

## Conservation Farmers Receive Awards

JINNY WILT

Adams Co. Correspondent

MANCHESTER (York Co.) — Two York County farmers know the benefit of soil conservation and were recently honored for their efforts to preserve the soil on the farms that they cultivate by the York County Soil Conservation District.

William Buser of Lower Windsor Township and Leonard Greek of Lower Chanceford Township each note that their farms are located a short distance from the Susquehanna River. And while they know that the soil running off their land into the river ends up in the Chesapeake Bay, they also know it's not good for their crops.

Greek said since becoming involved in conservation farming methods he notices a difference in crop yield and quality. "After 20 years (of farming) I can tell the difference," he said.

Buser, who has been farming since he was 13 years of age and started farming on his own in 1958, said "We always did try conservation. A certain amount of sod strips and when the no-till came into being we went along

with no-till or conservation till ... we try to keep the sod as much as we can."

Buser owns 140 acres and rents about 900 acres in a four-to-five mile radius of the home farm, he said.

The 61-year-old farmer, who at one time had a dairy farm, had to switch to crop farming in 1981, the result of a serious accident he had earlier that left him with leg and back injuries. "I just couldn't do it anymore (dairy farming) so we began to increase the size of the acreage by renting ground," he said.

Buser continued, "Conservation is everybody's job, it's just not the farmers. We get blamed for a lot of stuff we shouldn't. And farmers, it's just like everybody else, there are a couple of culprits who don't care and it makes it bad for all of us."

He also notes that development near some of his farms creates soil run-off problems.

Greek, 38, who always wanted to be a farmer, farms 400 acres — 100 of it his own — between Delta and Airville in York County. A dairy farmer, he has 60 head and the fourth-highest producing milk

herd in the county.

He became interested in conservation when he bought a farm in 1984 that was in "pretty rough shape."

"I called the conservation people and they came out and laid out contour strips and I put in two diversions ... after I got mine done I started on some of the rented ground. It's been an ongoing process for several years.

"Then I got into the bay program when that came up. I put spouting on all the buildings and piped all that water down to a diversion. The water is all clean coming off the roof and clean when it leaves the farm too, he said."

Greek said he never knew that awards were given for the conservation measures he takes. "I did it for my own benefit, but it does benefit the environment. I can really see a difference, especially now that I've got 20 years in farming the same land. I can see better yields and less erosion," he said.

He notes that a lot of water is staying on the farm instead of running off.

Greek and his wife, Bonnie Jo, are the parents of four children, and he adds "I think the whole family is conservation-minded. I think they (family) have a good idea of what I'm doing.

Other award winners were: Outstanding conservationist, Larry Adams; Conservation Education Award, Pam Hobbs, a teacher at Delta-Peach Bottom Elementary School; Outstanding Conservation Contractor, DBS Construction Inc.; Outstanding Municipality, East Manchester Township; Clean Water Farm Award, Martin Grey of Sinking Springs Farm; Outstanding Service Award, Tom McCarty, community development water quality gent; Outstanding Cooperating Agency Person, Ellen O'Connor, York County Solid Waste and Refuse Authority; Special Recognition Award, Joseph H. and Laura McCabe; Special Recognition Award for five years as volunteers at the district tree sale, Bill Joyes, Delbert Craley, Fay Craley, Sharon Ryan, John Smith, Wayne Kile and Bob Stover; Goodyear/NACD Merit Award, Ritchie Flinchbaugh.



Leonard and Bonnie Jo Greek were joined by their children, Michael Greek, Stevie Greek, and Frankie Greek when they accepted an outstanding conservation farmer award. Daughter, Stormi Greek was absent from the event.



William and Pat Buser received the outstanding conservation farmer award from the York County Soil Conservation District at a picnic at Musser's Picnic Grounds near Manchester.



Mark Flaharty, Chesapeake Bay Coordinator for the York County Soil Conservation District on the left, presents the 1997 Clean Water Farm Award to Bob Amspacher of Sinking Springs Farm.

