



## MARILYN HERSHEY

Marilyn Hershey is a Pennsylvania dairy farmer. She, along with her husband Duane, own and operate Ar Joy Farms, LLC. Their family farm is nestled about an hour west of Philadelphia and forty minutes north of the Chesapeake Bay. Their long family history of dairy farming is evident as they care for the land (550 acres), the animals (800 milking cows) and their employees.

Environmental stewardship is a priority for the Hershey's and they have many on-farm practices that conserve water and soil; reducing their carbon footprint.

In 2017 they installed a methane digester, taking manure from the cows and converting it to electricity. They are also able to incorporate food waste into the system, increasing the amount of gas

produced from the methane digester. The digester produces enough gas to run their farm as well as contribute to their community.

Marilyn serves as Chair of Dairy Management Inc, the dairy checkoff program. She also serves as Chair of US Farmers and Ranchers in Action, an organization that encompasses agriculture. She writes a monthly column in *Hoard's Dairyman*, *Common Threads*. In 2017 she was recognized as World Dairy Expo's Dairy Woman of the Year and in 2018 she was honored by Corteva Agriscience on International Day of Rural Women as one of ten women recognized from around the world for her efforts in agriculture.