

?Clark County River Friendly Farmer to be honored

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? ?Their conservation plans include no-tilling farming, water and sediment control basins, filter strips, grassed waterways or other best management practices that allow them to manage their farms as one applicant said "in a way to address all resource concerns...from soil erosion on cropland, to water quality...to wildlife habitat." Their ultimate goal is to preserve and protect Indiana's natural resources for their own family farm and for future generations.

They are the 2008 recipients of the River Friendly Farmer Award- an annual honor presented by the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation District (LASWCD) and its 92 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs). The award is a joint venture with Indiana Farm Bureau, Inc. and the ISDA Division of Soil Conservation. The 65 statewide recipients will be honored on Farmer's Day during the Indiana State Fair this year. The ceremony will be held on Wednesday, August 13 at 2 p.m. in the 4-H Exhibit Hall auditorium, and the public is invited to attend.

Mike Johnson was chosen as Clark County's River Friendly Farmer this year. He has owned and operated a grain and livestock farm in Charlestown for many years. Johnson employs many conservation practices on his farm including prescribed grazing, heavy use protection areas, fencing for livestock exclusion from streams and field borders. Johnson understands that a clearly defined conservation plan translates into tremendous savings in many areas, and most importantly, that conservation practices provide protection to the soil and water resources.

The Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District hopes that readers will join them in applauding Johnson for his efforts in conservation management, and the receipt of this award.