

# Drycreek Farm Continues their Dedication to Tower Silos

Drycreek Farm is a third-generation farm located within the wide open spaces of the Pennsylvania countryside in a small town called Martinsburg. Owned and operated by Douglass and Veronica Smith and their four children, Drycreek Farm is right in the middle of Morrison's Cove. This vast open cove has a high concentration of farms and is known for its strong agriculture business.

Doug's grandfather and grandmother, Marion and Verna started a rich tradition of farming when they purchased the farm in 1937. The tradition continued when Dennis and Margaret, Doug's father and mother took over. They have proudly passed the ownership on to Doug and his family. Throughout his life, Doug has gained valuable experience from helping out on the farm; especially since being a part of the changes the farm has gone through over the years.

Drycreek Farm has 175 cows, 180 young stock and they own 118 acres but work a total of 350 acres. Today, Doug and his family are working together to improve efficiency, convenience, time management and their end product. Doug has made several changes to the farm. While new silos were constructed to replace the outdated ones, another silo got a make-over.

Presently, the landscape of Drycreek Farm is silhouetted by four silos that include: a poured concrete 20 x 72 built in 1986, a 20 x 80 concrete stave purchased used in 1998, and two concrete stave 24 x 80's built in 2004 and 2008. The 24 x 80's allows for future growth, especially since the construction of a feed room near the silos was added.

"I wish we had another 18 x 60 silo to hold oatlage and other feed," Doug mentioned. Until they build another tower silo, they continue to use a bag or two each

year. Doug remembers his father using plastic to cover piles of feed placed directly on the ground before they had ag-bags. Currently, the farm has put a pad down to combat the

mess and time wasted when the feed is on the ground. "We use the bags for oatlage that we cut early in July and we feed this exclusively to the heifers," Doug said. "We feed it as soon as possible to help avoid problems with mold." And if the feed is in the bag over the winter, Doug has learned how quickly the rodents can move in.

Doug is very satisfied with the results of the tower silos. "With tower silos we have very little spoilage. There are no mold issues or waste – that's the biggest benefit I see." In a business where quantity counts not having wasted feed makes a big difference. Doug has commented about the quality he sees in tower silos. "I also think we get better feed out of the silos. We put corn silage in the two 24 x 80 silos and we are really pleased with the amount of feed they hold.

It is the commitment and hard work that has kept Drycreek Farm going and that is what will carry it into the future; and the future is where Doug and his family are looking. Strategically placing silos and buildings is just one of the ways the family is combining their past experience with present technologies to carry the farm into a fourth generation.

*Drycreek Farm has four silos:*

*Two concrete stave 24 x 80, concrete stave 20 x 80 and a poured concrete 20 x 72*

International Silo Association  
[www.silo.org](http://www.silo.org) • [info@silo.org](mailto:info@silo.org)

*Drycreek Farm*

**NOTHING WORKS  
LIKE A SILO**

