

2015 Outstanding Conservationist

Roys and Mary Traut (trowt) and their son Matt from Sartell. They operate a dairy farm consisting of 75 cows along with 125 heifers and steers. They practice conservation tillage on 425 acres of corn, alfalfa and rye crops. Irrigation water management and variable frequency drive pumps are utilized on 200 acres of cropland to conserve nutrients, water and energy. They have been fine tuning nitrogen and phosphorus applications by conducting strip trials using the nutrient management initiative. The Trauts are participants in the Conservation Stewardship Program and the Conservation Reserve Program.



Other conservation practices implemented over the years include: (photo 2) field and farmstead windbreaks, grassed waterways, nutrient and integrated pest management, energy audit and energy improvements. They have also renovated windbreaks, installed brush piles and wood duck houses to enhance wildlife habitat.