

The Monmouth County Board of Agriculture takes great pride in publicly recognizing your outstanding service to Agriculture. You were born Rupert "Bob" Freiberger on August 2, 1948. One year later, your father bought the farm just outside Allentown and began raising Holstein cows and selling milk. Growing up you developed a keen sense of farming operations and graduated Allentown High School. There you became very active in the FFA program; eventually becoming State President in 1967 and selected Outstanding Young Farmer in 1970. Also in 1970, you purchased the family farming business from your father which consisted of a 75 head dairy herd.

In 1993, as milk prices fell you decided to sell the dairy herd and focus on growing hay for the rising equine markets in the Central Jersey area. At that time there were only three other dairy herds left in Monmouth County; today there are none, while there are over 12,000 horses in Monmouth County alone.

Home life was much more stable as Bob has been married to wife Kathy for over 40 years. You have two sons Thomas and Patrick and especially enjoy baling hay when your two sons are in the same field. Currently, your family farm covers 1,000 acres which consist mainly of hay, corn and soybeans. The family enrolled the home farm into the Farmland Preservation Program. This transaction enabled them to purchase additional land that was also previously preserved.

Over these productive years, you put your FFA leadership training and agri-business experience to good use in being elected to the Upper Freehold Township Committee where you served as Mayor for 3 terms. You were also Chairman of the local Zoning Board of Adjustments. Currently, you serve as a member of the Monmouth County Board of Agriculture Executive Committee, a Township Planning Board Member and as President of the State Grain and Forage Producers Association.

Bob's most recent hobby is spending time with his two grandsons Ryan and Chase.

Bob, on behalf of the Monmouth County Board of Agriculture we would like to present you with this plaque in recognition of your service and dedication to the agricultural community.

***Presented March 5, 2011***