

History and Significance (Item 39)

Property History

The date of first construction at Valley Run Farm is unknown. Based on architectural evidence such as the small size of the oldest stone portion of the house, the lack of windows, and the depth of window and door openings, the earliest construction date is ca. 1790. The property owner confirmed the approximate construction date (Yost 2017). The person or family that built the property's buildings is unknown. The earliest deed reference of an owner is for Joseph Strickler, who purchased two tracts of land comprising the property between March 1841 and February 1842 (York County Recorder of Deeds 6Q:432). It is unknown which parcel contained the dwelling and any other associated outbuildings.

According to census records, it appears that Joseph Strickler moved to the property sometime before 1850. In that year, his household consisted of himself, his wife, and his children. Joseph and his three eldest sons all listed their occupations as farmers, and his son, Joseph, listed his occupation as a stonemason. Joseph Strickler listed the value of the real estate he owned as \$5,000 (United States [U.S.] Bureau of the Census 1850). During his initial period of ownership, Joseph Strickler likely expanded the dwelling for his family and built the Pennsylvania barn. The stone arch culvert west of the farmstead was also likely constructed around this time. By the time of the 1860 census, Joseph Strickler had moved in with one of his sons in Manor Township, Lancaster County (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1860). He continued to own the property, and according to a land ownership atlas from 1860, his son Henry Strickler worked the farmland in Newberry Township (Lake 1860). Henry Strickler listed his occupation as a farmer (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1860). On April 2, 1867, Joseph and Mary Strickler sold the property, totaling 108 acres and 43 perches, to Elias Detwiler for \$1,000 (York County Recorder of Deeds 6Q:432).

Elias Detwiler moved to the property before 1870. In 1870, his household included himself, his wife, and seven children. Both of Elias Detwiler's sons worked with him on the farm. The household also included the family of Elias Detwiler's son, Joseph. The household had one servant. Joseph Detwiler and the servant worked on the farm, and Elias Detwiler listed his occupation as a drover (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1880). The dwelling was expanded again during Elias Detwiler's ownership, with the entire wood-frame second story added. On March 24, 1881, Elias Detwiler sold the property, then encompassing 97 acres and 116 perches, to Jacob Conley of Newberry Township for \$6,840.75 (York County Recorder of Deeds 6Q:436).

Jacob Conley married Frances Detwiler, one of Elias Detwiler's daughters, in 1875 (FindAGrave website 2008a; U.S. Bureau of the Census 1900). By 1900, the couple had 12 children living in their household, ranging in age from four to 23, and three of Jacob Conley's sons helped with work on the farm (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1900). By 1910, the Conley family had shrunk considerably. Jacob Conley continued to work as a farmer with help from one son (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1910). By 1920, Jacob was widowed, but two of his children continued to reside in his household, with Jacob's son working with him on the farm (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1920). Jacob Conley retired from farming by 1930, but the property was still farmed by his son (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1930). The woodshed and privy were both constructed during Jacob Conley's ownership. Jacob Conley died on January 14, 1931, and his son, Samuel D. Conley, was appointed as the administrator of his estate (FindAGrave website 2008b; York County Recorder of Deeds 25E:420). Samuel D. Conley sold the 98-acre, 6-perch farm to his own son, Samuel F. Conley, for \$3,600 on April 1, 1932 (York County Recorder of Deeds 25E:420).

Samuel F. Conley moved to the subject property by 1940, when he was recorded as the head of a household including himself and his sister's family. Samuel Conley remained unmarried in 1940, and listed his occupation as a farmer (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1940). Samuel Conley oversaw the construction of the silo, the small bank barn, and the machine shed. He also oversaw the demolition of a number of the outbuildings that were extant on the farm when he purchased it. On May 20, 1981, Samuel F. Conley sold the property for \$100,000 to James K. and Lynn M. Yost, who continue to own and operate the farm and have added several modern outbuildings and additions to the property (York County Recorder of Deeds 82W:707).

Agricultural Assessment of Valley Run Farm

Key #	207354
ER#	2016-8153-133

Evaluation of Valley Run Farm, with regard to its agricultural-historical significance, requires an investigation of the local agricultural context. This will enable comparison of this property within the larger farming landscape that formed its historic environment. Agricultural census returns for York County exist for the decennial years between 1850 and 1880, as well as 1927; however, there is no similarly comprehensive primary source reporting agricultural statistics for the period before 1850. Published sources indicate that the farmers of York County generally tended to follow the agricultural system that characterized south-central Pennsylvania at large.

York County, Pennsylvania, in which Valley Run Farm is located, was historically rural in nature, with agriculture as the predominant industry. Newberry Township lies within what was classified by Pennsylvania State University in 1934 as the “Cumberland Fruit, Poultry, and Dairy” area. This region included specialties in dairy and poultry farming and the raising of fruit and truck produce (Rauchenstein and Weaver 1934:52). The *Historic Agricultural Resources of Pennsylvania, c. 1700-1960: A National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form* (MPDF) classifies the area as York-Adams County Diversified Field Crops, Cannery Crops, and Livestock, 1750 to 1960, whose traits generally follow those summarized by Pennsylvania State University in 1934. The region includes portions of Adams County’s eastern townships (Berwick, Conewago, Cumberland, Germany, Hamilton, Mount Joy, Mount Pleasant, Oxford, Reading, Straban, and Union townships) and the entirety of York County (McMurry et al. 2011:9).

The MPDF identifies several distinct periods of agriculture within the York-Adams County Diversified Field Crops, Cannery Crops, and Livestock, 1750 to 1960 region that have certain characteristics that predominated during each period:

- Diversified Small Scale Production, ca. 1750 to 1830;
- Small Farms, Mechanization, and New Markets, ca. 1830 to 1885;
- Diversified Small-Scale Farming, Poultry Raising, and Cannery Crops, ca. 1885 to 1940; and
- Poultry Production, Fossil Fuel Power, and Off-Farm Labor, ca. 1940 to 1960.

Valley Run Farm was established during the period of Diversified Small Scale Production, ca. 1750 to 1830, and a portion of the dwelling dates to this period. The Pennsylvania barn, expansions to the dwelling, and the stone arch bridge date to the period of Small Farms, Mechanization, and New Markets, ca. 1830 to 1885. The woodshed and privy date to the subsequent period (Diversified Small Scale Farming, Poultry Raising, and Cannery Crops, ca. 1885 to 1940). Finally, the small bank barn, silo, and machine shed date to the period of Poultry Production, Fossil Fuel Power, and Off-Farm Labor, ca. 1940 to 1960. The characteristics of these periods are summarized below, and Valley Run Farm is analyzed in this context using agricultural census data, deed research, and field observations.

Diversified Small-Scale Production, ca. 1750 to 1830

European settlement of the territory west of the Susquehanna began ca. 1730, and York County was established in 1749, originally encompassing all of present-day York and Adams counties. The population included a mixture of German, English, and Scots-Irish settlers; Germans were predominant in the central part of the region, while the Scots-Irish were predominant in what is now Adams County. York County in general, including its transportation routes, developed later than the Lancaster and Southeastern Pennsylvania regions. Small towns began to form by the mid-1700s, including York, Hanover, and Hunterstown, and early road networks connected the area to Baltimore, Philadelphia (via Lancaster), and Carlisle by 1800 (McMurry et al. 2011:11).

Most residents of York County, as with their counterparts to the east, engaged in agriculture. Farmers in this region initially had better access to Baltimore than to Philadelphia, and a strong wheat market existed during this period in both cities. Philadelphia and its markets eventually eclipsed Baltimore in importance as a port, and the construction of the Wrightsville bridge across the Susquehanna in 1814 facilitated improved access to Philadelphia for those living west of the river. Prior to that time, cargo traveling between York County and Philadelphia had to be transported across the Susquehanna River via ferry (McMurry et al. 2011:11-13).

During the 1750 to 1830 period, land prices in York County and Southeastern Pennsylvania rose in general, while the average size of landholdings dropped. Farms of the period were modest in scale and a considerable proportion of the land on a typical farm often remained uncleared during the eighteenth century. Clearing was an arduous process using hand tools, and occupied much of an early farmer’s time and energy. Once fields were broken, agriculture of the period involved “intensive” use of the small cleared areas, which were rested by periodically allowing the areas to lie

fallow. Land husbandry techniques like liming, fertilizing, and crop rotation had not yet been commonly adopted, and farmers of the 1700s could increase production only by clearing additional land. The cleared land of a farm typically included meadows and fields, plus small orchards and gardens. Hay was cut from naturally occurring meadow grasses rather than deliberately seeded hay fields. The average farm raised a variety of crops, including grains, vegetables, fruits, hay, and fiber crops. Locally grown products included grains (wheat, buckwheat, corn, barley, oats), vegetables (turnips, potatoes, cabbage), fruits (apples, cherries, peaches), hay, flax, and hemp, although a typical farm would raise only some items from this list. While many of these products were for consumption, others were raised for market. Grain crops were sold or converted to flour or liquor to be sold (McMurry et al. 2011:12-13, 16).

