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Huge accolade for new enterprises

■ Family firm one of three finalists for top national award



Paul Hart

email

paul.hart@gsmg.co.uk

Telephone

(01724) 273132

A FLIXBOROUGH farming family has won recognition in a prestigious award scheme.

Andrew Green, of Church Farm, was highly commended in Natural England's regional Future of Farming Awards 2008.

Now Andrew and his wife Rosie will be attending the national award ceremony in November.

Natural England works to conserve and enhance the natural environment, for its intrinsic value, the wellbeing and enjoyment of people and economic prosperity it brings.

Natural England's regional director, Peter Nottage, said: "Here in Yorkshire and the Humber we are blessed with some of the most wonderful countryside England has to offer. People come from far and wide to enjoy our countryside and the wildlife found here.

"This surely makes our natural environment one of the most valuable assets we have in the region. We owe a great debt of thanks to our farmers and landowners, who play a vital role in maintaining it and these awards help to recognise this."

Mr Green was one of only two farmers in the whole region to be highly commended in the award scheme.

Church Farm, Flixborough, has seen dramatic changes over the past 10 years, including the loss of the main livestock enterprise and the introduction of new enterprises.

This includes the Fenestra Conference Centre, which caters for business meetings, conferences, training days and a wide range of other uses.

The farm contains habitats which are managed primarily for their nature conservation interest. These include ancient hedgerows, cereal field margins, lowland calcareous grassland, pollen and nectar mix and field corner management.

There is a network of footpaths throughout the farm. Some of these routes have been altered with local authority help to improve safety and quality. Access on the farm is promoted through North Lincolnshire Council's www.visitnorthlincolnshire.com website.

Mr Green said: "We were delighted to have been informed that we had been judged to be one of the three finalists for the region."



HIGHLY COMMENDED: Andrew and Rosie Green outside the Fenestra Centre.