

## Dillner Farm brings family and community together

Family farming has played an important role in Pennsylvania agriculture since the early days of the commonwealth. The Dillner Family Farm, located in Gibsonia, Allegheny County, is in its third generation of family-owned operation. The farm is currently under the operation of Donald and Jane Dillner with the help of their four children, Jonathan, Justin, Marie and Joseph.

“I enjoy working closely with my husband and our four children on our farm,” said Jane Dillner. “It really brings our whole family together.”

The Dillners produce a wide variety of vegetables and a few varieties of fruits, using sustainable agricultural methods.

“Sustainability is an important part of our farm,” said Jane. “We take pride in our farming methods and try to educate people about where their food comes from.”

The family’s farm is open every spring for guided tours of their facilities, which include a CSA room, a barn and eight greenhouses.

In addition to managing their own stand on their farm throughout the summer months The Dillners take their farm-fresh produce and participate in numerous weekly farmers’ markets in the Pittsburgh area. The family is also involved in the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program, providing shareholders in Allegheny with fresh produce every week.

“We are proud to say that we have been participating in farmers’ markets for about 20 years as well as our CSA program for over 10 years,” said Jane.

The Dillners have purchased additional farmland in Butler County, looking to expand their fruit and vegetable production in the future years. They also hope to add more greenhouses to their farm, with the help of their eldest son, a recent graduate of Penn State University with a degree in horticulture.