

## Brubaker Farms

Brubaker Farms of Mount Joy PA is owned by Luke and Barbara Brubaker, in partnership with their two sons, Mike and Tony. Luke oversees all operations, receipts and billing, and is the groundskeeper. Mike is responsible for crops, nutrient management, government programs and management of outside labor. Tony manages the overall herd, the heifers and inside labor.

Luke's father purchased the farm in 1929 and started the operation with 8 cows. The operation now has over 1,000 plus acres of crops (corn, soybeans, wheat, rye and alfalfa); 935 dairy cows and 800 replacement heifers; and also 250,000 bird broiler chicken operation as well as energy generation. At the present time, their digester is generating approximately 4-5 MW of electricity a day. Most of the electricity that they generate is being sold back to the local electric utility. They have the capability of producing enough electricity to supply approximately 150,200 homes a day.



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"We don't need to be the largest operation, by any means. We want to be known as good farmers willing to help others."

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Expansions in the farm were done to allow the operation to maintain financial stability and to allow it to provide the necessary income to sustain the 3 farm families that now rely on it for their economic well-being. The Brubakers believe doing projects like these are good for the future of the industry, economy and environment.

The Brubakers are not just environmental and business leaders. They are also leaders in the local community and on state agricultural issues. Collectively they serve on state and local boards and commissions. Highlights include three 6-year terms on the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board, where he is currently chairman. Brubaker has also been appointed by Governor Corbett to serve on his Climate Change Advisory Committee. Brubaker Farms is an active participant in the Chesapeake Bay Program, where they go beyond what is traditionally called for in their nutrient management plan. They fence stream banks and plant trees along the streams to help purify the water in their community. They plant cover crops to help keep water and nutrients on the fields.

Farming in Lancaster County is no easy task. It's essentially farming in the middle of an urban area of about half a million people. Brubakers must maintain neighborly relations. They've done such a good job that when selling their houses, neighbors use the farm as a selling point.