



Canadian Cattlemen's Association

News Release

August 21, 2001

Ontario Cattle Producers Win Sixth Annual Environmental Stewardship Award

The winners of the sixth annual national Environmental Stewardship Award (TESA) say increasing the number of cattle on their operation has enhanced the environment on their farm and surrounding areas.

James and Joan McKinlay, who operate Silver Springs Farms at Ravenna, Ontario, were presented the award on August 16 at the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) Semi-Annual Meeting and Convention in Charlottetown, P.E.I. With the generous support of Merial Canada, the Environmental Stewardship is presented each year to a Canadian cattle producer doing a particularly outstanding job of protecting and enhancing the environment.

Silver Springs Farm is comprised of 600 acres of cropland plus wood lots, wetlands and water courses. The McKinlays operate their farm with the philosophy that they hold the land in trust with the obligation and responsibility to leave it for succeeding generations in as good or better condition than they received it.

By increasing the number of cattle in their herd, the McKinlays have been able to introduce rotational grazing and crop rotation on their farm. The inclusion of forages in the crop rotation has allowed them to decrease the use of pesticides, and crop rotation combined with minimum tillage has reduced soil erosion on their sloping fields. Manure is viewed as a valuable resource. By balancing the number of livestock with their cropping operation, they make efficient use of nutrients on the farm in a crop rotation that benefits all their land.

Each year the McKinlays attempt to initiate an improvement project related to conservation and resource enhancement. Projects have included planting trees, fencing ponds and fragile marshes, and building alternate watering systems for their cattle. They note a significant increase in the populations of white tail deer, jack rabbits, squirrels, Canada geese and wild turkeys on their land.

The national Environmental Stewardship Award winner is selected from the winners of stewardship awards presented by provincial cattle associations. Other nominees this year were Betty and Dennis Turner from Manitoba, Henry and Bill Seidlitz of Saskatchewan, the Alvin and Ann Kumlin family from Alberta, and Don Savjord of British Columbia.

This is the second year of a successful partnership between CCA and Merial Canada to recognize and promote excellence in environmental management in the cow-calf sector of the Canadian cattle industry. Merial is an international animal health company with a focus on the development of products to keep livestock and pets healthy and productive. Merial is a Merck and Aventis company.

For Further Information:

Peggy Strankman, CCA Manager, Environmental Affairs (403) 275-8558

James and Joan McKinlay, Silver Springs Farm (519) 599-6236

CCA is the National Voice for the Beef Cattle Industry, representing over 100,000 Cattle Producers