

Pork processing plant gets state award

By Laura Keeter | Daily Times Staff Writer

Officials from the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources visited the local Smithfield Packing plant Friday to award a 2007 Environmental Steward.

The award recognizes the facility's continued reduction of its environmental impact.

"I'm extremely proud of our employees for making a commitment to protect the environment through recycling programs and other efforts that have helped us significantly reduce landfill waste and greenhouse gas emissions," said Phil Price, plant manager of Smithfield's Wilson division.

"We look forward to working in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources as Smithfield continues searching for new ways to protect the environment for future generations."

The Smithfield Packing plant was selected as an "Environmental Steward" for the following reasons: integrating environmental management into core business operations; creating environmental awareness through efficiency improvement and awards programs; involvement in environmental events and associations; incorporating manufacturing processes and new technology that significantly minimize energy, water use and waste generation; and for performing beyond regulations.

"Smithfield Packing-Wilson applied to the ESI program in 2004 as a partner and has risen to the highest level of the program, demonstrating its level of commitment to continuous and sustained environmental improvement," said DENR Secretary William G. Ross Jr. at the ceremony.

The state's Environmental Stewardship Initiative, designed to promote and encourage superior environmental performance, began in 2002.

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