The number of livestock kept on the average farm was relatively low, and farm animals typically roamed and foraged for themselves rather than being enclosed and fed. By the late 1700s, grazing was often supplemented by hay. Oxen, horses, and mules helped clear and work the farm, while cows were kept for milk and butter, and swine for meat. Poultry flocks included chickens, geese, and turkeys (McMurry et al. 2011:12-14).

By 1800, many farmers were creating meadows by damming streams and digging irrigation ditches to periodically submerge their hay fields, improving the quality of the hay harvested from these fields and fed to their animals. Diversified crop production continued, with humans, animals, and simple tools performing the labor. Land tenancy, although not well documented, existed in York County. While owners and tenants and their families formed much of the agricultural workforce, a considerable amount of farm labor was also derived from individuals who were bound to landowners in some way. The tools for farming were few and simple; plows, scythes, sickles, and hoes were the primary farm implements. The grain cradle was invented around 1805 and soon adopted by York County farmers, but more complex implements did not arrive until later (McMurry et al. 2011:16-17).

Buildings of the early settlement period included small log dwellings of one to two rooms in size. By the early nineteenth century, some stone dwellings were replacing the first-generation log dwellings. German settlers often employed a center-chimney, three-room plan in their log or stone homes, which were heated with five-plate stoves. Large barns were rare; since cleared farmland was limited and farm animals grazed rather than being fed, small, unbanked log barns were common. Although a few Pennsylvania bank barns were constructed by 1798, these were unusual, and this form did not become common until the early 1800s. Farm outbuildings of the 1750 to 1830 period were not plentiful, and few examples survive; the most common types included detached kitchens (later known as summer kitchens), springhouses, smokehouses (particularly important for German foodways), and still houses constructed for distilling grain into liquor. Agricultural landscapes of this period were characterized by relatively small cleared fields and meadows and large uncleared woodlots. Small farmsteads were set in the middle of small clearings surrounded by forest. Fencing was limited to the dwelling and farm fields, and consisted of simple palings or “worm fences”; livestock was allowed to roam, and fenced animal enclosures were uncommon (McMurry et al. 2011:18-25).

The only building dating to this period on Valley Run Farm is the *circa*-1790 and *circa*-1830 portions of the dwelling. The owner and inhabitants of the property from its construction to ca. 1840 is unknown; thus, no other information regarding agricultural production from this period is known.

For the period of Diversified Small Scale Production, ca. 1750 to 1830, a farmstead should include a farmhouse typical for the region, dating to the period, and at least one barn or outbuilding related to diverse production, dating to the period. A farm should have remnant crop fields or woodlots (McMurry et al. 2011:103). Due to a lack of any period outbuildings, Valley Run Farm does not meet the registration requirements for this period.

Small Farms, Mechanization, and New Markets, ca. 1830 to 1885

The nineteenth century saw a decline in the average size of a farm in the York-Adams region, but an increase in the amount of cultivated land. This mirrored trends throughout Pennsylvania, although the decline in farm size in the York-Adams region was steeper than elsewhere. However, the region had a higher proportion of improved land than many areas of the state. This was due to the tendency of local farm families to subdivide, improve, and remain on their ancestral property, rather than relocate to fresh territory and establish new farms. Overall, soil quality in the area was good, and new cultivation methods, such as crop rotation and use of fertilizer, improved productivity considerably. The strength of regional markets also made it more feasible for farmers to prosper on smaller-sized farms than before (McMurry et al. 2011:25).

The ability of York-Adams farmers to get their farm products to market increased considerably with the advent of railroad transportation. The first rail line between York and Baltimore opened in 1838, and rail transportation east to Lancaster and Philadelphia became available shortly afterward. This was followed by routes leading north to Carlisle and Harrisburg. Although local farmers maintained ties to Baltimore, the industrialization of Philadelphia and its better access to British trade routes made it a much more desirable market for York-Adams farmers as the nineteenth century progressed. The improved access to several different urban markets enabled York-Adams farmers to generate a variety of agricultural products for sale. Although crop farming remained dominant, the raising of livestock for market became increasingly common (McMurry 2011:25-28).

Crop farming became more productive overall through modernized cultivation techniques, which included both improved care of the soil and the advent of mechanized farm implements. Hay and feed grains increased in importance as the number of livestock grew and animals were increasingly kept in fenced areas instead of free-range. By 1850, York-Adams farmers were raising field crops comparable to or above state averages, with wheat, corn, oats, and hay all planted in rotation. Although potatoes, rye, and buckwheat were grown in small amounts, fiber crops (flax, hemp) declined steeply. Hay production began to focus on upland meadows of timothy rather than the previous generation's irrigated meadows, which required considerable labor to build and maintain. By 1850, York County farmers began raising tobacco as a cash crop. The shale soil along the Susquehanna was conducive to growing tobacco crops, and the introduction of good-quality tobacco strains ca. 1850 enticed many farmers in both Lancaster and York counties to begin raising it in the next decade. Most York County tobacco was grown in the southeastern part of the county near the Susquehanna and packed in York, Wrightsville, and Columbia. By 1880, Lancaster was the top tobacco-producing county in Pennsylvania at 29 million pounds. York County was a distant second, producing 5.7 million pounds, but this output was sufficient to support numerous cigar factories in York and other local towns (McMurry et al. 2011:26-28).

Mechanization of farm labor accelerated greatly during the nineteenth century. Increasingly complex farm machinery helped achieve greater productivity with less human and animal labor. Both Hanover and York became hubs for manufacturing of farm implements, and despite their small size, York and Adams counties achieved a much higher average of mechanization in 1850 than the state average. Threshing machines, reapers, grain drills, and cast-iron plows, as well as smaller tools and implements, were popular among local farmers (McMurry et al. 2011:30).

Orchard and garden crops became increasingly important in this region during the mid- to late 1800s, again due to the greater availability of markets for fresh produce. Apple orchards typically had 50 to 100 trees, and local growers developed the York Imperial variety of apple, which became popular statewide. Farm gardens produced a variety of berries, vegetables, and legumes, which were both tended and sold or preserved by female farm residents (McMurry et al. 2011:29).

Farms in York and Adams counties had far fewer sheep and more swine than other regions of Pennsylvania, but livestock numbers were otherwise on par with statewide averages. Wool production during this period was minimal, corresponding with the decline of fiber crops and greater availability of cotton textiles. With the large number of residents of German descent, pork products formed a critical component of local diets. As before, farms needed oxen and horses for work stock, dairy cows for milk and butter, swine for meat, and poultry for eggs and meat. After 1850, many area farmers began raising and fattening beef cattle for sale; some York County farmers found that tobacco farming and raising beef cattle were complementary activities. Stock farming was also practiced in Adams County. Dairy production was such that typical farms were able to make enough butter for both consumption and sale (McMurry et al. 2011:28).

