

**REPORT PREPARED BY THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND RECREATION**

**NINTH ANNUAL SUMMARY OF THE
CLEAN WATER FARM AWARD
PROGRAM RECIPIENTS**

**TO THE GOVERNOR AND
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA**



**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
RICHMOND
DECEMBER 2006**

L. Preston Bryant, Jr.
Secretary of Natural
Resources



Joseph H. Maroon
Director

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

203 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219-2010
(804) 786-6124

December 2006

The Honorable Timothy J. Kaine, Governor
Members of the Virginia General Assembly

It is my pleasure to present to you the Ninth Annual Summary of Clean Water Farm Award Program Recipients. The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is the lead agency for this program that recognizes farms that are leaders in the implementation of water quality and soil conservation practices.

We have, for the last 20 years, worked in concert with Virginia's 47 Soil and Water Conservation Districts to assist farmers with education, technical assistance and incentive programs for nutrient reduction and water quality improvement. The *Clean Water Farm Awards* and the *Bay Friendly Farm Awards* allow us to further the Commonwealth's water quality goals by recognizing farmers actively engaged in nutrient management practices and other important practices that control agricultural nonpoint source pollution.

This report details the management of the *Clean Water Farm Awards* program and provides a listing of the 2006 recipients. Ten special river basin winners were announced in December 2006, and these farmers are to be recognized at area Soil and Water Conservation District events throughout the Spring of 2007.

Thank you for the opportunity to bring these deserving farmers to your attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph H. Maroon".

Joseph H. Maroon
Director

*State Parks • Soil and Water Conservation • Natural Heritage • Outdoor Recreation Planning
Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance • Dam Safety and Floodplain Management • Land Conservation*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. STATUTORY AUTHORITY	1
II. PROGRAM HISTORY	1
III. CURRENT PROGRAM	2
IV. FUTURE OF THE PROGRAM	3
V. 2005 RIVER BASIN GRAND AWARD WINNERS	4 - 6
Chowan River Basin	
Coastal Basin	
Roanoke River Basin	
Rappahannock River Basin	
Potomac River Basin	
Shenandoah River Basin	
Big Sandy/Tennessee Rivers Basin	
York River Basin	
New River Basin	
James River Basin	
VI. 2006 AWARD WINNERS	7 - 9
2006 Bay Friendly Clean Water Farm Award Recipients	
2006 Clean Water Farm Award Recipients	

I. STATUTORY AUTHORITY

House Bill 807 of the 1998 General Assembly Session amended the *Code of Virginia* § 10.1-104.3, and directed the Department of Conservation and Recreation to implement the *Clean Water Farm Awards* and *Bay-Friendly Farm Awards* and to provide a report of that program to the General Assembly by December 1 of each calendar year, as follows:

“The Director shall establish the Clean Water Farm Awards Program to recognize farms in the Commonwealth which utilize practices designed to protect water quality and soil resources. A farm shall be eligible for recognition upon application from the farmer or the local soil and water conservation district, if the district concurs that the farmer is fully implementing a nutrient management plan. The Director may establish guidelines for limiting the quantity of annual recipients, receiving and ranking applications, ensuring geographical representation of awards from the major watersheds of the Commonwealth including the Chesapeake Bay watershed, providing local farm recognition through the local soil and water conservation districts, and providing special statewide recognition to select farms, to be known as the Bay-Friendly Farm Awards, within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and as the Clean Water Farm Awards in all other areas of the Commonwealth. The Department shall report to the General Assembly annually by December 1, the names, addresses and location of signs posted at recipient farms. Recognition under this program shall not be a requirement under any other state program.”

II. PROGRAM HISTORY

In 1986, Virginia’s Secretary of Natural Resources established the Clean Water Farm Awards Program. The program was established to provide special recognition to farmers who demonstrated a commitment to natural resource conservation through the implementation of best management practices and managed their lands. The Virginia Department of Conservation and Historic Resources (now the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation) was given lead responsibility for program development and administration.

