Winners Of Maryland 1987 National Soil And Water Award

ANNAPOLIS, MD — Governor William Donald Schaefer has congratulated Montgomery County farmer Howard H. Williams and his wife, Christina, who are Maryland's winners and one of ten national finalists for the 1987 National Soil and Water Conservation Award presented by the National Endowment for Soil and Water Conservation and funded by the DuPont Company.

Williams, who farms 700 acres near Boyds, Maryland, was recognized for integrating sound, innovative, and cost-effective conservation techniques into his farm management program. Working with his wife Christina, Williams has incorporated best management practices such as conservation tillage, contour stripping, crop rotation, construction of grass waterways and diversions, sediment control ponds, and use of integrated pest management into their farm management plan. Williams was one of the first farmers in Maryland to participate in the Maryland Agricultural Cost-Share Program, and is anxious that the public gain a greater appreciation of the efforts of farmers in preserving the environment.

In a letter to the Williamses, Governor Schaefer stressed the importance of public recognition of all of Maryland farmers who make conservation a priority in their day-to-day operations, and who have collectively placed over two hundred thousand acres under conservation plans since 1980.

"Agriculture is one of Maryland's most important industries,' said Governor Schaefer, "and conservation is an investment which pays dividends in a healthy agricultural economy. Maryland is often thought of as an urban state," the Governor continued, "but here is a farmer who keeps farming right in the shadow of Washington, D.C. We are proud of Maryland farmers like Howard Williams and his family, and I want people to know that both conservation and agriculture are alive and well in Maryland."

The Williamses are among ten national finalists chosen from the state winners, from which three national winners will be selected. Each winner will receive a \$1,000 cash award.

The purpose of the Endowment is to form a partnership between the public and private sectors to conserve our agricultural resource

Urash Retires From Erie Co. Extension

UNIVERSITY PARK — William Urash, senior extension agent and county extension director for Eric County, has retired from Penn State's Cooperative Extension Service after 36 years.

He joined extension after graduating from Penn State with his B.S. in dairy science in 1951. His

first position was as assistant extension agent in Union and Snyder counties. He moved to Erie County in 1954, and since 1956 has served as county extension director.

Urash's main responsibilities involved staff support and development in agriculture, youth and family living. "I've found the most satisfaction over the years in staff development," he says. "We've had some fine people come through Erie County, and a number of them are still here. It's been rewarding to see these people develop in extension and in other

30 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

- The colder weather is ending the season for the more tender crops but new production in more distant Southern and Western areas have sprung up and it is surprising how many good buys in fresh fruits and vegetables are available this week.

Among fresh fruits, apples are an outstanding good buy with prices the lowest in several years. Fairly good buys are avocados, limes, grapefruit, white seedless grapes, pears and for something different and unusual - persimmons. Also cranberries.

- The effect of lack of moisture on high corn population was illustrated graphically in the results of hybrid corn test conducted Tuesday on the farm of J. Wade Groff, R7 Lancaster.

Yields of corn in the plot planted to 18,000 stalks an acre were only eight-tenths of a bushel higher than the yields in the population of 14,000 stalks an acre.

-- Having won honors with exhibits at past Pennsylvania Fann Shows, 11 Pennsylvania breeders of registered beef cattle are in line for attainment of national laurels next month.

— A new plant quarantine inspection station has been opened at the New York International Airport at Idlewild for the convenience of business firms and persons authorized to import plants and plant propagating material, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced.

Urash says he has seen new technologies develop in extension during his career. "Technology has changed our programs in agriculture and family living as well as youth work. Young people are still young people, but our programs and methods in reaching them have changed. I think these changes are positive -- they're helping to carry out extension's mission.'

He and his wife, Lucille, have

three children. Stephen, a graduate of Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, is a sales manager for Prudential Insurance Company in Eric. Cathy, who also lives in the Erie area, is married and has three children. Jill, a graduate of Edinboro University, lives in Washington, D.C.

Urash is enjoying the relaxed pace of retirement, although "the weeks still aren't long enough.'

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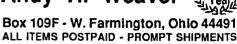
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