



April 30 to May 7, 2006

Governor's Conservation Awards



DELAWARE ASSOCIATION
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

AGENDA
WATER WISE
2006
Soil & Water Stewardship Week

Governor's Conservation Awards

Delaware Agricultural Museum
Dover, DE
APRIL 11, 2006

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| 10:00 - 10:05 AM | INTRODUCTIONS/WELCOME
Andy Burger, President of DACD |
| 10:05 - 10:10 AM | PROCLAMATION
For Soil and Water Stewardship Week
April 30th to May 7, 2006
Secretary - John A. Hughes
Department of Natural Resources |
| 10:10 - 10:40AM | CONSERVATION AWARDS
PRESENTATIONS -
Secretary - John A. Hughes
Department of Natural Resource
& Award Recipients |
| 10:40 AM | CLOSING REMARKS
Andy Burger |
| 10:50 AM | ADJOURN |

Eric and Julia Hopkins, Dulaney Manor Farm

Eric and Judy Hopkins are the owners/operators of a 217 acre farm straddling the New Castle County/Kent County lines. Over the years, they have tilled as many as 770 acres. Over the past 20 years, the Hopkins implemented numerous conservation practices on the farm. They installed wildlife hedgerows in several locations on the farm. Five irrigation and shallow wildlife ponds have been installed and several acres of shallow wetlands created. The pond elevations are controlled for wildlife purposes and are used for irrigation. A center pivot irrigation system was installed in the early 1990's and tile lines were installed for water management. The tile lines and ditches recycle the water back to the ponds. A berm was placed on Licking Branch Creek to create a shallow pond for irrigation and denitrification purposes. Nutrients are recycled instead of being lost to the nearby Cypress Branch. For several years, the Hopkins had a hog finishing operation. Manure from sloped concrete beds was washed into a 20,000 gallon holding tank. The liquid manure was then chisel plowed into the cornfield. They have planted grass and food buffers on the farm and installed filter strips. The Hopkins have used a variety of federal and state conservation programs to transform the farm into what it is today. They received the 1994 Cooperator of the Year award from the New Castle Conservation District. In 2005, they were recognized by USDA-NRCS as Delaware's first Conservation Security Program (CSP) participants in honor of their excellence in conservation.

**Ballymeade Maintenance Corporation,
Peter Haggerty, Community Project Liaison**

Over the past 4 years, Ballymeade has partnered with DelDOT, the Delaware Forest Service/Delaware Community Forestry Council and the New Castle Conservation District to implement and install several community street and open space enhancement projects. The community cooperated with DelDOT to enhance the entrance and community open space bordering the recently widened Naamans Road. The community hopes that the buffer of trees and shrubs will provide a sound and visual barrier that will allow them to one day remove the stockade fence along Naamans Road. Trees have been located between house lots so as to not block the visual view of landowner's homes. The Maintenance Corporation has been careful to plant several species of shade trees per recommendations from the Delaware Forest Service and the Conservation District for species diversity.

Ted and Maria Bobola, Bobola Farms and Florist

Bobola Farms is probably best known for their produce and retail outlet located on Route 8, west of Dover. The Bobolas operate a wholesale and retail nursery, and recently installed a micro-irrigation system for the mums with help from the EQIP program. The Bobolas also operate three poultry houses. They have installed a 50' x 104' Manure Storage Structure this past year, along with a 16' x 32' Channel Composter. They also farm over 1300 acres, with 500 acres being no-tilled. They are enrolled in Tier IV nutrient management and Tier I pest management. This past year they also installed two low-pressure center pivot irrigation systems on the home farm, and are practicing irrigation water management.

Crouse Brothers Inc., Bob Crouse

Crouse Brothers Inc. has been a cooperative, enthusiastic contractor implementing several new and innovative erosion control practices on project sites located throughout Kent County. At Huntington Mills Subdivision located in Clayton, Delaware, Crouse Brothers installed a new type of gabion basket developed by the Kent Conservation District which improved the filtering of sediments and ease of construction. This was done voluntarily by Crouse Brothers and at their own expense. This test project proved the value of the new basket and is now used throughout Kent and Sussex Counties. Crouse Brothers has consistently exceeded the requirements of the Delaware Sediment and Erosion Control Handbook, Sediment and Erosion Control Regulations and improved the water quality of the projects, thereby protecting Delaware streams and waterways. Crouse Brothers dedication and professionalism far exceed the industry standards for excavation work. This dedication has improved the water quality of the state and increased other contractors' awareness of the importance of the program.

Dennard Hill, Seaford, Delaware

Mr. Hill has been a member of various agricultural organizations including the Delaware Pork Producers where he received the honor of Pork All America. Mr. Hill received cost-share assistance to construct a manure shed, a composter, and three concrete pads. Mr. Hill did an incredible job installing a poultry windbreak and irrigation system for which he also received cost-share assistance. He has 20 acres of land enrolled into the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. Most recently, Mr. Hill participated in the cost-share program for a Rentar fuel catalyst. Mr. Hill estimates his generator is now 25% more fuel efficient. Mr. Hill will be recognized by the District at the 2007 Cooperator's Dinner.

Andrew Marchioni, Certified Construction Reviewer, JCM & ECI

In response to the demands of development, DNREC has implemented the CCR program to assist in site compliance. Andrew Marchioni is the Certified Construction Reviewer (CCR) for the Peninsula golf course and subdivision project on the shores of the Indian River Bay in the Long Neck area. He has diligently provided timely reports and supervised the implementation of the Detailed Sediment and Stormwater plan throughout the many phases of construction in this environmentally sensitive area.

History of Soil and Water Stewardship

For 50 years local soil and water conservation districts have celebrated Soil and Water Stewardship Week. Each year, the National Association of Conservation Districts selects a theme, prepares materials and distributes them through the nation's 3000 local conservation districts to educators and church leaders.

The most important concept promoted through Soil and Water Stewardship Week is the need for everyone to practice good soil and water stewardship.