

MLSWCD Local Recognition Nominee – Jay Carlson

Jay Carlson of Bogus Brook Township exemplifies the curiosity and stewardship that helps advance conservation agriculture in Mille Lacs County. Over the years, Jay has partnered with the Mille Lacs SWCD to implement and improve a variety of agricultural conservation practices, particularly cover crops.

What sets Jay apart is his willingness to continually learn, adapt, and experiment. Rather than simply adopting a practice, he actively experiments with how it can be improved and tailored to his operation. He consistently works within practice standards while exploring new approaches and techniques that may provide additional benefits for soil health and farm productivity.

Jay has successfully implemented multi-year cover crop systems and is always looking for opportunities to expand his knowledge. For example, he recently compared tilled and drilled rye establishment methods to better understand their effectiveness on his farm. He is also exploring different interseeding methods and other innovative approaches to improve cover crop success.

Beyond his own operation, Jay is interested in building connections with other farmers, conservation professionals, and agricultural organizations. He values sharing experiences and learning from others, helping foster a collaborative approach to conservation in the local farming community.

Jay's commitment to continuous improvement, willingness to try new practices, and dedication to soil health make him a strong example of conservation leadership. His efforts demonstrate how innovative farmers can serve as valuable partners in advancing sustainable agriculture and protecting natural resources for future generations.



August



Sept



Oct



Rye Growth in Oct

Information to gather (as available)

- For each potential nominee, staff may collect any information that helps tell their story. **None of the items below are required** to recognize someone locally—use what feels most relevant.

- **Basic information:** name, address, contact info.

Jay Carlson

11593 65th Ave, Milaca MN

Bogus Brook Township – Dan Campbell’s district

- **Conservation activities:** practices they’ve implemented or programs they’ve participated in, and why they’ve chosen to do them.

Cover crops 3 yr single species

Experimenting within the standards of the practice

Always looking at what can be done differently

Interested in making connections with other farmers and orgs

- Link to plan or goal (if applicable)

Working towards Rum goal of 300 ac non structural ag

- Environmental impact (if known)

148 lbs/yr N, 9 lbs/yr P, 3 tons/yr TSS

- Economic impact (if known)

- Social impact (if known)

Interested in connecting with others around soil health practices

- **Highlights:** the cool or unique aspects of their efforts—how do they stand out?

Always looking to try something new and continue learning– experimented when putting in rye last year (tilled or drilled), looking at different methods of interseeding this year

- **Civic skills (optional):** These are **not required** for recognition. If a nominee also demonstrates civic skills in their relationship with the SWCD or the broader community, staff may choose to note them as an **extra positive**.

EXAMPLE: I'd like to recognize [Name] because they show this trait(s):

All 😊

🗒️ **Critical Thinker** – *They ask thoughtful questions and care about the facts.*

Looks for the truth and tries to understand the full picture, including both science and human perspectives.

🗒️ **Good with Open-Ended Questions** – *They want to hear everyone's ideas.*

Asks questions that help people talk through complex or confusing topics.

🗒️ **Active Listener** – *They listen to understand, not just to respond.*

Pays attention to what matters to others and finds shared goals.

🗒️ **Open-Minded Neighbor** – *They try to understand where others are coming from.*

Welcomes different viewpoints and stays respectful, even during disagreement.

🗒️ **Collaborative Problem-Solver** – *They help people work together, even when it's challenging.*

Looks for fair solutions that balance different needs while supporting the broader community.

🗒️ **Bridge-Builder** – *They help connect people with different perspectives.*

Navigates trade-offs, such as individual needs versus community priorities.

🗒️ **Reliable Partner** – *They follow through on commitments.*

Does what they say they'll do and helps keep efforts moving forward.

- **Other (optional):** Please describe

- **Other considerations:** whether the individual or organization is willing to be featured publicly (newsletter, social media, etc.).

Willing to be featured
