

Father and Son Team Named 2016 Cooperators of the Year by the New Castle Conservation District

David H. Daniels Sr. and his father David R. Daniels farm over 600 acres of land - some in Maryland where they reside but mostly rental ground in Delaware. The New Castle Conservation District Board of Supervisors recently recognized the Daniels for their dedication to implementing conservation practices that prevent soil erosion and improve water quality. Board chairman Robert L. Emerson presented each of the Daniels with an award plaque to recognize their achievements.

The Daniels grow a rotation of corn, grain, and soybeans and every other year they grow grain sorghum. They use no-till and turbo tillage on their fields. This type of no or low impact tilling helps to conserve soil moisture, improve soil health, reduce soil compaction, and lowers expenses. The Daniels have rented the District's Great Plains drill to plant cover crop in the late summer and early fall.

The Daniels plant vegetated strips around the perimeter of the fields to improve habitat and reduce soil loss. The grasses, clover, and other plants are attractive to pollinators and wildlife. Both of the Daniels practice nutrient and pest management.

Besides their farming operations, they both hold off the farm jobs. David R. Daniels works at Hooper Equipment in Middletown. He and his wife Kathy have two daughters (Kari and Stacey). David H. Daniels works for an oil delivery company and he and his wife Shelley have two children – Olivia and David.

