

## Young Family named Outstanding Conservationist for 2024

The Wright Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has proudly named Mike Young and his sons, Jacob and Thomas, as the “Outstanding Conservationists for 2024”. This recognition highlights their exceptional commitment to conservation farming practices. They will be recognized at the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Annual Convention in December.

A lifelong resident of Wright County, Mike farms where he was raised, having spent 30 years working off the farm while expanding acreage.

Seventeen years ago, he

transitioned from chisel plowing to

strip-tilling, a method that involves tilling only narrow strips of soil while leaving the rest undisturbed. This shift has led to notable improvements in yield, compaction, water infiltration, and other soil health factors.

With matching funds from the Wright SWCD, Mike acquired his first strip till bar, a tool he



Strip-tilled field following soybean harvest.



Mike Young (center) with his sons, Jacob (left) and Thomas (right), in their no-till soybean field, with a strip-till corn field visible in the background.

continues to use today. His dedication is further demonstrated through his Minnesota Ag. Water Quality Certification and his enrollment in the Conservation Stewardship Program, where he implements a range of soil health practices.

Mike’s dedication to conservation practices not only enhances his farm’s productivity but also sets a model for responsible stewardship for future generations.