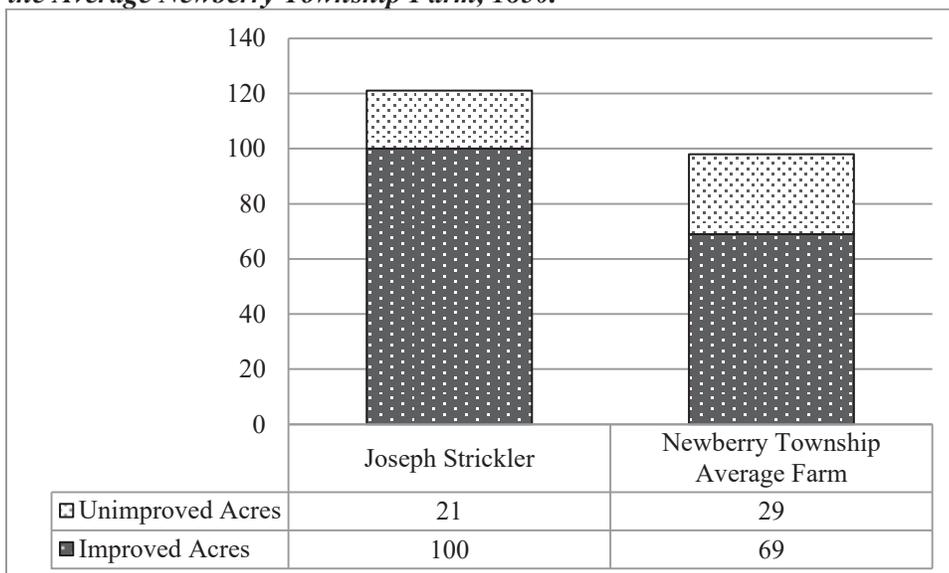
Farm labor was still largely derived from farm owners and their families, as well as neighbors who exchanged work on one another's farms at busy times. Farm women and girls often worked the fields, as well as tending gardens and animals and maintaining the household. Bound labor disappeared in favor of wage labor. Tenant farming also remained a substantive minority in the agricultural economy. In 1880, 27 percent of York and Adams counties farms were operated by tenant farmers, as compared to 21 percent statewide. In this predominantly German region, tenancy was often the result of "kinship-based share tenancy," based on an Old World system called the "Altenteil" (old people's part) in which younger family members operated farms on land owned by their elders. The tenants received a share of the crops, and the owners maintained control of the farm (McMurry et al. 2011:29-30).

House construction in the region during the mid- to late 1800s included a variety of sizes, plans, and styles. Brick and wood-framed construction were most prevalent, although stone was not unusual. Banked dwellings, with walk-out lower levels, were common. This era saw the development of the form known as the “Pennsylvania farmhouse,” which was characterized by a side-gabled double-pile plan, end chimneys, and a nearly square footprint, with the façade containing three to five bays. Oblong single-pile dwellings, while not as popular as the double-pile plan, were also common. The Pennsylvania barn, with its banked location and projecting forebay, reached full flower during this period as the hub of a diversified farm. Flexible in size, it accommodated the storage and animal housing needs of period farmers, facilitating the crop-and-livestock agricultural practice that was increasingly typical of the time and place (McMurry et al. 2011:30-41).

A locally important agricultural outbuilding was the tobacco barn, which was developed and built from ca. 1850 onward in southeastern York County as well as nearby Lancaster County. Other common rural outbuildings of the period include springhouses, smokehouses, and summer kitchens. Less common outbuildings that may be found on area farms include bake houses, granaries, corn cribs, machine sheds, and hog houses or pigsties. Many of the functions of these specialized buildings could typically be housed within the more common outbuildings, such as a bake oven within a summer kitchen, or corn cribs and granaries contained within a bank barn (McMurry et al. 2011:41-49). Farm landscapes of this period were characterized by multiple small crop fields, pastures, and woodlots. Fencing included worm fences and post-and-rail fencing in the outlying areas, and picket fencing close to the dwelling. Little evidence of these landscapes survives today (McMurry et al. 2011:49).

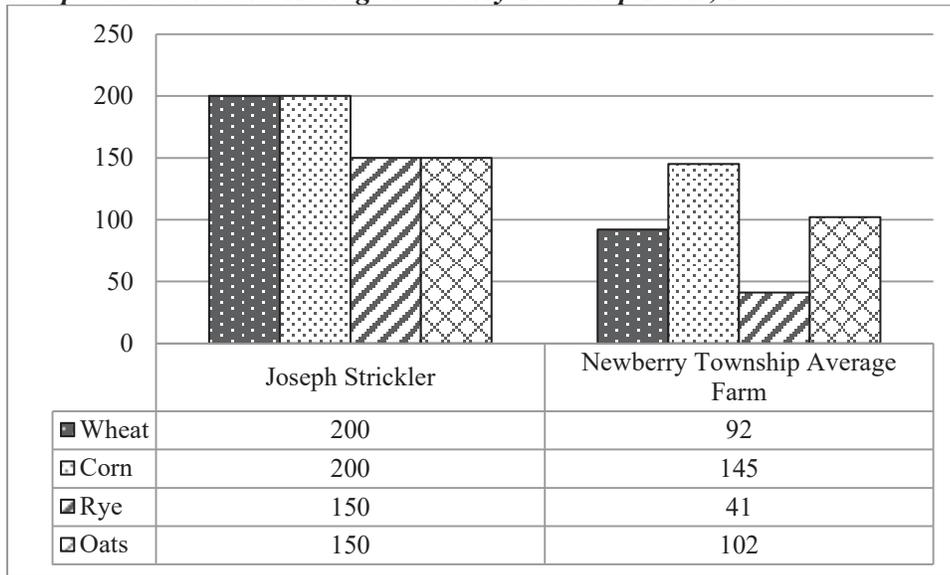
Valley Run Farm was owned by Joseph Strickler in 1850. The farm appears to have generally followed regional trends in agricultural production, and was above-average within Newberry Township. The farm’s size was larger than the township average, and had a slightly above-average percentage of improved acres (Chart 1). This is somewhat counter to regional trends, which saw shrinking farm sizes during this period. Due to its large size, Valley Run Farm produced an above-average amount of field crops, including wheat, corn, rye, and oats (Chart 2). The overall crop mix generally reflects regional trends, with a focus on export-driven crops like wheat, supplemented by feed crops like corn and oats. The oats and corn were used to feed the above-average number of livestock kept on the farm (Chart 3). The numbers and quantity of livestock are slightly above the township averages, with the exception of the number of sheep, which was three times the average. The above-average number of sheep and continued flax production (10 pounds) indicates that on-farm production of fiber products was still practiced during Joseph Strickler’s ownership. Valley Run Farm was also above average in mechanization (Chart 4). Compared to some other townships in York County, Newberry Township had a below-average value of machinery. Joseph Strickler, on the other hand, owned a significant value of machinery at slightly less than twice the township average, which even surpassed the county average (USDA 1850).

Chart 1. Comparison of Acreage of Valley Run Farm under Joseph Strickler to the Average Newberry Township Farm, 1850.



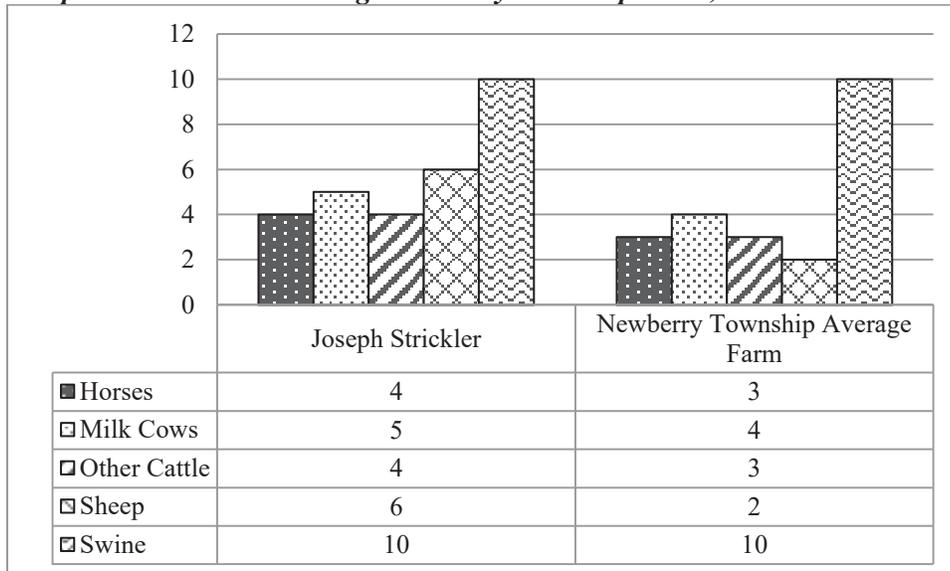
Source: USDA 1850

Chart 2. Comparison of Bushels of Crops Raised on Valley Run Farm under Joseph Strickler to the Average Newberry Township Farm, 1850.



Source: USDA 1850

Chart 3. Comparison of Number of Livestock on Valley Run Farm under Joseph Strickler to the Average Newberry Township Farm, 1850.



