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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
July 29, 2008

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Blair County Farm Receives Clean Water Award

Smith Hollow Farms, a dairy farm on 500 acres in Martinsburg, were recently named as one of the 2008 Chesapeake Bay Clean Water Farm Award recipients. The Smiths, along with the Car Wood Farm of Cumberland County, and the William Hess Farms of Columbia County were recognized on July 29, 2008, during the Annual Conservation Awards program of the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. (PACD). In recognition of their conservation achievements, award recipients received framed certificates and large “Clean Water Farm Award” signs to erect on their farm.

The Clean Water Farm Award, initiated in 1986, recognizes farmers within Pennsylvania’s portion of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, who manage their daily farm operation while maintaining clean water. The farms’ conservation plans address issues that help control potential pollutants such as eroded soil, pesticides, and fertilizers from entering streams or groundwater supplies. Recipients of the annual Chesapeake Bay Clean Water Farm Award are nominated by county conservation district staff.

(More)

The Blair County Conservation District nominated Smith Hollow Farms because the Smiths implemented many conservation practices to reduce pollution on their farms including installation of a manure storage facility, roof runoff system, streambank fencing, walkways, and crossings to reduce the amount of potentially damaging nutrients from entering a stream. Other stream protection efforts include planting a buffer of trees and grass to stabilize the streambanks and provide food and habitat for animals.

“The Smiths have been involved and receptive to numerous conservation practices and partners to continually develop and implement sound conservation plans and operations. Through the conservation beliefs of the Smiths, they have helped to not only reduce and control the amount of sediment leaving their farms, but to improve water quality in their watershed, Piney Creek. In fact, the tenure of Max Smith on our Blair County Board, during a time of growth for the Blair District, served to set the stage for increased participation and program opportunities for all Blair County landowners,” said Donna Fisher, Blair County Conservation District manager.

This Clean Water Farm Award program is coordinated by the Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay Education Office (administered by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc., a private, nonprofit organization representing Pennsylvania’s sixty-six county conservation districts). The awards are sponsored jointly by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection’s Chesapeake Bay Program and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to recognize farmers who implement conservation practices. The Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay Education Office conducts numerous activities promoting the theme, “*We All Live Downstream.*” For more information, visit www.pacd.org.

To learn more call the Blair County Conservation District at (814) 696-0877.