

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

CONSERVATION FARMER AWARD - 1990

By Jerome Ledermann, Chairman, Board of Supervisors

The 1990 Conservation Farmer Award winners for Douglas County were Harold, Jeff and Karen Larson. They were chosen by the Board of Supervisors for conservation efforts over the years.

The Larsons were given the award for contributions to land and water conservation which include planting shelterbelts around their farmstead, constructing terraces on their rolling land and building sediment retention structures to stop water erosion. The Larsons also use conservation tillage to control both water and wind erosion on their land. They also leave marginal areas on their farm for wildlife reproduction.

Jeff and Karen Larson received the award at the Annual Convention of the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts held at the Marriott Hotel in Minneapolis, MN during December 1990. Mr. Tom Doughty of "The Farmer" magazine presented the award to the Larsons.

The Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District is proud to have farmers like the Larsons and many other who make an effort to conserve our land and water resources for future generations.

NO-TILL PROGRAM

By Gary Thoennes, Treasurer, Board of Supervisors

The District No-Till Program saw another increase in acres planted in 1990. This is partially due to the continued dry conditions as well as the increased awareness of the economic benefits of no-till. The District has two 10 foot Haybuster drills which can be used independently or connected to form a 20 foot unit, and a GT Versa drill. These drills were used by 145 landowners in 1990. 1,163 acres were planted to grasses and alfalfa on CRP land, 187 acres were planted to oats and peas, 468 acres to oats/flax/wheat, 1428.5 acres to alfalfa, 117.5 acres to beans and 148 acres to grasses. Rex Weinmaster does an excellent job of delivery, maintenance and adjustment of the drills for landowners.

Since the completion of the 1990 planting season, the District has purchased a new 10 foot Model 5010 United Farm Tool no-Till drill. This unit has a grain box and a legume box to improve calibration and seed placement. This drill will replace the two haybuster drills and will be available for spring planting in 1991.