

Dodge County Success from the Field

The Definition of Innovators

Background

Nancy Kavazanjian and Charlie Hammer, farming together as Hammer & Kavazanjian Farms, operate over 1,950 acres in Dodge County, Wisconsin. Together, they have been and continue to be active members of the local agricultural community. They enjoy focusing on learning and implementing new practices, while they advocate for soil and water conservation and sustainable agriculture.

Highlights

Nancy and Charlie recognized early on, the importance of protecting the bee population. They partnered with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) to implement pollinator habitat across their operation. They utilized the NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and the FSA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to help meet their conservation goals. They continue to increase wildlife habitat by providing acres of overwinter wildlife food sources.

As innovators, Nancy and Charlie do not take a wait and see approach to conservation. Currently, through the CSP, they are adapting their management to reduce the risk of nutrient loss through precision agriculture technology and remote monitoring. They are also taking their pesticide management to the next level with improved integrated pest management planning and increased refuge plantings to slow resistance in Bt crops. Long-time no-tillers, they are adding cover crops to more of their rotation, experimenting with mixes, timing and inter-seeding. Nancy and Charlie are always willing to share their experiences and knowledge by hosting and presenting at local workshops and field days.

Future Plans

Supporting the local Fox Lake district and partnering with private engineers, Nancy and Charlie are working on a phosphorus mitigation system to capture and store excess mobile-P before entering into the nearby Fox Lake watershed. These are just a few examples of the ways in which Nancy and Charlie support their community and grow their operation.



Above: (L to R) Charlie Hammer and Nancy Kavazanjian next to their farm sign. Below: Pollinator habitat thriving on farm.



Nancy and Charlie have been partnering with USDA for over 15 years. Their commitment to education, hard work and a willingness to try new things has been on-going and continues today, providing conservation benefits now and into the future.

Wisconsin
Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

