

# Phillips Is Delaware Outstanding Young Farmer



HARRINGTON, Del. — A sixth generation farmer has been named the 1996-97 Delaware Outstanding Young Farmer during the Delaware state Jaycees Winter Conference, held recently in Wilmington.

On his farm he has installed a number of soil conservation practices, and his was one of the first in the state to use trickle irrigation, degradable plastic mulches, pre-germinated seeds and honey bees for pollinating watermelons.

He has also incorporated poultry composting as part of his dead bird disposal program.

Recognizing the importance of public policy toward the future of farming in Delaware, he served for

four years on the governor's Advisory Committee on Agriculture.

He is also involved in politics and ran in the Delaware primary for Republican nominee for United States senator.

Vance Phillips, and his wife Lisa and three children operate a poultry, grain and vegetable farm in Laurel.

The purpose of the Jaycees Outstanding Young Farmer program is to bring about a greater interest in the farmer and rancher, and to foster better urban-rural relations through the understanding of farmers' problems, as well as the appreciation of their contributions and achievements. It is also meant to inform the agribusiness people of the growing awareness of the farmers' importance and impact on America's economy.

Phillips was nominated for the honor by the Millsboro Jaycees.

Vance followed in his father's footsteps, remembering riding on his father's watermelon truck as early as when he was 5 years old.

As a teenager, he began raising his own watermelon, cantaloupes and sweet corn to help pay his way through college. In 1985 he graduated from University of Delaware with a bachelor's degree in agriculture.



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