

Douglas County Outstanding Conservation Farmer 2018

Kevin and Ellen Roers from Garfield, MN, were recognized as the 2018 Outstanding Conservationist for Douglas County. Currently they were one of eight state finalists in the 2018 Outstanding Conservationist Award Program. Kevin and Ellen will be recognized at the December luncheon at the MASWCD's 81st annual convention in Bloomington.



The Roers' have implemented many practices on their property, including: conservation tillage and cover crops used to reduce wind erosion. Rotational grazing system on 101 acres of pasture for his cow calf beef operation. Constructing water lines and installing six watering locations in the pasture of seven paddocks. Kevin and Ellen use insect resistance varieties of corn to avoid corn borer problems as well as have a manure management plan that they use for both their beef and dairy cattle. They have installed buffers on all the required areas by the MN buffer Law, and also voluntary on private ditches and wetlands to prevent runoff. Finally, they have installed four water and sediment control basins last fall to address gullies on a field and hope to install five more this coming year. The Douglas SWCD is

proud of Kevin and Ellen for what they have done for conservation practices and hopes it helps encourage others to follow in their footsteps.

Each year, the state's SWCDs recognize individuals, farm families, conservation organizations and other groups for outstanding accomplishments in implementing conservation practices and improving Minnesota's natural resources. The award program is conducted with support ceremony receives sponsorship from the *Minnesota Corn Growers Association*. Congratulations Kevin and Ellen Roers!

