

Cambria District Presents Farmer, Service Awards

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retired from the Pennsylvania Electric Company as a manager of forestry.

As a real champion of resource conservation, Rossman is a past president of the state association, and a national member of the For-

estry Conservation District. He currently serves on the school advisory board for the Department of Agriculture at PSU and deals with issues concerning land, water, and related resources.

"He is a driving force for Conservation Districts," remarked

Robb Piper, assistant manager of local conservation when presenting the special service award to Rossman.

The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company has been presenting the "Outstanding Conservation Farmer Award" for more than 40 years. Representing Goodyear was David Corwin, regional director for the mid-Atlantic region. Corwin commended Cambria County as being "one of the best in the state in promoting the conservation program."

This year's outstanding conservation farmer is Gerald Leiden. Leiden's 284-acre farm is located in the St. Lawrence area of Cambria County where Leiden's grandfather began farming in 1867. Over the years, the Leidens have been implementing soil and water conservation practices on their farm. They have been laying out contour strips since the 1930s. Other practices include reduced tillage, spring development, and intensive grazing. The intensive grazing system was begun in 1986 with 12, one-acre paddocks. Today, Leiden has over 47 acres of paddocks, through which he runs more than 200 beef cattle.

On the cropland, Leiden grows corn, wheat, hay, and potatoes. The Leiden family has also imple-



Dave Corwin, Goodyear representative presenting the "Outstanding Conservation Farmer Award" to Gerald Leiden and his wife, Bernadette, of St. Lawrence.

mented a nutrient management plan which takes into account the nutrient value of the manure being produced on the farm, while spreading it to crop needs in an environmentally sound manner. The Leidens also implement a conservation plan to prevent soil erosion.

The Leiden Family includes

Gerald and his wife Bernadette, sons, Chris and Thad, and daughters, Stephanie and Melissa.

In accepting the award, Leiden was quick to point out that the award was not just for him but for the entire family and he remarked, "This makes me very proud of my family."



Clair J. Dumm, district manager for the Cambria County Conservation District; W. R. (Dick) Rossman, special service award winner, and Robb Piper, assistant district manager of the Conservation District.

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