

Outstanding Conservationist

The Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District is pleased to announce Joe Radermacher, Glen Radermacher, and Paul Radermacher as the LqP SWCD 2011 Outstanding Conservationists.



Joe, Glen and Paul each farm individually, sharing a common base, of farming land that was once their father's. They initially worked with their dad, but as time passed they all went on their own. Over the years, they purchased, leased, or rented additional land, where they had the opportunity to install conservation practices to increase production while making use of the programs available to protect our soil and water resources. Although the Radermachers farm separately and make their own decisions, they discuss practices, and ideas with one another.

All three of the Radermachers practice no-till, and plant a variety of crops, including corn, beans, and alfalfa. Joe is the only one who has raises livestock, and he currently maintains at least 14 Black Angus. The cropland management for the three producers is varied, with testing done every fall, or every other year. The tests sometimes involve grid samples, as they move to becoming more precise. They regularly use GPS devices, and use technology to calculate and apply variable rate fertilizer. Some of the practices they are involved in include: crop rotation; minimum tillage; spraying for aphids and weeds; and tracking yield history.

Between the three: Joe, Glen and Paul, they have installed over 20 basins and terraces, working by themselves or with neighboring producers. They have worked to install terraces along fence lines to benefit their sites, and those

adjacent to them. They have plans underway to install additional water sediment control basins, with other landowners, and have expressed appreciation to landowners for allowing them to install the practices. As they reflect on gullies and erosions of the past, and how that has changed with the terraces and basins, they no longer see black water running into the clear water, and for that they are grateful. There are additional projects currently underway, and planned for the future.

Paul recently enrolled some acres into a CRP Contract, where he planted native grasses, forbs, and other upland plants, to benefit wildlife. In addition to CRP, the Radermachers include other wildlife practices, including no-till and strip, and they leave ground undisturbed for deer and turkeys. Leaving grass along some of the fence lines, and implementing wetland restorations also allow for prime nesting areas for wildlife.

We think Joe, Glen and Paul are unique, as they are individual farmers, in a world where many farming operations are incorporating and becoming bigger. They have all retained a part of the family farm, and have continued to enhance it, by installing conservation practices, resulting in the preservation of our natural resource. They take pride in their work and farming practices, and maintain beautiful farmsteads, from well manicured lawns, to showplace flower gardens.

Congratulations to Joe Radermacher, Glen Radermacher, and Paul Radermacher, the 2011 Lac qui Parle soil and Water Conservation District Outstanding Conservationists of the year!