The Department relied upon Soil and Water Conservation Districts (Districts) to select worthy recipients within their communities. No limit was placed on the number of farms that could be recognized during a calendar year. Award recipients within the Chesapeake Bay watershed received an aluminum sign with the designation: *Chesapeake Bay Clean Water Farm Award*. Recipients in areas outside the Chesapeake Bay received signs with the designation: *Virginia Clean Water Farm Award*. All recipients received a program certificate.

From the annual pool of award winners, Districts were encouraged to nominate an outstanding recipient for a special area award. These special awards were termed Governor's Model Clean Water Farm Awards. Six awards were presented annually with selection of recipients resolved within the six areas of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (VASWCD). Award winners received a sign and an engraved plaque. A special recognition event was scheduled during late fall, each year. In the early years of the program, recipients were recognized through a special presentation by the Governor. In the years that followed recipients received their awards at the annual meeting of the VASWCD. Beginning in 1993, the Department hosted a special recognition event at the State Capitol with presentation of the awards by the Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources.

From 1986 to June 1998, more than 600 farms across Virginia received recognition through the Clean Water Farm Award program. Districts were encouraged to maintain records of award recipients on file at their offices. During that same period, 66 farms were recognized as Governor's Model Clean Water Farm Award recipients.

III. CURRENT PROGRAM

Legislation passed by the 1998 Virginia General Assembly session codified the Clean Water Farm Award Program. The legislation enabled continuation of many effective elements of the awards program, such as reliance on Soil and Water Conservation Districts for selection of award recipients while providing a new emphasis on implementation of nutrient management plans as a requirement for eligibility to receive an award. The legislation emphasized the recognition of outstanding "select" farms to receive special statewide recognition. Funding appropriated by the General Assembly covers essential support and recognition expenses.

To review effective elements of the past program and recommend a plan for implementation of the newly established awards program, the Director of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation convened an Advisory Committee. Represented on the Committee were: the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Virginia House of Delegates, the Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Department, Soil and Water Conservation Districts (Districts), the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Virginia Cooperative Extension and Virginia Farm Bureau Federation. This advisory group meets annually or as needed to provide the department with comments and suggestions regarding the scope and implementation of the program.

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation continues to rely on Soil and Water Conservation Districts and associated groups and agencies to identify worthy recipients of the *Clean Water Farm Award* and the *Bay-Friendly Farm Award* in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Individual winners are selected by Districts. Selection criteria are provided through the application which is contained within the program brochure. Program guidance allows Districts to select one recipient per jurisdiction (county and/or city that comprise the District) per year to receive the award. Virginia's 47 Districts are comprised of 110 counties and cities. Therefore, the program allows

selection of up to 110 award winners each calendar year. Award winners receive a sign and a certificate, which in most cases are presented at an annual awards event of the respective Soil and Water Conservation District.

From the pool of award recipients, ten special river basin grand winners are selected based on nominations from the individual Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Basin grand winners must meet the criteria of the *Clean Water Farm Award* and must demonstrate exceptional conservation efforts with results in nutrient management, and soil and water conservation. In addition to the standard sign and certificate, the ten river basin winners receive a special recognition sign and a plaque. These awards are presented for the following river basins: Coastal, Rappahannock River, James River, Roanoke River, Shenandoah River, Potomac River, York River, Chowan River, New/Yadkin Rivers and the Big Sandy/Tennessee Rivers.

IV. FUTURE OF THE PROGRAM

To the extent the Department is capable of continuing program leadership and delivery without dedicated program funding, DCR will continue to rely on an advisory group for program review. Representatives from agencies and organizations that are critical to program success are valued in their ability to guide and fine tune changes that improve and enhance effectiveness of the awards program. Meetings of the advisory group are anticipated for coming years. Segments of group discussion will focus on exploring and brainstorming new program directions and approaches. Changes supported by the group and approved by the Department Director will be incorporated in program guidelines.

In addition, the Department will place increased emphasis on promoting the program and the role of Districts among important clients and stakeholders; both of the Department and the Districts. The program provides an excellent vehicle for promoting the local role Districts fulfill within natural resource conservation with members of the agricultural community. Future effective use of the media will continue to promote the outstanding accomplishments of selected farmers.

