

Arland and Chery Roiger Honored as Brown SWCD 2015 Outstanding Conservationist

The Brown Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) has named Arland and Chery Roiger of rural Springfield as its 2015 Outstanding Conservationist.

The Roigers live in Stately Township and have a farming operation with their son and daughter-in-law where they raise corn, soybeans, peas and finish out cattle. They have three children, Steph and Andy Huiras of Sleepy Eye, Jason of Spicer, and Justin and Carrie of Springfield which is who they farm with. They have two grandchildren, Tori and Taylor, and another on the way in January. Arland and Chery deliver meals on wheels for the local community and are members of the St. Raphael Catholic Church in Springfield where they serve as ushers and co-chairs of the Farmfest food stand.



Over the years, the Roigers have implemented several types of conservation practices within their farming operation and on their land because of erosion concerns. These practices range from a shelterbelt to a creek bank restoration to a feedlot lagoon and a wetland restoration. They have installed a dam in one of their pasture areas and currently have 175 acres of land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Most recently, we recognize their conservation efforts having enrolled 20.9 acres of land into two perpetual Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Buffer easements with native grass cover. They also have implemented a cover crop rotation on a portion of their acreage consisting of oats, spring wheat, radishes and turnips. As members of our local Soil Health Team they have 3 acres of corn in cover crop test plots. Their conservation projects have been installed in an effort to



stem soil erosion as well as support wildlife habitat. The Roigers set an excellent example of what it means to be environmentally sound stewards of the land in Brown County.

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