

Logan SWCD Supervisor Honored

COLUMBUS, OHIO - The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) presented its annual Cardinal Award for conservation achievement to Frank Phelps of Belle Center in a special ceremony December 10th in Columbus.

The ODNR Cardinal Award honors individuals and organizations demonstrating exceptional awareness and concern for ideals reflected in the department's mission statement: "To ensure a balance between the wise use and protection of our natural resources for the benefit of all."

A true steward of Ohio's land, Frank has spent much of his life operating and 1,850 farm. Committed to conservation practices in farming, he has implemented no-till farming, grassed waterways, grass and tree filter strips, wetland development and woodland management. He has served as District Supervisor for the Logan Soil and Water Conservation District for 21 years and is currently Board Chairman. He has also served on the Indian Lake Watershed Project Joint Board since the organization's inception in 1990. Additionally, Phelps serves on the Ohio Beef Council and is serving as Ohio's representative to the National Cattlemen's Board. In 2003, Phelps' work balancing profitable farming and environmental stewardship was recognized when he was awarded the first place prize for the national Core4 Conservation Award.



Frank Phelps was honored with the Ohio Cattlemen's Association Industry Excellence Award by OCA and ABN Radio. Pictured from left are Lindsay Hill, representing ABN, Frank Phelps and Andy Vance, ABN.

Phelps Awarded Most Prestigious Ohio Beef Industry Award

The Ohio Cattlemen's Association Industry Excellence Award was presented to Frank Phelps, of Logan County, at the OCA annual awards banquet held at the Makoy Center in Hilliard, on January 23. Phelps earned the award for his dedication as well as his commitment and leadership to the beef industry.

Since 1965, Phelps' family has jointly owned a herd of registered Limousin cattle that have been in production in Logan County. Frank, and his father, Don, and their family jointly own the cattle with the O'Connor Family. The farm has 250 head of Limousin Cattle and encompasses 1,200 acres, with 120 acres of pasture. On the remaining acreage they plant corn, soybeans, wheat and hay.

In addition to raising cattle, the O'Connor-Phelps Farm is also focusing on being environmentally friendly. As recognition for their conservation efforts they have been awarded the Logan County Farm Family of the Year for Environmental Stewardship and the Ohio Cattlemen's Environmental Stewardship Award.

In addition to his cattle operation, Phelps has been actively involved in the industry as a member of the Logan County Cattlemen's Association, serves on OCA's magazine committee, served on the Logan County Soil & Water Association board, has assisted with the Indian Lake Watershed Project, is a past chairman of the Ohio Beef Council Operating Committee and also represents Ohio on the Cattlemen's Beef Board. Phelps and his family are also annual participants in the Ohio State Fair's Commercial Cattle Show.

The Ohio Cattlemen's Association and *ABN Radio* jointly sponsor the Industry Excellence Award. The OCA Beef Industry Excellence Award is given to a beef cattle producer who has been an industry leader and demonstrated a strong commitment to the betterment of Ohio's beef industry. The Ohio Cattlemen's Association is an affiliate of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and is the state's spokesperson and issues manager for all segments of the beef cattle industry including cattle breeders, producers and feeders. It is the grass roots policy development organization for the beef business. Through the Ohio Cattlemen's Association, cattle producers work to create a positive business environment, while providing consumers with a safe and wholesome product.

Funding Available For Agriculture Conservation Practices

The Great Miami River Watershed Water Quality Credit Trading Program is announcing the availability of funds for agriculture management practices that reduce nutrient discharge into rivers and stream in the Great Miami River Watershed. Projects will be chosen for funding by the Trading Program's Project Advisory Group. Projects that reduce the most nutrients for the least cost per pound will be the most competitive. Funded projects will require an annual inspection by the Logan Soil and Water Conservation District.

Any agriculture producer who is actively farming in the Great Miami River Watershed and applies to receive funding for practices that reduce nutrient runoff is eligible. Eligible projects include new best management practices that have not already been installed and are not currently in contract with another cost-share program.

Eligible practices could include and are not limited to cover crops, filter strips, animal waste holding structures, milk house waste, grassed waterways, converting to hay land, and converting from conventional tillage to no-till. Other innovative practices that will substantially reduce nutrients from entering the Great Miami River will be considered.

Project application will be accepted at the Logan Soil and Water Conservation District from January 29th through March 26th, 2010. Please contact the LSWCD office at 937-593-2946 Ext. 3 for more information.