

**Steve & Ann Mallams**  
**2550 210<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Mt Pleasant, Iowa 52641**  
**319-931-6885**

**Submitted by Henry SWCD**

Steve and Ann Mallams have a diversified farming operation including livestock, seed corn, corn, and soybeans. The last two years they have been experimenting with strip till and cover crops. This year Steve and Ann converted their entire operation to a strip till tillage system, a first in their neighborhood. They have committed 240 acres to continuous cover crops for 3 consecutive years with help from the Environmental Quality Incentive Program to evaluate the economic benefits of increasing soil health.

To show the benefits of strip tillage, the Mallams' have done some custom work for their neighbors in their area. This allows other farm operators to see how strip works in their fields and realize the associated cost-savings without investing large amounts of capital for ownership of specialized equipment.

Manure nutrients are treated as a valuable commodity. Manure is rotated from field to field, either where nutrients are needed based on soil tests, or based on the time period since the last application of manure.

Steve and Ann have buffered all stream corridors located in their operation with filter strips utilizing the Conservation Reserve Program. The Mallams' will plant monarch butterfly habitat with their filter strips as an enhancement with the Conservation Stewardship Program. Managing nutrients for crops through selective manure and fertilizer use, shielding the soil surface with residue management, and protecting streams with buffers allows the Mallams' to safeguard water quality on their farm.