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Chamber honors Hundredfold Farm



HONORED - The Environmental Stewardship Award was presented to Hundredfold Farm during the general membership breakfast of the Gettysburg Adams Chamber of Commerce on Friday. Pictured from left, are: Carrie Stuart, president of the chamber; Skip Strayer, field rep. for Sen. Rich Alloway; Bill Hartzell, representing Hundredfold Farm; Charles Bennett, manager of environmental affairs for Knouse Foods, who presented the award; and Steve Rasmussen, CEO/General Manager of Adams Electric Cooperative Inc., who nominated them for the award.

BY MARK WALTERS
Times Staff Writer

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Bill Hartzell, co-founder of the Hundredfold Farm Cohousing Community, accepted the 2009 Environmental Stewardship Award Friday morning.

The award was presented by the Gettysburg Adams Chamber of Commerce at its General Membership Breakfast at the Gettysburg Fire Hall.

Environmental stewardship is something the community at the Hundredfold Farm has been working at for more than a decade.

"This means the world," Hartzell said after accepting his award and shaking hands with various attendees. "It truly is a grassroots organization. Local people...started this, and after 12 years to have some neighbors recognize what we've done up there, it feels good."

Located on 1400 Evergreen Way in Orrtanna, the Hundredfold Farm has made strides in using solar power to conserve energy as well as various other strategies in recycling and conserving water.

"We're not only conserving power, we're also generating new power," Hartzell said of the 14 houses that are clustered on three of the farm's 80 total acres.

None of the houses use well water for outside irrigating and all of the houses contain rainwater collection systems.

The community processes its own wastewater on site. One-third of the water processed is pumped back to the homes for reuse, according to Hartzell.

"The national average for water usage is 75 gallons per person, per day. For us, it's less than 25 gallons per person, per day and of that 25, a good half of that

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is recycled water," Hartzell said.

Prior to announcing Hundredfold Farms as the recipient of the award, Charlie Bennett of Knouse Foods Cooperative praised the small community for its vast efforts to encompass many of the tenants considered for the award.

Nominees were judged based on several categories such as energy and water conservation, recycling, reducing of pollution, or taking on an educational program on environmental protection.

"This year's winner of the chamber's environmental stewardship award could not be squeezed into any one category," Bennett said. "That is unless we create a broad new one like sustainable living."

"This group has created a living example of sustainable community living benefitting the environment in almost all of the categories listed on the application."

Hartzell said that the original intent of this project was to maintain a farm in Adams County.

"The retirement plan for a lot of farmers is sell the farm and turn it into a housing development," Hartzell said. "So we're able to demonstrate how you can create some housing and keep a farm going."

For more information about the Hundredfold Farm go to www.hundredfoldfarm.org.

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