

# Wood County Success from the Field

## Breu Farm Conservation Improvements Help Success Continue Into Future

### Background

Scott and Valerie Breu have been farming on their family dairy farm north of Auburndale, Wisconsin, since 1990. Scott and one of his sons, Jared, now run the day-to-day operations. Scott's other two sons help out when needed. Farming was not new to Scott; he grew up on a dairy farm just a few miles from their current home. He consulted with the NRCS when he realized he needed to make some improvements on his current operation. Scott and Jared have made many improvements over the past six years to their 60-cow dairy farm through tight financial management and calculated conservation efforts.

### Program Successes

In 2005, Scott met with NRCS District Conservationist Roy Diver, which resulted in an NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contract for nutrient management. In 2012, Scott again turned to his local NRCS field office for options to better conserve the nutrients on his farm and reduce his daily need to haul manure. Scott signed an EQIP contract to install several practices to enhance his operation and help the environment. With this EQIP cost-share, they began installing 450 ft. of roof gutters, 620 ft. of underground outlets, and a concrete channel diversion to redirect runoff from heavy use areas.

During summer of 2015, they followed up by installing a concrete waste storage facility with fencing, waste transfer pipe and new pump, which provided a full year of manure storage. This facility was a big improvement for Scott because it eliminated the need for any winter manure spreading and allowed him to manage nutrients better. In the fall of the same year, they installed a new cow lot through the heavy use area protection practice and established a vegetated treatment area to treat runoff. They also built a new 3-sided heifer shed.

During spring of 2016, they planted an acre of shrubs and a farmstead shelterbelt. In fall of 2106, they installed a wastewater system to stop their milkhouse wastewater from going directly to the road ditch.

All of these practices were designed by NRCS and cost-shared through EQIP. The Breus were grateful for the EQIP contracts.



Jared (left) and Scott Breu on the farm.



Concrete waste storage facility and concrete barnyard.

Scott explained, "We couldn't have installed all these practices without the financial cost-sharing."

### Future Plans

Scott and Jared recently signed a Conservation Stewardship Program contract with plans to install a grass waterway and leave standing grain for wildlife. They are both avid hunters and enjoy seeing wildlife on their property.

Through their conservation efforts, the Breus have created a more sustainable operation and will be able to enjoy farming and hunting on their land for years to come.

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