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Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission
101 E. Capitol Ave., Suite 205
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Commission:

In a court of law, the term “double jeopardy” refers to the fact you cannot be tried again once a verdict of “not guilty” has been rendered. Yet in the court of public opinion, farmers and ranchers are put on trial over and over for the same accusations. Instead of innocent until proven guilty, the poor farmer is guilty and has to prove his own innocence. I was a part of the “Buffalo River Watershed Study” conducted by ADEQ, and funded by EPA. I spent four years of my life collecting, recording, documenting and testing, in collaboration with scientists and experts of nearly every local, state and federal agency, along with Phd’s from the University of Arkansas, Dr. Maxwell, Dr. Tommy Daniels, Dr. Milo Schultz, Dr. Karl Vandevendeer, NRCS Staff, AR Soil & Water Commission, ADEQ under the leadership of Sandy Formicia and her team of technicians. After all the data, samples from drilled water wells, waste analysis, a 25year rain simulation event, using the local fire department, collecting the runoff on a field freshly applied with litter, and at a cost of nearly half a million dollars, the verdict by a very qualified jury of experts.....”not guilty”. I proudly display the “Excellency Award” for Environmental Stewardship presented by Region 6 of the Environmental Protection Agency in my office. Yet here we are again, on trial. Let ADEQ do its job, using proven science. Let the facts speak for themselves. We do not need a third party ruling or even new regulations. The first word in adequate is ADEQ!

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,


Stanley Taylor

Local Swine Farms Receive EPA Awards

Six swine farms in Newton County have been recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency. In an awards ceremony in the Governor's Conference Room at the State Capitol, Sam Becker, deputy administrator for management and Thomas Reich, environmental excellence awards coordinator for Region 6 of the EPA, presented awards to Loran and Shelia Campbell of Deer and Stan Taylor and Donnie Hampton of Hampton-Taylor Farms of Lurton. They also received awards on behalf of David and Betty Eddings of Wayton, Frank and Joyce Breedlove of Wayton, Jimmy Basinger of Lurton and Jimmy Lee McCutcheon farm of Deer.

The six farms were recognized for their participation in the Buffalo River Watershed study conducted by the Arkansas Department of Pollution Control and Ecology. Sandy Formica of DPCE, headed up a four year study that ended last year to determine the impact, if any, and solution, for non-point source pollution of swine operations situated in the Buffalo River watershed. The study enlisted volunteer farms to record waste water practices, identifying areas where waste water was spread,

the acreage and number of gallons applied. Detailed maps were kept, soil samples were taken and the waste water was analyzed to determine levels of nitrogen the soil actually absorbed and whether any of those nitrates filtered in the water making its way in the Buffalo.

Test wells were drilled on the farms. These wells were fitted with special devices to draw water from the ground. The wells were located around the waste water holding ponds to identify the possibility of the holding ponds leaking any nitrates into the ground water supply.