Source: USDA 1850

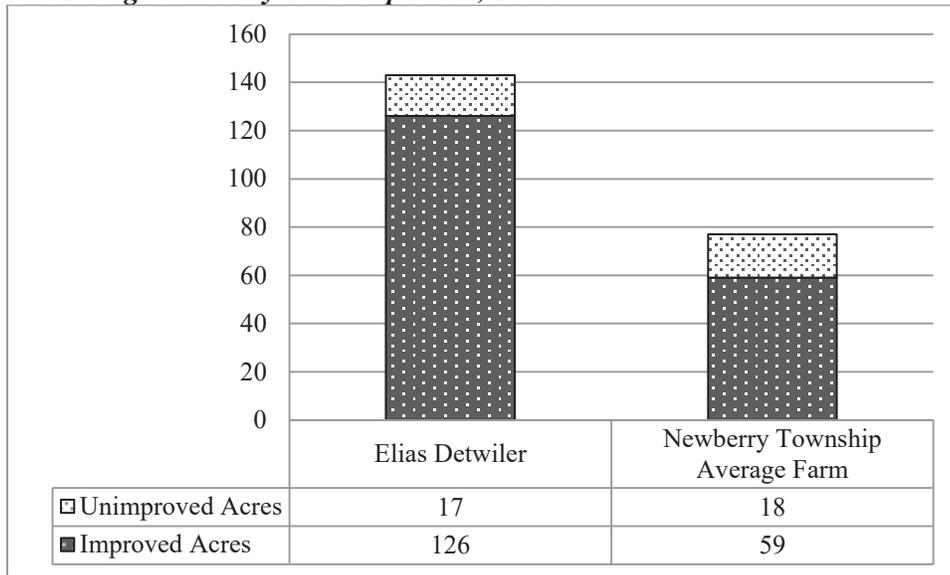
Chart 4: Comparison of Value of Farm Machinery on Valley Run Farm under Joseph Strickler to the Average Newberry Township Farm, 1850.



Source: USDA 1850

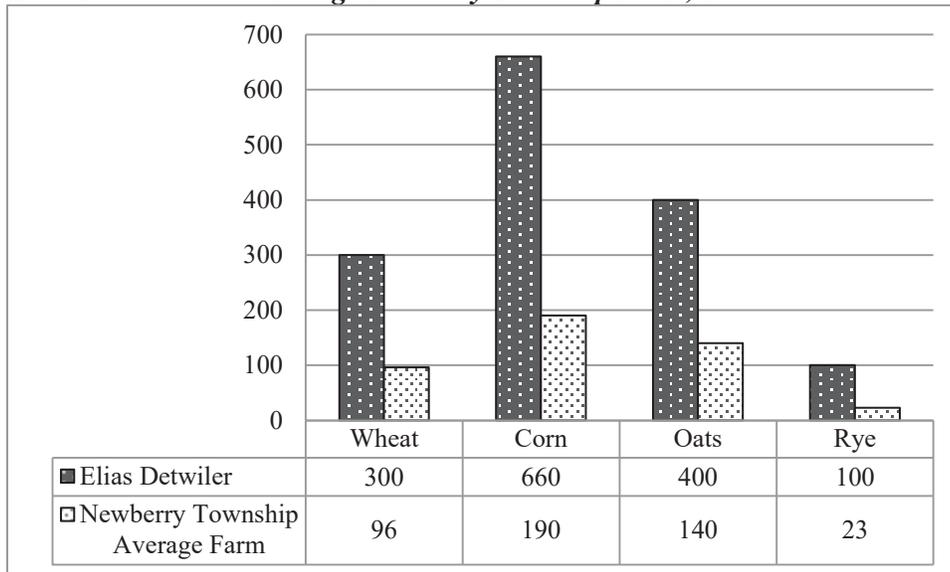
Joseph Strickler sold the property to Elias Detwiler in 1867, and Elias Detwiler owned the farm when the 1880 agricultural census was taken. Contrary to regional trends, Elias Detwiler owned and farmed a larger acreage than in 1850, increasing from 121 acres to 143 acres (Chart 5). During the same period, the average size of farms in Newberry Township declined from 98 acres to 77 acres. Elias Detwiler owned more acreage than what he acquired from Joseph Strickler, which only totaled about 109 acres (York County Recorder of Deeds 6Q:432). Valley Run Farm, at nearly twice the size of the Newberry Township average, also raised above-average quantities of all types of grain crops (Chart 6). The majority of the crops raised by Elias Detwiler were used to feed livestock, including both corn and oats. This focus on feeding livestock is reflected in the above-average number of horses, milk cows, and beef cattle kept on the farm (Chart 7). In particular, the farm expanded beef cattle production, with three times the township average of beef cattle. Elias Detwiler also kept about twice the average number of milk cows, resulting in just less than twice the average production of dairy products like butter (Chart 8). The farm was slightly below-average in both swine and poultry production. In order to harvest the large quantities of grain raised on the farm, Elias Detwiler relied on farm machinery, with more than twice the township average value of farm machinery (Chart 9). The farm featured an above-average orchard, and produced more than twice as many bushels of apples as the township average (Chart 10). Elias Detwiler also introduced tobacco into the crop mix on the farm. Of the farms that grew tobacco in the township in 1880, Elias Detwiler raised more than twice the township average (Chart 11; USDA 1880).

Chart 5. Comparison of Acreage of Valley Run Farm under Elias Detwiler to the Average Newberry Township Farm, 1880.



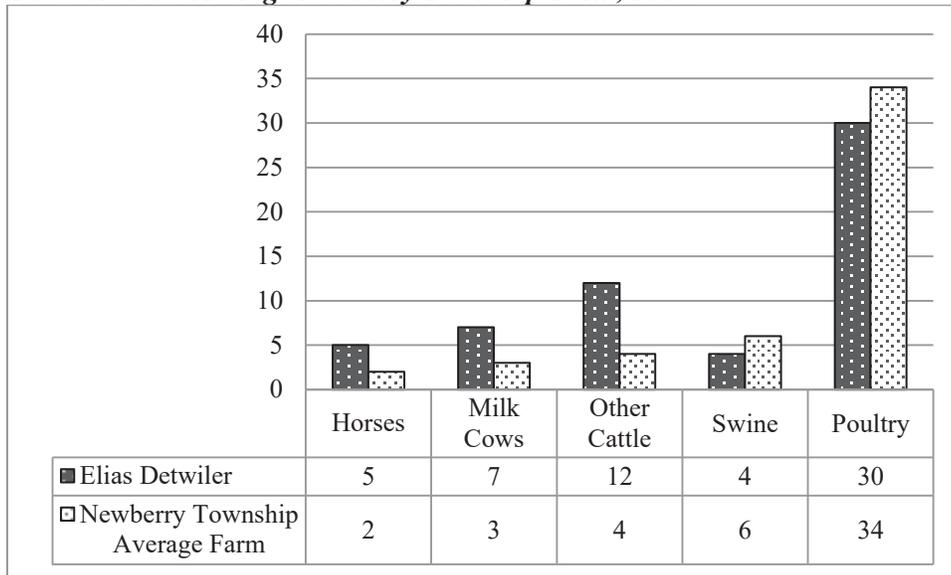
Source: USDA 1880

Chart 6. Comparison of Bushels of Crops Raised on Valley Run Farm under Elias Detwiler to the Average Newberry Township Farm, 1880.



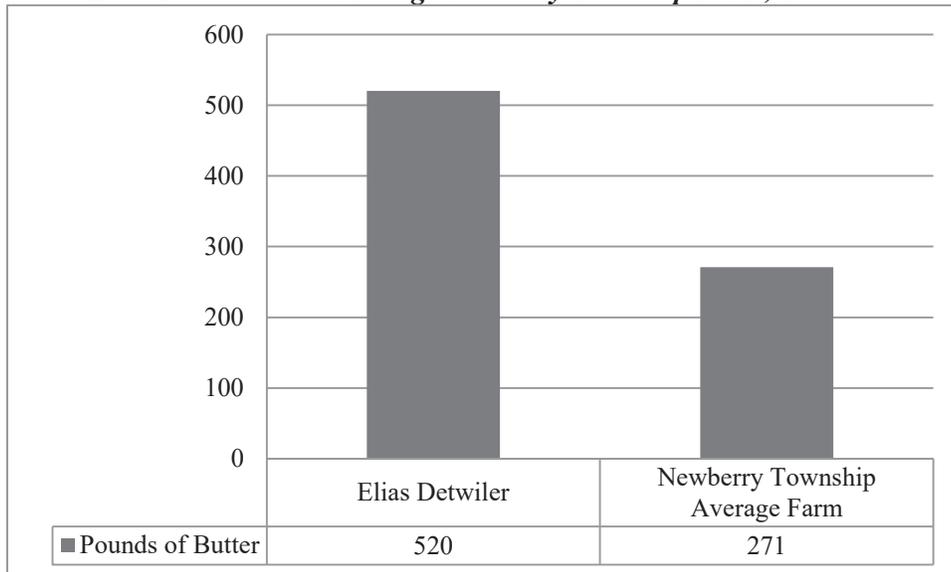
Source: USDA 1880

Chart 7. Comparison of Number of Livestock on Valley Run Farm under Elias Detwiler to the Average Newberry Township Farm, 1880.



