoor fire pit, and great front porch and sleeps four.

The cabin could be rented in conjunction with one of the other vacation homes.

None of the homes allow pets or smoking.

Jack said their sheep farming is practical and all-natural pastoral agriculture.

He utilizes a rotational/free range grazing system which enables him to raise lamb and wool on lush, indigenous, bio-diverse clover and grass pastures without the use of antibiotics, growth hormones, herbicides, pesticides, or genetically altered feeds.

"We're excited about everything," Jack said. "We figure it will either keep us young or make us old."

They are happy to have the expertise of their communications major son, Jackson. Burt is more animal-oriented and enjoys working with the sheep.

All sheep marketing is done through a broker except for lamb meat, which is sold straight from the farm.

The Monsours can be reached at monsour@bedford.net, have a Website at bedfordcounty.net/monsour, or by phone at (814) 623-8243.



Jack and Kathy Monsour outside their first vacation home.



Jack Monsour at the primitive cabin which will be for rent soon.

PFB Testifies For Higher Milk Premiums

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — With dairy farmers facing the worst economic situation in more than 20 years, the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau has urged the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board (PMMB) to adopt an over-order price for dairymen of at least a \$1.65 per hundredweight (cwt.) of milk for the remainder

of 2003.

Farm Bureau Dairy Specialist Joel Rotz testified on behalf of the organization at a PMMB hearing on the over-order price held in Harrisburg today.

"In the absence of a mandated over-order premium, current federal order prices and projections of lower-than-average price levels

for the last half of this year will cause the average Pennsylvania dairy producer to receive milk prices below levels needed to meet costs of production and provide a reasonable profit," Rotz said. "At a time when both cow numbers and production are in decline in the state, the (Milk Marketing) Board must do what

it can to bring price relief to all producers servicing the Pennsylvania market."

The current over-order premium, paid to producers of Class I (fluid) milk produced, processed and sold within Pennsylvania's boundaries, is scheduled to end June 30.

"While national milk production continues to grow, Pennsylvania production continues to falter," Rotz said. "We are wit-

nessing Pennsylvania's dairy industry losing its national market share to other regions of the country. It threatens the entire agriculture infrastructure in the state. We must do everything feasible to provide producers with the best possible price that market conditions will allow in keeping the dairy industry viable in Pennsylvania."

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