



Bruce & Beth Andersland to Receive the “Farmer Magazine Award” for Conservation Work . . .

Freeborn County Soil & Water
Conservation District

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Bruce & Beth Andersland, who live near Emmons, were recently chosen by the Freeborn County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) as “Outstanding Conservation Farmers” for 2010. This award is given annually by the SWCD to recognize a local farming operation that has done an extraordinary job of conserving and protecting their soil & water resources. They have done so by installing a number of Best Management Practices (BMPs) designed to control erosion, reduce surface water runoff and improve the productivity of the soil.

The Anderslands operate a 1600 acre cash/grain farm growing primarily corn and soybeans. They also have a Purebred Simmental Beef Cow Herd. They sell some of the calves they raise for breeding purposes and feed out the balance. Beth says they try to sell most of the feeders locally to individuals for home use. In addition, Beth finds time to serve as Treasurer of the Minnesota Simmental Association and Bruce serves on the Northern Country Co-op Elevator Board.

They were selected based on their application of a number of Best Management Practices (BMPs) on farms they operate. This past spring they installed seven (7) Water & Sediment Control Basins on a single farm as part of a USDA, Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Contract. Bruce said he prefers basins over grass waterways as a solution to concentrated flow erosion. Basins are simply a small earthen embankment installed perpendicular to a concentrated flow direction with a tile outlet above it. Surface water that has been temporarily stored is safely removed underground by tile to an outlet, instead of running it over the surface to cause erosion. In addition to these basins, he has several others on nearby farms plus grass waterways and side inlet pipes into open ditches to control ditch bank erosion. He also likes to improve wildlife habitat, he has done so by planting trees and improving a wetland for waterfowl.

To compliment his structural practices on cropland, he uses reduced tillage methods to control soil erosion. He no-tills all his soybeans acres into standing corn stalks from the previous year. This allows him to do some tillage on the bean stubble before corn planting and still maintain a low overall erosion loss for the two year crop rotation cycle.

Bruce and Beth will be honored at a special noon luncheon at the 2010 Annual Convention of the Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts (MASWCDs) in early December. The editor of “The Farmer” Magazine, usually present the awards.

Freeborn County SWCD is pleased to honor the Anderslands for their conservation efforts and we wish them continued success in the future.