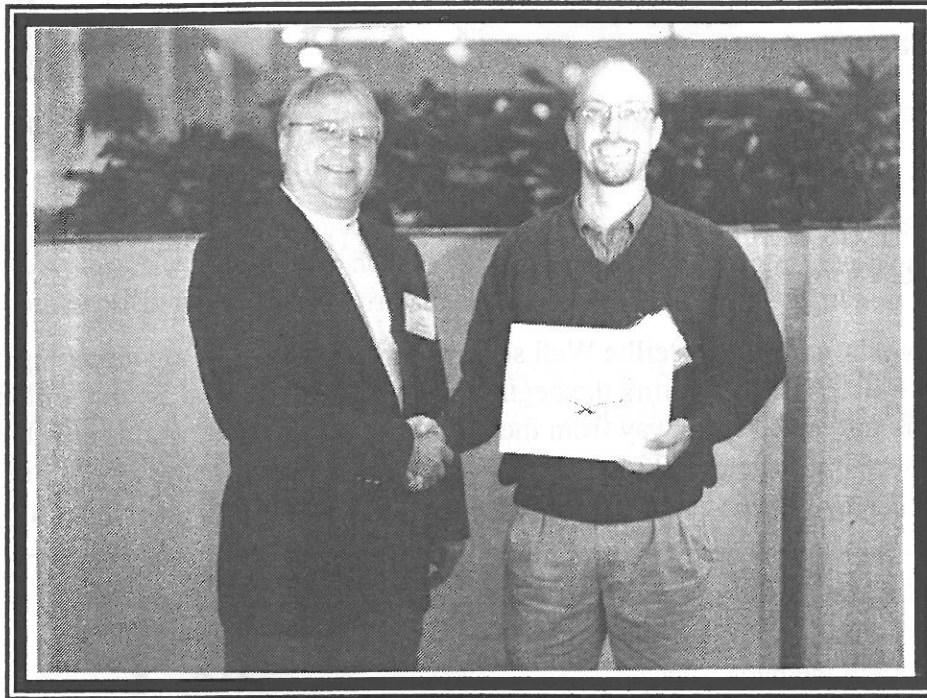


OUTSTANDING CONSERVATIONIST FOR 2000



John Ledermann, receiving the Outstanding Conservationist Award from Lon Tonneson, Associate Editor for "The Farmer" magazine, at the MASWCD State Convention in Bloomington.

John Ledermann of Brandon, was selected as FY2000 Outstanding Conservationist for Douglas County by the Douglas SWCD Board of Supervisors. On December 5th, 2000, John attended the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts State Convention along with other Conservationists across the state to receive his award from Lon Tonneson, Associate Editor for "The Farmer" Magazine. As an added surprise, John was also selected as the Outstanding Farmer/Sportsman Award winner for Area II.

John has demonstrated his dedication to conservation by his use of minimum tillage equipment to preserve the soil. He has installed four water and sediment control blocks to control erosion on his land. He planted a farmstead shelterbelt to protect his animals and farmstead from inclement weather. He provides food for wildlife through the berry producing shrubs he planted along with taking marginal land out of production. Presently he is working on a 9 acre wetland restoration with buffers to provide habitat for waterfowl. John uses soil testing, scouts for disease and uses a corn-soybean-wheat rotation to reduce pesticides and herbicides needed.

Community involvement has been important to John as well through his participation on the Pro-Ag Board, Farm Management Board at the Alex Technical College, Pork Producer's Board and St. Ann's Parish.

The Douglas Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors and Staff congratulate John on both of his awards and appreciate his dedication to preserving our natural resources.