

BLAINE AND KIM BRUNER

The 2014 South McHenry SCD Achievement Award recipients are Blaine and Kim Bruner of Drake, ND.

After Blaine graduated from Drake High School in 1978, he became very involved in the operation of the Bruner Angus Ranch. In 1984, his wife, Kim, joined him in operating their 3,500 acre farm and ranch north of Drake. To assist in meeting their conservation goals, they have implemented a one-pass no-till seeding system along with a diverse crop rotational plan. They have 850 acres enrolled in a Conservation Cropping System along with another 850 acres in a Conservation Tillage System. Their primary crops consist of wheat, soybeans and corn. They seed cover crops to enhance soil quality.

They have planted over 18,000 feet of field windbreaks and 6,000 feet of farmstead and feedlot windbreaks. They do an excellent job of maintaining their trees around the farmyard and in the field. They have 25 acres enrolled in the Wildlife Wetland Habitat Program and 20 acres in the Wildlife Upland Habitat Management Program.

The Bruners have been raising purebred Angus cattle since 1953. While operating the Bruner Angus Ranch, they have installed 8 stock ponds, one remote water system, 5 pasture wells and 4,000 feet of pipeline. Over the years, they have planted 1,750 acres to pasture and hayland to meet their livestock nutritional needs and also to help with soil conservation. To manage their 2,750 acres of pasture, they have implemented a very integrated rotational grazing program. Since 2003, the Bruner Angus Ranch has held annual production sales where ranchers are given an opportunity to purchase some of their high quality Angus cattle.

While operating the Bruner Angus Ranch, Blaine and Kim stay very involved in the community. They are members of McHenry County Farmers Union where Kim serves as Secretary/Treasurer. Blaine is on the Strege Township Board and is a member of the Knights of Columbus. Blaine serves as President of the Verendrye Electric Cooperative Board in Velva. Kim is employed at United Community Bank in Drake. The Bruner family has always been very active in 4H and FFA programs. They are members of the St. Margaret-Mary Catholic Church of Drake.

They have three sons; Travis and his wife, Ashley, and their daughter, Rayna, of Harvey. Trenton and his wife, Rachel, of Drake and Ty, a Junior at NDSU Fargo.

Congratulations to the Bruners for a job well done!

