

Dauphin District Announces Awards

DAUPHIN (Dauphin Co.) — Each year the Dauphin County Conservation District recognizes individuals and groups who make significant contributions to the conservation of Dauphin County's natural resources. Four awards were recently presented at the conservation district's annual banquet.

The Outstanding Conservation Farmer Award was presented to Gerald Wiest of Lykens Township. Gerald has incorporated many Best Management Practices (BMPs) into his 275-acre farm operation. He has installed a waste storage structure to help manage nutrients produced by his herd of 50 sows.

To reduce soil erosion and nutrient runoff, Wiest has constructed terraces, diversions, and waterways, and employs stripcropping, contour farming, and no-till planting on both owned and rented ground. Furthermore, he contributes his time to the community. Having been actively involved with the conservation district for many years, he has also served as an ASCS community committee member and is a past member of the cooperative extension board of directors.

An award for outstanding environmental

educator goes to Kathryn Armstrong, earth science teacher at Linglestown Junior High School, for the development and coordination of an environmental education program involving not only her students, but the entire student body, staff, the business community and other schools in the district. The program is a year in preparation and culminates in a week-long Earth Fair each spring.

Armstrong's students conduct a recycling program for the school all year and contribute the money they earn to appropriate charities. Impressive environmental science projects are displayed in the school gymnasium. Students, visitors, and staff sign and honor "Make-A-Difference" pledges, recognizing the impact individuals can make. Additionally, an assembly is held featuring conservation professionals who are then available to students throughout the day for questions.

For conservation awareness in municipal government, Lower Paxton Township is recognized for its leadership role in land use planning to control pollution, preserve stable ecosystems, and enhance soil and water resources. The township has incorporated steep slope conservation areas into their

zoning codes and has developed an erosion and sediment pollution control ordinance. They have actively supported storm water management studies of Paxton Creek and Spring Creek West and they maintain an environmental advisory committee which meets regularly and advises the supervisors on environmental issues. Lower Paxton Township officials have been consistent in their conservation programs for many years.

Finally, the Dauphin County

Federation of Sportmen's Clubs has been named the outstanding conservation organization. It is comprised of 11 local clubs representing 30,00 individuals committed to preserving natural resources.

In addition to conservation enhancement projects, such as joining with the Pennsylvania Fish Commission in float stocking of trout, this organization directs a major portion of its efforts to education. They conduct a week-long junior conservation camp each summer, providing scholarships

for students ages 13 to 17, and they sponsor a conservation poster contest available to all county students through the schools' art departments. The federation also maintains a close working relationship with other county, state, and federal natural resource agencies.

All award recipients were recognized at the Dauphin County Conservation District's annual spring banquet. The honorees also received Commonwealth Citations from Senator John Shumaker.

Report Indicates Low U.S. Oat Plantings

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — The recent United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) march planting intentions report signals the potential for acres planted to oats in 1992 to be the lowest in history.

The USDA report indicates that U.S. farmers will plant 8,337 million acres of oats in 1992; of these, 4,905 million acres are intended for harvest as grain. This compares to a 1991 total of 8,654 million acres planted and 4.8 million

acres harvested.

The 10-year averages for crop years 1981 through 1990 were 14.27 million acres planted and 7.74 million acres harvested. The USDA separates oats planted for harvest from total plantings because many producers plant oats for non-grain purposes, such as cover crops, companion crops, or forage.

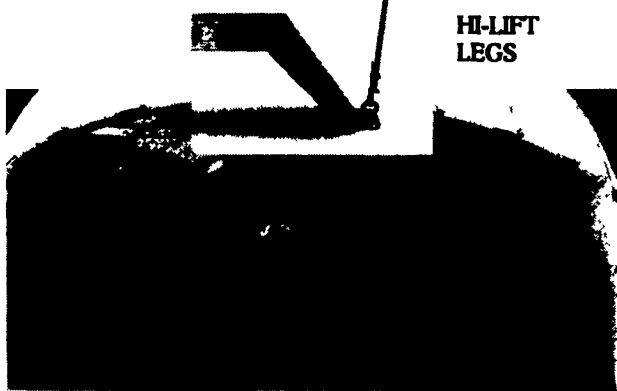
With the potential 1992 increase in acres planted for harvest, production could be

slightly higher than the 1991 production of 243 million bushels of oats.

Because of increased demand for oats and oat products, the U.S. imports more than 60 million bushels of oats per year. The globally available supply of oats negatively pressures the U.S. market price. Neither the U.S. market price nor the U.S. farm program target price of \$1.45 per bushel provides sufficient incentive for producers to grow oats. Oat production in the U.S. continues to decline as farmers respond to farm program and market signals to plant other crops.

The 580 members of the American Oat Association represent all aspects of the oat industry including producers, seed dealers, elevators, researchers, traders, millers, processors, and transportation companies. For more information, contact the American Oat Association, 415 Shelard Parkway, Suite 101, Minneapolis, MN 55426, (612) 542-9817.

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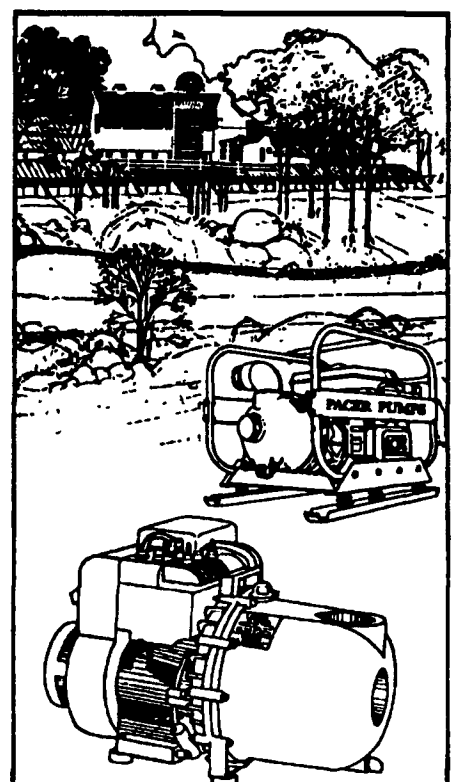
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