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Lancaster Farming

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Berks Outstanding Farm Family Seeks To 'Keep It Simple'

MICHELLE KUNJAPPU
Lancaster Farming Staff

BETHEL (Berks Co.) — "We try to keep it simple. Our main priority is making a living and raising these guys. I like being here when they get off the school bus," said Larry Grumbine, dairy farm operator.

Grumbine, along with his wife, Denise, and children Brandon, 10, James, 6, and Natalie, 1, winners of this year's Outstanding Farm Family designation from the Reading Fair Board, will be recognized at an upcoming banquet.

Although she did not grow up on a farm, "I wouldn't trade it," said Denise. "I would have a hard time moving back. It makes me feel good that we're putting in the hard work and selling it to consumers. It makes me proud that we did it ourselves," she said.

The family will be honored at Reading Fair's annual Outstanding Farm Family Awards Night



Larry and Denise Grumbine, with children Brandon, 10, James, 6, and Natalie, 1, are Reading Fair's Outstanding Farm Family. Photo by Michelle Kunjappu

Banquet Wednesday, July 23 at 7 p.m. at Virginville Grange Hall. In addition, two outstanding 4-H'ers and two FFA members will be honored during the evening.

The Outstanding Farm Family Award is given based on a point system. The family's level of Grange involvement, farm management, community, school involvement, and hobbies, sports, and recreation contribute to the points they receive for the award.

A Holstein Herd
The dairy consists of 60 cows and 45 calves and heifers.

The Grumbines raise the heifer calves until they are six months old, then send them off to be raised until they are ready to freshen. They provide the feed for the animals, then pay for labor, said Larry.

The DHIA rolling herd average is about 24,000 pounds of milk, 851 pounds of butterfat, and 745 pounds of protein.

The couple has worked on the farm since 1991, when Larry's fa-

(Turn to Page A19)

Dairy Farmers To Boost Cull Cow Value By Assuring Beef Quality

DAVE LEFEVER
Lancaster Farming Staff

LOYSVILLE (Perry Co.) — More than half the beef from dairy cull cows goes for whole meat cuts — not just hamburger — according to organizers of a new dairy beef quality program in Pennsylvania.

That means dairy farmers need to be paying a lot of attention to the quality of the beef they're putting on the market.

By collectively using good medical injection techniques in particular, dairy farmers may come to gain about \$70 more profit on each cull cow, according to Paul Slayton, director of the Pennsylvania Beef Council (PBC).

"What we're really working on is to add value to your cull cows," Slayton said at the first-ever Dairy Beef Quality Assurance (DBQA) meeting, on the dairy

farm of Duane and June Hertzler near Loysville, Perry County.

The pilot program is a cooperative effort between the PBC, the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF), and Penn State. Leaders on hand for the meeting included Slayton; John Adams,

NMPF director of animal health and farm services; Larry Hutchison, Kim Nelen, and others from Penn State's Department of Veterinary Science; and Dave Swartz, Perry County extension

(Turn to Page A33)

Inside The Farmer

- ✓ Lancaster Dairy Shows page A22.
- ✓ Meat Goat Test Begins page A32.
- ✓ Inside Scoop On Ice Cream page B21.



Ag Spokesperson Phoebe Bitler isn't merely a "talking head." Her extensive involvement in agricultural organizations complements her everyday farming involvement with husband David, right, and son Jesse. Turn to page B2 to read about her ag spokesperson's appointment and the Bitlers' diversified Vista Grande Farm in Berks County. Photo by Lou Ann Good, food and family features editor



State FFA officers relax after a hard day of delivering water by cart to about 239 golfers at the Hatfield Fore FFA tournament Monday. In driver's seat is FFA President Eric Rubenstein, Danville FFA. Next to him seated is Amy Kaucher, south central region vice president. Standing, from left, Brian Oberholtzer, eastern region vice president; Melissa Sankey, north central region vice president; Becky Hedges, western region vice president; Bernadette Nace, reporter; Laura Grove, sentinel; Amber Frank, vice president; Jason Klouser, chaplain; Eric Chamberlin, treasurer; and Heather Sisto, secretary. See story page A20. Photo by Andy Andrews, editor