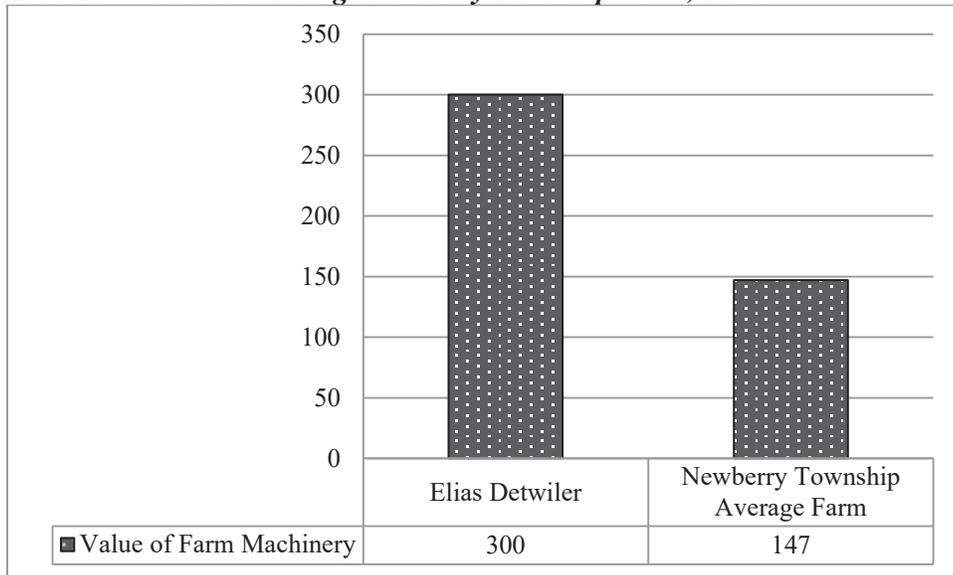
Source: USDA 1880

Chart 8. Comparison of Pounds of Butter Produced on Valley Run Farm under Elias Detwiler to the Average Newberry Township Farm, 1880.



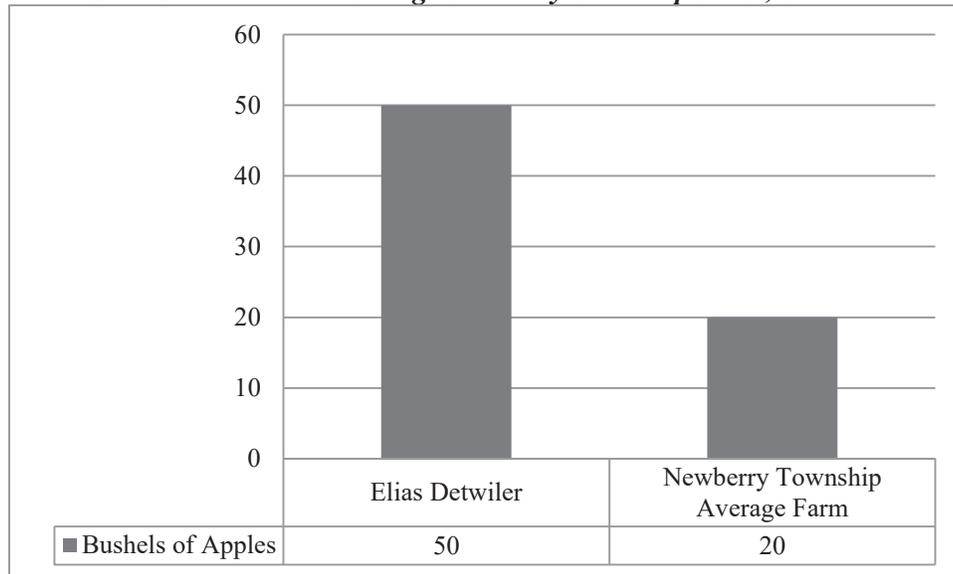
Source: USDA 1880

Chart 9. Comparison of Value of Farm Machinery on Valley Run Farm under Elias Detwiler to the Average Newberry Township Farm, 1880.



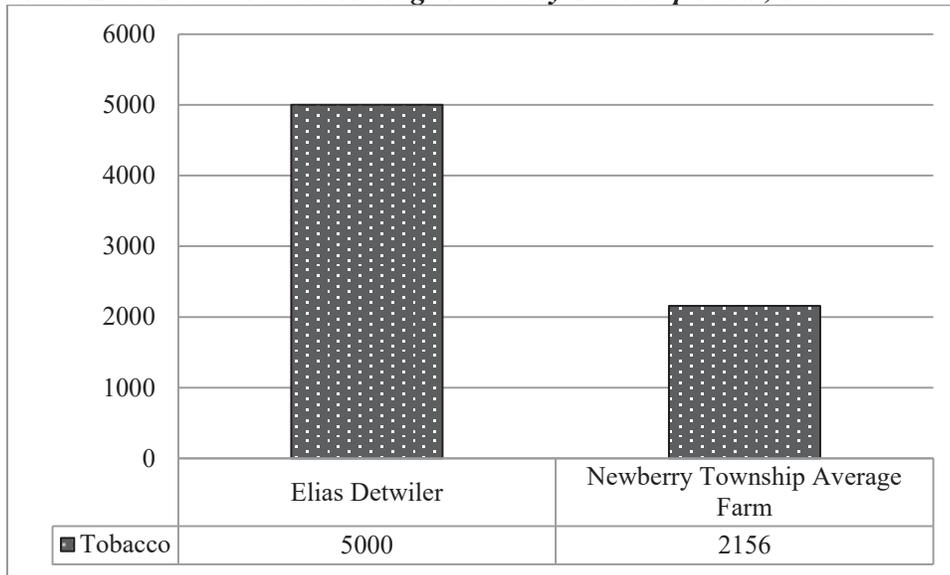
Source: USDA 1880

Chart 10. Comparison of Bushels of Apples Harvested on Valley Run Farm under Elias Detwiler to the Average Newberry Township Farm, 1880.



Source: USDA 1880

Chart 11. Comparison of Pounds of Tobacco Raised on Valley Run Farm under Elias Detwiler to the Average Newberry Township Farm, 1880.*



Source: USDA 1880

The farm buildings of the ca. 1830 to ca. 1885 period on Valley Run Farm include the Pennsylvania barn, stone arch culvert, and several additions to the dwelling. The barn functioned as both livestock housing and grain storage on the farm. However, the high production values of grains indicate the farm likely had additional storage such as a granary or corn crib. In addition, the above-average amount of machinery on the farm indicates a machine shed may have been necessary. Finally, a substantial amount of tobacco was grown on the property in the second half of the nineteenth century, but no outbuildings or barn modifications reflect this production.

To be considered significant for the period of Small Farms, Mechanization, and New Markets, ca. 1830 to 1885, a *farmstead* should include a farmhouse typical of the place and time, or an older house showing period modifications; a barn typical of the period; and at least one subsistence-related outbuilding. A *farm* should have crop land and retain at least some historic field size or boundary (McMurry et al. 2011:103-104). Valley Run Farm has a dwelling that includes period modifications and includes a period Pennsylvania barn. However, the property lacks a subsistence-related outbuilding dating to this period, has no tobacco barn for the substantial tobacco production, and thus does not meet the registration requirements of the context for the period ca. 1830 to 1885.

Diversified Small-Scale Farming, Poultry Raising, and Cannery Crops, ca. 1885 to 1940

York-Adams farmers continued to run small, diversified, crop-and-livestock farming operations as the nineteenth century passed into the twentieth century. Although farming operations remained similar in scale to the previous period, a number of trends resulted in changes to farm size, what was grown, and where these products went. The industrialization of cities and towns that began in the early nineteenth century continued, affecting local communities like York and Hanover as well as larger cities like Philadelphia. Towns in the two counties developed industries in textile and shoe manufacturing, as well as food processing. This led to increasing numbers of jobs in non-agricultural sectors, and the population of rural areas in the two counties declined during this period as many people relocated to towns. Farmers were also hit with two agricultural depressions (one in the 1890s and the other in 1920 to 1940), further reinforcing the trend away from farming and toward non-agricultural employment. Average farm sizes declined to a low of 63 acres on average in 1910, and those who continued to farm made a number of adjustments to remain viable (McMurry et al. 2011:50).

