

AgNews



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Delaware Nutrient Management Commission Recognizes 2006 Delaware Environmental Stewards

Environmental Stewards were recognized during the 13th Annual Governor's Conference on Agriculture held on February 9. Guy and Nancy Phillips, Allen's Hatchery growers from Georgetown, received the award. Richard and Joyce Morris, Mountaire Farms growers from Laurel, and Samuel Slabaugh, Perdue Farms grower from Delmar, 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 Commission believes that farmers who are setting the example for others to follow should be recognized. This Stewardship Program gives us the opportunity to recognize them and also reward them for their efforts."

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:
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Left to right: Bill Rohrer, DDA Nutrient Management Section Administrator, Guy Phillips, 2006 Delaware Environmental Steward, Tom Brinson, Allen Family Foods, Inc., Nancy Phillips, 2006 Delaware Environmental Steward, David Baker, Delaware Nutrient Management Commission



Left to right: Guy Phillips, 2006 Delaware Environmental Steward, Bill Rohrer, DDA Nutrient Management Section Administrator, Nancy Phillips, 2006 Delaware Environmental Steward, Tom Brinson, Allen Family Foods, Inc., David Baker, Delaware Nutrient Management Commission, Richard and Joyce Morris, Finalists, John Hershberger, Mountaire Farms, Inc., Samuel Slabaugh, Finalist, and Jim Parsons, Perdue Farms, Inc.