

# **Farmers' Shared Stories**

**A collection of farming stories from the residents at  
Pleasant View**

**We asked residents to share stories of their farming experience through a series of questions. Although these questions only cover a small portion of their farming career, it's a nice glimpse into their lives and their experiences.**

**The following questions were asked to the residents:**

**What is your name?**

**Where did you farm?**

**How long did you farm for?**

**What did you farm?**

**What is one of your favorite farming memories?**

**I hope as you read their stories, you enjoy their memories as much as I did.**

**Richard Balmer**

**Horn Road**

**Mastersonville, PA**

**20-30 years**

**He farmed tobacco, hay, tomatoes, dairy cattle, and chickens.**

**He gardened strawberries, blueberries, black raspberries, and blackberries.**

**His favorite farming memory was entering products, produce, guinea pigs, and rabbits in the Manheim Farm Show.**

**Glenn Brubaker**

**Allegheny County, New York**

**25 years**

**They had a dairy farm, which they started in 1967 with 30 cows. When his son took over, they were milking 100 cows.**

**His favorite farming memory was that one spring, they were picking stones from the field before they planted and got to the hedgerow. His neighbor got on the other side of the hedgerow at the same time. His neighbor came over and asked, “Glenn, do you think these stones multiply as people do?”**

**Nancy Buckwalter**

**Lititz, PA**

**Around 37 years**

**She farmed corn, wheat, hay, barley, soybeans, cattle, tobacco, and turkeys**

**Her favorite farming memory was having a big, beautiful garden and canning.**

**Sheryl Faus**

**Southwest Minnesota**

**18-20 years**

**Her family and her farmed corn, beans, oats, alfalfa, feeder cattle, and hogs.**

**Her favorite farming memory was being allowed to drive the Ford tractor when bailing hay. Driving the tractor was how she learned to drive. She was also very involved in 4-H!**

**Gene Landis**

**Buckhill Farms, PA**

**5 years**

**He farmed tobacco, corn, and a herd of 50 dairy cows.**

**He and his children also picked tomatoes for Edna Hoffer in the 1960's.**

**One of his favorite farming memories was picking wild strawberries, raspberries, and watercress at the spring house.**

**Les Houck**

**Paradise, Lancaster County**

**18-35 years**

**He farmed on a dairy farm.**

**His favorite memories included working for the International Harvester Co. in sales and marketing of farm equipment. He also worked in farm equipment sales and marketing for Hooper Equipment. In 1976, he and his wife, Faye, started the Agri Broadcasting Network of Pennsylvania with 12 radio stations that broadcasted daily programs about local livestock and grain prices. The network expanded to include Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, with 32 radio stations. During that time, he also got to meet many secretaries of agriculture and President Ronald Reagan.**

**Harold and Darlene Mummaw**

**Manheim, PA (68 acres)**

**Harold grew up on the land that his dad farmed for 18 years. He then married Darlene, and they farmed the land for 9 years.**

**They farmed wheat, corn, tomatoes, tobacco, and sweet corn. They also raised pigs, chickens, turkeys, and milked 10 cows.**

**One of his favorite farming memories was farming 8 acres of tomatoes. He and his farm workers would pick tomatoes and haul them to the Hanover Canning Co. every day, except weekends, for 9 weeks during the season along with other tomato farmers.**

**Merv and Mary Lou Sauders**

**Manheim, PA**

**67+ years**

**The Sauders started on their farm in 1958, and it is still active, with their daughter currently farming.**

**They farmed dairy, corn, soybeans, steer, chicken, pigs, and hogs.**

**His favorite memory is having his children involved.**

**Mark and Hazel Nestleroth**

**Manheim, PA**

**70+ years**

**Hazel grew up on a dairy farm with general crops and tobacco.**

**Mark grew up on a farm of chickens, hogs, steers, general crops, and tobacco.**

**The two of them then farmed Mark's family farm with hogs as the main production animal and field corn as the main production crop. They also raised sheep.**

**The two of them also owned a B&B where they raised sheep, chickens, calves, miniature horses, rabbits, and alpacas.**

**Some of Mark's favorite farming memories include selling breeding stock and pigs to FFA and 4-H clubs, where the livestock went on to win shows. He also enjoyed his time serving on the Heifer International Board of Directors. His time spent owning the B&B also provided him with great memories of teaching the visitors that traveled.**

