



**DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
2320 South DuPont Highway, Dover, DE 19901



**To: Newsroom Directors and Assignment Editors**

**For Immediate Release: Contact Anne Fitzgerald**  
January 9, 2009 **800.282.8685 (DE only)**  
**302.698.4520**  
**302.242.4092 (Cell)**

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## **Nutrient Management Commission presents Environmental Stewardship Award Joe Bauer named 2008 Environmental Steward**

On January 8, 2009, the 2008 Delaware Nutrient Management Program Environmental Steward, was recognized before an audience of his peers during an award ceremony at the Delaware Agricultural Week events at the State Fairgrounds in Harrington. Joe Bauer, grower from the Harrington area, received the top award. Bauer operates a 120,000 capacity poultry farm and grows poultry for Perdue Farms, Inc. He received a lane sign, plaque, and a cash award of \$1,000. Mike Levensood, Vice President of live operations and Jeff Smith, Corporate Environmental Manager, Perdue Farms, Inc., presented the award to Joe Bauer.

Other nominees receiving awards of \$500 were:

- Bruce Daisey
  - Millsboro grower nominated by Allen Family Foods, Inc.
  - Tom Miller, Vice President of Support Services and Tom Brinson of Allen Family Foods, Inc., presented the award.
- Craig Truitt
  - Seaford grower nominated by Mountaire Farms of Delaware
  - Bill Massey, Director of Housing for Mountaire Farms of Delaware, presented the award.
- Chet Dickerson
  - Dover grower, nominated by the Delaware Maryland Agribusiness Association
  - Bob Willard and Mike Twining of the Delaware Maryland Agribusiness Association presented the award.

Each year since 2001, the Delaware Nutrient Management Commission (Commission) and the Delmarva poultry companies recognize a farmer or farmers whose stewardship and general farm practices contribute to the preservation of the environment, water quality, and overall farmland. The Commission, Allen Family Foods, Mountaire Farms of Delaware, and Perdue Farms implement the program that is funded by the poultry companies operating in Delaware and other agri-businesses. In 2008 and 2007, the Delaware Maryland Agribusiness Association participated in the funding and the selection of awardees.

Bill Rohrer, Delaware Department of Agriculture Nutrient Management Program Administrator said, "The Delaware Environmental Stewardship Award program recognizes those people that go beyond environmental compliance and whose agricultural operations embody the highest standards of environmental stewardship."

Bill Vanderwende, Commission Chairman, said, "This is an event that I look forward to each year. We are very proud of all of our growers who strive to protect our water quality and our environment by continuously implementing recognized best management practices and being active members of their communities."

The following criteria were considered for the award:

- General nature of the farming operation;
- Manure and mortality management;

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- Best management practices;
- Farm management, innovation, biodiversity and wildlife management;
- Off-farm agricultural related activities;
- Aesthetics;
- Community involvement;
- Other environmental and agricultural awards.

Electronic copies of the pictures and a group picture are available: [anne.fitzgerald@state.de.us](mailto:anne.fitzgerald@state.de.us)



Left to right: *Mike Levengood, Perdue Farms, Inc.; Diane Bauer; Joe Bauer; Dianne Vrem; Stacey Vrem; Jeff Smith, Perdue Farms, Inc.*



Left to right: *Bill Massey, Mountaire Farms of Delaware; Craig Truitt; Bill Rohrer, Nutrient Management Program Administrator*



Left to right: *Mike Twining, Willard Agri Service; Billy Willard; Bob Willard; Chet Dickerson; Sally Dickerson*



Left to right: *Tom Miller, Allen Family Foods, Inc.; Pam Daisey; Bruce Daisey; Tom Brinson; Allen Family Foods, Inc.*

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