



## **DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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### ***News***

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### **Dakota County Ag Society To Be Honored At State Soil and Water Conservation District Convention**

The Dakota County Ag Society (also known as the Fair Board) will be honored as the Outstanding Conservationist for Dakota County at the annual convention of the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD), in Bloomington, Minnesota. Gerry Stelzel and Gary Guildner will attend the December 4<sup>th</sup> luncheon to accept this award on behalf of the Fair Board.

“We’re proud of the Dakota County Ag Society for what they’ve done in conserving our natural resources,” said Rick Hansen, Chair of the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors.

The Dakota County Ag. Society owns and operates approximately 340 acres within the Vermillion River Watershed. In 2000, over 140 acres of cropland was converted to native prairie, tree windbreaks and food plots under the Conservation Reserve Program. The Ag. Society recently improved an existing wetland by working with local wildlife organizations to install habitat improvement structures. This project included development of over two miles of walking trails, construction of a wildlife observation deck, and outdoor education opportunities for area schools and residents.

The Farmer magazine and the MASWCD sponsor the Outstanding Conservationist Award.

