

Organic Dairyman Profits From Doing What He Believes

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farmers was when they were disconnected from the consumer," he said.

According to Stoltzfoos, it's a myth that confinement dairies are needed to produce enough milk to meet demand.

"Can we supply the milk we need with grass? Absolutely," he said. "We (on Spring Wood Farm) are producing more milk per acre than we ever did before."

Even so, Stoltzfoos always tries to do it better.

"I'm a grazer. That's what I enjoy doing. But there's always room to grow and learn."

Stoltzfoos recommends farmers "proceed cautiously" when getting into grazing and learn what works best for them.

"Adapt ideas to your farm," he said. "No one can copy me or anybody else."

Spring Wood Farm was one of 16 Pennsylvania farms that received a Dairy of Distinction award this year for presenting a positive image of the dairy industry.


Located along Gap Road southeast of the town of Gap, the well-kept farm and its 19th-century stone farmhouse are the scene for plenty of action. The children of working age have their own chores to do.

The farm includes an organic free-range turkey operation, free-range chickens for meat and eggs, and Tamworth pigs fed on buttermilk and kitchen waste.

The children are Dwight, 23; Hilda, 21; Delmar, 17; Charlene, 15; Clifford, 13; Joshua, 11; Caleb, 9; Althea, 7; Raphael, 5; Hadassah, 2; and Heather, 6 months. Dwight and Hilda work away pretty much fulltime.


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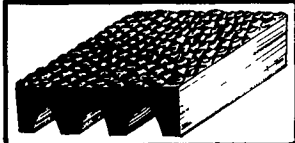



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