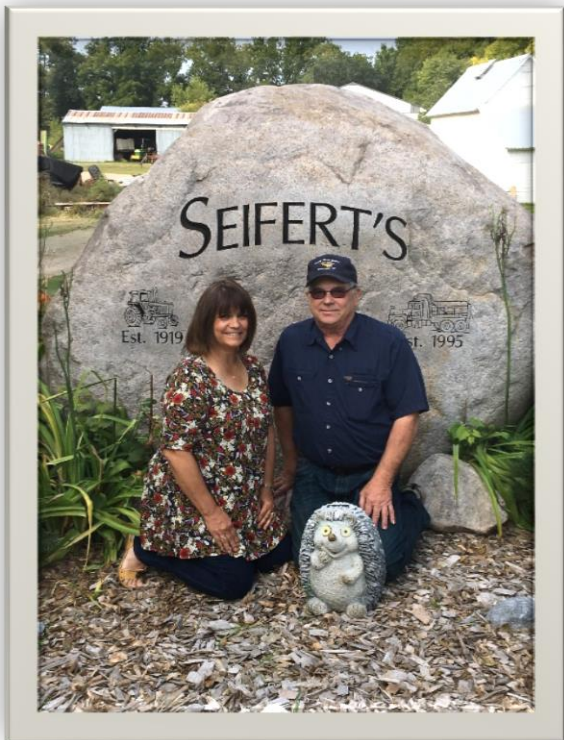


Ray and Janet Seifert Honored as Brown SWCD 2017 Outstanding Conservationist



The Brown Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has named Ray and Janet Seifert of rural New Ulm as its 2017 Outstanding Conservationist.

The Seifert's reside in Milford Township where they have a farming operation raising corn, soybeans, and canning crops since 1981. Ray and Janet purchased the farm from Ray's parents in 1981 when it was strictly cash crop farming and in the late 90's introduced canning crops into the operation. The farm consists of 290 acres with 170 acres tillable. They also have a gravel pit and hauling business. They have two children, Jeremy and Rachel, and three grandchildren, James, Gabby, and Griffin.

Besides farming, Ray and Janet have full lives. They have operated a gravel supply and hauling business since 1995. Ray graded roads for Home Township for the last 32 years and just recently retired from that venture. Flying is also a passion for Ray and much of his spare time is spent flying and rebuilding airplanes. In 2016, Janet retired from Windings, Inc. after 32 years of employment. Janet does the accounting for their farming and gravel businesses along with spending time with the grandkids and gardening.

The Brown SWCD has chosen to honor Ray and Janet with the Outstanding Conservationist award because of their passion for conservation over the years. Within their farming operation, they have switched to reduced tillage methods, installed over 3,400 feet of terracing and constructed multiple grassed waterways. The Seifert's also have land enrolled into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Some of these conservation practices were implemented with technical and financial assistance through the NRCS and SWCD offices and the rest were installed by themselves with guidance from the SWCD. Besides putting in these practices on their land, they have also helped friends and neighbors install practices for the prevention of soil erosion on their lands.

When asked why they chose to install these conservation practices, they expressed their interest to preserve the land for the next generation. They felt that it was their responsibility to take care of the land so that it is here to pass on to the kids.

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

