

Berks County Outstanding Farm Family

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ther purchased the farm. In 1993 the Grumbines purchased the operation from his father, which gave them 130 acres (90 tillable). They also rent 45 tillable additional acres.

Corn and alfalfa are the mainstay of the farm's crops. However they also grow barley and soybeans.

Son Brandon is already helping on the farm with chores such as unloading and stacking straw or helping feed the calves and heifers.

The family is busy off of the farm, also. Denise works one day a week at a local newspaper doing display advertising, besides feeding the cows and calves or making runs for machine parts or cattle medicine. She also run the silos for feeding.

The couple met through a friend that began taking Denise to Grange activities. They are both members of Marion Grange #N1853. Larry is a 25-year member. Denise helps out with the junior grange, which their sons are members of.

Denise, from the West Wyomissing area, has adjusted happily to life on the farm. "I married into it," she said. "I had to learn everything, and I'm still learning. It took me a while to get used to getting messy, but now it doesn't bother me anymore." She also helps with the milking as necessary.

Larry, on the other hand, grew up on a dairy farm. After his father sold the herd and began renting out the farm, he later began working on a dairy farm. After five years of experience on this farm, he and his brother, Craig, formed a partnership on the home farm in nearby Rehrsburg.

After five years of that partnership, Larry went out on his own in 1989 by renting a farm,

then by purchasing the current farm in the summer of 1991.

As he and Denise planned a fall wedding, they also worked on the house — painting and putting in heat, new windows, and paneling — besides building a new section of the barn.

Small, Profitable

Rather than expansion, Larry is looking more toward making the farm more streamlined and keeping it a family operation.

"We're satisfied being small but we also want to be profitable," he said.

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Brandon plans to exhibit "Cupcake" at the upcoming Reading Fair.



"Ruby" is the universal name that James affixes to the farm's red Holsteins.

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Corwin Holtz, Director of Technical Support at
CPG Nutrients, Syracuse, NY.

Hosted by: Tony Hall, Senior TMR Specialist, Keenan USA.

Time of event: 11:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Venues and dates in July:

Monday, July 21st: Hosted by Binkley & Hurst Bros., Inc., Lititz, PA, 717-626-4705. Held at the Lititz Family Cupboard Restaurant.

Tuesday, July 22nd: Hosted by B Equip., Inc., Waynesboro, PA, 717-762-3193. Held at the Quincy Community Center on Route 997 in Quincy, PA.

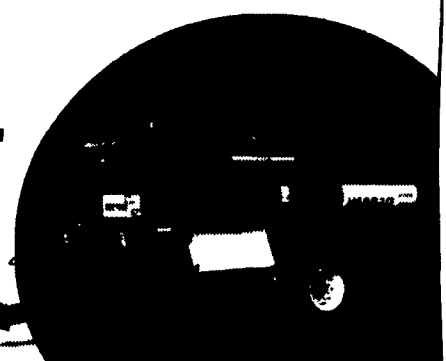
Thursday, July 24th: Hosted by Monroe Tractor, Auburn, NY, 315-258-0122. Held at Monroe Tractor.

Friday, July 25th: Hosted by Clinton Tractor, Clinton, NY, 315-853-6151. Held at the VFW on Franklin Ave.

* Lunch will be served at all venues.

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