



Edwin & Marilyn Windschitl Honored as 2004 Outstanding Conservation Cooperators

The Brown SWCD has selected a former Leavenworth area farm couple, Edwin and Marilyn Windschitl, as the 2004 Brown SWCD Outstanding Conservation Cooperators.

Edwin took over the Mulligan Township family farm of 160

acres from his father in 1960. It was a dairy operation until 1988. Other livestock included hogs and steers. From 1984 through 1997, Edwin rented additional land to enlarge his operation. The family farm is now a grain operation with a corn and soybean rotation. In 2002, Marilyn and Edwin moved to Springfield but Edwin still helps his son-in-law operate the family farm.

In 1968, the Windschitls planted a farmstead windbreak, his first soil and water conservation measure, on the family farm site. In August 2000, they enrolled 22.2 acres of land into the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). An additional 8.7 acres was enrolled in November 2000. The CREP acres are enrolled into permanent easements and are seeded to native grasses, legumes and forbs providing a food source and habitat for wildlife. The Windschitls also have enrolled 7.3 acres into the Federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) which is seeded into cool season grasses.

As good stewards, both Edwin and Marilyn are active in the Church of the Japanese Martyrs and the Leavenworth community. They recently received the Community Service Award for dedication and service to the church and the community. Besides coordinating and assisting with many parish activities, the Windschitls are always willing to assist farmers and neighbors who are struck with hardship and tragedy. They assisted the Comfrey tornado victims by helping with the cleanup and with preparing and delivering food. Edwin also served on the Mulligan Township Board for 18 years.

Despite being busy with volunteer work, they always have time for their family consisting of four children: Lori, Jackie, Kelly, and Dean, plus eight grandchildren. Marilyn is also employed at 'Tis a Gift and Victorian Gardens in Springfield and Edwin helps the catering crew.