

David G. Graybill

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Farming Operation: Dave operates a dairy farm in Juniata County; milking 60 head of registered Holsteins and raise 70 plus head of replacement heifers. The cattle are rotationally grazed on 60 acres of paddocks. The farm is rented from landowners who reside in the Washington DC area. It is about 400 acres. Corn, soybeans, hay, and small grains are grown. Ten thousand bushels of on-farm grain storage adds value. Sunflowers have been added as a double crop after barley for bird seed as well as eye appeal. The landowners love them. Beekeeping has been a small operation for a few years and currently around a dozen hives. 700,000 gallon manure storage improves the nutrient management program.

History of Experience in Agriculture: Dave grew up on a farm in Juniata county. It had 2000 laying hens producing eggs sold door to door on a weekly route. We milked our 3 cows by hand, cropped 60 acres, grew vegetables for our route, raised a few sows and fat hogs, and timbered our own 40 acres of wooded ground. Before college I worked on a dairy farm, farmed crops on my own and ran a home repairs business. After college, he worked as a broiler flock supervisor for 7 years. Additional duties were new house design and construction for broilers, chicken catching crew supervisor, and broiler house disinfection crew supervisor plus the pesticide license for our division.

In 1996, Dave started teaching agricultural education for 4 years in Snyder County. Classes taught included FFA leadership, veterinary science, small engines, building construction, plumbing, electrical wiring, welding (stick, mig, tig, torch, plasma) and adult young farmers program. Dave was among the first dozen individuals to be certified as a nutrient plan writer in Pennsylvania during his teaching years.

September 1 of 2000, started Dave's dairy farming career. Success in dairying thru low milk prices in 2002-2004, 2009, 2015-2017 to mention a few lows has been demanding. Factors contributing to financial stability have been high quality milk, above average components, high rate of herd fertility and great employees.

Education: Dave received his Associates Degree in 1987 from Hesston College, KS. He received a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Education in 1989, with a minor in poultry, and certification to teach in Ag Ed and general science from Penn State.

Farm Bureau Experience: Dave currently serves as State Board Director for District 10 (encompassing Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin and Perry Counties). He chairs the Natural and Environmental Resources State board committee. He is a member of the state dairy committee. He has served actively since 2000 on the county farm bureau board, member services chair, membership processor, newsletter editor, membership chair, vice president, and president.

Other Community Activities: Dave and his wife Marie serve as deacons in their church. Dave serves on church board. He serves on the Farmer advisory committee for the Ag Departments in Juniata County. He serves as secretary for West Branch Crop Association. He is on the Farmer Advisory board for Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay Foundation. He served on the Beaver Fair board for 5 years. He served on the Snyder county Extension board. He served on the Youth Livestock committee in Snyder County.