**Farmer Conservationist Award**

The Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society established the Farmer/Wildlife Award in 1976 to recognize farmers who have made outstanding contributions to wildlife management. However, due to problems in locating qualified farm operators to receive this award, the Executive Board of the Missouri Chapter of The Wildlife Society at its August 18, 2004, meeting established a replacement award with more liberal definitions of who would qualify. The new Farmer Conservationist Award is meant to recognize and promote sound wildlife management programs on farms, because the vast majority of wildlife habitat is located within Missouri's rural landscape.
Several definitions are necessary to limit recognition to individuals that are at substantial risk from their farming operation and commit to the management for wildlife as an integral part of their farm plan and at scale sufficient to provide at least local benefit to wildlife populations.
**Farm Operators:** Individuals who actively manage their "working farms" and derive a substantial amount or portion of their income from the farm operation.
**Working Farm:** A farm where a substantial portion is manipulated by farm practices annually (not one mostly in long-term set aside).
**Farm Operation:** An agricultural business of sufficient size that it is clearly recognized in the community as a farming operation.
**Scale:** Farms must be at least 100 acres, because few farms could be operated on a smaller tract and still have substantial resources available for wildlife management.
**Wildlife Management:** Any manipulation or improvement of resources which clearly illustrates planning and having a long-term desirable effect toward habitat improvement and wildlife numbers. This would include preservation of unique areas providing habitat for uncommon wildlife or wildlife communities.

**Recipients of the Farmer Conservationist Award**

* 2005 - Karl and Albert Noellsch, Oregon MO.
* 2006 - Wayne and Pam Fry, Liberty MO.
* 2007 - Darryl and Kelly McCane, MO.
* 2008 - Greg Dix, Caldwell Co. MO.
* 2009 - Mickey Owen, Lincoln Co. Mo.
* 2010 - John Meyers and Mike Redman, Caldwell Co. Mo.