

**NEWS RELEASE**

**For immediate release**

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**LOCAL CONSERVATIONISTS TO BE HONORED AS AREA FINALISTS AT STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT CONVENTION**

The Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) has named Tim and Angie Lehrke, Ogema, MN as one of eight Area Finalists in the 2024 Outstanding Conservationist Award Program. The Lehrke's will be recognized at the MASWCD's 88th annual convention in Bloomington. The awards program recognizes farm families, individuals, conservation organizations, and other groups for their accomplishments in implementing conservation practices and improving Minnesota's natural resources.

Of the eight finalists, one will be announced as the State's Outstanding Conservationist of the Year at the Dec. 4 luncheon.

"We're proud of Tim and Angie Lehrke for what they've done in conserving the natural resources in our area," said Bryan Malone, administrator of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District, which nominated the Lehrke's for the award. "It's great to recognize the work they do locally. They've provided a wonderful example by practicing a rotational grazing system incorporating water tanks, pipeline and fencing. They also plant full season cover-crops and turn their cattle herd on them extending the grazing season into early winter. This benefits the soil but also relieves them from hauling as much manure. The cows do all the work for them," Malone said.

MASWCD sponsors the Outstanding Conservationist Award Program, with support from *The Farmer* magazine.

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