

2025

Conservation Farmer of the Year Award

Terry Matty - Matty Farms



Terry Matty has been farming nearly his entire life. He started in the 1960s, working on a local farm while also balancing high school responsibilities. Though he earned an engineering degree from the University of Pittsburgh and worked full-time at Walworth Valve Company and later Westinghouse, farming remained his true passion. He continued working evenings and weekends on the farm throughout his engineering career.

When the farmer he worked for retired in the 1970s, Terry bought his cattle and equipment and began leasing the farm while leasing additional land, and eventually purchased his own farm. Over time, he expanded operations to over 50 cows, selling feeder calves at the Westmoreland County Cattlemen’s Feeder calf sale. Today, Matty Farms spans about 480 acres across three farms—two owned (about 280 acres) and one rented—all in South Huntingdon Township.

Terry’s operation includes around 35 beef cows, 20 calves, 15 finishing cattle, and 3 bulls. While he once raised dairy heifers along with beef cattle, he has since transitioned back to grazing beef cattle. Matty Farms also runs a horse boarding business with 28 boarders and 4 of the family’s own horses. The farm grows about 55 acres of corn, 30 acres of soybeans, 110 acres of hay, and maintains pastureland for the animals.

Matty Farms is truly a family affair. Terry’s brother, Tom, has been a lifelong partner in the farming operation. Tom and his wife, Lisa, along with their son Joe and his wife, Carlie, own and operate the horse boarding facility. Joe contributes to the farming operations, and he and Carlie have managed the beef sales for the past few years. Tom and Lisa’s daughter, Jennie, does horse



Contour strip farming at Matty Farms helps to reduce erosion and maintain healthy soils.



Farming is truly a family affair at Matty Farms.

training, while her husband, Chad, handles hay baling and hay sales. Their cooperative effort reflects a deep-rooted work ethic and strong family ties.

What sets Terry apart is his commitment to conservation. He was named the Westmoreland Conservation District’s Conservation Farmer of the Year in 2007 and has expanded his efforts ever since.

Over the years, Terry has adopted a range of conservation practices that protect soil and water health. He has converted portions of cropland into rotational grazing paddocks for cattle and horses, reducing erosion and improving pasture quality. He uses no-till and minimal tillage practices to preserve soil structure and reduce runoff. Pastures are managed to prevent animal concentration areas near surface waters. Manure is hauled to a stockpile located away from surface waters and is spread on fields in accordance with a nutrient management plan. Developed by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and reviewed by the District, the plan ensures manure is tested and applied based on crop needs—minimizing runoff and protecting nearby streams. Terry also partnered with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to install a liquid manure storage tank, allowing controlled application of manure from a barn collection system.

His latest project, in collaboration with the District’s Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP), addressed a severely eroded animal walkway. The overused path had been stripped of vegetation, contributing to sediment runoff and poor pasture health. More than 3,500 square feet of pathway was stabilized with stone and conveyor belt diversions resulting in significantly less erosion, healthier pastures, and better conditions for the animals.

Terry continues to look ahead. He’s already working on future improvements, including a stabilized feeding pad to reduce runoff into a nearby stream and pond, and extending walkways to further protect the land.

Through his lifelong devotion to farming and a deep respect for the land, Terry Matty exemplifies the ideal of a conservation-minded farmer. His efforts show that responsible stewardship and successful farming go hand in hand.



Stabilized animal walkway – 3,500 sq.ft. restored to reduce erosion, protect pastures, and improve livestock health.