

## **2015 Kittson County SWCD Rural Beautification Award Winners**

### **Merle and Marlys Nelson.**

The Kittson County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors are pleased to announce the First recipients of the Rural Beautification Award Winners as Merle and Marlys Nelson of Rural Robbin MN.

The Nelson's farm is located north of Robbin MN in Teien Township Section 9. The Nelson's farmstead is a beautiful eye catching sight as you drive on Kittson County Highway 7. Merle and Marlys built their home on this farmstead in 1973 and it wasn't until 1994 when their youngest child graduated from High School when Marlys began growing her beautiful flower beds. In 1997, Merle and Marlys added a greenhouse addition onto the South side of their garage, before the addition Marlys kept seeds from 20 varieties of flowers in 1 stall of their garage, the basement and laundry room. In the greenhouse addition, they set up germination racks 6 levels high with 75 florescent shop lights starting in the middle of March. In the Spring and Summer months, they have the greenhouse set up with tables and chairs to host visitors enjoying the sites of their beautiful landscaping.

With a walk around the Nelson's farmstead, you will find continuous flowers outlining the whole yard. Marlys stated that her flower gardens started out as a hobby and grew into wanting more. She loves being outside and states this keeps her active. She has over 100 pots and over 5,000 annuals planted around her yard. She keeps most of her flowers watered with an underground sprinkler system, but for her birthday this year she received a Polaris Ranger with a water tank in the back end, she says this has been a great addition to her hobby.

Some of the flowers you will see in The Nelson's flower beds and pots are; Wave Petunias, Supertunias, Total Madness Petunia, Red Celosia, Hollyhocks, Russian Sage, Coral Bells, Lulu and Vanilla Marigold, Impatiens, Zinnia, Autumn Joy Sedum, Roses, and Only the Lonely, which is the largest of all the Nicotiana varieties. Marlys enjoys planting Annuals because you can try them out and if you don't like where you planted them one year, you can try a different place the next year. In their front yard, you will find a Petunia tree where Marlys has 26 pots with 2 Petunias per pot to make a beautiful front yard decoration. Around the yard you will also see a variety of Spruce trees and shrubs including Cotoneaster and Dogwood.

Marlys has many of her flower beds in memory or honor of family or friends. She has a Grandchildren flowerbed, where she has footstones with each of their Grandchildren's names engraved in. A Hosta Memorial Flower bed in Memory of a friend Erylce Larson. She also has a Scandinavian bed where you will find Scandinavian sculptures and a Peace pole in honor of her heritage. Along the highway you will see among all the beautiful flowers many farm implements and Home appliances. Although not all the pieces are originally from her parents, they are exact replicas of what her parents had. You will find the last mailbox at her parent's farm, an outhouse, a corn planter, dumprake, and a digger and planter used to plant Sugarbeets in the 1940's. Marlys also has a wagon that she bought from Charles Anderson of Hallock. Charles had originally bought this wagon from a Teien Township Sale.

Thank you Merle and Marlys for allowing us to visit your beautiful farm. The Kittson SWCD is proud to acknowledge your hard work on your Rural Farmstead.

