



To: Newsroom Directors and Assignment Editors

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Number of pages: 2

Nutrient Management Commission presents Environmental Stewardship Award Frank Robinson Family named 2010 Environmental Stewards

Today, the 2010 Environmental Steward was recognized before an audience of his peers during an award ceremony at the Delaware Agriculture Week events at the State Fairgrounds in Harrington. Congratulations to Frank Robinson and family, who received the 2010 award.



Left to right: *The Hon. Ed Kee, Delaware Secretary of Agriculture, Bill Vanderwende, Chairman, DNMC, Ray Robinson, Bernadette Robinson, Frank Robinson, The Hon. Tom Carper, U. S. Senator, and Larry Towle, Delaware Nutrient Management Program Administrator.*



Left to right: *Lloyd Jones, Grow-Out Manager for Perdue Farms, Ray Robinson, Bernadette Robinson, Frank Robinson, Mike Levingood, Vice President Live Operations, Logistics and Retail Supply Chain for Perdue Farms.*

The Robinsons operate Dead Broke Farm, a 182,000 capacity poultry farm near Harrington. Dead Broke Farm grows poultry for Perdue Farms. Though relatively new to the industry, the Robinsons are recognized for their passion for the environment and agriculture. They maintain strict standards for the health and cleanliness of the farm. They demonstrate their commitment and dedication by:

- Maintaining proper distances from tax ditches
- Planning the layout of the poultry houses account for prevailing winds in order to minimize odors and particulates effects on residential areas.
- Locating manure sheds and composters as far as possible from the roadway
- Installing 40 ft. by 40 ft. concrete pads outside the front and rear doors of the poultry houses to minimize the amount of manure transferred out of the houses during shipment.
- Prompt and adequate storage of manure
- Proper composting of dead birds
- Adding a vegetative buffer to help control odor, particulates, and run-off.

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- Providing and upgrading wildlife habitat on their farm
- Staying on the cutting edge of new and innovative efforts to improve their stewardship, e.g., they are cooperating with NRCS and evaluating experimental filter plants on their farm to determine which will flourish and filter particulates and odor.

The Robinsons, Frank, Bernadette, and son Ray received a lane sign, plaque, and a cash award of \$1,000.

Others environmental stewardship nominees receiving a lane sign, a plaque, and awards of \$500 were:

- The Shane Carter Family, owners and managers of Redden Acres in Seaford. Redden Acres is a 73,000 capacity broiler farm and grows for Allen Family Foods. Congratulations Shane and Danna Carter.



Left to right: The Hon. Ed Kee, Delaware Secretary of Agriculture, Bill Vanderwende, Chairman, DNMC, Danna Carter, Shane Carter, The Hon. Tom Carper, U. S. Senator, and Larry Towle, Delaware Nutrient Management Program Administrator.



Left to right: Tom Brinson, Corporate Environmental Manager, Allen Family Foods, Inc., Danna Carter, Shane Carter.

- The Darrell Lewis Family, owners and managers of the Lewis Farm in Laurel. The Lewis farm is a 143,000 capacity broiler farm and grows for Mountaire Farms. Congratulations to Beth Ann, Darrell, and Dillon Lewis.



Left to right: The Hon. Ed Kee, Delaware Secretary of Agriculture, Bill Vanderwende, Chairman, DNMC, Dillon Lewis, Beth Ann Lewis, The Hon. Tom Carper, U. S. Senator, and Larry Towle, Delaware Nutrient Management Program Administrator.



Left to right: Dillon Lewis, Beth Ann Lewis, Beth Sise, Environmental Manager for Mountaire Farms, Inc.

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The Carter Family and the Lewis Family implement many of the best management practices listed above.

The awards were presented by Larry Towle, Delaware Nutrient Management Program Administrator.

U. S. Senator Tom Carper attended the award event and said, “Agriculture plays a critical role in Delaware’s economy and poultry is our biggest player,” said Sen. Tom Carper (D-Del.). Delaware’s poultry farmers have a heavy responsibility to lead the way in best management practices and environmental stewardship.

“I am proud that the First State has one of the best Nutrient Management Program in the country. Delaware’s program, which actually began back in the 1990s when I was Governor, serves as a model for other states. Delaware’s poultry farmers and agricultural community take that charge seriously and work every day to make our state’s agriculture industry an asset for both our economy and our environment. I’m grateful for the work that they do, and I congratulate this year’s winners.”

Each year since 2001, the Delaware Nutrient Management Commission (DNMC) 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.

Bill Vanderwende, Delaware Nutrient Management Commission Chairman said, “The Delaware Nutrient Management Commission believes that it is very important to continue to recognize those who go that ‘extra mile’ and set an example for others to follow. We salute the commitment of our farmers to our environment and to our quality of life. ”

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.

For more information, contact the DDA Nutrient Management Program: Larry Towle 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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