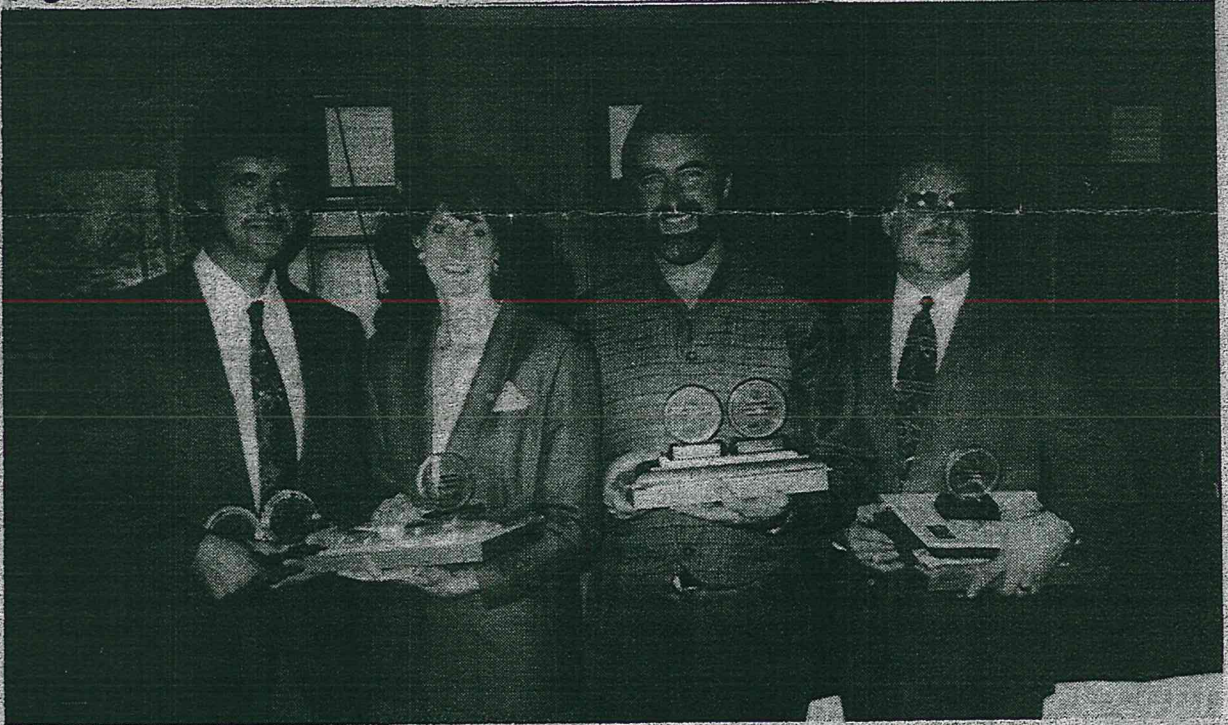
Also, an elaborate water collection station was constructed downstream from one of the test farms. The miniature dam site had equipment that drew samples by a timing device and saved those samples for analysis.

The farms were also monitored by field inspector Tony Morris of APDCE to check pond levels, capacities, and other situations that could constitute leakage spills or overflows from waste water systems.

Dr. Tommy Daniels of the University of Arkansas conducted a rainfall simulation on one of the test farms to measure nutrient runoff on a controlled site where waste water had been freshly applied. With the help of the Deer Volunteer Fire Department, Dr. Daniels simulated a two inch rain event, catching any runoff that the ground did not absorb. This data, along with hundreds of pages of records from the test farms, soil and water samples and other pertinent information were compiled and analyzed by the study group.

The study task force, comprised of nearly every agency involved with soil, water, conservation, pollution, the swine industry, and research relating to any of these concerns, met periodically to discuss and analyze the collected data.

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Receive EPA Awards

Receiving EPA awards for volunteer participation in the Buffalo River Watershed study were (left) Loran and Shelia Campbell of Campbell Farm of Deer and Donnie Hampton and Stan Taylor of Hampton-Taylor Farms at Lurton. Awards were also presented of the Frank Breedlove Farm, David Eddings Farm, Jimmy Basinger Farm and Jimmy Lee McCutcheon Farm.

Awards

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At the close of the study a Best Management Practice plan was developed for each of the farms. This entailed the diversion of rain water run-off entering the holding ponds, enlarging capacities of holding ponds, dam reinforcement, adding more land to existing permits to apply waste water, to establish routine commercial pump-out sched-

ules, and other beneficial practices based on the expertise of each of the supporting agencies.

The study concluded that no nitrates were entering the ground water and there was no measurable nutrient loss from soils as a result of rainfall. The greatest threat to water quality was posed by any failure to maintain adequate freeboard levels in the holding ponds. A spill or overflow is a violation of the Clean

Water Act with a monetary fine possible. Also, waste water application is now being applied based on phosphorus levels instead of nitrogen. This means roughly twice the acreage for the same amount of waste water. This practice is not yet mandated by law but is voluntarily observed by the participating farms.

Also receiving awards at the same ceremony were Arkansas Pork Producers Association, Department of Agronomy - University of Arkansas, Newton County Conservation District, Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission, Natural Resource Conservation Service and Arkansas Department of Pollution Control and Ecology.