

2009 Conservationist of the Year

James and Jennie Jorae have been named the 2009 Conservation of the Year by the Clinton Conservation District.

They farm 100 acres on Marshall Road. They have utilized a conservation crop rotation and have been completely no-till for many years. The nutrients are applied at agronomic rates based on soil testing and application which meets Michigan State University recommendations.

They have installed buffer strips along all the ditches on their farm, as well as participating in the Maple River Watershed Conservation Security Program (CSP) since 2005. With guidance from the Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program, they properly decommissioned an abandoned well on their property thus protecting groundwater.

They no longer have livestock (hogs) as part of their operation but last year participated in an NRCS program to properly close their waste impoundment area. This summer, they will be addressing a new erosion concern with the installation of a rock chute which will direct a large area of runoff into the ditch while protecting the stream bank from erosion.

Their participation in NRCS and Groundwater Programs has addressed the resource concerns on the farm and demonstrates how producers can work with the local programs to achieve conservation goals.

The award was presented by Jim Graham, Clinton Conservation District Vice-chairman, at Smith Hall on March 12th during a Conservation Districts event.