

Written Profile

Farm: Dwinna Dairy Farm
Location: Johnstown, Pennsylvania
Date of Origination: 1900
Industry Sector(s): Dairy Cattle



Farming as a way of life runs deep in the family history of Dwinna Dairy farm. When asked how land-settling ancestors became involved in agriculture, "It was their heritage," shares Dwight Keafer, "Their ancestors were farmers and *their* ancestors were farmers in Germany or Switzerland." The long-lasting tradition of agriculture at Dwinna Dairy farm has enabled the farm to sustain production for over 100 years. We are excited to share the story of Dwinna Dairy Farm, and celebrate their contribution to **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage**.

Today the farm is situated just west of Tire Hill in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The farm has experienced many changes over the years. "The changeover from horse driven machinery to modern tractors was the biggest innovation on our farm," explains Dwight Keafer. "Electricity was a close second and continues to provide efficient power to many facets of production today."

Keafer is the first to admit that keeping a farm in the family is hard work. Over time his brothers, sisters and sons have moved away. "Who is going to continue the tradition?" he openly wonders. From his perspective, the tax burden placed on the small family farm makes farm succession challenging each year. Keafer is an outspoken proponent for elimination of the inheritance tax.

Maintaining a sustainable operation over time means dedication, sacrifice and the ability to adapt to change. "You have to be able to adjust to market conditions; adjust your products to meet the demands of the consumer," clarifies Keafer. Throughout this change Farm Bureau has helped provide an opportunity to network with other farms and keep up to date with farm issues.

"We're trying to keep the farm in the family," Keafer plainly states. We appreciate the dedication and commitment made by the generations who have managed Dwinna Dairy Farm. We congratulate Dwinna Dairy Farm on their contribution to **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage**.