

Kittson Soil and Water Conservation District's Board of Supervisors have awarded Kris and Bethany Folland as the 2015 Kittson County Outstanding Conservationist of the Year.

The Kittson SWCD has selected The Folland's for the Outstanding Conservationist for their dedication to conservation in Kittson County. On their farm in Norway Township, Section 25, Kris and Bethany have applied many conservation programs to their land. Kris has 2 Environmental Quality Incentives program (EQIP) contracts for Rotational Grazing which includes an installed exterior and interior fences, complete watering system which includes new well, pumping plant, underground pipeline and watering tanks. Kris also broke up 360 acres into 6 different paddocks where his livestock is rotated throughout. Kris also has an EQIP Cover crop contract where he has currently planted Rye and prescribed burning practice. An EQIP No-Till practice where Kris has planted Soybeans into Corn and Rye stubble, EQIP Mulch Tillage, and 2 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) contracts for grazing and cropland. Kris also has a Highly Erodible Cropland (HEL) Conservation crop rotation and Residue Management practice. Trees are another important part of the Folland Ranch, Kris has voluntarily left tree rows and pollinators established for wildlife on his farmland.

Alongside farming and applying conservation practices to his farm, Kris is also a Certified Crop Advisor and is also a Field Supervisor for the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association where he covers the areas of Kittson County to Norman County and over to Koochiching County in Northern Minnesota.

When the Kittson County Fair is in town, Kris and Bethany's children Jazlyn, Issac, McKinley, and Track are busy working on their 4-H Fair Projects and preparing their animals for Open Class Show at the Fairgrounds. Kris and Bethany are 4-H Club Leaders for the Halma Ideal Club.

Along with the many conservation practices The Folland's participate in, they are also very involved in Kittson County. Kris is a member of the Kittson County Farm Service Agency (FSA) Committee, Kittson County Extension Committee, Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council, Minnesota Turfseed Council, and is a Board Director for the Lake Bronson Farmers Union Oil Coop. Bethany is also a member of the Hallock Figure Skating Club Board. Together, Kris and Bethany have dedicated hours to the Farm Rescue Program, which is a nonprofit organization that provides planting, harvesting and haying assistance free of charge to family farmers who have suffered a major injury, illness or natural disaster.

In 2013, Kris and Bethany were Kittson Counties Emerging Leaders. The Emerging Leader Program exists to sustain and create a network of community leaders in northwest and west central Minnesota. The goal of the Emerging Leader program is to provide opportunities for individuals to develop their leadership potential and a structure to bring together leaders of the region to address rural issues, especially focusing on agriculture and natural resources.

Thank you Kris and Bethany for your dedication to Conservation in Kittson County!

