

Shellenberger Receives Penn State Alumni Society Award

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Dr. Paul R. Shellenberger, professor of dairy science at Penn State, has received the 1995 College of Agricultural Sciences Alumni Society's Excellence in Academic Advising Award.

The award recognizes faculty with outstanding skills in academic advising, career planning and personal counseling. Advisers in the college are nominated by alumni, students, faculty and administrators.

Shellenberger has been at the forefront of advising in the college since 1967, coordinating advising and teaching in his department and serving on college and university committees devoted to advising issues. He currently advises 66 undergraduates in the animal bio-science and dairy and animal science majors and advises incoming students during summer counseling programs.

"Dr. Shellenberger is the most student-oriented professor I have met at Penn State," said one advisee. "He took a complete interest in my goals and ambitions, and has provided nothing but positive advice and direction."

"He has helped guide me in my academic pursuits as well as personal goals," another advisee said. "At a big campus such as Univer-

sity Park, it is reassuring to know that he will listen and genuinely care if I need someone to talk to."

"Even now, six years after my graduation, Dr. Shellenberger asks about my career goals, and it is not just casual conversation," stated an alumnus. "I guess he is still my adviser."

"Dr. Shellenberger has worked tirelessly over the years to im-

prove student academic advising," said Dr. Gabriella Varga, associate professor of animal science. "He truly cares about students and does everything he can to help them have a highly productive and rewarding undergraduate career at Penn State."

Shellenberger has received many university, local and national awards for excellence in advis-

ing and teaching.

In 1991, he received the Excellence in Advising Award from Penn State's Undergraduate Student Government Academic Assembly. In 1985, he received the AMOCO Foundation Award for Excellence in teaching Performance. In 1975, he received the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Award for Distinguished

Teaching from Penn State.

Shellenberger joined Penn State as an assistant professor in 1967 and became a full professor in 1977. Before joining Penn State, he was an associate professor of agriculture at Tarleton State College in Texas and a dairy specialist for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service of Texas A&M University.

Report Assesses CRP

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Conservation Reserve Program, the USDA program that over the last decade has compensated landowners for idling and preventing erosion on 36.5 million acres of the nation's most erodible cropland, would benefit from stricter enrollment criteria, streamlined administrative procedures and more flexibility, according to a new report.

Issued by American Farmland Trust and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, the report indicates only the most environmentally sensitive lands should be enrolled in CRP and removed from production. It suggests the program should be simplified to allow producers to enroll at any time, not

just during specified sign-up periods. It says the CRP should offer a variety of flexible enrollment options, including multi-year leases and permanent and term easements. In addition, it states that some limited, economic use should be allowed on enrolled land, provided such uses remain compatible with the program's conservation objectives.

"This report shows that there is strong, grass-roots support for the continuation of the CRP into the 21st century," said Bryan Petrucci, director of Resource Conservation Programs for American Farmland Trust. "It's one of the best examples we have of a voluntary, incentive-based program working to protect the resource base, and with a few minor changes, it can be

even better."

The report, "The Conservation Reserve Program: An Assessment Based on State Leadership Workshops," summarizes discussions of seven state workshops held throughout the Midwest and Great Plains in late 1994. AFT, a national farmland conservation group based in Washington, D.C., and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, sponsored by workshops in cooperation with local agriculture and conservation groups in Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Nebraska, South Dakota and North Dakota. Farmers and landowners, representatives from key state and federal agencies, as well as conservation, agriculture and wildlife groups all participated in the workshops.

Discussions focused on key areas of the CRP, including conservation targeting, needed admin-

istrative changes, costs, benefits, federal budget concerns and potential new enrollment incentives. The report reflects workshop discussions on these issues, highlights areas of agreement and concern and identifies matters needing further review.

Other report highlights include:

- Desire for more local input on identifying resource concerns and targeting land for enrollment.
- Allowing states with qualifying land retirement programs to assume CRP oversight and administrative functions.

- Using CRP as a tool for economic development and a way to help beginning farmers acquire land.

The report was funded, in part, by The Joyce Foundation. Limited quantities are available. Contact American Farmland Trust at (202)659-5170 for further information.

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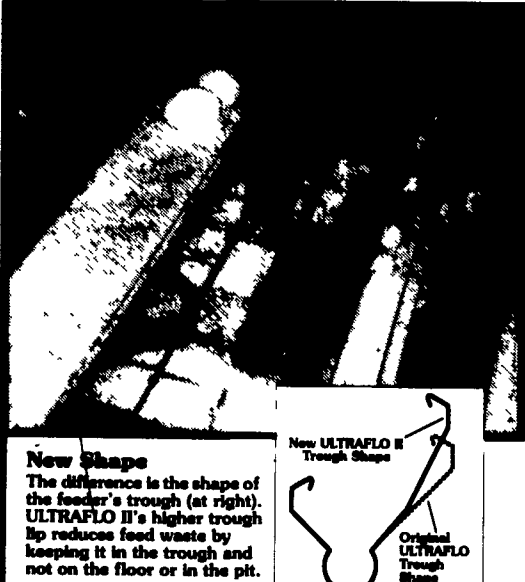
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