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McDowells Named 1969 Conserv. Family

The Ray McDowell family of Eldora and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur McDowell of Grinnell were named recently as winners of the 1969 State Conservation Farm Family Awards.

This is the highest honor bestowed annually under the Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Award Program, which is sponsored by the Des Moines Register and Tribune and the Iowa Farm and Home Register in co-operation with conservation and educational agencies.

Selection of the state award winner is based on outstanding accomplishments in soil and water conservation as well as family participation and leadership in community and church affairs.

Ray McDowell, 38, and his wife, Betty, 37, who farm 280 acres of land one mile east of Eldora, have two children, Mark, 12, and Margaret Annette, 10.

The farm, which is owned by Ray's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur McDowell, was one of four farms featured at the 1968 Conservation Field Days.

Half of the farm lies in the Lower Pine Lake Watershed and all run-off from this land is controlled by over three miles of seeded-back-slope terraces, 28 water control structures and over 7,000 feet of tile.

The remainder of the farm has 400 feet of terraces and two water control structures. At present, 104 acres of cropland are protected by seeded backslope, bench type terraces.

A water run-off experiment is being conducted on the McDowell farm by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's agricultural research service.

In the experiment, all of the water run-off from a nine-acre area drains into tanks at a check-point. After each run-off producing rain, the water is measured and checked for fertilizer, herbicide and pesticide residues.

The McDowells will be honored at a recognition banquet at St. Mary's Parish Center in Eldora at 6:30 p.m. December 3. Hosts for this event are officials of the Hardin Soil Conservation District who have played a major role in getting conservation adopted on the McDowell farm and other farms in the district.

The district commissioners are Carroll Hobson, Eldora, chairman;

Caleb Knutson, Radcliffe; and Kermit Whitehead, New Providence. Representing the U.S. Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in the district are Charles McCarty, district conservationist; Earl Griffith, soil conservationist, and Deane Miller, soil conservation technician.