

Skrdlants honored for water quality

This year's Kansas Banker Association Water Quality Award went to Dan Skrdlant for the terraces and no-till farming he practices on his farm northwest of Norton.

Dan Skrdlant and wife Sue Ann live northwest of Norton with their two daughters and a son on a family farm that has been in the family for four generations.

Skrdlant received his bachelors degree in Ag/Business from Fort Hays State University.

The Skrdlants started farming north of Norton in 1996.

They do crop rotation on their farm ground. They rotate with wheat, corn and soybeans.

Dan started doing no-till farming back in 1999, and has a no-till air seeder that he works with today.

"We're 100 percent no-till," he said.

He does custom work with his equipment. Dan likes no-till and says that he feels that the residue is the real key for moisture and weed control.

He said that it took five to six years before he was able to see the real advantage of this type of farming but feels that he can definitely see the difference with weed pressure being down since he has started this process.

Skrdlant is currently president of the Northwest Kansas crop Residue Alliance and enjoys staying up with new farming techniques. He is interested in trying different things to see the results.

At present, he is working with "Cover Your Acres" and Cargill working with a 10 acre test plot, which is on his farm.

They will be conducting crop rotation with different cover crops and a maximum yield study. They will be testing three different crops each year to see the results. This will be a five to six year study.

They also have a cow/calf operation along with their farming. They do replacement heifers each year. Dan does rotate grazing on his pastures with his cattle. He also pastures stocks for a short period of time each year if the fields are not wet.



(Above) Dan Skrdlant uses no-till farming as well as terraces on his farm north of Norton. He said he has always used no-till farming, but he didn't see results for six years. He said the benefits include a difference in weed pressure.

(Photo courtesy Sue Ann Skrdlant)

(Left) The Skrdlants, left to right: Dan Skrdlant, son Colby, daughter Katelyn, wife Sue Ann and daughter Kenzie. The family farm has been passed down for four generations. They are working on constructing a new home.

(Telegram photo by Erica Bradley)

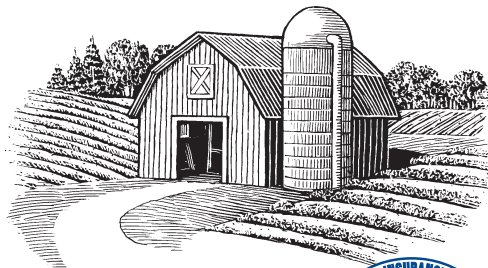
Congratulations to the winners of this year's soil conservation awards.

Congratulations to Dan and Sue Ann Skrdlant for Your Conservation Success with Water Quality



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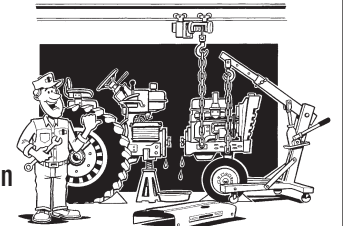


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