

Fletcher Named Adams County Conservation Farmer

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ties and office space for the agencies and groups most directly tied to agriculture — the number one industry of Adams County.

Penn State Cooperative Extension of Adams County and the Conservation District would be the primary occupants of the office space. Rental space would be available for offices of affiliated state and federal agricultural agencies.

A crucial community need for classroom space and meeting rooms would be addressed with the inclusion of two classrooms, a large meeting hall, and two smaller conference rooms. An attached garage would be included to facilitate 4-H livestock activities.

The steering committee for the project, chaired by Alan Zepp, with Stanley Wolf as vice chairman, has adopted a schedule that would allow occupancy in the spring of 2000.

During the banquet the district presented several awards.

Harry Fletcher of Reading

Township was named the 1997 Conservation Farmer of the Year.

Fletcher's hay and grain farm spreads over four farms totaling 355 acres in the Conewago Watershed. He leases additional land on neighboring farms to total 440 tillable acres.

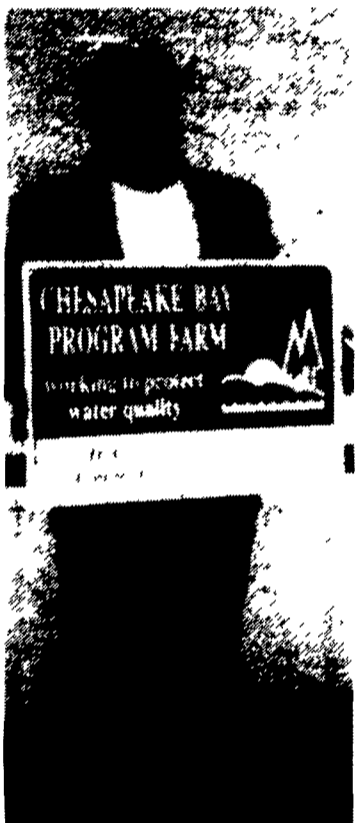
Fletcher has been a District Cooperator since the spring of 1987. He originally signed up one of his farms in the Chesapeake Bay Program in the fall of 1987 and liked the program so much he signed up his home farm in 1997.

He built a water and sediment control basin last year to protect crop fields and now has three water control structures, almost 12,000 feet of subsurface tile drainage which has saved 20 tons of soil; 4,250 feet of waterway constructed; 5,399 feet of terraces constructed; and does 96 acres of contour farming, 61 acres of field stripcropping and 162 acres of contour stripcropping.

Rodney Sebright and his son Robby Sebright accepted the Outstanding Cooperator Award for 1997.



The Adams County Conservation District honored the Adams County Fish And Game Association. From left, Terry Unger Sr., treasurer, fish and game; Laurence Martick, district manager, conservation; John Hutzell, president, fish and game; and Roger Steele, president, conservation.



Richard Mills was honored for completing his Chesapeake Bay Farmers Contract.

Robby is the fourth generation to farm on the Sebright homestead which consists of 169 acres with a crop rotation of corn, wheat and hay.

Sebrights' livestock operation at the present time consists of calves and heifers.

Rodney has been a cooperator since 1975 and during the '60s and '70s installed waterway and tile work on his farm. In 1995 he and his son requested assistance from the district to build a waste storage structure to deal with the problem of barnyard run-off.

In 1996 this storage was constructed through the Chesapeake Bay Cost-Share Program. It is a bedded pack stacking storage with a picket dam that allows liquids to run off into a concrete apron and then be absorbed by a grass filter area.

The Sebrights have also developed a spring to provide fresh, clean water for cattle in their pasture.

Martin Acres, owned by Wilbur and Dolores Martin, and their sons, Sam Martin and Eric Martin, received the 1997 Chesapeake Bay Clean Water Farm Award.

The Martins operate a 70-head dairy operation along with a beef

cow/calf operation. They own 104 acres and rent an additional 700 acres.

They signed up for the bay program assistance in May of 1992 to receive technical and financial help in planning and constructing a pit for manure storage. The Martins did not attend the banquet because of illness in the family.

In 1997 the Bay staff secured \$229,800 for Adams County and signed 10 new contracts with farmers — the second highest number since the inception of the program in 1985.

On farms throughout the county three manure storages were built during 1997 and 5.5 acres of waterway established. There were 8,115 feet of diversions and terraces constructed on farms with

10,570 feet of tile and underground outlet installed. Six water control structures were installed.

The work of the staff and farmers has saved 1,235 tons of soil from entering county streams and waterways.

Also honored at the banquet were John Hutzell, president and Terry Unger Sr., treasurer, both representing Adams County Fish and Game Association which helped the district with its annual Envirothon; Shirlee Cavaliere for 12 years volunteer service to the district and Melvin Worley, 30 years of volunteer service; and Kevin Holtzinger and Richard Milles who each completed their Chesapeake Bay Farmers Contracts.

Penn State Offers Dairy Calf Nutrition Conferences

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Dairy cattle producers, agricultural professionals and other people with an interest in the dairy industry can get updates on the latest technology and management techniques of calf rearing by watching two satellite teleconferences to be broadcast live Tuesday, April 21, and Tuesday, April 28, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. EST.

Titled "Calf Nutrition and Management," the broadcast will be downlinked at some Penn State Cooperative Extension county offices.

The broadcast can be easily tuned in by anyone with a public or private satellite dish. The teleconference is sponsored by Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

Questions can be submitted during the broadcast by calling 1-800-778-1010, or before and during the teleconference by sending a fax to (814) 863-9877.

The teleconference will be moderated by Penn State's Team Dairy, a group of faculty and experts from the college. Team Dairy includes Jud Heinrichs, professor of dairy and animal science; Larry Hutchinson, professor of veterinary science; and Virginia Ishler, program assistant in dairy and animal science.

The conference will cover 12 topics over the two one-day workshops.

The April 21 teleconference will feature six instructional segments, including "Physiology and Digestion," "Colostrum: Calf Survival," "Colostrum: Quality," "Colostrum: Quantity," "Liquid Feed Alternatives" and "Milk Replacers."

The April 28 teleconference also features six segments, including "Dry Feed Selection," "Rumen Development," "Health Concerns: Pre-weaned Calves," "Transition During Weaning: Management Practices," "Transition During Weaning: Nutrition" and "Calf Growth."

For more information about participating in this program, visit the following Website: <http://www.das.psu.edu/calfulink>, or call 1-800-PSU-1010.

For the location of the downlink site nearest you, contact the Penn State Cooperative Extension office in your county.

The program will air from 7:30 to 9 p.m. EST on C Band, Galaxy 6, Transponder 2,3740 MHz, Polarity Vertical. Penn State will broadcast a test pattern at 7:15 p.m. so private satellite dish owners can tune in their sets.

Please call the toll-free line about two weeks before the broadcast to check whether the satellite coordinates have changed. For more information on the program, call Jud Heinrichs at (814) 863-3916.



Father and son, Rodney and Robby Sebright accept the 1997 Outstanding Cooperator award from the Adams County Conservation District. Robby is the fourth generation to work the family farm.



Melvin Worley and Shirlee Cavaliere accepted awards for their volunteer work—Worley for 30 years, and Shirlee for 12 years.