



Environmental Stewardship Awards

Dull Homestead, Inc.

In 2009, Dull Homestead, Inc. received a Governor's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Environmental Stewardship. The award recognizes Ohio companies and organizations committed to environmental compliance and reducing pollution.

Dull Homestead is an incorporated family farm operation outside of Brookville, Ohio, with a large scale swine and seed grain operation on more than 2,800 acres. More than 1,100 acres of the farmland is under either Conservation or Agriculture Easements.

The operation employs 14 full time employees, 11 of these are members or relatives of the Dull Family. In addition, more than 250 youth work three weeks during summer to de-tassel seed corn.

Commitment to Environmental Stewardship

Environmental stewardship is an everyday practice through conservation and wise use of materials at Dull Homestead. Dull Homestead continues to look for ways to reuse waste at their farm operation and create savings. Much of this ability comes from adept management and conservation of the inputs and products of their farm operation.

Resource Conservation

In an effort to preserve the farm's agricultural base and heritage, Dull Homestead has preserved 302 acres through the Ohio Department of Agriculture's farmland preservation program and 700 additional acres through the Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District. Dull Homestead has served as an anchor in getting several nearby farms into the same program. Eight acres of woods on the southwest edge of the farm has been placed under long term lease to Five Rivers Metro Parks for hiking or biking to be used by those on the adjacent Wolf Creek Rail Trail. These activities and management have earned Dull Homestead the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Ambassador of Ohio Agriculture Award as "a forward-thinking farm and industry leader for its innovative and sustainable agricultural activities."

The seed grain operation primarily produces seed corn that is processed at the main farm. The seed corn is dried in a corn dryer that uses out-of-date seed corn as fuel. This switch from propane saves approximately 50,000 gallons of fuel per year.

The farm operates six-100 foot wind turbines to provide electricity to the facility and farm operations. A future energy center, located on the farm, showcases the green potential of many different fuels that can be produced by agriculture. The

Dull Homestead, Inc. is recognized for:

- Having more than 1,100 acres of the land owned by the company under either conservation or agriculture easements.
- Using a corn dryer is fueled by out-of-date seed corn, saving about 50,000 gallons of propane per year.
- Generating almost no waste from the seed corn operation because of careful management and reuse of corn cobs, corn shucks, dust left over from seed corn processing and undesirable dried corn.
- Developing a future energy center and the use of six wind turbines.

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energy center has equipment that produces hydrogen from water, which then produces the power to run a small electric motor.

The energy center and farm office are heated and cooled by a combination of geothermal energy and a corn stove. The energy center was designed to take maximum advantage of the sun and shading. Biodiesel made from soybeans is used to run most of the farm equipment.

Waste Management

With careful management and reuse of corn cobs, corn shucks, dust left over from seed corn processing and undesirable dried corn, there is almost no waste from the seed corn operation. The cobs that are left over from the processing of the seed corn are processed and sold as granular bedding. This eliminates approximately 20 to 25 truckloads of cobs from being shipped offsite.

The dust and fines from this process are pelletized on the farm and used by local landowners to augment cattle feed. Other dried corn unfit for animal feed is bagged and sold to local residents for their corn/pellet burning stoves. Corn shucks, the final by-product from the seed corn operation, are used as cattle feed.

Dull Homestead uses all of its swine manure to fertilize in the range of 100 acres of cropland yearly, which saves 80 to 100 dollars per acre in fertilizer purchasing.

For more information

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If you would like additional information about Ohio EPA's environmental stewardship award program, contact the Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP) at 800-329-7518, or visit OCAPP's website at www.epa.ohio.gov/ocapp/ohioe3.aspx.