

2011 Conservation Farmer of the Year – Bill and Donna Hoffer

Location: Mount Pleasant Township

Financial Assistance: Growing Greener Nutrient Management Plan Implementation Grant Program

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This diversion helps direct stormwater runoff from a large field away from buildings and pastures.



A stabilized animal walkway helps prevent erosion.



Sreambank fencing and a vegetated buffer helps protect a stream on the Hoffer's property.

Conservation Features

Stormwater runoff routinely caused flooding in the farmhouse and a serious mud problem around the barn and equipment area. To help manage the water at this beef and dairy cow farm, the Hoffers installed a 500 ft. x 10 ft. x 1.5 ft deep diversion ditch above the farmstead to redirect the water away from the buildings. They also re-graded and stabilized the farm road and added water bars, which act like speed bumps by stopping the straight downhill flow of water and angling it off into the vegetated fields. The Hoffers also added a drip line drain (a ground level pipe and gravel system) along all of their outbuildings. Five hundred feet of animal walkways were added to reduce erosion.

The Hoffers added 6,200 ft of fencing and a 40 ft wide vegetated buffer area along an unnamed tributary to Jacobs Creek, which keeps the cows out of the creek. The cows can access clean spring water in new water troughs and can cross the stream using several stabilized stream crossings.

They installed a large liquid manure pit for storage so that they do not have to haul manure during wet or snowy ground conditions.

Benefits

Improved animal health and reduced nutrients and sedimentation into an unnamed tributary to Jacobs Creek.