

Lee Si



October Pork Month Highlights Environmental Awareness

Producer Creates Quality Product, Protects Environment



For his efforts in promoting land stewardship while overseeing profitable hog enterprises, Jerry Hostetter of Hostetter Swine Management Systems, Denver, left, was honored with this year's Environmental Stewardship Award, eastern region. An employee, Scott Bailey, right, won the Pork All-American Award in June this year.
Photo by Andy Andrews

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
DENVER (Lancaster Co.) — If you look at it one way, it could be considered a "preemptive" strike. That "strike" is the culmination of years planning, building, managing, and ultimately reaping the rewards of good environmental stewardship.

And according to one large-scale hog facilities manager, all of it is an effort to ward off attacks by environmental groups, those who are opposed to concentrated animal agriculture, and myths that certain types of ag companies are too "big business" and could care less about environmental stewardship.

For his efforts in promoting land stewardship while overseeing profitable hog enterprises, Jerry Hostetter of Hostetter Swine Management Systems, Denver, was honored with this year's Environmental Stewardship Award, eastern region, under a program sponsored by the National Pork Producers Council and related industries.

Hostetter, who manages 13,000 sows in eight different locations throughout the state, recently spoke to *Lancaster Farming* about the challenges the hog industry faces in farming profitably while helping to protect the environment.

A large part of environmental protection involved the installation, in 1992, of one of the first lined manure lagoon systems on Swatara Swine, a 1,400-sow farrow-to-feeder pig farm in Lebanon County, managed by Hostetter. Since then, other farms in the industry have used a liner system to protect groundwater and to help improve the management of nutrients on the farms.

A big reason for installing the liner system, Hostetter said, was a legal one.

He said, "When you look at how legally liable you are from manure contamination of leaks or anything else, you try to look at that and say, how do you limit it? And I think you limit your exposure by doing more than the standard."

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State Recognizes 100,000th Acre In Farmland Preservation

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
NAZARETH (Northampton Co.) — On a 1,350-acre family farm in the southeast region of the Pennsylvania state governmental and agricultural leadership on Tuesday recognized the milestone of breaking the 100,000th acre mark in farmland preservation.

In addition, Gov. Tom Ridge signed an executive order that calls for continued cooperation between state and local agencies to protect farmland through the state's farmland preservation program, which secures development rights on that property.

Ridge effectively said that his order is to direct state agencies to

actively seek ways to preserve the state's prime agricultural land, rather than to take a passive role.

According to a news release, "The order provides a common definition of primary agricultural land and a common vision to focus on the importance of preserving the state's valuable farmlands."

Ridge said that he signed the executive order to, "... enjoin all state agencies to join to protect farmland."

He said that the state "... need(s) a common vision. That vision must focus on preserving as much" farmland as possible.

The event was held on the farm of the Willard Setzer family, a farming operation started in 1953

that now includes a third generation living and working there.

The location was selected because, when the family sold the development rights on a 273-acre tract of the farm to Northampton County for \$1,093,247, the acreage pushed the state total over the 100,000 acre mark.

Because of the overcast conditions, two large white tents were erected in a hay field next to corn fields, off a field lane behind the main farm house and buildings.

In one tent a platform and podium with the state seal was setup with folding chair for attendees. Some stood at the rear of the tent during ceremonies.

In the other large tent was the

Nazareth Area High School Blue Eagle Marching Band, which performed several pieces prior to the arrival of Gov. Ridge, who was slightly behind schedule, and apologized.

A number of news reporters from newspapers, radio and television attended the event.

Also present in the audience were the state FFA leaders, who

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State Grange Heads to Reading

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The local tax reform referendum, land uses, the Clean Air Act, high health insurance rates, and tractor trailer regulations are a few of the nearly 90 topics to be discussed at the upcoming Pennsylvania State Grange Session, Oct. 25-29 in Reading.

The 1997 session marks the 125th annual meeting of the Pennsylvania State Grange.

More than 1,000 Grange mem-

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Leaders, 4-H'ers Receive Achievement Recognition

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff
LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — "Winning is nice. But in life, we fail more than we succeed," Gerald Boyd said to fellow 4-H'ers and leaders at the 4-H Recognition Night at Bent Creek Country Club Thursday night.

But 18-year-old Gerald achieved the ultimate win when he received the Superior Achievement Award. The annual award is given to the most outstanding 4-H'er who best achieves all-around growth in project skills, leadership abilities, improvement in life skills, decision-making, citizenship, participation in club, county, regional, state, and national 4-H events, and in school and community

During a standing ovation for Gerald, he expressed emotional gratitude for being a recipient of the award initiated 14 years ago by his grandparents, the late Elmer L. and Pauline E. Boyd. The award is a legacy of the Boyd family, who recognized the positive influence of 4-H that permeates the attitudes of participants throughout life.

Gerald told of joining 4-H 11 years ago and how, at first, he was most thrilled with the ribbons he won in showing hogs and dairy cattle. In his fifth year of 4-H involvement, the 4-H county agent challenged him to record the experiences he gained, the things he learned, and the emotions he felt when charting his progress.



Gerald Boyd, seated, won the Superior Achievement Award. Kneeling are a sister Sarah and a cousin Brian. Parents Deb and Kerry Boyd are on either side. At right,