

Family Farms, from page 3

Like the Braces, Spencer also makes his own cider, a real family operation.

"We start around September 15 and go right through until Thanksgiving," he said. "Any relative who can come over to help out - my brother Harden, sister Lucille and nephew Joe Smith with his wife, Sharon and their son, Joey. It's a lot of work."

Spencer's grandfather, Wesley Spencer, started the farm in the 1800's as a general farm. They also had a tomato farm on Lewis Road in Franklin Township, which was sold in the 1950's, Spencer said.

Wesley's son, Ben Spencer, Sr., (Bud's father) planted the orchards, which today have more than two dozen different kinds of apples, including several dwarf species.

"Some of my customers are in their mid-80's and say they have been coming here since they were little kids," Spencer said.

Dorothy Spencer also comes from a farming family, the Johnsons, who still own a dairy farm just down the hill.

Although many have been sold off for housing

"It's a way of life. You have to grow up with it and really like it."
Larry Brace
 Back Mountain fruit farmer

developments, the remaining old family farms are as important a part of the Back Mountain's life today as they were in the late 1700's, when the area was first settled.

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Harveys Lake	18618
Hunlock Creek	18621
Lehman	18627
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