

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

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

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



**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
RICHMOND
DECEMBER 2007**

L. Preston Bryant, Jr.
Secretary of Natural
Resources



Joseph H. Maroon
Director

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

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December 20, 2007

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

It is my pleasure to present to you the Tenth 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 farm leaders in the implementation of water quality and soil conservation practices.

We have, for the last 21 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 2007 recipients. Ten special river basin winners were announced in December 2007, and these farmers are to be recognized at regional Soil and Water Conservation District events throughout the Spring of 2008.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink 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*

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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 2006 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 2007. Winners were recognized with a Joint House Resolution and a letter from Governor Tim Kaine. Those 10 River Basin Grand Winners were:

Chowan River Basin

R.W. White Farm LLC
Virginia Beach
1961 Princess Anne Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Virginia Dare Soil and Water Conservation District

Roanoke River Basin

Van Der Hyde Dairy
269 Van Der Hyde Dairy Road
Chatham, VA 24531

Pittsylvania Soil and Water Conservation District

Rappahannock River Basin

Ken-Walt Farm
The Fisher Family
P.O. Box 557
Madison, VA 22727

Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District

Potomac River Basin

Keith Balderson
18344 Kings Highway
Montross, VA 22520

Northern Neck Soil and Water Conservation District

Shenandoah River Basin

Philip Witmer
Grazeland Dairy
8112 Ottobine Rd.
Dayton VA

Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water Conservation District

Big Sandy/Tennessee Rivers Basin

William S. Stallard
Route 2, Box 252
Nicklesville, VA 24271

Scott County Soil and Water Conservation District

York River Basin

Mr. and Mrs. V. Earl Dickinson
Luck Farm
9549 Fredericks Hall Road
Mineral, VA 23117

Tri-County/City Soil and Water Conservation District

New River Basin

Michael and Tina Jones
Thornspring Simmental Farm
5710 Chicwood Drive
Pulaski, VA 24301

New River Soil and Water Conservation District

James River Basin

Oakland Farm
9717 Varina Road
Richmond, VA 23231

Henricopolis Soil and Water Conservation District

Coastal River Basin

Warren Callis
688 Harvest Lane
Hudgins, VA 23076

Tidewater Soil and Water Conservation District

VI. LIST OF 2007 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 2007, the following 43 farms were recognized:

2007 Bay Friendly Clean Water Farm Award Recipients

No.	Recipient Name	Address	SWCD	Posted Sign Location (UTM Coordinate)
1.	Cedar Springs Farm Lewis A. Lamb and Sons	427 Cedar Springs Lane Rochelle, VA 22738	Culpeper	4242230 733611
2.	Pleasant View Farm Robert and Elizabeth Haskell	P.O. Box 502 Washington, VA 20187	Culpeper	4286518 748039
3.	Moriah Farm The Rodgers Family	6048 Duhollow Road Warrenton, VA 20187	Culpeper	4259315 245627
4.	Custom Harvesters, Inc. Andrew and Jennifer Oliver	21433 Piney Woods Road Orange, VA 22972	Culpeper	4227385 762610
5.	Fern Creek Farm Tom and Louise Hayes	249 Middle River Road Stanardsville, VA 22973	Culpeper	4245704 726527
6.	Pamunkey Farm Virginia Department of Corrections Agribusiness	7142 Broad Neck Road Hanover, VA 23069	Hanover- Caroline	4180238 294601
7.	Buddy L. Shaver	1055 Craig Shop Road Weyers Cave, VA 23386	Headwaters	4234632 685705
8.	J.W. Black and Sons John Black	5801 Roxbury Road Charles City, VA 23030	Henricopolis	4142700 306900
9.	Jim Long	41 Edinburg Reservoir Road Edinburg, VA 22824	Lord Fairfax	4298317 71215
10.	Wagenburg Farm Michael Calley, Farm Manager	Parsons Lane P.O. Box 1440 Middleburg, VA 20118	Loudoun	4316250 264800
11.	Cleveland Weldon	2386 Jerusalem Church Road Hague, VA 22469	Northern Neck	4211175 353268
12.	Little Centerview Farm, Inc. Gene Forrester	932 Lara Road Lancaster, VA 22503	Northern Neck	4187725 367408
13.	Wilma and Steve Kime	12459 Henderson Road Clifton, VA 20124	Northern Virginia	4293150 293600
14.	Midkiff Farm Ira "Junior" and Nancy Midkiff	32 Barter Hill Road Cumberland, VA 23040	Peter Francisco	4159051 740199
15.	Phil-Lynn Farm Bobby and Elsie Bryan	2632 Sanders Creek Dillwyn, VA 23935	Peter Francisco	4147829 715567
16.	Indie Place Farm Chuck Arnason	895 Cellar Road Blackstone, VA 23824	Piedmont	0764506 4112982
17.	Heron Ridge Harry and Stacy Daugherty	1140 Loudoun Drive Haymarket, VA 20169	Prince William	4312300 271800
18.	Windy Hill Farm Danny, Jamie, and Robert Curd	142 Clover Hill Lane Monroe, VA 24574	Robert E. Lee,	4152544 664603
19.	Scott Funkhouser	3475 Holsinger Road Broadway, VA 22815	Shenandoah Valley	4276401 695460

