

Angus Journal Names Land Stewardship Winner

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. — William Ausley of Willow Oak Farm, Nokesville, Va., was named the Eastern regional winner of the 1993 Land Stewardship Award presented by the Angus Journal, official publication of the American Angus Association.

Ausley started Willow Oak, an 80-acre, registered Angus farm, in 1984. Located in Prince William County, Va., Willow Oak has two ponds, a perennial stream, and is bordered by a fairly large flowing creek which eventually makes its way to the Chesapeake Bay. Along with a herd of 35 registered

Angus cows, Ausley and his family keep a flock of sheep, five horses, and a couple of donkeys.

Although Ausley is classified as a small, part-time farmer, his conservation practices are full time. Virginia now requires that all farms which impact the Chesapeake Bay have an approved conservation plan by 1995. Willow Oak Farm signed the first plan approved in the state in June 1991. The plan covers pest management, nutrient management, and the agreed-upon conservation management.

Ausley installed 100-foot grass buffer strips along the farm's main creek. This past summer he fenced off Willow Oak's last remaining stream. A below-the-pond-dam water trough was built to serve as an alternative water source for his livestock.

An 18-acre pasture adjacent to the creek has been put into intensive grazing. He uses cattle in rotation with sheep to graze the paddocks for optimum utilization of forages and optimum control of pests and weeds.

Fifteen acres of alfalfa produce a hay supply for winter feeding. Bill has used intensive grazing of the alfalfa to eliminate spring weevils. The weevils leave their eggs in the stubble that remains after mowing. These eggs hatch the following spring and infest the fields.

Bill's environmentally sound solution is to let his flock of sheep serve as pest controllers. The sheep are put on the alfalfa in the fall, when it goes dormant. They graze it all the way down, thus eating the eggs. This saves the need for pesticides which can run off into groundwater or their creek. It



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Forestry Seminar November 13

FOREST HILL, Md. — The Harford County Extension Service, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Forest Association, Maryland Tree Farm, and Baltimore Gas and Electric are jointly sponsoring the third annual Central Maryland Forestry Stewardship Seminar on Saturday, November 13 at Oregon Ridge in Hunt Valley, Md. The seminar begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 2:15 p.m.

Highlighting the morning's discussion is "The Right to Practice Forestry" The Law, presented by John Gontrum of Gontrum and McLaughlin. Also included are "Pond Management" by Dr. Dan Terlizzi, University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service and "Ecology and Management of Vernal Pools/Wetland Appreciations" by Don Forester, Towson State.

Dana Lampert, Urban Wildlife Biologist with DNR, will provide information on the "Wild Acres Project," a backyard wildlife habi-

at program. Exotics and their effects on native species will be highlighted by Len Wrable, a registered professional forester.

Included in the afternoon program will be Geoffrey T. Jones, director of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, to speak on "Logging Aesthetics and the Landowner." Don VanHassent of the Forest Stewardship Program will end the day's session with a discussion of development of and use of your stewardship plan.

The day's program will include lunch as part of the registration fee. Preregistration is \$7/person until November 3. Registration at the door will be \$10/person; however, lunch will not be guaranteed.

Please make checks payable to Harford County EAC and send to Robert D. Halman, Harford County Extension, P.O. Box 663, Forest Hill, MD 21050. For more information, contact Robert Halman at (410) 638-3255.

also saves money.

His hard work and conservation knowledge is paying off in other ways, too. Willow Oak Farm won Virginia's Clean Water Farm Award five years ago. This past spring he was named Prince William's Conservationist of the Year.

Ausley and his family were honored at the 1993 World Angus Forum September 20 in Rapid City, S.D. Other recognized win-

ners include: (Central) Cecil Davis, Davis Angus Farm, Marshfield, Mo.; (South) Ken Thompson, Pebblebrook Angus, Tompkinsville, Ky.; and (West) Gregory Gould, 7 Bar Heart Ranch, New Ulm, Mont.

The Angus Journal presents the Land Stewardship Awards annually to four regional winners who have demonstrated wise use of resources and conservation practices.

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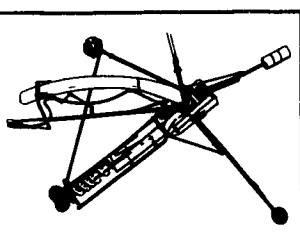
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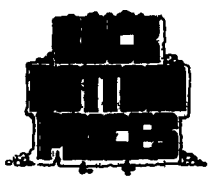
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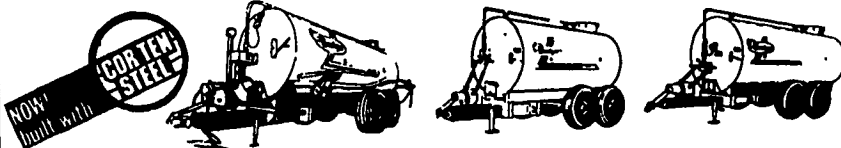
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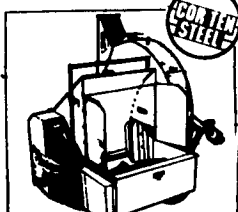


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