

## Soil Conservation Award

The next winner I would like to introduce for the Soil Conservation Award is Richard Shaffer, for the work he has done on their acreage.

The basis of selection of individual awardees will be determined on the following points:

- a. Use of land according to its capabilities.
- b. Completeness of conservation plan.
- c. Balance of farm enterprise.
- d. Quality of conservation work completed and maintenance of practices.
- e. Special Practices: In addition to traditional practices, special practices such as grassland development, forestry, pollution abatement, riparian management, water quality, and residue management should be considered.

According to Richard, his operation began using no-till practices when he was still working with another producer, about 20 years ago, but has since started out on his own since roughly 2002.

Currently, he is using no-till practices on roughly 700 acres and a minimum till practice on about 1000 acres. These practices are done with a 3 year rotation of wheat, summer fallow, and milo, with the no-till primarily being done in the row crops and minimum till in the wheat.

He began using these practices when he noticed the neighbors showing some yield benefits from no-till, above and beyond what he was currently doing.

The biggest benefits they have seen from his practices has been of course moisture conservation and soil protection.

Richard mentioned that since he rents most of his ground, it has helped to have landlords who are also conservation minded. He also added that he really isn't doing anything much different than anybody else.

He must be doing things right however, to earn this award, so will you please welcome Richard Shaffer to accept this award.