

Jim Vogel Family Selected as Outstanding Conservation Cooperators



Jim and Mary Vogel, a Sately Township farm couple, has been selected by the Brown Soil and Water Conservation District as the **2000 Outstanding Conservation Cooperators**.

Jim started farming with his father, Leander, and brother, David, in 1977. They formed a partnership called L.W. Vogel and Sons which continued until the death of Leander in the late fall of 1985. In 1991 Jim dissolved his partnership and began farming on his own. Jim and Mary currently farm 760 acres of which 660 acres are in crop land. Crops raised on the farm are corn and soybeans. They also raise hogs.

Conservation practices installed by the Vogels include the following: 2000 feet of grass waterway established in 1993, an ag waste storage system in 1997 and 24.5 acres in CRP which is seeded to native grasses and wildflowers. An additional 5.2 acres is CRP filter strips which are seeded to native grass. The Vogels have made shelled corn feeders which are located in the grass seedings and feed many of the species of wildlife which inhabit the area. They also plant corn food plots adjacent to the CRP. In 1999 a 1.2 acre shrub planting was added to the CRP to provide winter cover and food for wildlife. Other conservation management methods practiced by Jim and Mary include chisel plowing crop land.

Jim and Mary are parents of four sons: Travis (17), Nick (15), Nolan (13) and Tom (12). Travis and Nick are members of the FFA through Springfield High School. Along with his busy family and farming schedule, Jim also finds time to serve on the Sately Township Board.