

## 2015 Freeborn County Outstanding Conservationists honored. . .



*Diane with her son-in-law Lane standing in a newly established grassed waterway*

The Freeborn County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) recognizes a landowner every year for outstanding accomplishments with implementing conservation practices and improving Minnesota's natural resources. This year's Outstanding Conservationist is Diane Honsey from Emmons. Diane's efforts in conservation were highlighted at the MN Association of Soil and Water Conservation District's annual convention this past December. Diane owns a 49 acre RIM/WRP wetland restoration and native grass planting. When they first moved onto the property they called this area the "peat slough" and thought that it would be nice to restore it to a wetland someday. Now it has been converted from a patch of reed canary to a large wetland that is used by lots of ducks, geese, and other wildlife.

Diane has installed about 10 acres of grassed waterways to help prevent concentrated flow erosion on her farm. Her son-in-law Lane helps with the day to day farm operation. She has enrolled in the Conservation Stewardship Program to enhance her operation with spring nutrient application, phosphorus placement, sprayer shutoffs, integrated pest management, nitrogen inhibitors, plant tissue testing, precision nutrient application, cover crops, and drift reducing spray nozzles. Currently the U of M is conducting a side dress nitrogen stabilizer trial on her corn acres. Diane had 40 acres of cover crops aerially applied in the end of August this past year. Future plans include transitioning a portion of her farm to organic to continue her conservation efforts.