



Goodhue County SWCD
104 East 3rd Ave, P.O. Box 335
Goodhue, MN 55027
651-923-5286 Ext. 4
www.goodhueswcd.org

Memorandum:

To: Goodhue County Board of Commissioners

From: Beau Kennedy Goodhue County SWCD

Date: August 11th 2022

RE: Goodhue SWCD – 2022 Conservation Farmer of the Year Award

Goodhue County Commissioners

Each year, the Goodhue Soil and Water Conservation District elected Supervisors selects a landowner(s) for the Goodhue County SWCD Conservation Farmer of the Year Award. This award is given to landowner owner(s) and/or operator(s) who practice sound conservation practices on their farm and have proven to be good stewards of the land. The Goodhue SWCD staff and supervisors will be present at the August 11th County Board meeting at the County Fair and would like to present this award to our 2022 winners and read the following:

The Goodhue County Soil and Water Conservation District's 2022 Conservation Farmer of the Year Award winners are Allen Stolee and David Sathrum. Allen and Dave have been farming together for over 40 years. A strong partnership with a shared vision that formed when, Allen, a 3rd generation farmer was looking for a little help on some acres and, Dave, a 5th generation farmer was looking for a little more land. This partnership, has since grown to a mostly corn/bean operation on over 1,800 acres spread across county lines near Kenyon. Allen and Dave have implemented many conservation practices over the years and are focused on leaving the land better than they found it for the generations of producers to follow.

Allen and Dave have been very active working with the SWCD over the years to install miles of waterways, numerous sediment basins and terrace systems across their many properties. As an example, on a single farm that recently came under their control, they installed 1,500' of grassed waterway, 3,200' of terraces and a 920' sediment basin; all slowing runoff and reducing erosion on the parcel. In addition to structural practices, Allen and Dave have utilized the federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to establish a 50 foot buffer along the County Ditch and to buffer field edges along some of the steep banks in Monkey Valley. They have also installed buffers along waterways and have planted hay in other sensitive areas in their fields.

While Allen and Dave have been great partners themselves, they have also been great cooperators with the SWCD and advocates of leaving the land better then they found it. This dedication to conservation stewardship and the pursuit to improve the land for the next generation is why we have chosen the Partnership of Allen Stolee and David Sathrum as our 2022 Goodhue SWCD Conservation Farmers of the Year.

Please feel free to give me a call @ 651-923-5286 or email bkennedy@goodhueswcd.org if you have questions or comments regarding this request. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BK", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Beau Kennedy,
Goodhue SWCD