

Meet the 2013 Master Farmers

This 80th class of Mid-Atlantic Master Farmers has excelled in developing businesses for the next generation. Here's a quick look at their accomplishments. **By JOHN VOGEL**

Cauffman lives farm innovation

GLEN Cauffman's ability as a "thinker" was spurred as he worked his way through Penn State University, living and working at the dairy barns and farming at home during summers. In 1969, he returned home to his family's dairy and beef farm near Millerstown, Pa.

After his brothers returned, Cauffman continued as the farm's principal manager and did grain system construction to supplement income. In 1981, he organized local FFA supporters, eventually convincing the Greenwood school board to revive ag science and FFA programs. Armed with a temporary teaching certificate, he became its part-time ag teacher — for five years.

That led to an offer to be Penn State's manager of farm operations and facilities. For nearly 25 years, he commuted daily to State College, and worked his Perry County farm at nights and on weekends. That ended in June 2012, with Penn State's budget-cutting incentives to retire.

With the aid of a USDA value-added producer grant, he's developing markets for American-made, high-quality mohair and wool targeted to fashion markets.

Glen has four children: Todd, Mark, Eric and Bobbie Jo. Mark and Bobbie Jo are his business partners.

He served 20 years on Greenwood's school board. He's still involved in the Northeast Society of Agricultural Research Managers. He served as a U.S. Agency for International Development consultant to help farms recovering after the fall of the Soviet Union. Honors include the 2006 Governor's Renewable Energy Leadership Award, 2006 PennFuture Biofuels Pioneer Award and FFA Outstanding Service Award in 1998.



Glen Cauffman

The farm: The 190-acre Glen Cauffman Farm has 177 acres of cropland for corn, soybeans and hay, plus 13 acres of pasture and woodland. It's a perfect fit for a 150-head angora goat herd and value-added mohair marketing venture, plus a private medical research project.

Notable: As Penn State's farm manager, Cauffman initiated conservation plans and the university's manure and food-waste compost program, and led conversion to biofuels, biolubricants and alternative energy crops.



William and Joseph Layton Jr.

The farm: Lazy Day Farms and Layton's Chance Vineyard and Winery operate close to 1,900 acres, including 800 acres of owned cropland, and about 600 acres of woodland. The winery uses all of its 20 acres of grapes and more.

Notable: The winery rose to the top of five farm expansion opportunities considered, based on opportunities for the next generations and development at a pace they chose.

Laytons excel in family teamwork

JOSEPH Layton Jr. and son William are a team just made for farming on the southern Eastern Shore of Maryland. After graduation from the University of Maryland, Joe came right back to farm with his father near Vienna. When William graduated from the University of Maryland, he took his business logistics degree to Toyota.

In 2003, William brought fresh enthusiasm back to Lazy Day Farms, and the men began planning the farm's future.

Today, William and wife Jennifer own the farm, while Joe and wife Laura share in ownership of Layton's Chance Winery. Joe oversees the farm operation and grain marketing. Laura manages the books of both businesses. William is the winemaker, overseeing all vineyard and farm operations. Jennifer is general manager of the winery and its marketing.

The family's goal is to boost current cropland productivity via irrigation and increase winery production and sales.

The elder Laytons also have a daughter, Susan. The younger Laytons have two children, Stephen and Alison.

Joe is supervisor for the Dorchester Soil and Water Conservation District and treasurer of his church. He's a past president of the National Coalition for Food and Agriculture Research, the county Farm Bureau, and county school board. He was also vice president of the Maryland Soybean Board.

William is president of the Dorchester County Farm Bureau and vice president of the Maryland Soybean Board. He's a past treasurer of Delmarva Marriage Encounter and current treasurer of Chicone Ruritan.

In 2001, they received the Best Managed Farm Award by *Farm Futures*. In 2011, they were inducted into the Maryland Agriculture Hall of Fame.

Mussers adapt to changing niches

AFTER graduating from high school, Jim Musser saw opportunity for staying home on his family's dairy farm instead of going to college. Three years later, in 1972, he joined his father and a neighbor in setting up M&R Grain, a corn and soybean drying and storage enterprise.

In 1976, Musser, his brother and his father created a partnership and built two layer houses. They were milking 46 cows, packing eggs from 120,000 contracted layers and farming close to 300 acres. By 1993, Jim and wife Sue owned M&R Grain, plus the home farm, and began expanding the grain facility to store 410,000 bushels and roast corn and soybeans.

In 2000, the family began remodeling their worn-out poultry houses into storage for 28 customers and business sites for 10 tenants. In 2007, the Mussers built a heifer barn to raise 180 dairy heifers for a neighbor, and they feed out steers to make use of their old dairy facility.

Jim and Sue have four sons: Matt, Brett, Dustin and Cody. The above-noted changes opened opportunities to bring Dustin and Cody into the business. Today, Jim oversees overall management and marketing, while Sue handles taxes, banking and insurance.

Jim serves on Lancaster County's Farm and Home Foundation and is treasurer of Manheim Young Farmers. He is a director of the Pennsylvania Soybean Board, the United Soybean Board, Lancaster County Agriculture Council and the township ag preservation board.

Sue is treasurer of the local Dairy of Distinction program and has held many offices in their local church.

Jim has received the American Soybean Association's market-builder award and Mid-Atlantic Soybean Young Leader award, and is in the Young Farmers Hall of Fame.



Sue and Jim Musser

The farm: Penns Peaceful Meadow Farm includes 132 owned cropland acres, plus another 280 acres of rented cropland. M&R Grain provides grain storage, plus roasted grains for mills and farms.

Notable: To make best use of out-dated buildings, the family converted layer houses into storage and business units, and switched from milking to heifer-raising and steer feeding.



Ann and David Patrick

The farm: Renowned for 170 head of high-quality breeding herds, Maple Dell Farm consists of 250 acres of owned crop and pastureland, plus 800 acres of rented cropland.

Notable: This farm markets Ayrshire and Holstein embryos plus live animal flushes, and has four bulls in stud. At age 82, David still loves AI breeding and 4 a.m. milking.

Patricks are the cream of the crop

DAVID and Ann Patrick earned their "milk and butter" by raising dairy cattle consistently at the top of the Ayrshire and Holstein breeds. Most importantly, their farming success has led two of their seven children back to continue in Maple Dell Farm's success at Woodbine, Md.

After starting out with two Ayrshire heifers at the age of 10, David graduated from high school in 1947 with an 18-cow herd and worked for his father. By 1955, his herd grew to 45 Ayrshires. Two years before that, he met Ann, a girl who was never going to marry a farmer. The rest is history.

During the 1990s, the Patricks purchased another small farm with the help of the state farmland preservation program. Today, sons Denny and Michael own the farm in partnership with their dad. David and Ann also have another son, John, plus four daughters: Terri, Kathy (passed), Carole and Rhonda.

The family has been showing cattle at state, national and international levels for more than 60 years. Their cattle have won countless awards at breed shows, state fairs, the World Dairy Expo, the All-American Dairy Show and Canada's Royal Agricultural Fair. In 1989, David helped initiate Maryland's 4-H Dairy Leasing program.

David is chairman of Maryland's Purebred Dairy Cattle Association, president of the Wills Fair Association, a Dairy Farmers of America delegate and a board member of Howard County Farm Bureau. He serves on the board of the All-American Dairy Show and chairs his local church council. Among many personal honors, he received the All-American's Obie Snider Award in 2006. In 2010, David received the Master Breeder Award at the National Ayrshire Convention.

In 2007, the Patrick family was inducted into the Maryland Agriculture Hall of Fame.