



New Bolton Vet Honored by NY Farmers Club

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6/25/2011 10:00 AM

KENNETT SQUARE, Pa. — Thomas Parsons of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine was recently honored by The New York Farmers Inc. at the group’s annual spring dinner in New York city.

Parsons was presented with The Farmers Medal for outstanding achievement in agriculture.

He is an associate professor and director of the Swine Teaching and Research Center at Penn Vet’s New Bolton Center campus for large animals in Kennett Square.

Parsons designed the facility, which opened in 2001, based on his studies of European farms where customer demands have spurred the development of alternative husbandry practices.

The facility provides an innovative model for the housing of pregnant and lactating sows, and has been adapted by swine producers on more than 30 different farms across the country to house approximately 50,000 sows.

The 16,000-square-foot swine center has recently been updated and features state-of-the-art technologies for animal comfort, feeding and nutrient management, primarily for 200 sows and their piglets.

Farrowing pens are crate-free, designed with specific areas for piglet sleeping, piglet nursing and sow elimination. Gestating sows move freely in the building, with the opportunity to go outside.

New York Farmers Inc. is a private club founded in 1882. The Farmers Medal was first awarded in the late 1920s.



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