

# AgNews



**DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
2320 South DuPont Highway, Dover, DE 19901

**To: Newsroom Directors and Assignment Editors**

**For Immediate Release: Contact Anne Fitzgerald**  
February 23, 2006 **800.282.8685 (DE only)**  
**302.698.4520**  
**302.242.4092 (Cell)**

Number of pages: 2

## **Delaware Nutrient Management Commission Recognizes 2005 Delaware Environmental Stewards**

Environmental Stewards were recognized during the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Governor's Conference on Agriculture held on February 18. Joseph and Denise Calhoun, Mountaire Farms of Delaware growers from Dagsboro, received the award. Jack Snyder, a Perdue Farms grower from Gumboro, and Alma Heatwole, an Allen Family Foods grower from Greenwood were also finalists. The winners and finalists are all poultry growers; they received a lane sign, plaque, and a cash award, which is \$2500 for the winner and \$250 for the finalists.

The Environmental Stewardship Program awards farmers whose stewardship and general farm practices contribute to the preservation of the environment, water quality and overall farmland. The Commission, Allen Family Foods, Mountaire Farms of Delaware, and Perdue Farms implement the program that is funded by the poultry companies operating in Delaware.

A judging team visited all nominated farms and selected the winner. The team consisted of representatives from the poultry companies, University of Delaware Cooperative Extension, Department of Agriculture, and conservation organizations. The following criteria were considered for the award:

- General nature of the farming operation;
- Manure and mortality management;
- Best management practices;
- Farm management, innovation, biodiversity and wildlife management;
- Off-farm agricultural related activities;
- Aesthetics;
- Community involvement;
- Other environmental and agricultural awards.

Bill Vanderwende, Commission Chairman, said, "The Stewardship Program is an excellent tool to recognize those farmers who are setting the example for others to follow."

For more information, contact the DDA Nutrient Management Program: Bill Rohrer at (302) 698-4500 or (800) 282-8685 (DE only).

Electronic picture of the winners and a group picture are available by e-mail:  
[anne.fitzgerald@state.de.us](mailto:anne.fitzgerald@state.de.us)

###



Joseph and Denise Calhoun