

Written Profile

Farm: McCollough Farm Partnership

Location: Lititz, PA

Date of Origination: 1748

Industry Sector(s): Tobacco, Corn, Dairy Cattle, Alfalfa



"This farm is the focus of our lives," shares Pamela Haver of the McCollough Farm Partnership. "We are very proud to carry on the traditions of so many generations." Pamela, along with her nieces and mother own the farm partnership, which has been in the family for nearly 300 years. With roots that run deeper than American independence itself, the McCollough Farm Partnership epitomizes the sustainable practices of **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage**.

A family cemetery on the historic farm marks the passing of generations who have worked the land. Anabaptist immigrants from Switzerland, Pamela's ancestors came to the New World like so many of their day - in search of religious freedom. The original name on the deed is Johannes Kurtz. In Kurtz' time farming was necessary for survival, and thus began the tradition of the farm partnership now known as McCollough. While many men worked the land, they were outlived by their female counterparts which led to the farm being passed down through the women of the family. Today the farm is owned by women, and Pamela looks forward to bringing her daughter into the family business. Pamela's daughter will represent the 10th generation of family members to manage this land.



Farm lane runs between field of burley tobacco and the family cemetery that goes back to the mid 18th century.

Today the McCollough Farm Partnership includes 92 acres of corn, alfalfa and burley tobacco. A small dairy is also operated on the land. An Amish family currently resides on the farmland, using traditional farming practices to effectively manage production. Untouched by the world of new technology, the family relies on diesel power to run tank coolers and provide compressed air to power their milking equipment. Corn and alfalfa are grown to feed the cows. The burley tobacco is harvested by hand and sold to Philip Morris.

Over the years the McCollough Farm Partnership has been very pragmatic about what it takes to keep the farm going. "One does what they have to do to survive," explains Pamela. A trust endowed to Pamela's mother upon the passing of her husband enabled Pamela and her brother to purchase the shares owned by their mother's siblings, a decision the family felt was important to keep the farm in operation without separating land. Farmers and ranchers like Pamela make difficult decisions like this everyday, with the goal of keeping original farmland in the family.

Like many farms across the nation, the McCollough Farm Partnership has been confronted time and time again with the challenges of encroaching development. "Everyone loves to see farms, but they don't want to get their cars dirty," Pamela explains with a chuckle. Local ordinance and zoning restrictions cause the family to continually evaluate production practices. Despite these challenges Pamela is confident in the future of their farming operation. "All of the people who live in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania want to look at farmland," and the women of this farm will ensure that the public continues to have this opportunity.



The oldest tobacco shed on the farm. Note the burley curing inside and the heart-shaped vent in the manner of the Pennsylvania Dutch.

"We have sacrificed for this farm," Pamela reflects. "We could have sold the farm and invested the money, but we are still here working." Their dedication to the land, she continues, is hard to explain. Yet she does so with great eloquence: "We do not do it for financial gain. We do it because of the pride in our heritage, the love of family and land, and an appreciation of nature's beauty." We congratulate the McCollough Farm Partnership on their contribution to **Agriculture's Lasting Heritage**.