

# RALPH GRUNDMEYER SELECTED AS 2001 CONSERVATION COOPERATOR



Ralph Grundmeyer, a Stark Township farmer, has been selected as the 2001 Outstanding Conservation Cooperator by the Brown Soil and Water Conservation District.

His family moved to the farm in 1947 when he was a child. Ralph started farming with his father and then took over the farm in 1982 after his father's death. The 181 acres consists

of 121 acres of cropland and the rest in pasture and woodland. Crops raised are corn, soybeans, and alfalfa. Livestock raised are sheep and cattle and Ralph is also one of the few people left who raises laying hens.

His cropping management methods include: bean stubble remains untouched in the fall with digging in the spring and corn grounds is worked with a sic chisel. Ralph has a long history of working with the Brown SWCD. He installed a one-quarter mile field windbreak in the early 1980s. In 2000 he planted another quarter mile 2 row field windbreak of red cedars. He has 8.7 acres in CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) which include a filter strip and the red cedar windbreak. He recently enrolled 35.5 acres into the CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program).

When not busy on the farm, you will find Ralph volunteering in the community. He is active in the Brown County Pheasants Forever Chapter serving as secretary for the past eleven years. He is president of the AAL Branch 122, St. John's Lutheran Church, president of the bowling league in Sleepy Eye, Commander of the Sleepy Eye VFW Post 800, Member of the Home Cemetery Board, and American Legion Post 7, Sleepy eye Honor Guard and the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association. Ralph also serves as president of the Sleepy Eye Care Center Auxiliary and is on the Board of the Sleepy Eye Serviceman's Club.

Ralph was recognized along with other State Outstanding Conservationists at the MASWCD State Convention in early December at the Radisson Hotel in Bloomington.