The type of livestock kept on York-Adams farms shifted. Mechanization of farming operations, including the introduction of gas engines, tractors, and trucks, caused a decline in the number of horses kept on a typical farm.

* The Newberry Township Average was calculated only from those farms that raised tobacco, rather than all farms in the township.

However, the number of mules kept on area farms increased during this period. This may reflect the fact that automobiles were replacing horses as a means of transportation, while mules were preferred over horses as draft animals for remaining farm work that could not be accomplished with mechanical means. Swine remained an important commodity; while their numbers fluctuated during this period, their overall per-farm average was high. Beef cattle were not plentiful in general but increased slightly in the early 1920s in Adams County (McMurry et al. 2011:50-51, 53).

Dairy farming in this area was practiced, but only on a small scale, and it never became as important as in other regions of Pennsylvania. The number of milk cows generally remained steady throughout the period, although it declined slightly in Adams County. Nearly all farms kept milk cows, but the area average was only 3.5 cows per farm, and only a small number of farms had herds of more than ten cows. Fluid milk was the primary product of local dairy cows, while butter production dropped off (McMurry et al. 2011:53, 55).

The most dramatic change in York-Adams livestock numbers was a sharp rise in poultry production. While the number of poultry in the two counties was on par with state averages in 1880, both counties' poultry averages were significantly higher than the state average of 78 chickens per farm by 1927. In York County, the 1927 average was 200 chickens, and by 1940 York County had surpassed Lancaster County as the top poultry-producing county in the state. The keeping of poultry, which could be done in relatively limited space, was suitable for the generally small-sized farms of the region, and with the proximity of markets for eggs and meat now enhanced by the advent of automobiles and trucks, even small farms could see good returns on poultry production (McMurry et al. 2011:54-55).

Mechanization and industrialization also affected farmers' choices in what crops they grew. Corn and wheat crops increased, while hay, oats, rye, and tobacco decreased. Wheat was still important for flour production, mainly in local mills, while corn was either fed to animals or went to local commercial distilleries. The decrease in the local horse population during this period contributed to the decrease in the hay and oats needed to feed them. Tobacco production in York County increased from 1885 until 1910, but then declined sharply, while tobacco production in neighboring Lancaster County rose. Local farmers began experimenting with raising soybeans in the 1920s. However, the most important impact on local crop production was the rise of canneries in local towns, which corresponded with a marked increase in production of vegetables and fruits for canning in both York and Adams counties. Vegetable and berry patches, although labor-intensive, offered high returns for farmers, and even small farms often had truck patches. Orchard crops were important as well, although York County and eastern Adams County did not produce to the same level as the "fruit belt" in western Adams County. Canneries purchased the crops of local farmers, but some canneries also owned their own farmland and contracted with farmers to raise crops to be canned (McMurry et al. 2011:28, 50-55).

Family farming, supplemented by the exchange of work with neighbors, remained by far the most prevalent labor source. Even on farms with extensive vegetable crops, most labor came from family members, and hired laborers were used only at peak times. Farm tenancy dropped, and scholars in the 1930s noted that a number of farm families practiced farming on a "part-time" basis, with family members also working in non-farm jobs. The availability of automobiles to transport people from farms to town jobs made this possible, and studies of this practice indicate that it was widespread in the area and done on a long-term basis, not as a temporary situation. The studies also show that in such situations, the husband was typically the one employed off the farm. The majority of the farm work fell to women and children, although field crop production was still dominated by males (McMurry et al. 2011:56-57).

Relatively few new farm dwellings were built during this period due to the economic pressures on farmers and the general decline in rural life. Some dwellings were improved with modern conveniences, which included central heating, running water, and electricity, but these improvements were adopted more slowly in this region than in other parts of the state. By 1930, less than 25 percent of York County farms had running water, a third had electricity, and only 40 percent had telephones. Aside from the automobile, the local averages for new technology lagged behind the state averages. With the lack of indoor plumbing, privies were essential outbuildings on most farms. These were sometimes combined with other farm outbuildings; one notable local practice was to combine them with pigsties (McMurry et al. 2011:57, 67).

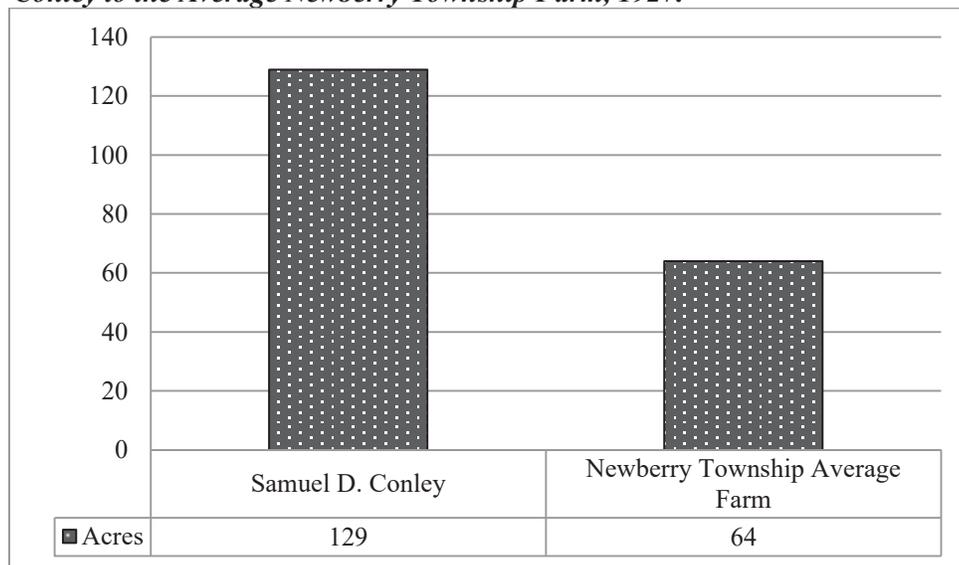
Farmers continued to construct Pennsylvania bank barns into the early twentieth century, but small barns and non-banked barns were also built. The local importance of crop farming over dairy farming made it possible to house needed functions in barns that were smaller and simpler than the multi-level bank barn. The need for subsistence during economically stressful periods meant that farm families still constructed root cellars, smokehouses, and

summer kitchens to store and process their own foods. Pigsties and poultry houses were common, since these animals represented the majority of livestock on a typical farm. Machine sheds were built to house tractors and farm machinery, and garages were constructed to house automobiles and trucks. Corn cribs (which were often integrated into other outbuildings such as machine sheds) and granaries were built for field crops. Milk houses were built on farms in the early twentieth century as part of changing state and national sanitation standards for the processing of fluid milk. While many farmers in other regions began installing silos during this period, silos were relatively few in York and Adams counties since dairy farming was not prevalent and few farmers had large enough herds to necessitate silos. Only 14 percent of farms in the two counties had a silo in 1927. A new form of farm outbuilding emerged by the 1920s: the roadside stand, the purpose of which was for farm families to sell fruits and vegetables to passersby in automobiles (McMurry et al. 2011:57-73).

Farm landscapes of this period were mostly cleared land with relatively little woodlot. Tree lines often formed boundaries around and within the property. Crop fields generally remained small despite the use of tractors and machinery. Orchards and truck patches were common features in aerial views from the 1930s but are rarely extant today. Barbed-wire fencing was introduced in this period and quickly became the most common type, but fencing in general was used only for animal pens and pastures. Farm dwellings were often surrounded by ornamental landscaping, including hedges and specimen trees (McMurry et al. 2011:74).

