



Schuyler County beef farmers receive environmental award

Road-side sign highlights conservation commitment

WATKINS GLEN, July 27, 2016 – Angus Glen Farm, owned by the Chedzoy family of Watkins Glen, was presented with an Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) "Farmers Partnering to Protect Our Environment" road-side sign recognizing their exemplary conservation of natural resources and commitment to environmental protection. The Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District sponsors this AEM program and the Schuyler County Farm Bureau and the Schuyler County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board are co-sponsors of the awards with the Conservation District. The sign was presented during the Schuyler County Farm Bureau summer picnic attended by over 130 people and held at Clute Park.

Angus Glen Farm, located in the Town of Dix, has been in the family since the 1980's. It was purchased by Jim and Rose Chedzoy, but was not actively farmed by their family until 2002 when their son, Brett and his wife, Maria returned to the area and started a grass-fed, beef operation. Angus Glen Farm is recognized regionally for the quality of their Angus beef cattle both genetically and for its flavor and tenderness. They also are known for their knowledge of silvopasturing where cows can graze in the woods and for their pasture rotational grazing system, both done with extreme care to protect soil health and forest quality.

They have 90 cow-calf pairs on 190 acres of their own land and they rent another 140 acres. Almost all of the land is in intensively managed pasture and hay with 75 distinct pastures. Everyone in the family, including Brett and Maria's children - Ian, Clara and Joe - helps to move the cows between the pastures on a regular basis to prevent overgrazing and potential erosion and fencing and watering systems are maintained

Published in the Odessa File

regularly to prevent emergency fixes. Vegetated buffers near drainageways are protected to keep good water quality and a heavy use area was eliminated. They use round bale grazing in the winter so they can feed their cows year-round with little purchased feed.

"The AEM program helps us to better manage our resources and I would encourage any type of farm to participate in the program," said Brett Chedzoy, who is also a forestry specialist with Cornell Cooperative Extension. AEM is a statewide program with over 10,000 farms voluntarily participating. To learn more about the AEM program in Schuyler County visit www.schuylerswcd.com or call the Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District at 535-0878.

Caption for Attached Photo: The Chedzoy family of Angus Glen Farm with their AEM sign award. From l to r: Jim, Maria, Brett, Ian, and Rose. Missing from photo: Clara and Joe.