## Evaluation Center Posts Ram Lamb, Ewe Sale Results

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Meat Animal Evaluation Center's 19th Performance Tested Ram Lamb and Invitational Ewe Sale was held Saturday, Aug. 2, as part of a weekend of activities.

A field day held Aug. 1-2 was organized by a committee of Joanne Evans, Don Hunter, Bob Calvert, Dirk Wise, and Richard Kuzemchak.

Presentations on Aug. 1 included "Coyote Damage, Identification and Control" by Tom Tomsa, wildlife biologist; "Deworming Your Flock" by Joseph Rook, D.V.M., Michigan State University; and "Innovative Lamb Marketing" by Dr. Ed Mills of Penn State University.

The lamb barbecue on Friday included a working dog demonstration and demonstrations of sheep handling equipment.

Field day activities continued on Saturday morning, with a presentation by Tom Calvert on "Pasture Management and Grazing,"

Keith Bryan of Penn State discussed "The True Value of a Superior Ram," followed by a panel discussion on the value of a tested ram in a flock. "Using a Commercial Flock to Produce Wearable Woolen Products" was presented by Kathy England. A clinic on "Learning How to Take Care of Small Veterinary Procedures" was presented by Dr. Joseph Rook.

The concurrent youth program included a Skill-a-Thon. It consisted of judging competitions, identification of wool, feedstuffs and equipment and a general knowledge quiz of sheep management. Several talks aimed at the youth were also presented. These included Dr. Harold Harpster's talk on "Feeding Your Sheep Project" and a presentation by Dirk Wise and Keith Bryan on showing sheep and show ring etiquette.

Many awards and numerous door prizes were presented to the contestants. The auction followed the awards. Dr. Robert Steele, new dean of the College of Agriculture

at the Pennsylvania State University, was introduced. The sale began with the senior Dorsets. The top-indexing fall-born Dorset, consigned by Dr. and Mrs. Robert Herr, sold to M.R.E. Enterprises of Mt. Solon, Va. for \$625, the co-top price in the senior Dorset division. A senior Dorset consigned by Mike and Wendy VanWagner was purchased by Dr. Mary J. Lis of Durham, Conn. for \$625. The 11 senior Dorsets sold for an average of \$441.

The 13 junior Dorsets averaged \$302. The top-indexing junior Dorset ram was consigned by Jessica Schmidt and sold to John Sechrist of Warren, for \$275. The top-selling junior Dorset was also the top-selling ram of the day. This ram, consigned by the Kenneth Staver family, was sold to William Hanna of Schwenksville for \$700. The second highest selling junior Dorset, from Ken Shifflet, was sold to West Virginia University, Willowbend Farm for \$475.

The top-indexing Suffolk was

consigned by William Bramble and sold to Harvey Smith for \$275, the third highest sale price for Suffolks. The top-selling Suffolk ram was consigned by David Cole and sold for \$550 to John Scott Jr. of Princeton, W. Va. Scott consigned the second highest-selling Suffolk that sold for \$300 to Doris Somberger of Marysville. The 14 junior Suffolks averaged \$252.

The top-indexing Hampshire, consigned by Lovells Maple Spring Farm, sold to Albert Knoblack of Confluence for \$300. The second highest-indexing Hampshire ram was also the second-highest selling Hampshire and was purchased by Tom Huber of Watkinville, Ga. for \$500. The

top-selling Hampshire ram was consigned by H.J. Showalter and was purchased by Richard and Patricia Lee for \$525. The four Hampshire rams averaged \$394.

The senior Corriedale ram bred by Roger Bowman sold to Richard and Patricia Lee for \$225. The Tunis ram owned by Barbara Carstensen sold to Judy Read of Jersey Shore for \$150.

All of the 45 rams offered for sale were sold, for a new record average sale price of \$323 for the Pennsylvania Performance Tested Ram Sale.

In the invitational Ewe Sale, 30 purebred ewes sold for an average of \$159 and five outstanding commercial ewe lambs sold for an average of \$140.

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