FarmVille: Not just a game for teen

By **KIM HAYES**
Sentinel reporter

While the closest some kids get to running a farm is Zynga's popular game, FarmVille, farming is a very real part of everyday life for 14-year-old Trent Goss, of McClure.

The Goss family farm, which sits on about 200 acres in Mifflin County, was established in 1893, by Trent's great-great-grandfather. The family has lived there ever since. Trent's grandparents, Ron and Marilyn Goss, currently live in the original farmhouse. Trent's parents, Tim and Tina, have a home on the property as well, and there is nowhere Trent would rather be.

"Ever since I was a little kid, I remember just being on the farm. That's all I ever wanted to do," he says. "I rode on more tractors than in cars when I was a baby."

A typical day in Trent's life revolves around the place he calls home, and begins with tending to a variety of animals that live on the farm.

"On a normal day in the summer, I'll start off by going out and feeding my 4-H animals," he says the Mifflin County Junior High School student. These animals are Trent's and Trent's alone, and at any one time may include beef steers, beef heifers, dairy feeder steers, chickens, goats and hogs.

After completing these chores, Trent makes his way to the farm's shop.

"It's where we service all of our tractors," he says. "It's actually built into our equipment shed. They took one bay of the shed and turned it into a pretty nice shop." It is here that Trent, Tim and Ron decide what needs to be done for the day.

There isn't much Trent can't do now that he is old enough to operate all the machinery. With his experience in the fields, Tim and Ron usually leave Trent in charge of them while they take care of other things that come up.

Often, Trent's duties include checking on the cattle in the farm's two pastures and filling feeder wagons with hay or silage for the cattle to eat.

"We have around 40 cows, plus what we call fat steers, which are steers we're getting ready for market, plus our heifers that we're getting ready for production, so I'd say we

Continued on Page 8

Sentinel photo by BRADLEY KREITZER

Trent Goss stands at the entrance to his family's farm, which has been in the Goss family since 1893.

"Ever since I was a little kid, I remember just being on the farm. That's all I ever wanted to do. I rode on more tractors than in cars when I was a baby."

— Trent Goss

Jerry Trout, of First National Bank, buys the 2011 Mifflin County Youth Fair grand champion market poultry from Trent Goss, who raised them.

Photo submitted by TINA GOSS

Let's thrive: Thrivent Financial for Lutherans®

Feel good about their future.

You and your family build your goals together. Don't leave those goals to chance. Life insurance from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans can help. **Call today.**

Lori Henry, FIC
Financial Associate
401 Valley St.
Lewistown, PA 17044
Cell 717-994-1652

24741B R5-11 ©2010 Thrivent Financial for Lutherans 201101814