The Department will also work with local governments to ensure they are aware of the important contributions farmers in their communities are making to conserve natural resources and enhance water quality.

V. 2006 RIVER BASIN GRAND AWARD WINNERS

River Basin Grand Winners, representing nine out of ten river basins, were selected and announced at the December 2005 meeting of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. These awards were presented at Soil and Water Conservation District area meetings during the Spring of 2006. Winners were recognized with a Joint House Resolution and a letter from Governor Mark Warner. Those 10 River Basin Grand Winners were:

Chowan River Basin

Oak Hill Farms
Keith M. Dunn
21100 Peters Bridge Road
Yale, VA 23897

Chowan Basin Soil and Water Conservation District

Roanoke River Basin

Twin Oaks Dairy Farm
Charlie and Doug Brown
247 Progress Lane
Martinsville, VA 24112

Blue Ridge Soil and Water Conservation District

Rappahannock River Basin

Baer Back Farms
Mack and Peggy Baer
11329 Bears Den Road
Marshall, VA 20115

John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District

Potomac River Basin

Cleremont Farm
Ann Mari Lindgren Horkan
20854 Trappe Road
Upperville, VA 20184

Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District

Shenandoah River Basin

Tanglewood Farm
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Earman
13265 Winston Road
Ashland, VA 23005

Hanover-Caroline Soil and Water Conservation District

Big Sandy/Tennessee Rivers Basin

Daniel M. Johnson
18482 McGinnis Lane
Meadowview, VA 23361

Holston River Soil and Water Conservation District

York River Basin

Kenwood Farm
Monk Sanford
14387 Kenwood Lane
Orange, VA 22960

Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District

New River Basin

Lucky Dog Farm
Jim & Sarah Minick
315 Ward Branch Road
Rural Retreat, VA 24368

Big Walker Soil and Water Conservation District

James River Basin

Four D Enterprises
Jay Day & Family
Route 1, Box 710
New Castle, VA 24127

Mountain Castles Soil and Water Conservation District

Coastal River Basin

Arbuckle Farm
Robert C. Darby & Sons
P.O. Box 215
Temperanceville, VA 23442

Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District

VI. LIST OF 2006 AWARD WINNERS

Program guidelines provide that Districts may recognize one farm per jurisdiction (county and/or city) that comprise the District per year. There are 110 jurisdictions that comprise Virginia's 47 Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Implementation of 1998 legislation that formally established the *Clean Water Farm Awards* and *Bay-Friendly Farm Awards* began July 1, 1998. Fifty-one farms were recognized in 2000. In 2006, the following 35 farms were recognized:

2006 Bay Friendly Clean Water Farm Award Recipients

No.	Recipient Name	Address	SWCD	Posted Sign Location (UTM Coordinate)
1.	Belle Meade Farms Hawkins and Tingler Families	21415 Belle Meade Farm Road Culpeper, VA 22701	Culpeper	4254144 754035
2.	Woodmeade Farm Jean and Bob Clemenets	2098 Jericho Road Flint Hill, VA 22627	Culpeper	4298314 754035
3.	Ken-Walt Farm The Fishers	P.O. Box 557 Madison, VA 22727	Culpeper	4238234 741830
4.	Philip and Susan Audibert & Irvin White	9116 Open Gate Road Gordonsville, VA 22942	Culpeper	4229836 734588
5.	Atkinson Farms, Inc. Will Atkinson	16412 Town Road Painter, VA 23420	Eastern Shore	4161683 429482
6.	Spring Gate Farm Chuck and Jane McKinney	6675 Fredericksburg Road Barboursville, VA 22923	Culpeper	4230895 735764
7.	North Wales Farm Roberts & Martin Families	15235 North Wales Road Hanover, VA 23069	Hanover- Caroline	4185985 291154
8.	Allen Norheim	567 Poor Creek Lane Greenville, VA 24440	Headwaters	4203814 662246
9.	Franklin & Eric Evers	26 Moffett Branch Road Churchville, VA 24421	Headwaters	4239395 665449
10.	Oakland Farm Randolph Aigner	9717 Varina Road Richmond, VA 23231	Henricopolis	4141500 292500
11.	Arlene Janney & son, John Janney	19044 Guinea Bridge Road Purcellville, VA 20132	Loudoun	4330100 265350
12.	Springwood Angus Farm Harold & Janet Entsminger Andy & Katherine Meadows Willie Morris	118 Culpeper Avenue Buchanan, VA 24066	Mountain Castles	4154339 610590
13.	Triple J. Farm Jerry L. McDonald	310 Walkers Creek Road Rockbridge Baths, VA 24473	Natural Bridge	4197243 640775
14.	Midway Farms, Inc. Lloyd, Weston, Scott & Thomas Mundie	775 Newland Road Warsaw, VA 22572	Northern Neck	4204783 341694
15.	Keith Balderson	18344 Kings Highway Montross, VA 22520	Northern Neck	4216305 343180
16.	Blue Top Farm John and Robin Lancaster	10604 Reid Lane Nokesville, VA 20181	Prince William	4289200 274100

