

SWCD honors Chedzoy, Hector officials at session

Special to The Odessa File

WATKINS GLEN, Feb. 9 -- The Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) held its annual luncheon at the Elks Club Friday and presented the Conservation Farmer of the Year Award to Brett Chedzoy, owner of Angus Glen Farm on Station Road, and Merit Awards to two Town of Hector officials -- Supervisor Ben Dickens and Highway Superintendent Jay Arcangeli.

Soil and water improvement projects accomplished in 2012 were also reviewed for an audience of 85 people that included local officials, farmers, and other landowners.

The importance of shared services to achieve soil and water quality protection was emphasized. "If it weren't for the commitment of municipal leaders, particularly Ben Dickens and Jay Arcangeli this past year, conservation work would not get done in a timely, cost-effective manner, and the Schuyler Soil and Water District would not have been able to meet project goals in 2012," said Jerry Verrigni, District Manager.



Highlights of implemented work presented at the meeting included: 18 stream stabilization projects; 5 waterway and crossing improvements; 3,000 feet of hard road ditch stabilization in three towns; 30 miles of seeded road ditches and over 90 acres of other critical area seeding that included marinas, athletic fields, and construction sites; over 65 agricultural environmental management practices implemented on area farms such as cover crops, improved grazing, manure storage, a composting facility, diversions, and access roads; numerous constructed and improved wetlands with partners, the Upper Susquehanna Coalition and Wetland Trust; and over

a dozen educational events, many done in cooperation with Farm Bureau and Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Brett Chedzoy was recognized for the various conservation practices implemented on his farm to protect soil and water resources. Angus Glen is a multi-generational beef farm and is operated with assistance from his parents, Jim and Rosita, his wife, Maria and their three children, Ian, Clara and Joe.

“Brett is an innovator who is using all the tools of good grazing management,” said USC Grazing Specialist John Wickham. “He got rid of a heavy use area near a stream by increasing his rotational grazing acreage and using bale grazing; he maintains vegetated stream buffers; uses silvopasturing -- animals grazing in forests; and his tender, grass-fed beef is sought throughout the state.”



Brett has used many Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) programs offered by the State, the Conservation District and the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service. “By participating in the AEM program, we are helping to keep our streams and lakes clean while providing a safe, abundant food supply and maintaining the status of agriculture as a preferred land use for natural resource protection,” said Brett. “We love raising healthy animals for high-quality meat sold to local markets.”

For more information on soil and water conservation programs for landowners and municipalities, go to www.schuylerswcd.com

Photos in text:

Top: From left: Schuylers County Legislature Chairman Dennis Fagan; Alison Hunt, District Representative for Congressman Tom Reed; Maria and Brett Chedzoy, owners of Angus Glen Farm, and Anthony J. Specchio, Schuylers County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors Chairman.

Bottom: From left: Dennis Fagan; Alison Hunt; Town of Hector Supervisor Ben Dickens; Town of Hector Highway Superintendent Jay Arcangeli; and Anthony J. Specchio. *(Photos provided)*