

3 Farmers/Ranchers Win National Conservation Awards

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Farm and ranch families from Missouri, Nevada, and Vermont were honored in early December as winners in a national awards program to recognize outstanding agricultural conservationists.

Each national winner received a \$1,000 cash award at a dinner in their honor and attended a White House awards ceremony to receive an awards certificate. The group met with Secretary of Agriculture Richard Lyng and with Senators and Congressmen during the three days of events.

The fifth annual conservation awards program is sponsored by the National Endowment for Soil and Water Conservation and

tunded by the Du Pont Company.

The 1987 national winners, selected from among the 50 state winners, are:

-- Lee and Laverne Kloppe, New Haven, Mo.

-- Fred and Mary Howell, Wells, Nv.; and

-- David and Janet Russell, Bristol, Vt.

"These remarkable families are true champions in a cause that we all believe in," said Emmett Barker, Farm and Industrial Equipment Institute president, who chairs the Endowment. "Each of them has done several things that are innovative, unique, and cost effective, which can be copied many times over by other agricultural

producers.

"The national winners as well as the 50 state winners are proof that there is a strong contingent of farmers and ranchers out there achieving conservation and pollution abatement on their own, who desire the full recognition, appreciation and support of our country."

John A Krol, group vice president of Du Pont Agricultural Products, said, "Du Pont is proud to sponsor this program. It is significant that we honor people like the Kloppees, Howells, and Russells and more than 200 others that we have recognized in these five years. We are trying to get more and more people involved in this

kind of activity, and recognition is the key.

"Du Pont has a long partnership with agriculture. The soil and water conservation principles that the Endowment and these fine families represent are similar to Du Pont's product and environmental stewardship principles. These champions demonstrate that farmers and agricultural producers can work together to protect the resources that support American agriculture."

In addition to the three national winners, finalists in the 1987 program included farmers and ranchers from Alabama, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina and Oregon.

The National Endowment for Soil and Water Conservation, established in June 1982, is a non-profit, privately funded, non-political organization dedicated to conserving natural resources and promoting a sense of stewardship for the land by all Americans.



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