

The SWCD is proud to announce the selection of Jack and Marlys Weber of Cannon Falls as the SWCD's 2011 Outstanding Conservationists. Jack and Marlys received this honor for their lifetime of efforts to conserve soil, improve water quality, and improve wildlife habitat on their 495-acre farm in the Trout Brook Watershed.

Early in life, Jack learned important lessons from his father – like the value of grassed waterways in keeping their farmland productive. An active sportsman, Jack also realized that wildlife ponds and erosion control structures would make his property more than just a farm. When Jack took over the farming operation he continued to repair and install waterways, water and sediment control basins and wildlife ponds, believing that conservation is crucial – especially for the next generation.

Even though Jack and Marlys are still active on their corn and soybean farm, they have passed the majority of the farm operations to their sons Scott, Doug and Tim. With this next generation, conservation and habitat improvements are more than just a tradition. Over the past few years, the Weber's have installed multiple wildlife ponds, two grass waterways, a large grade-stabilization structure and six water and sediment control basins. Two additional water and sediment control basins are scheduled for construction in 2012.

The SWCD commends Jack and Marlys and their sons for their continuous work towards improved water quality and habitats. The Weber's will be recognized and commended on their award at the annual Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' convention in St. Paul on December 5-6th. Congratulations Jack and Marlys!

