



## **Mark Marti Named Brown Soil & Water Conservation Districts' 2014 Outstanding Conservationist**

The Brown Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) has named Mark Marti of rural Sleepy Eye as its 2014 Outstanding Conservationist.

Mark graduated from Sleepy Eye High School in 1969 and took over the family farm operations in 1972 from his father where he has enjoyed raising a variety of livestock over the years in addition to growing corn and soybeans. Mark retired from farming in 2012 and his son, Adam, has since taken over the farming operations.

Mark is a strong supporter of conservation practices and has stated 'I want to leave this place a better place than I found it'. He has 40.4 acres of land enrolled into the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and 19 acres of land enrolled into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). In May of 2000 he was recognized by Brown County as he had provided some of his land to the DNR which enabled the construction of a canoe landing on the Cottonwood River known as Marti Landing.

Over the years, Mark has also been a Conservation Aide of Brown SWCD and assisted with a number of conservation projects as well as the tree program sales and plantings every year. His most memorable projects of note were the Wellner-Hageman Dam, Henry Roiger Dam, tree plantings after the Comfrey tornado and the installation of several terraces and waterways throughout Stately Township.

Mark is father to Jennifer, Brooks and Adam and has three grandchildren. He lives east of Sleepy Eye along the Cottonwood River. In his spare time Mark enjoys pheasant and deer hunting and is an active member of the Faith United Methodist Church in Sleepy Eye.

Along with other Outstanding Conservationists from across the entire state, Mark will be recognized at the Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts Annual Convention in Bloomington this December.

