

## DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

### BOLINS SELECTED OUTSTANDING CONSERVATION FARMERS

By Gary Thoennes

Charles and Marcia Bolin of rural Brandon were chosen as Douglas County's 1988 Outstanding Conservation Farmers. The Bolins, SWCD cooperators since 1972, were cited for years of soil and water conservation practices on their 450 acre farm just south of Brandon in Moe and Brandon Townships. At their farmstead, located among rolling hills, the Bolins raise soybeans, corn, alfalfa, wheat and oats. They also raise beef cattle and hogs.

Among the Bolins conservation practices are conservation tillage two years out of three in cropland rotation, 130 acres of contour strips, farmstead shelterbelt and two wildlife ponds.

Charles and Marcia were presented a personalized "conservation farmer" district cooperator sign by Douglas SWCD on September 19, 1988. They were guests of Douglas SWCD at the 52nd Annual Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts convention in December at the Marriott Inn in Minneapolis where Bob Moraczewski, Editor of THE FARMER Magazine, presented them with a Certificate of Merit and a medallion.

### NO-TILL PROGRAM

By Gary Thoennes

There was a reduction in acres planted under the no-till drill program in 1988. This was due to fewer acres planted under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). There were 2,370 acres seeded under the no-till program. Of that, 1162 acres were planted under the CRP, 780 acres of alfalfa, 112 acres of soybeans, 108 acres of winter wheat, 35 acres of sorghum, 30 acres of rye, 28 acres of barley, 26 acres of sudan grass, 22 acres of spring wheat, 18 acres of switchgrass seeding, 17 acres of Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve seeding, 15 acres of pasture, 9 acres of oats and 8 acres of critical area seeding.

The following illustrates how Douglas SWCD's no-till program has grown since the first drill was bought in 1982:

1982	139 acres	1986	1576 acres
1983	752 acres	1987	6145 acres
1984	1255 acres	1988	2370 acres
1985	2058 acres		

The District currently has three no-till drills available to rent to landowners. One GT Versa Drill and two Haybuster 107 Drills.