

Field Day, Service Club Picnic Aug. 12

NEWARK, Del. — The University of Delaware's Farm and Home Field Day is scheduled at the Research and Education Center in Georgetown Wednesday, Aug. 12, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Visitors to this annual event can learn the latest information about home gardening, farming, child safety, and the environment.

This year, for the first time, Farm and Home Field Day and the

Sussex County Service Club Picnic will be combined, starting at noon with a traditional fried chicken and watermelon luncheon in the Grove. After-lunch festivities will include presentation of the Sussex County Service to Agriculture Award, given each year to an individual who has made outstanding contributions and shown devoted service to agriculture in the county, the sta-

ate, and the Delmarva peninsula.

As for the morning activities, Sussex Master Gardeners and cooperative extension educators will be on hand with valuable tips for the home gardener. This year's program will feature wildflower plantings, ornamental grasses, heirloom tomato varieties, shade structures, wheelchair-accessible raised gardening beds, and a turf-variety demonstration.

Children and parents can learn about injury prevention from costumed characters, puppet shows, music and dance groups, interactive exhibits. Other activities for children include pony rides, face painting, hot air balloon rides, and a petting zoo.

Field tours by wagon will highlight agronomic and vegetable crops. Farmers can consult with extension specialists about the lat-

est research on weed and pest controls, watermelon varieties and fungicides, as well as find out the latest in integrated pest management strategies.

Admission and parking are free. This event is open to the public regardless of race, color, sex, handicap, age or national origin. For more information, call Mark Isaacs or Jay Windsor at (302) 856-7303.

We Salute Our



Conservancy Announces Award Winner

PITTSBORO, N.C. — Did you know that more than 100 breeds of farm animals in American are endangered? For example, the Dominique, America's oldest chicken breed, very nearly became extinct no long ago.

The revival of this breed has been recognized by the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy (ALBC) in giving its 1998 Breed Conservation Award to Mark A. Fields, of Clark, Mo. The award is given in appreciation of Fields' conservation of several rare breeds of livestock, especially his work on behalf of the Dominique.

The American Livestock Breeds Conservancy, of Pittsboro, N.C., is a national nonprofit organization promoting endangered breeds in 10 species of livestock and poultry. ALBC's Breed Conservation Award was established in 1995 to recognize individual contributions to the survival of rare breeds.

Award recipients are honored for significant accomplishments, which can include raising herds and flocks to assure continuity of a breed, establishing breed associations and registries, and promoting breeds to the public. These vi-

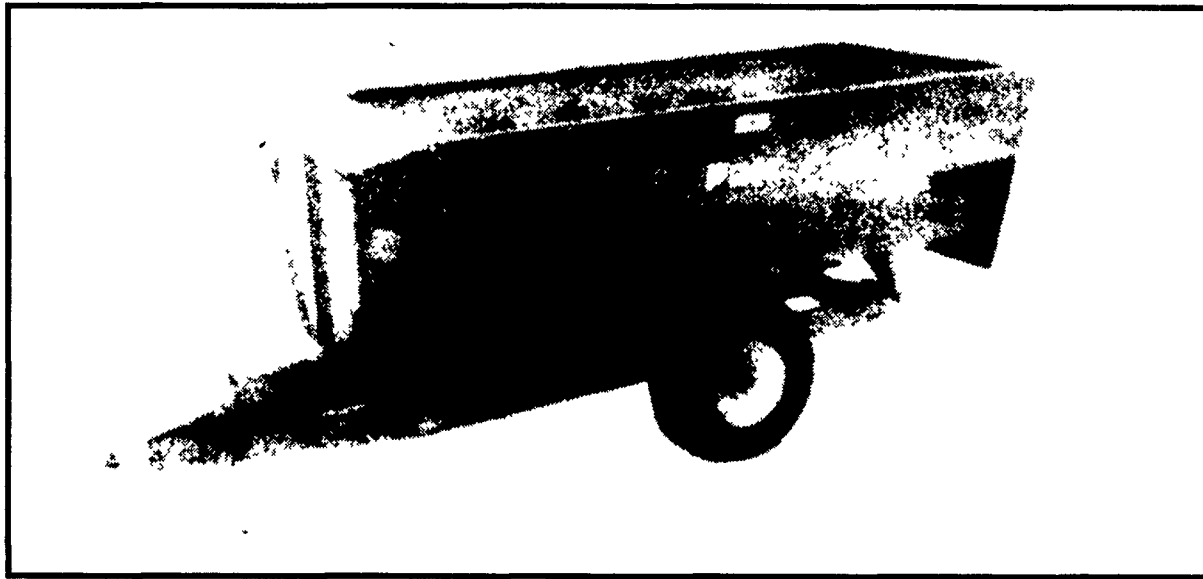
tal efforts are not often rewarded by grants or other financial support, and only rarely are universities or other institutions involved.

This year, ALBC honors Mark Fields for his exceptional leadership in the conservation of the Dominique. This breed, also known as the "Domenecker," was widely used and celebrated throughout the 1800s. It became rare after 1900 when it was replaced by more productive breeds.

By 1970, there were only a handful of flocks left, and the Dominique's fate rested with a small group of breeders. In the last decade, however, the fortunes of the breed have improved. Today, there are more Dominique breeders than at any time since 1900, and the numbers of flocks are increasing every year.

Fields, now secretary of the Dominique Club, has not only encouraged the revival of breeding, using, and showing the Dominique, but he has also made a unique contribution to the breed with his authorship of a new book, "The American Dominique: A Treatise for the Fancier." Carolyn Christman, ALBC program coordinator, said, "Preserving a breed's history is an essential part of saving it for the future. This collection of 200 years of Dominique history is a written legacy from the past that will inspire and delight today's breed stewards. We wish that there was a book like this one for every breed."

Fields accepted the award at the ALBC annual conference in Farmington, N.M. in June. In his acceptance speech, he said, "We as a living generation have waited almost too late to save that which is valuable and that which is dear. My work with Dominique chickens, Mulefoot hogs, and White Park cattle has given me a great appreciation of how important our herds and flocks are, especially as the gene pool within the commercial sectors is eroding. We must also have passion in promoting rare breeds in our communities, states, and across the country."



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