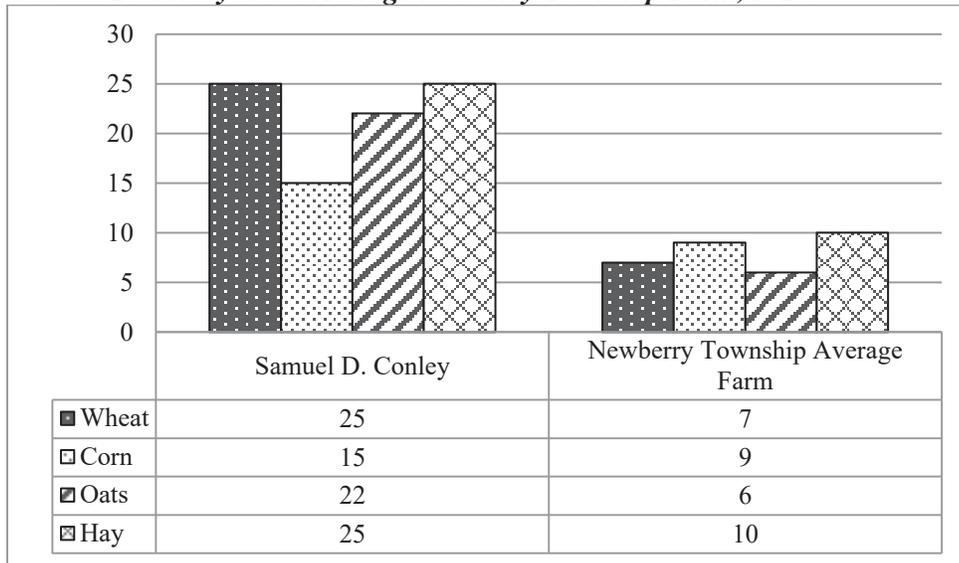
In 1927, Valley Run Farm under Samuel D. Conley continued to operate at an above-average level, especially in crop production. As in the past, this was partly a factor of the larger size of the farm (Chart 12). Because Valley Run Farm was about 100 percent larger than the Newberry Township average, there were between 70 and 300 percent more acres in various crops grown on the property (Chart 13). Valley Run Farm generally lagged behind township averages for livestock, with the exception of milk cows and poultry (Charts 14 and 15). The well-above-average numbers of milk cows and poultry likely consumed a large portion of the hay and grains grown on the property, while the wheat produced was likely sold off the farm. The agricultural production of Valley Run Farm appears to show a crop and livestock mix that was generally common in the area, with a focus on milk and poultry production (Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture 1927).

Chart 12. Comparison of Acreage of Valley Run Farm under Samuel D. Conley to the Average Newberry Township Farm, 1927.



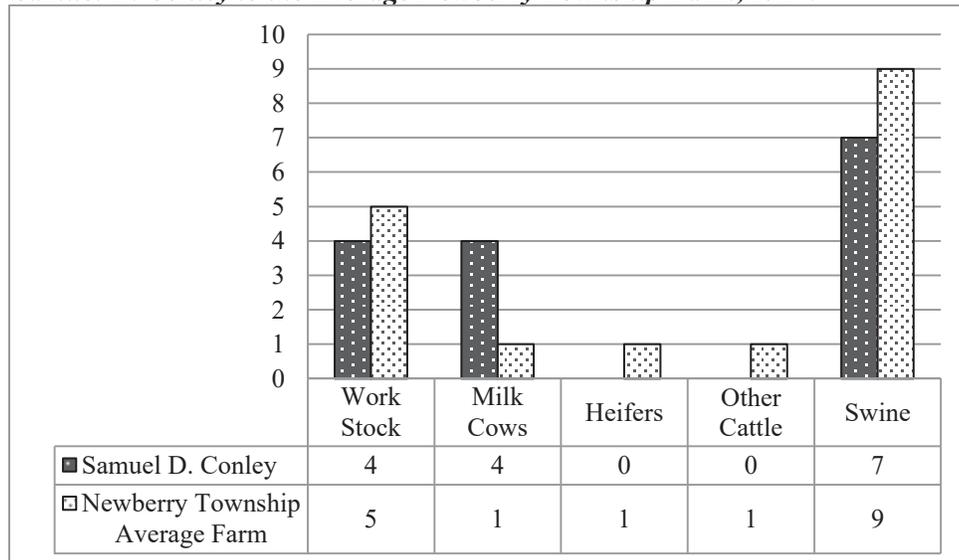
Source: Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture 1927

Chart 13. Comparison of Acres of Crops Raised on Valley Run Farm under Samuel D. Conley to the Average Newberry Township Farm, 1927.



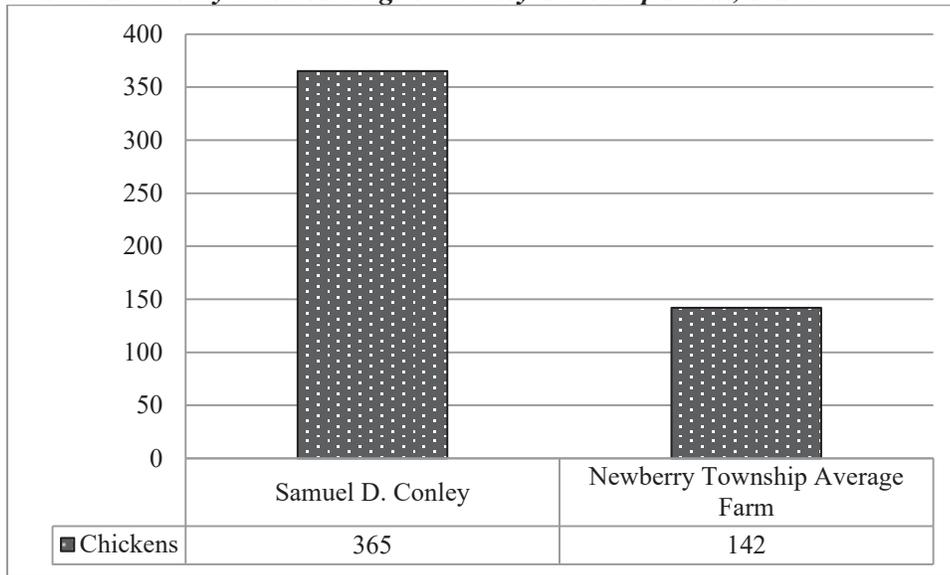
Source: Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture 1927

Chart 14. Comparison of Number of Livestock on Valley Run Farm under Samuel D. Conley to the Average Newberry Township Farm, 1927.



Source: Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture 1927

Chart 15. Comparison of Number of Chickens on Valley Run Farm under Samuel D. Conley to the Average Newberry Township Farm, 1927.



Source: Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture 1927

The buildings constructed at Valley Run Farm during this period are the woodshed and privy. These outbuildings reflect practical outbuildings associated with domestic life on the property. The farm also retained the dwelling, the Pennsylvania barn, and additional outbuildings that have since been demolished.

To be considered significant for the period of Diversified Small-Scale Farming, Poultry Raising, and Cannery Crops, ca. 1885 to 1940, a *farmstead* should have a house typical of the time and place, or an older house with period modifications; an older barn showing twentieth-century adaptations or a newer barn type; at least one subsistence-related outbuilding dating from or modified during this period; at least one outbuilding showing poultry raising, hog raising, dairying, or truck farming; and architectural accommodation for farm machinery. If the farm has a history of specializations such as tobacco farming, the buildings should reflect that. A *farm* should have cropland. Remnant field boundaries and evidence of truck farming or orcharding is a plus (McMurry et al. 2011:104). Valley Run farm does not meet the registration requirements for this period because it lacks a poultry house and any architectural accommodation for farm machinery. Aerial photography reveals that the property had a number of historical outbuildings that have been demolished. Among these outbuildings was likely a poultry house to accommodate the large number of chickens kept on the farm during this period.

Poultry Production, Fossil Fuel Power, and Off-Farm Labor, ca. 1940 to 1960

Beginning in the World War II years, agriculture changed considerably both in York and Adams counties and on a nationwide basis. Increasing use of fossil fuel led to rising capital costs, while the prices of farm products dropped, making it difficult to continue farming as before. As distribution of farm products expanded to a national and then a global scale, market competition became fierce, and increasingly industrialized production on large corporate farms began to appear. Local farm operators survived by shifting from a diversified operation toward specialization, and by supplementing their agricultural income with non-farm employment. By 1950, over half of all farmers in the York-Adams region worked at least part-time in non-farm jobs, and over a third of such farmers derived higher income from their non-farm employment than from their farms. The overall number of farms dropped, but average acreage rose; this trend was evident in both York and Adams counties, as well as other regions (McMurry et al. 2011:56, 77, 81).

Crop and vegetable farming remained strong in both counties during this period; corn and wheat, using new varieties, remained the predominant grain crops. Orchard fruit was very strong; York and Adams counties both had very high numbers of fruit-bearing apple and peach trees as compared to state averages. Adams County had the highest apple numbers of any county in 1950, and both counties were among only four in the state with over 100,000 fruit-bearing apple trees. Crop farming methods changed, with farm equipment assuming the power and labor previously provided

by humans and animals. Yields were increased by the use of industrial fertilizers and pesticides made with fossil fuel ingredients, but this change resulted in newfound environmental awareness and concerns. Animal manure no longer had a use and became a disposal problem, and runoff from modern chemicals threatened soil and watershed health (McMurry et al. 2011:78-80).