17.	Dorothy & Michael Yates	530 Sugar Hill Road Brookneal, VA 24528	Robert E. Lee	4106355 686180
18.	Grazeland Dairy, Inc. Philip Witmer	8112 Ottobine Rd. Dayton VA	Shenandoah Valley	4255392 671306
19.	Yancey's Dairy William & Rebecca Yancey	186 Misty View Lane Luray, VA 22835	Shenandoah Valley	4287745 723087
20.	Cloverfield Enterprises James, Jay & Robert Hundley	1024 Cloverfield Lane Champlain, VA 22438	Three Rivers	4212259 328020
21.	Carter Borden	3961 Borden Road Hayes, VA 23072	Tidewater	4131403 364134
22.	Luck Farm V. Earl Dickinson	9549 Fredericks Hall Road Mineral, VA 23117	Tri-County/City	4220600 257800
23.	RW White Farm LLC Robert White, JR.	1961 Princess Anne Road Virginia Beach, VA 23456	Virginia Dare	4065920 408798
24.	Brickhouse Farms C. Frank Brickhouse, Jr.	1524 Centerville Turnpike S. Chesapeake, VA 23322	Virginia Dare	4058881 393403

* Posted signs are located along a state road adjacent to the winning property. UTM coordinates can be utilized on Virginia's 7.5 minute quadrangle maps.

2006 Clean Water Farm Award Recipients

No.	Recipient Name	Address	SWCD	Posted Sign Location (UTM Coordinate)
1.	Cedar Hill Farm A.R. Belcher	2103 Walker's Creek Road Bland, VA 24315	Big Walker	410655 493764
2.	Patchwork Farms Jamie & Lorie Wyatt	391 Fox Drive Draper, VA 24324	Big Walker	4089767 513601
3.	James M. Cook Jareco	14128 Old Franklin Turnpike Penhook, VA 24137	Blue Ridge	5084015 0620230
4.	John R. Voss Voss Farms Inc.	2200 Deer View Trail South Boston, VA 24592	Halifax	4063008 679015
5.	William S. Bartlett	189 Willow Bend Drive Galax, VA 24333	New River	4049387 507784
6.	Rene M. Neff	P.O. Box 1569 Hillsville, VA 24343	New River	4066435 512743
7.	Marion Cobbler	932 Palmetto School Road Stuart, VA 24171	Patrick	4045863 572731
8.	Van Der Hyde Dairy	269 Van Der Hyde Dairy Road Chatham, VA 24531	Pittsylvania	4074382 654605
9.	William S. Stallard	Route 2, Box 252 Nicklesville, VA 24271	Scott County	0378354 4064618
10.	Thornspring Simmental Farm Michael & Tina Jones	5710 Chicwood Drive Pulaski, VA 24301	Skyline	4106864 522530E
11.	Ananda Farm Wanda Partyka	402 S. Elk Street Tazewell, VA 24651	Tazewell	4107026 472892

* Posted signs are located along a state road adjacent to the winning property. UTM coordinates can be utilized on Virginia's 7.5 minute quadrangle maps.

A list of all previous winners is available from the Department of Conservation and Recreation.