

Maryland & Virginia Honors 50 & 75 Year Members

April 6, 2011 (Reston, Va.) - Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative honored two farm families for 50 years of membership and two families for 75 years of membership. The cooperative recognized these outstanding achievements at its 91st Annual Meeting during the Member Recognition Luncheon.

The honorees include:

50 Year Members

Linton Brothers LLC, Martinsburg, W.Va.

Steve, Jim, Bruce and Rick Linton make up the "brothers" portion of Linton Brothers. Their mother Ruth is quick to share that their 500 acre farm is run by only family members and the brothers are happy to have the help of cousins Bruce Jr. and Matt to represent the fourth family generation. Each generation has been active in 4-H and FFA and the family has exhibited at their local youth fair every year it has been in operation. When asked the secret to working with all family and still getting along with each other, the answer was simple, "500 acres."

Stoner's Hijos Hill, Mercersburg, Pa.

J.W. Stoner shipped the first milk from his Mercersburg, Pa. farm in February 1960 with the guiding principles of being a strong leader and having the support of a strong family. These principles were passed on to the younger generations and continue to be the foundation for Stoners Hijos Hill. After his death, J.W.'s wife Carrie A. and six of their sons formed a corporation. In 2000 this second generation sold the farm to their children but all remained active on the operation. John, one of the original brothers, sums it up best by saying, "When it comes to dairy farming, you've gotta do it because you love it."

75 Year Members

Savage Acres, Dickerson, Md.

Located 30 miles outside Washington, D.C., in Dickerson Maryland, brothers Kevin and Bruce Savage think it's pretty impressive that their 320 acre, 200 cow farm is still alive and well. The brothers' great grandparents started farming the land in the 1930s and joined Maryland & Virginia in 1935. Both Kevin and Bruce's families are involved in the farm. Kevin's wife Laurie helps with the cows and also works with several Maryland dairy organizations and does freelance writing. Bruce's wife Sandy does the farm's book keeping. They both have children that help on the farm feeding cows, running equipment and helping in the fields.

Sam Fielder, Jarrettsville, Md.

Sam Fielder Jr. has been described on more than one occasion as being dedicated, passionate and persistent. Sam Junior's son, Sam III, is much like his father and has been on the farm his entire life, except when he attended the

University of Delaware. Together the two farm about 400 acres and milk 150 Holsteins in Jarrettsville, Md. Both agree that they could not imagine doing anything other than dairy farm and are proud of all that their family has accomplished.

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Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative is a milk marketing and processing cooperative that represents 1,500-plus dairy farmer-owners from Pennsylvania to Georgia. The cooperative includes three fluid processing plants: Marva Maid in Newport News, Va., Marva Maid of Landover, Md., and Maola Milk and Ice Cream in New Bern, N.C.; manufacturing plants in Laurel, Md., and Strasburg, Va.; and a farm supply warehouse in Frederick, Md.

For more information contact Amber DuMont, Director of Corporate Communications at 1-800-552-1976 or adumont@mdvamilk.com.