

## Citizens Recognized For Conservation Efforts

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — More than 200 conservationists recognized outstanding individuals and organizations contributing to the conservation of Pennsylvania's land and water resources at the annual awards banquet of the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD).

The banquet, part of the 45th annual Joint Conference of the State Conservation Commission and the PACD, was held at the Hilton Hotel in Allentown. Master of Ceremonies Paul O. Swartz, executive director of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, introduced the program honoring the 1992 winners.

Richard Rhoades, who operates 25 farms and a 167-cow dairy operation in Venango and Clarion counties, was named Conservation Farmer of the Year. He and his wife Martha have implemented numerous resource management practices for more than 30 years to protect their soil and the quality of the Mill Creek watershed in which their properties are located.

The PACD recognizes the cooperation of the media each year with a Media Conservation Award. This year's winner was Robert Thomas, general manager of station WKSL-FM in Greencastle, Franklin County. Thomas has been actively promoting conservation for more than 20 years by broadcasting programming on environmental concerns, such as the daily show, "Earth Wire." WKSL sponsors a two-mile stretch in the Adopt-A-Highway Program. He is also active in community conservation.

Indiana County Parks won the Watershed Protection Award for its rehabilitation of Tom's

Run, a tributary of the Conemaugh River. The Tom's Run Project began in 1985 with a coordinated land and water protection strategy to return the stream to a free flowing waterway. The project has successfully reduced flooding problems, created recreational and educational uses, and improved aesthetic value and habitat quality.

Sterling Raber, Lehigh County Commissioner, had been named County Commissioner District Director of the Year in August at the annual conference of the Pennsylvania Association of County Commissioners in Pittsburgh. He was also recognized at the PACD awards banquet for his support of agricultural land preservation and conservation programs. Raber has held the conservation district board position in Lehigh County since 1979.

This year, three award winners were selected from McKean County for significant conservation programs they have cooperated in establishing and conducting. Among them are a biannual youth education and public service program known as Conservation Camporee, and an experimental American chestnut reforestation program. A Special Conservation Service Award went to Jim Johnson, part-time manager of the McKean Conservation District, for the work in developing and supporting the programs. Bill Getz was chosen Ann Rudd Saxman Conservation Volunteer for the many hours he has devoted to implementing the projects. This award was named for Saxman of Westmoreland County, whose lifetime of service sets the standard for the honor. The third McKean County recipient was Boy Scout Troop

449 of Custer City, named Conservation Organization of the Year for numerous public service projects to state and national parks in the area.

Natural resource education is strongly supported by conservation districts, so the association annually chooses a Conservation Educator of the Year. The 1992 winner is Janice M. Tatara-McCall, third grade teacher at Steffee Elementary School in Seneca, Venango County. On accepting the award for a host of projects she conducts with her own students as well as in the community, Tatara-McCall said, "Environmental Education is my life."

Arthur and Mary Wolfe, owners of Deardorff's Milk Farm in Adams County, were presented by M.K. Goddard Forest Resource Management Award for the practices to protect natural resources they have implemented on their commercial tree farm. The Wolfes have owned the farm only since 1983, but they have been active conservationists for many years. Art Wolfe was instrumental in starting the first Adopt-A-Stream program in Pennsylvania.

All conservation districts are required to submit annual reports to the State Conservation Commission. Recognizing the report

must be appealing to be read, the PACD awards prizes for design based on the appearance, composition, content, and completeness of the report. Westmoreland County Conservation District was judged to have produced the best 1991 annual report. The second place report was produced by Snyder County.

Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company representative Dick Schmidt from the Philadelphia region was on hand to present awards in the conservation district competition designed to recognize the planning and implementation of outstanding programs. The competition is co-sponsored with the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD). This year, York County was the grand award winner. In addition to commemorative plaques, the chairman of the board and his wife receive an all-expense paid vacation/study trip to Camelback Resort and the Goodyear Farms in Arizona.

A special award was presented to William Lange, long-term director of the Lackawanna Coun-

ty Conservation District, and secretary-treasurer of the NACD since 1988. Lange was honored by PACD and received a proclamation from Governor William P. Casey, in recognition of Lange's years of service with conservation districts and commitment to protection of the commonwealth's natural resources.

This year's joint annual conference was co-hosted by the Lehigh County Conservation District and the Northampton County Conservation District. Other activities included technical workshops designed to give conservation districts information on subjects such as water resource programs, local roles in nonpoint source pollution, erosion control products, and designing publications. Both the State Conservation Commission and the PACD conducted business meetings. Included in the PACD meeting was the election of a new slate of officers.

For PACD membership information, contact the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, 225 Pine Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101, (717) 236-1006.

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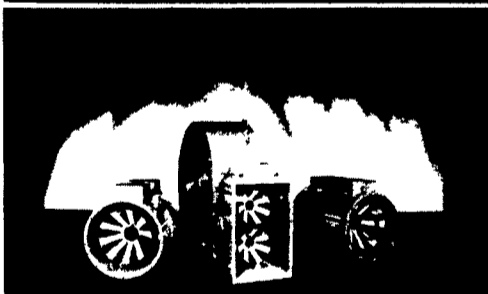
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neys said they are looking forward to many more of their herds' offspring growing up to become top quality cows like Connie.



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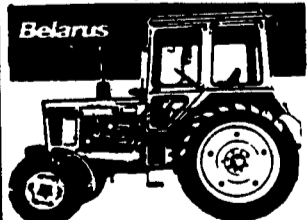
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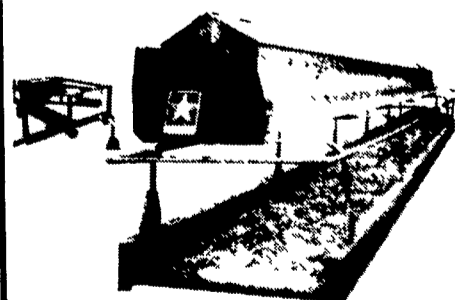
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