

**Olmsted Soil & Water Conservation Districts 2011 Outstanding  
Conservationist of the Year  
Joe and Jane Himmer**

Joe and Jane Himmer manage a Holstein feeder cattle operation near Stewartville, MN. Joe has been very proactive in applying conservation practices to the farm where they raise corn, soybeans, small grains and hay. He was one of the first farmers in Olmsted County to install contour grass buffer strips. The farm, located close to the Root River, has had several grassed waterways constructed to control erosion, reduce sediment delivery to the river and improve water quality. Advocating for wildlife, the Himmerts have constructed an embankment pond, converted cropland acres to diverse native prairie and established tree and shrub plantings to improve nesting cover and wildlife habitat along the river corridor.

