



To: Newsroom Directors and Assignment Editors

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Nutrient Management Commission presents Environmental Stewardship Award Scott Peterman named 2007 Environmental Steward

Today, the 2007 Environmental Steward was recognized before an audience of his peers during an award ceremony at the Delaware Agricultural Week events at the State Fairgrounds in Harrington. Scott Peterman, grower from the Milford area, received the award. Peterman, who grows poultry for Mountaire Farms of Delaware, received a lane sign, plaque, and a cash award of \$1,000. Representative Bob Walls from the 33rd Representative District presented Peterman with a Tribute from the Delaware House of Representatives.

At the ceremony, the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control was recognized for their on-going contribution and assistance to Delaware's Nutrient Management Program.

Each year since 2001, the Delaware Nutrient Management Commission (Commission) and the Delmarva poultry companies recognize a farmer or 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 and other agri-businesses.

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.

Carl Solberg, Nutrient Management Commissioner, said, "Congratulations to Scott Peterman. He is an excellent example of the commitment and dedication of Delaware farmers to their environment, quality of life and way of life. I also want to thank the poultry companies and the Delaware Maryland Agri-Business Association for funding this year's award."

Michael Scuse, Secretary of Agriculture, said, "I am very pleased that the Commission and the poultry companies decided to recognize DNREC's role in Delaware's nationally recognized nutrient management program. DNREC and DDA have had, and continue to have, an excellent working relationship that has allowed us to accomplish much for Delaware's environment and quality of life."

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

Electronic pictures of the awardees are available by e-mail: anne.fitzgerald@state.de.us

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Scott Peterman receiving \$1,000 check from Paul Downes, Mountaire Vice President of Live Operations.

Left to right: Harold “Jack” Peterman; Michael Scuse, Secretary of Agriculture, Paul Downes, Scott Peterman, Bill Rohrer, DDA Nutrient Management Section Administrator.



John Hughes, DNREC Secretary accepting award.

Left to right: Robert Baldwin, DNREC, Scott Peterman (back); John Hughes, DNREC Secretary, Michael Scuse, DDA Secretary, Carl Solberg, Nutrient Management Commissioner.

Additional Information

Michael “Scott” Peterman:

The Delaware Nutrient Management Commission recognized Scott Peterman for his environmental stewardship in nutrient management.

Since the purchase of the poultry farm in 1996, Scott has implemented practices to enhance the farm’s visual appearance and also to minimize odors in the surrounding area. In 2003, five hundred Leland Cypress trees were planted around Scott’s poultry facilities as a beautification effort and to help filter odors to the surrounding neighbors.

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Scott Peterman obtained his Nutrient Generator certification in early 2002. In addition to the Leland Cypress planting, drainage swales have been constructed around the poultry facilities and lined with grasses in order to absorb any nutrient runoff. All poultry mortality is composted in an approved 40' X 60' manure shed/composter. All manure and compost are taken and used by a certified Private Nutrient Handler on cropland, which is rented out and planted to corn, soybeans, and winter wheat. These Best Management Practices protect surrounding areas from nutrient runoff.

The Petermans are strong advocates of wildlife preservation. In the winter months, when food for wildlife is scarce, salt licks and corn are provided for the deer herd as well as for approximately 35 wild turkeys. Nut bearing trees have been planted to provide food for squirrels. A forest environment is maintained with underbrush that provides shelter for wildlife including rabbits, fox, raccoon, and squirrel.

The Petermans are proud of their farming operation and take pride in the stewardship practices that have been implemented.

Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control:

The Delaware Nutrient Management Commission recognized DNREC as an agency that has been a significant partner with DDA and the Commission in implementing nutrient management strategies. The DNREC Office of the Secretary has been actively engaged since program inception. The DNREC cabinet secretary serves as an ex-officio member while coordinating any resources and providing valuable direction and advice.

The Division of Soil and Water, within DNREC, continues to be instrumental as a funding partner and overlapping programs such as conservation district operations, sediment and storm water control and tax ditch management. The relocation projects managed within the Nutrient Management Program is partially funded by the Division's Non Point Source Program. They fund \$200,000, or approximately 25% of the total Non Point Source Program. The Division funds \$200,000 or approximately 25% of the total relocation budget.

The Division of Water Resources has partnered with the Delaware Department of Agriculture (DDA) and the Commission in developing and implementing the State Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Program. Delaware is one of approximately five states where an NPDES CAFO program is managed within the Agriculture Department. While many outsiders question the integrity of a CAFO program within the State Agriculture Department, DNREC recognized results and supported the unique Delaware structure. The Division of Water Resources worked closely with the Commission in developing agricultural nutrient reduction goals as part of a court mandated Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program.

DNREC is an essential partner (next to farmers) in the overall implementation of Nutrient Management Law.