**Ruth Kready**

**Manheim, PA**

**For a Period of Time While Married**

**She primarily farmed cattle.**

**One of her favorite farming memories is being with her husband.**

**Tony Schreiber**

**Upstate New York and Jersey Shore, PA**

**5 years (NY) and 16 years (PA)**

**He managed the PA Foundation Seed Co-op. They grew the foundation seed that seed houses planted to get the certified seed that they sold to farmers (in the 60's, 70's, and 80's). They grew small grains and single cross hybrid seed corn. He was also an adjunct professor in the College of Agricultural Sciences at Penn State. He also worked for a large foundation seed company that supplied parent corn seed to independent seed corn companies.**

**One of his favorite farming memories was getting stuck in the middle of Pine Creek on a Saturday morning while harvesting around the clock to beat a freeze that would lower the germination of the seed corn.**

**Barry and Colleen Haldeman**

**Manheim (Penryn), PA**

**60+ years**

**The two of them farm(ed) corn, soybeans, wheat, barley, laying hens, hogs, beef cattle, rabbits, and quail.**

**Some of their favorite memories include working side by side with their four children as they experienced the seasons of life together. Another fond memory is ice skating on and swimming in the farm pond. They also enjoy(ed) the experience of animals being born and growing.**

**Helen Farrington**

**Poconos and Lancaster County**

**60+ years**

**She farmed dairy cows, chickens, corn, and other crops.**

**One of her favorite farming memories was making hay.**

**C. Lois Moyer**

**“Chet’s” Family Farm**

**31 years**

**They farmed 100 cows and two broiler houses with broilers. She took care of the chicks from day one until they were about 5-6 weeks old. They also grew alfalfa and corn for cow feed.**

**One of her favorite farming memories was when they had a cow with a twisted stomach. She assisted in the surgery which had to sew the stomach to the cow’s insides. She helped the vet with surgeries three times while farming.**

**John and Eileen Landis**

**Lebanon County**

**46 years**

**They farmed dairy cows, crop farming, asparagus, strawberries, and blackberries for pick your own.**

**One of their most enjoyable memories was doing tractor work.**

**Richard Metzler**

**Manheim, PA**

**32 years**

**He farmed wheat, corn, barley, hay, and in some years, tobacco.**

**One of his favorite farming memories was the unusual weather. One year he recalls, it was too wet to seed wheat until late November, which meant it did not sprout until spring. Most farmers gave up that year on the wheat and plowed it under. His farm did not plow it under, and it came up in late spring, giving them a very good crop. The prices were very high then, because most farmers gave up growing their wheat for that year.**

**Jane Moyer**

**Mount Joy Township**

**23 years**

**She farmed cattle and tobacco.**

**One of her favorite farming memories is whenever they would be done at the end of the day.**

**Carolyn and Jim Peters**

**Near Mastersonville**

**13 years**

**They farmed 2,000 laying hens.**

**One of their favorite farming memories was teaching their children to be responsible and have a good work ethic.**



**Sylvia Snyder**

**Along Kissel Hill Road on the way to Landis Valley**

**All her life-3<sup>rd</sup> generation**

**She farmed various orchards including peaches, cherries, plums, apples, and apricots. She also farmed laying hens and gathered each egg by hand. They had 4 floors of hens, with 100 hens on each floor.**

**Her favorite farming memory is having a stand across from Alfred the Popcorn Man at Root's Market on Tuesdays**

**Betsy Shenk**

**Near Kreider Farms, Dauphin County**

**She farmed dairy, chickens, and crops. The farm she grew up on was in Dauphin, but the farm had fields in three counties.**

**Her favorite farming memory was having and raising the animals.**

**Sam Brubaker**

**Grew up on farm and worked on one later in life**

**He grew up on a farm until he got married, then he trained in music. Later he worked for Kreider Farms poultry, processing eggs. He raised tobacco before marriage and dairy farmed for a time after marriage.**

**His farming memories include attending Amish school where he learned to speak Pennsylvanian Dutch and carpentry. He also had a garden later in life.**

**Mariam R. Rohrer**

**Upper Leacock Township**

**20 years**

**She farmed small dairy, wheat, corn, hay, and tomatoes. In earlier years, they raised tobacco.**

**One of her favorite farming memories is gaining a strong work ethic that she attributes to her experience in helping with many tasks on the farm.**

**June Smith**

**Home gardener**

**58 years**

**She had a home garden with a variety of crops that was maintained by her husband and her sons.**

**One of her favorite farming memories was canning and freezing the things from their garden with her husband.**

**Thank you for sharing your stories and for your service to the farming industry! Our shared passion allows for the land to be cared for, as it cares for us.**