

Council Honors Graziers, Industry Leaders At Banquet

GRANTVILLE (Dauphin Co.) — Forage producers, graziers, and agri-industry representatives were honored early in March here at the Holiday Inn during the 39th Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council (PFGC).

The PFGC Special Award, the highest recognition given by PFGC, was presented to Dr. Larry Muller of the Dairy and Animal Science Department at Penn State.

The award, presented to an individual or company that has made a major contribution direction to the PFGC and

to the state's forage and livestock industry, honors Muller for his contribution to quality forage in the dairy ration. Muller has secured funding and coordinated the Regionally Based Professional Development Program for Grazing Systems Management Program. This program, according to Dr. Marvin Hall, Penn State forage specialist, provided in-depth grazing and pasture training for industry and agency employees throughout Pennsylvania and the Northeast.

"Dr. Muller was also instrumental in establishing the Grazing Research and



Paul Craig, outgoing PFGC president, right, congratulates incoming president Ed Ritz, Honey Grove.



A PFGC Special Award for forage and grazing contributions to the industry was presented to Larry Muller, Penn State Dairy and Animal Science Department, left, at the Pennsylvania Grazing and Forage Conference. Paul Craig presented the award.



Additional outstanding pasture producer awards were provided to, from left, Greg and Deb Farr and Titus Martin.



Conservation award winners at the PFGC banquet, from left, Gary Stockum, Conservation Award, and Louis and Harold Welch, Conservation Farmer Award.



New directors of the PFGC include, from left, Rich Adams, New Holland; John Pergosky, New Tripoli; and Matt Sanderson, State College.

Education Center at Penn State," noted Hall. "This center, along with PFGC, assists in planning and sponsoring the Pennsylvania Grazing and Forage Conference each year."

The Conservation Award recipient is Gary Stockum of the Washington Conservation District. Stockum has been active in providing opportunities for the residents of Washington County to learn about uses of forages and grazing management through the DEP-funded "Project Grass" program, according to Hall.

"Gary tries to emphasize the role forages can play in proper conservation practices," said Hall. "Although Mr. Stockum discusses grazing management with many landowners on a one-to-one basis, the educational opportunities of Project Grass also provide an opportunity for larger educational experiences such as field days and pasture management meetings on farms throughout southeast Pennsylvania."

The field days and meetings are supplemented with presentations on a variety of related topics presented by farmers, businesses, lending agencies, and government agencies.

Stockum's involvement in Project Grass has brought together many diverse groups and organizations and stimulated better cooperation toward the goal of conservation farming.

The Conservation Farmer Award recipients are Lewis and Harold Welch, who have implemented numerous conservation practices on their dairy in Wayne County. They have incorporated intensive grazing into their forage system to maximize permanent ground cover and minimize erosion.

The Welch's have also installed a liquid manure pond so that they can store manure until the soil conditions are suitable for application. They have been very cooperative with their cooperative extension and soil conservation offices by hosting field days and tours of their farm and conservation practices.

Outstanding Pasture Producer awards were presented to those producers who exemplify progressive, industry recognized methods of grazing and forage production on their farms. Outstanding Pasture Producer Award winners include:

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