

PFGC Award Program 1999 Winners

GRANTVILLE (Dauphin Co.)—The following were honored recently by the PFGC:

PFGC Special Award

The Special Award is the highest recognition given by PFGC. It is presented to an individual or company that has made a major contribution directly to the Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council as well as an outstanding contribution to Pennsylvania's forage and livestock industry and/or conservation farming. The recipients' contribution may have been in production agriculture, industry, research, extension, teaching, or other public service.

New Holland, North America located in New Holland, Pa., is this year's recipient of the PFGC Special Award. New Holland has been a strong supporting member since the PFGC was formed in 1960. They have provided the PFGC with two presidents in Albert Best (1979) and Mike Bular (1988) and numerous board members throughout the PFGC's 40-year history. In addition, New Holland was a financial supporter of the 1994 AFGC Conference held in Lancaster and the "PFGC 40-Year History," which is being written.

New Holland has also been an active participant in every PFGC Forage Field Day. Considering the many contributions of New Holland to the PFGC, both past and present, it is an honor to recognize them as the recipients of the PFGC Special Award.

Research/Extension/Teaching Award

This year's Research/Extension/Teaching Award recipient is Penn Jersey Extension Partnership.

The Penn Jersey Extension Partnership is an educational union between Penn State Cooperative Extension and Rutgers Cooperative Extension. The partnership recently completed 16 years of successful interstate cooperation in agricultural programming, with its mission being to provide enhanced and expanded educational programs that have demonstrable positive impact on agriculture in Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Many programming initiatives, including multiyear and multidiscipline educational programs, were undertaken to address producer needs. Some of the most successful

Partnership events include pasture walks, pasture weed control demonstrations, a poisonous plant ID course, drought management newsletters, the Penn Jersey Tillage Conference, the Penn Jersey Dairy Expo, and hay quality evaluation workshops, just to name a few. Participants reported that the programs were valuable to them and they had applied management tools learned through the programs which makes Penn Jersey Extension Partnership truly deserving of this year's PFGC Research/Extension/Teaching Award.

Conservation Award

This year's Conservation Award recipient is J.B. Harrold, Project Grass coordinator of the Somerset Conservation District.

As coordinator for Project Grass, JB Harrold is instrumental in the establishment of rotational grazing systems in western Pennsylvania. JB oversaw the original grant that provided cost-share funds to the Project Grass counties.

Numerous grazing systems have been established under this program, with JB Harrold developing grazing management plans, providing suggestions on grazing practices, gathering data from the established systems, and preparing reports that describe the economic, nutrient management, and air pollution control benefits of using rotational grazing systems. He is now involved in a research project to determine if fly ash can be used to construct stabilized areas associated with pastures. Nearby counties have seen the advantages of being a member of Project Grass since JB Harrold was hired. As a result, the number of member counties is growing, as is the range of impact JB Harrold is making on grazing management in Pennsylvania.

J.B. Harold was recently assigned 12 more counties, which makes him in charge of all the western Pennsylvania counties. When we asked J.B. what he thought of this expansion, he just said, "More research!" We believe J.B. Harold has gone way beyond the call of duty and deserves to be recognized with the PFGC Conservation Award for 1999.

Conservation Farmer Award

Dale Bracken has established a rotational grazing system for beef feeders at one of his farms.

Working with the Indiana County Conservation District and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Bracken expanded his rotational grazing system to include 16 paddocks that cover approximately 44 acres. High-tensile perimeter fence was installed, as were two stabilized stream crossings and a spring development.

Bracken's concern about the damage beef cattle were causing to feeding areas during the winter led to his developing a feeding area stabilized with stone. A water diversion was installed above this feeding area to channel runoff around the site.

A buffer area was established between the feeding area and a stream. Limited grazing buffer areas were established along both sides of the entire length of the stream in the pasture. Dale had a nutrient management plan developed for this grazing system and submitted the plan for approval under the Nutrient Management Act. Bracken hosted a tour of his farm and the grazing system for Project Grass. His efforts in teaching others about conservation by example and implementing the many conservation practices on his farm makes him deserving of the PFGC's Conservation Farmer Award.

Outstanding Pasture Producer Award

• Don Bothell, Indiana County. Bothell has worked with the Indiana County Conservation District and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to establish a rotational grazing system for dairy,

heifers and beef feeders. Forty-one acres are included in the pasture system, and additional cropland is used for grazing in the fall after crops are harvested. High-tensile perimeter fence (9,590 feet) and 8,900 feet of interior fence have been installed in the system. Two stabilized stream crossings have been installed to allow animals access to drinking water and pasture areas. Stream bank buffers have been established with the installation of stream bank fencing. Don Bothell has worked with the Indiana County Conservation District to conduct a pasture management field day at his farm. This field day allowed others to see how the system worked and to ask Bothell about pasture management. He also allowed the conservation district to conduct an agricultural conservation practice tour for legislators at his farm. Bothell participated by leading the group on the tour and explaining his pasture system operation.

• Glenn and Robin Gorrell, Milan, Bradford County. The Gorrells milk 185 Holsteins on 195 acres of pasture near Milan in Bradford County. They strive to provide all roughages from the pasture during the grazing season by timely use of nitrogen and reseeding of pastures. Glenn was the initiating force behind the Bradford County Grazing Network and continues to facilitate the 11 or so meetings they conduct during the grazing season. He has served as a speaker at several local, regional, and statewide grazing/forage related events.

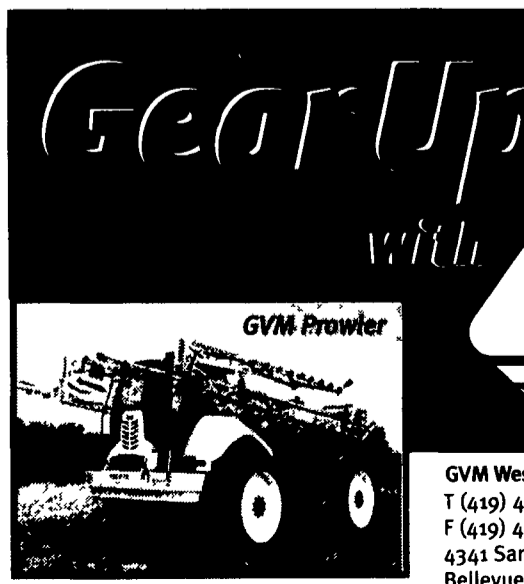


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