20.	Gary (Joe) and Cathy Alger	137 Boston Road Luray, VA 22835	Shenandoah Valley	4274302 714670
21.	Robert P. Longest	690 Canterbury Road St. Stephens Church, VA 23148	Three Rivers	4188790 321950
22.	James Gresham	2015 Old Virginia Street Urbanna, VA 23175	Tidewater	4169607 356661
23.	James C. Owens, Jr. Operator, Pharsalia Farm	16171 Ridge Road King George, VA 22485	Tri-County/City	4242000 312800
24.	Raymond L. Simms Operator, Glencairne Farm	7 Bainbridge Lane Fredericksburg, VA 22407	Tri-County/City	4247400 285200
25.	Alpha Farm Richard and Sharon Lafferty	10700 Edenton Road Partlow, VA 22534	Tri-County/City	4218800 262500

* 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.

2007 Clean Water Farm Award Recipients

No.	Recipient Name	Address	SWCD	Posted Sign Location (UTM Coordinate)
1.	Ritchie Robinson	6656 Waddletown Road Bland, VA 24315	Big Walker	4104343 487706
2.	Jerry Miller (Huckleberry Hill Farm)	688 Ward Branch Road Rural Retreat, VA 24368	Big Walker	4077026N 481070E
3.	Red Vale Dairy	5900 Bonbrook Mill Road Boones Mill, VA 24065	Blue Ridge	4109311 600216
4.	J. H. Stephenson III Joseph A. Stephenson	9146 Wakefield Road and 35367 Cedar Sign-Post Road Wakefield, VA 23888	Chowan Basin	5088617 320344
5.	Grandview Farm Tom and Jo Harding	216 Grandview Lane Castlewood, VA 24224	Clinch Valley	4084842 385964
6.	John Carter	Rt. 2, Box 2396 Jonesville, VA 24263	Daniel Boone	4062850 302175
7.	L&T Farm Lynwood Guy	5599 Wardtown Road Exmore, VA 23350	Eastern Shore	4150705 422981
8.	William R. Wooding	6037 Melon Road South Boston, VA 24592	Halifax	4055123N 667541E
9.	King S. Terry, Jr.	514 W. Glade Street Glade Spring, VA 24340	Holston River	4072965 428276
10.	Roy Fleming	8402 Crosslake Drive Fairfax Station, VA 22039	Lonesome Pine	4114758 364994
11.	Roger Edwards	5915 Coal Creek Road Galax, VA 24333	New River	4050345 515315
12.	Ronnie Sikes	1491 Skyline Highway Galax, VA 24333	New River	4051133 507533
13.	John Flanary	P.O. Box 122 Nickelsville, VA 24271	Scott County	4064742 367122
14.	John Wood	158 West Fork Road Stuart, VA 24171	Patrick	4072410 570153
15.	W.P. Johnson	8370 Stewardsville Road Moneta, VA 24121	Peaks of Otter	4122965 616687
16.	Tom Keatts	1259 Ed Hardy Road Danville, VA 23541	Pittsylvania	4049000 6244700
17.	Ananda Farm Wanda Partyka	402 S. Elk Street Tazewell, VA 24651	Tazewell	4107026 472892
18.	Cullipher Farm Mike and Louis Cullipher	2088 Jarvis Road Virginia Beach, VA 23456	Virginia Dare	4060605 408514
19.	Dana Todd	724 Middle Ridge Drive Chesapeake, VA 23322	Virginia Dare	4053828 396708

* 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.