

Detweilers Conservation Cooperators Of The Year

CHALFONT (Bucks County) — Warren and Ray Detweiler were recently honored by the Bucks County Conservation District as this year's "Outstanding Conservation Cooperator."

The award was presented by

John Thomas, district manager, as part of the Bucks-Mont Crops Day Program.

Thomas said, "It is appropriate that the Detweilers be recognized among their peers. Although one cooperator is singled out, the

cooperator is really a symbol of all Bucks County farmers who have worked hard to protect our soil and water resources."

Warren and Ray Detweiler are a father and son team that operates one of the top dairy farms in the

county. In 1989, they were honored as a "Dairy of Distinction." Recently, in 1992, they were accepted under Bucks County's Farmland Preservation Program, having decided to keep their farm perpetually in agriculture.

The Detweilers have always been good stewards of the land, but in 1976 they recognized they needed some additional help in improving their fields and developed a "Conservation Plan" with the USDA, Soil Conservation Service.

Since 1976, they have installed 10,835 feet of grass waterways, 14,260 feet of diversions and terraces, 4,276 feet of underground outlets and drains and five water control structures.

Many of these practices were installed on rented land for which they also developed conservation plans.

"We wouldn't have been able to afford to do all this work if it wouldn't have been for Ed Brzostek, district conservationist for

Bucks County", said Ray. "He showed us how to build diversions and terraces with our moldboard plow. We only needed to pay for construction equipment on touch up and drainage work which allowed us to do more of each."

For 1993, the Detweilers plan on constructing a new manure holding facility to provide improved nutrient management and help save on fertilizer costs.

The Detweiler's farm more than 350 acres, milk 60 cows and raise 30 replacement stock. They also do custom harvesting for neighboring farms.

Ray's wife, Debbie, is a nurse at Doylestown Hospital, homemaker and she helps with lawn and garden chores.

Warren's wife, Ella, has helped with milking for many years and still does milking on occasion during busy planting and harvest seasons. Brother-in-law, Jeff Heacock also helps out, and daughter Mary Jane and her husband Edward help too, especially Ella and her gardening.



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