

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

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

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



**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
RICHMOND
DECEMBER 2008**

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 1, 2008

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

It is my pleasure to present to you the Eleventh 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 22 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 2008 recipients. Ten special river basin winners were announced in December 2008, and these farmers are to be recognized at regional Soil and Water Conservation District events throughout the Spring of 2009.

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. 2007 RIVER BASIN GRAND AWARD WINNERS

River Basin Grand Winners, representing nine out of ten river basins, were selected and announced at the December 2007 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 2008. 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

J.H. Stephenson III
Joseph A. Stephenson
Five Ash Partnership
9146 Wakefield Road and 35367 Cedar Sign-Post Road
Wakefield, VA 23888
Chowan Basin Soil and Water Conservation District

Roanoke River Basin

Tom Keatts
1259 Ed Hardy Road
Danville, VA 23541
Pittsylvania SWCD

Rappahannock River Basin

Lewis A. Lamb and Sons
427 Cedar Springs Lane
Rochelle, VA 22738
Culpeper SWCD

Potomac River Basin

Arlene and John Janney (mother and son)
19044 Guinea Bridge Road
Purcellville, VA 20132
Loudoun SWCD

Shenandoah River Basin

Buddy L. Shaver
1055 Craig Shop Road
Weyers Cave, VA 23386
Headwaters Soil and Water Conservation District

Big Sandy/Tennessee Rivers Basin

Tom and Jo Harding
Grandview Farm
216 Grandview Lane
Castlewood, VA 24224
Clinch Valley SWCD

York River Basin

Pamunkey Farm
Virginia Department of Corrections Agribusiness
Bob Williamson, Farm Manager
7142 Broad Neck Road
Hanover, VA 23069
Hanover-Caroline SWCD

New River Basin

Wanda Partyka
Ananda Farm
402 S. Elk Street
Tazewell, VA 24651
Tazewell SWCD

James River Basin

Phil-Lynn Farm
Bobby and Elsie Bryan
2632 Sanders Creek
Dillwyn, VA 23935
Peter Francisco SWCD

Coastal River Basin

L&T Farms
Lynwood Guy
5599 Wardtown Road
Exmore, VA 23350
Eastern Shore SWCD

VI. LIST OF 2008 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 2008, the following 36 farms were recognized:

2008 Bay Friendly Clean Water Farm Award Recipients

No.	Recipient Name	Address	SWCD	Posted Sign Location (UTM Coordinate)
1.	Belle Meade Farm Mike Biniak & Susan Hoffman	353 Fort Valley Road Sperryville, VA 22740	Culpeper	4271781 741057
2.	The Hill Larry Levy	P.O. Box 1 Boston, VA 22713	Culpeper	4268778 228271
3.	Stony Point Farm Susan Pooton	269 Nethers Road Sperryville, VA 22740	Culpeper	4270723 739135
4.	Celt Run Farm Cheryl Baugher	25 Still Pond Road Stanardsville, VA 22973	Culpeper	4234537 720800
5.	Homewood Farm Gary & Patricia Woycik-Shaw	17300 Homewood Farm Orange, VA 22960	Culpeper	4240563 231244
6.	David F. Mason	P.O. Box 124 Onancock, VA 23417	Eastern Shore	4179550 442930
7.	North Point Farm, Inc. The Phillips Family	383 North Pt. School Rd. Waynesboro, VA 22980	Headwaters	4224706N 684673E
8.	Oxbow Farm, LLC Adalbert von Gontard, III	1042 Milldale Rd. Front Royal, VA 22630	Lord Fairfax	4316410N 751278E
9.	Corotoman Farm The Thompson Family	P.O. Box 125 Upperville, VA 20185	Loudoun	4323500 251500
10.	Graylen L. Alley	374 Cedar Rush Rd New Castle, VA 24127	Mountain Castles	4155794N 586858E
11.	Theimer Brothers	2199 Grove Hill Rd Fincastle, VA 24090	Mountain Castles	4162498N 610285E
12.	Locust Ridge Farm William G. Jenkins	1003 Big Spring Drive Lexington, VA 24450	Natural Bridge	4189699N 634871E
13.	David Hudnall	1532 Carlson Road, Heathsville, VA 22473,	Northern Neck	4181918 378982
14.	Rockmill Farms, Inc. Steve Rainey	365 Rockmill Road Dillwyn, VA 23936	Peter Francisco	4147432 720293
15.	Forkland Farms Corporation- Hazelgroves	1571 Stoney Point Road Farmville, VA 23901	Peter Francisco	4142955 744244
16.	Flyover Farm Jennifer Mosle	14925 Doe Ridge Road Haymarket, VA 20169	Prince William	4309950 271600
17.	Valley Star Farm David Thomas	390 Almond Drive Luray, VA 22835	Shenandoah Valley	4288611N 723651E
18.	Rohrer Brothers Farm George Rohrer	2548 Shoreshill Rd. Dayton, VA 22821	Shenandoah Valley	4257871N 674356E
19.	Lewis Brothers Farm LLC	1535 Buckley Road, Dutton, VA 23050	Tidewater	4150847 374302
20.	James E. Pitts	16240 Rollins Fork Road King George, VA 22485	Tri-County/City	4228525 318857
21.	Silver Ridge Farm Edward G. Silver	50 Silver Ridge Road Fredericksburg, VA 22405	Tri-County/City	4243870 291360

22.	Eddie Wolfrey	3136 Winding Road Partlow, VA 22534	Tri-County/City	4241300 267900
23.	Ryan Horsley	3169 Land of Promise Rd. Virginia Beach, Va 23457	Virginia Dare	4055776N 401475E
24.	W. Lyle Pugh Jr. L&M Farms	717 Head of River Rd. Chesapeake, VA 23322	Virginia Dare	4054761N 393715E

* 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.

2008 Clean Water Farm Award Recipients

No.	Recipient Name	Address	SWCD	Posted Sign Location (UTM Coordinate)
1.	Mark Stanley	Main Street Bland, VA 24315	Big Walker	4109065 488582
2.	Cassell Family Farm Mike Cassell	1040 Queens Knob Wytheville, VA 24382	Big Walker	4095198 488563
3.	David Cundiff	1712 Novelty Road, Penhook, VA 24137	Blue Ridge	4092247 N 618777 E
4.	C. Adam Kinser	Rt. 2, Box 587A Pennington Gap, VA 24277	Daniel Boone	4065450 320300
5.	Anthony Scott Hudson	4181 Red Bank Road, Virgilina, VA 24598	Halifax	701350E 4050879N
6.	Jeffrey Holderfield	65 Bowling Lane Galax, VA 24333	New River	4065546 508087
7.	Willow Brook Farm	1939 Englewood Drive Galax, VA 24333	New River	4065608 493953
8.	Leon and Jane Stevens	968 Wayside Road Stuart, VA 24171	Patrick	4049480 567765
9.	Herbert W. Linthicum	144 Chippewa Lane, Chatham, VA 24531	Pittsylvania	4085771E 633995N
10.	David Redwine	PO Box 308 Gate City, VA 24251	Scott County	4060375 364508
11.	Watson Farm	6456 Belspring Road Fairlawn, VA 24141	Skyline	4109776 525174
12.	Albert B. Cornwell	3389 B.F. Buchanan Hwy. Tazewell, VA 24651	Tazewell	4102728 453165

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