



JENI AND ROBBIE HENNINGSON are winners for the Water Quality Award, sponsored by the Kansas Bankers Association.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Water Quality Award goes to Norcatur couple

Robbie and Jeni Henningson of Norcatur won the Water Quality Award, sponsored by the Kansas Bankers Association.

The Henningsons received the award for installing a water containment unit below their feed lot, more commonly called a waste water pit. Mr. Henningson said the pit has been in for about a year and a half.

The waste water pit was put in through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program through the soil conservation office.

He and his father-in-law Herb Shirley contacted a private engineer first, at least three years ago. He said he then took the plans to the soil conservation engineer to make sure it met all of the regulations and then the work began.

Basically, said Mr. Henningson, water and waste from the feed lot go into a pond. When the waste in that pond gets to a certain height, the

water runs to the second pond. This keeps the waste from running down the draw or getting into the water table.

This is the couple's first soil conservation award. Besides the 950 head feed lot, they also grow wheat and corn. Their farm is five miles west of Norcatur.

He said they also started doing some rotational grazing on the pasture last year and do no-till and some minimal till.

It's important, said Mr. Henningson, to stay proactive with care for the environment.

Mr. Henningson said he has been farming since 1994, although they didn't move to the farm until 1996.

The couple has two sons, Nolan, 13 and Ganon, 10. Mrs. Henningson is a paraprofessional in the first grade at Oberlin Elementary School.

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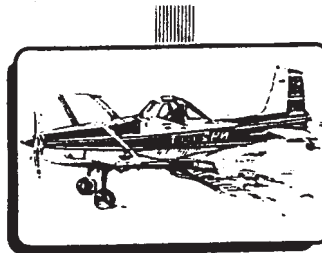
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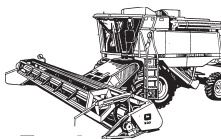
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