

The Shippensburg Young Farmers have planned several interesting tours for the winter conference. **Note that tours will be Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning.**

Members will tour **Hard Earn Acres**, the Bob Keefer Farm. Bob has a digester which converts manure into electricity for farm use. He direct loads his milk to trailers, eliminating the need for large bulk tank storage. Keefer grew up on a dairy farm and said he always wanted to carry on the family tradition. He bought 27 head of cattle in his senior year of high school, and he purchased the family farm in 1977 and expanded his herd to 80 cows. He purchased the adjoining farm and expanded to 120 head in 1981. Expansion has continued over the years, and Keefer and his wife, Barb, now have 543 producing cows, 481 replacement heifers and two milking parlors. They own 151 acres, rent 853 acres for crops and have 15 full-time employees.

The second stop will be **Martin's Famous Pastry Shoppe** - ever wonder about those delicious potato rolls? Come take a tour to learn more about this business! Martin's Famous Pastry Shoppe, Inc. is a family owned and operated consumer goods company headquartered in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. They are a bread and roll manufacturer that is rigorously dedicated to extraordinary taste, quality and customer service and proudly represents a legacy of cherished eating experiences. Martin's story starts in the 1950s, in the heart of "Pennsylvania Dutch" country in the kitchen of Lois and Lloyd Martin. It was there that they perfected their potato roll. In 1958, they converted their garage into a small bakery and throughout the next twenty years, distribution grew from local farmers' markets to corner grocery stores and on to supermarkets. The sweet, buttery taste, soft texture, and distinctive golden color made the Martin's Potato Roll an instant favorite. The business eventually expanded into two commercial baking plants over the ensuing decades, and continues to dominate in the markets where it has established full distribution.

Another tour will be of the **BWISE Trailer Company** in Chambersburg. Brian Wise has been involved in the metal fabrication industry since his start in the machine shop program at vo-tech in 1981. Over the past 30 years Brian has owned several metal related businesses and has been involved with trailer manufacturing for over 25 years. The mission of BWISE is to build innovative products that are of higher quality than the competitors. Brian has put together a team of experienced employees to set the stage for growth with a wide range of trailers for the homeowner, landscaper, contractor, sports enthusiast and farmer. BWISE Trailers manufactures as many of their parts as possible in-house, including cylinders and hoists. They have a 300,000+ square foot state-of-the-art facility with lasers, press brakes, CNC machining equipment and powder coating application booths and ovens. The company currently employs around 100 employees and is constantly designing new trailers and looking for ways to improve existing models.

**Ladies Program:** Several interesting activities are planned for the ladies, including a trip to a local antique mall, tour of an Amish greenhouse, country market, and a Paint Session: Discover your inner artist while creating your own 11x14 picture!