



DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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News Release:

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Ray & Ken Taylor Families selected as the 2007 Dakota County Outstanding Conservationists of the Year

The Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District has announced the selection of the Ray and Ken Taylor Families as their Outstanding Conservationists for 2007. The Taylor's were selected based on significant contributions towards the management and protection of our natural resources.

Ray and Mary Taylor, along with Ken and Kim Taylor and their children, raise corn, soybeans, hay, and hogs in Sciota Township, just south of Randolph. The Taylor's were the first landowners in Minnesota to permanently protect their farmland through the USDA Farmland and Ranchland Protection Program and Dakota County Farmland and Natural Areas Program. The Taylor's have permanently protected 308 acres from development and mining through these programs. With assistance from the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District the Taylor's have worked to eliminate all erosion on their farm, installed grassed waterways and use no-till and minimum-till residue management on cropped acres. All of the Taylor's hog manure is applied to according to a manure management plan and knife-injected to reduce odor. The Taylor's have established over 65 acres of native prairie and wooded buffers along the Cannon River and its tributaries to protect water quality and promote wildlife.

The Taylor's are eligible to compete for the Minnesota Outstanding Conservationist of the Year Award given to one of the county winners from throughout the state. The

award will be announced at the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation District's annual convention held December 2nd – 4th, 2007 in Rochester. A luncheon will be held at the convention to honor the Taylor's and the other Outstanding Conservationist from throughout the state.

The Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District congratulates the Taylor's for earning this award and commend them for their contributions towards protecting Dakota County's soil and water resources.



Ray and Mary Taylor, along with Ken and Kim Taylor