

# KARL & ROBERT KLESSIG, Saxon Homestead Farm CSP CONTRACT HOLDERS

## *Pasture and Cropland*



Photo by Karl Klessig

Brothers Karl and Robert Klessig of Saxon Homestead Farm in Cleveland, Wisconsin, immediately knew they wanted to apply for CSP. “I could see it was a program based on what farmers were doing and what they would commit to improving in the future,” Karl said. “I thought it was a great program for farmers to not only be given credit for what they’re doing, but give them the incentive to do better.”

Saxon Homestead Farm has pasture, cropland, and wildlife habitat. Karl and Robert, along with their wives, Liz and Kathleen, and their brother-in-law,

Jerry Heimerl and his wife, Elise, are the fifth generation of Klessigs to operate the dairy farm with their families. While Robert’s primary focus is pasture and wildlife management, both Robert and Karl believe practices on the three components of pasture, cropland, and wildlife habitat helped them with their CSP ranking. Their pasture management reduces nutrient runoff, they use drift reducing spray nozzles on their 100 acres of corn silage, and they received credit for the wildlife habitat that surrounds their working lands. Under their CSP contract Karl and Robert will be adding three more practices to help decrease nutrient runoff and further target pesticide application. Karl and Robert also appreciated that the program didn’t exclude anyone – farmers of any size or type of operation can apply. Another benefit was the flexibility in CSP. “It doesn’t require you to do everything, but gives you plenty of options to choose from,” Karl said.

Karl encourages farmers to look into CSP. “Even though the sign-up was involved, and not something you can do in five minutes, it was straightforward. If farmers are interested, they should definitely sit down, just for an hour, to look at the program.”

“Farmers, by participating in this program, will empower themselves to be better farmers.”

### CONTRACT SNAPSHOT

#### Previous On-Farm Conservation Practices:

- Drift reducing spray nozzles
- Reduced tillage

#### Conservation Improvements through CSP:

- Nitrogen stabilizers
- GPS targeted spray application
- Controlled release nitrogen fertilizer

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