

# DCNR Recognizes Employees Going Above and Beyond to Support Agency Mission



Left to right: Deputy Secretary John Norbeck; Robert Neitz; Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn

By DCNR

**EASTON-** This year, DCNR employees once again have gone above and beyond to further the goals of the agency. They were rewarded by being recognized by their peers and supervisors for efforts, including: Accomplishing critical daily duties, Tak-

ing the lead in emergency situations, Assisting with criminal investigations, Coordinating educational programming to better connect the public with nature, Launching online tools to support DCNR partners, grantees, and the public.

"The annual DCNR employee recognition awards shed light on recent important efforts coming from our agency, and highlight the individuals and teams driving this great work," said DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn. "Our employees are enthusiastic, professional, and passionate, and I'm proud to lead such a strong, forward-thinking team."

More than 40 employees received 18 awards personally by Dunn at the 2018 awards ceremony in the Rachel Carson State Office Building in Harrisburg. Dunn was joined by Deputy Secretary for Parks and Forestry, John Norbeck, Deputy Secretary for Conservation and Technical Services, Lauren Imgrund, and Deputy Secretary for Administration, Michael Walsh.

Employees recognized were nominated by their superiors and selected by a screening committee of coworkers. The information listed below about each honoree was provided by the nominating DCNR employee and was shared by Walsh at the awards ceremony.

Rob Neitz is at the front line of all department initiatives and is often used as one of the example of sustainability across the state park system. He promotes these initiatives both in and outside of his park boundaries. For six years Rob not only filled the role of the Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center manager, but also took over the duties of the Region 4 OPS Regional Coordinator following a retirement.

During this time of double duty, while filling both positions and all the duties associated with both, the staff saw a dramatic change at the site when they went from programming out of an old house to a park office and education center. Neitz's leadership, commitment to excellence, customer service skills, were key to these accomplishments and transitions all occurring at the same time.

## High Temperatures Can Cause Heat Stress in Livestock, Pets

By Will Nichols

**HARRISBURG, PA** - With a serious heat wave affecting much of the state and country, Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding today cautioned livestock and pet owners to take measures to protect animals from high temperatures that can cause them to suffer from heat-related stress.

"Over this week of extreme temperatures, livestock and pet owners must take extra precautions to make sure their animals are protected from the heat," said Redding. "Monitor your animals for signs of distress and contact a veterinarian immediately if animals exhibit unusual behaviors which could be related to heat stress."

Heavier market livestock, animals with darker coats, and those with chronic health conditions are at the greatest risk of stress from the extreme heat. Watch for signs of stress in livestock that are outside during the hottest part of the day. These signs include animals bunching together, heavy panting, drooling, lack of coordination, and trembling.

Pet owners should not leave animals in vehicles. A car's interior temperature can rise within minutes, creating suffocating temperatures that lead to animal health problems and possibly death. Likewise, if pets are left outside, make sure they have access to shade and plenty of fresh, clean, cool water.

It is important to have proper ventilation for animals kept indoors, and be sure to have backup power generation systems in place should an electrical outage occur.

Additional tips for helping pets and livestock including cattle, horses,

es, pigs, sheep, and others deal with the heat:

- Provide shade – move them to shaded pens if possible.
- Provide water – as temperatures rise, animals need to consume more water. Spraying animals with water using a sprinkler that provides large droplets can also help them to cool down, when used along with shaded areas and fans.
- Avoid overworking livestock – it's safest to work with livestock early in the morning when their body temperatures are low. In addition, routine livestock management procedures such as vaccination, hoof trimming and dehorning should be postponed until the weather cools.
- Avoid unnecessary transportation – if livestock must be moved, try to do so in the late evening or early morning hours.
- Take dogs for early morning or late-evening walks, when temperatures are cooler.

For more information, visit ReadyPA's pets and livestock page or the Pennsylvania State Animal Response Team website. If you suspect animal abuse or neglect, contact your local humane society police officer or the police with jurisdiction in the area.

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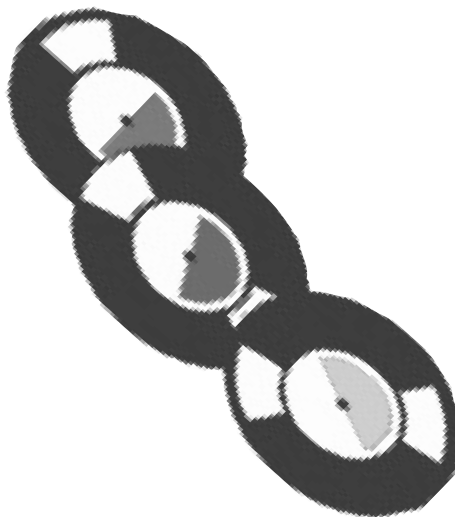
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