Poultry and swine continued to dominate local livestock numbers. York County had the second-highest numbers of eggs and chickens statewide in 1950, second only to Lancaster County. York County also had the highest numbers of swine in the state in 1950, although these numbers had dropped considerably from 1880. Beef cattle were important in both counties, although more so in Adams County. Dairy farming was also stronger in Adams County than in York County, and became somewhat more common in the region during this period than it had been previously, although nowhere near the levels seen elsewhere. Milk produced in the region was shipped to Philadelphia. As was increasingly common, feed for livestock was purchased rather than grown (McMurry et al. 2011:78-80).

Subsistence farming activities, such as growing and canning produce and home butchering, declined during this period. The advent of refrigeration and supermarkets meant that families no longer needed to produce and preserve their own food supply, and farm women, who were previously responsible for much of the food growing and processing, were increasingly working in non-farm jobs. Labor became scarce during World War II as many young men were drafted into the military, but the availability of comparatively well-paying industrial jobs made it difficult to find farm workers in the post-war period. Farmers addressed the labor shortage through increasing use of machinery, as well as streamlining and specializing their operations. Some labor was provided by migrant laborers (McMurry et al. 2011:80-81).

During this period, farm buildings generally moved away from highly specialized functions in favor of more flexible spaces and uses. Building construction typically included standardized methods and mass-produced building materials, and often followed published plans. Older buildings were often altered with modern materials to increase their size or meet new legislative requirements for animal housing and production.

Relatively few barns were built during this period, and those that were built deviated considerably from earlier designs, often using modern architectural designs created by the national agricultural establishment. Stable barns with gable-end entries, gambrel or arched “rainbow” roofs, and free-stall interior animal housing were the most common barn types. Older barns were modified to provide concrete flooring and free-stall animal housing on the lower level, which often entailed enclosing and/or extending the forebay to increase space on the lower level. Open-sided free-stall shelters were also installed on many farms, as well as pole barns, which were commonly used for equipment storage. Silos, which were most commonly of the concrete-stave type, increased in number after 1940. Corn cribs were common and were often constructed as freestanding structures; some were conical metal structures, while larger versions were wood-framed and often had a drive-through plan. Poultry housing, which was constructed for chickens and a small number of turkeys, was found throughout both counties. Such housing was typically wood-framed or concrete block, and one to two stories in height. Farms often had multiple chicken houses. Less common outbuilding types related to cannery crops included worker housing and packing houses (McMurry et al. 2011:82-94).

Some significant changes occurred in farm landscapes during this period. Fields became larger and were planted in noticeably different patterns than in previous years. Contour plowing, which followed topography, and strip cropping, in which different crops are alternated in strips within a field, were both introduced before 1940 but became widespread afterward. These methods capture and retain more rainwater in the field, and prevent runoff and erosion of topsoil. Farm ponds also became widespread in the post-war period; the availability of mechanized earth-moving equipment and discounts on farm insurance for pond owners helped drive this popularity. Orchards, which were very common before 1940, declined afterward; relatively few remain today (McMurry et al. 2011:95-96).

The extant buildings on Valley Run Farm from this period are the *circa*-1945 silo, *circa*-1960 small bank barn, and *circa*-1960 machine shed. These buildings represent modern accommodation for grain and machinery storage. Based on architectural evidence, such as a large sliding door on the north elevation and a swing door on the south elevation in the forebay, the small bank barn was likely originally used for machinery and crop storage.

To be considered significant for the period of Poultry Production, Fossil Fuel Power, and Off-Farm Labor, a *farmstead* need not have a house dating from this period but should have a barn dating from the period or an older barn showing period modifications; poultry housing dating from the period; and architectural accommodation for farm

machinery. A *farm* should have cropland; remnant field boundaries and farm ponds are a plus (McMurry et al. 2011:104). Valley Run Farm does not meet the registration requirements for this period because the property lacks period poultry housing. In addition, aerial photography indicates that three agricultural outbuildings were demolished during this period.

Key #	207354
ER#	2016-8153-133

National Register Evaluation

Based on the criteria outlined in the National Register Bulletin, “How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation” (NPS 1997), and the statewide agricultural context detailed in the *Historic Agricultural Resources of Pennsylvania c. 1700-1960: A National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form* (McMurry et al. 2011), Valley Run Farm, at 425 Yocumtown Road, Newberry Township, York County, Pennsylvania, is recommended not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). The property does not meet the registration requirements for the property types “the farm” or “the farmstead” as outlined in the MPDF.

Valley Run Farm is recommended not eligible under Criterion A. The property is not eligible in the area of agriculture.

To be considered significant under Criterion A as a *farm* or *farmstead*, a property must possess a strong representation of traditional buildings and landscape features from one chronological phase of the region’s agricultural history, or possess a range of building and landscape features that illustrate change over time in the region’s agricultural history (McMurry et al. 2011:103).

Within the chronological periods described above, registration requirements dictate that certain features must be present on a property for it to be significant for each period. For the period of Diversified Small-Scale Production, ca. 1750 to 1830, a *farmstead* should include a farmhouse typical for the region and at least one barn or outbuilding related to diverse production dating to the period. A *farm* should have remnant crop fields or woodlots (McMurry et al. 2011:103). Due to a lack of any period outbuildings, Valley Run Farm does not meet the registration requirements for this period.

To be considered significant for the period of Small Farms, Mechanization, and New Markets, ca. 1830 to 1885, a *farmstead* should include a farmhouse typical of the place and time, or an older house showing period modifications; a barn typical of the period; and at least one subsistence-related outbuilding. A *farm* should have cropland and retain at least some historic field size or boundary (McMurry et al. 2011:103-104). Valley Run Farm has a dwelling that includes period modifications and includes a period Pennsylvania barn. However, the property lacks a subsistence-related outbuilding dating to this period, the dwelling has been substantively altered, and thus does not meet the registration requirements of the context for the period ca. 1830 to 1885.

To be considered significant for the period of Diversified Small-Scale Farming, Poultry Raising, and Cannery Crops, ca. 1885 to 1940, a *farmstead* should have a house typical of the time and place, or an older house with period modifications; an older barn showing twentieth-century adaptations or a newer barn type; at least one subsistence-related outbuilding dating from or modified during this period; at least one outbuilding showing poultry raising, hog raising, dairying, or truck farming; and architectural accommodation for farm machinery. If the farm has a history of specializations such as tobacco farming, the buildings should reflect that. A *farm* should have cropland. Remnant field boundaries and evidence of truck farming or orcharding is a plus (McMurry et al. 2011:104). Valley Run farm does not meet the registration requirements for this period because it lacks a poultry house and any architectural accommodation for farm machinery. Aerial photography reveals that the property had a number of historical outbuildings that have been demolished. Among these outbuildings was likely a poultry house to accommodate the large number of chickens kept on the farm during this period.

To be considered significant for the period of Poultry Production, Fossil Fuel Power, and Off-Farm Labor, a *farmstead* need not have a house dating from this period but should have a barn dating from the period or an older barn showing period modifications; poultry housing dating from the period; and architectural accommodation for farm machinery. A *farm* should have cropland; remnant field boundaries and farm ponds are a plus (McMurry et al. 2011:104). Valley Run Farm does not meet the registration requirements for this period because the property lacks period poultry housing. In addition, aerial photography indicates that three agricultural outbuildings were demolished during this period.

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To be considered significant for illustrating changes in agricultural history over time, a *farmstead* should have architectural evidence of these shifts. A *farm* should have some cropland but the acreage need not be high, since farms historically tended to be small (McMurry et al. 2011:105). Valley Run Farm does not reflect the changing agricultural trends of the region, and also does not retain sufficient integrity to reflect the agricultural production of the farm's past. The property at one time retained approximately six additional agricultural outbuildings, all of which have been demolished. The property also includes a few modern buildings and structures, including a large modern horse barn, and historic field patterns have been altered.

Valley Run Farm is recommended not eligible under Criterion B. It is not associated with any individuals of local, regional, or state significance. Additionally, none of the owners of Valley Run Farm appear to have influenced local, regional, or state agricultural trends or practices.

Valley Run Farm is recommended not eligible under Criterion C due to the lack of architectural significance of the remaining buildings and the overall lack of integrity of the property. The dwelling is a vernacular example of local construction practices, and has undergone several periods of addition. However, due to modern alterations such as the replacement of all windows and a substantial addition, the dwelling does not retain sufficient integrity. Additionally, the house does not represent the work of a master.

Valley Run Farm cannot be fully evaluated under Criterion D at this time, as archaeological investigations have not been completed.