

Here some options for the Web Soil Survey in Pennsylvania

Potential Nearby Farms:

1. Evergreen Farms, Spruce Creek, Huntingdon County, PA, about 10 minutes south of Ag Progress Days on Route 45.

Agricultural leaders from five states have honored five Pennsylvania farm families with 2003 Mid-Atlantic Master Farmer Awards.

Wayne and Marjorie Harpster are two of Pennsylvania's most zealous working environmentalists. While the Huntingdon County couple nurtured a productive trout stream running through their family farm, they also built one of Pennsylvania's largest dairy farms. Evergreen Farms -- which is part-owned by the Harpsters' children -- milks more than 2,000 cows and farms more than 3,000 acres. A hunting and fishing sideline enterprise is testimony to their second love.

Evergreen Farms has adopted GPS-based computerized field records, nutrient-management plans and a farm conservation plan and is CAFO-compliant. Manure-based fertility has led the farm to average seven-ton yields for alfalfa-grass hay and nearly 24-ton corn silage yields. Corn is planted no-till into rye cover crop.

2. Schrack Family Farm, Loganton, PA, Clinton County- About 1 hour northeast of Ag Progress Days.

Looking over the 1800-acre farm with its nine grain silos, enormous (600-foot long!) cow barn, and meticulously clean milking facilities, it's easy to see how the Schrack Family Farm keeps its reputation as a well respected operation. The Schrack Family Farm is home to 1,200 cows, including calves and heifers, 500 of which are milking cows -- others are breeding, some are dry. And all the cows are extraordinarily clean!

Four generations live and work on the Schrack Family dairy farm just outside Loganton, PA. Twelve members of the Schrack Family and the extended family of farm hands gathered around the dining table for the noon dinner, sharing the gifts of the land the family has worked since the American Revolution.

The Schracks still rise early 365 days a year to tend to the needs of their animals and land and to the business of running a dairy farm. They milk the cows three times each day, feed and water their livestock, tend to the rows of alfalfa, corn, and other vegetables -- and like all farm families they work very hard together, and they hold a deep respect for the environment.



The Schrack Family Farm was selected to receive one of several "Energy Harvest" grants from Pennsylvania DEP. The grant will help the Farm purchase and install an anaerobic digester that will turn methane from manure into renewable energy, reduce the family's monthly utility bills, use waste heat to dry manure into marketable compost, reduce nutrient run-off into area waterways, and help control local odor. The Schracks received some financial aid from EQIP towards the cost of the digester.

3. Dan Ulmer, Guided-Path Farm, Bellefonte, PA. About 20 minutes from State College Airport. Dan and Penny Ulmer.

Years ago this farm supported the family with 70 cows, but now needs 175 to remain competitive. Another 150 replacement cows, from calves to mature cows, also need to be cared for as they wait to replace aging animals. The family owns 110 acres and rents and leases additional ground. This includes 450 acres of corn, 100 acres of alfalfa, 300 acres of soybeans and 50 acres of grass hay and 15 acres of sweet corn. Hiring employees became necessary as the workload grew. Tasks he and part-time help could handle before now require additional manpower, even with the help of Ulmer's children, Matthew, Miranda, Nathan and Naomi. . . . Ulmer said new technology continues to surface, but to justify the investment, the farm needs to be larger

Nearby Pennsylvania FIELD SERVICE CENTER OPTIONS:

1. **Mill Hall USDA Service Center, Clinton County, PA-** Near Clintondale, PA about 45 minutes northeast of Ag Progress Days. NRCS, FSA and RD share a former school building. Conservation District has recently moved to a new office a few miles away.
2. **Huntingdon USDA Service Center-** Huntingdon County, PA- Huntingdon, PA- About 45 minutes southwest of APD by Route 26. NRCS, Conservation District, FSA and RD in the Service Center.