

Michael and Debbie Coates were awarded the 2011 Robert E. Lee Soil and Water Conservation District Clean Water Farm Award for their conservation efforts on their farm. They manage a beef cattle operation in Campbell County. Working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service they installed practices such as: pasture improvement and critical erosion repair. They also participated in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program which provided cost-share funding to install practices such as: excluding cattle from the stream with a fence, installing pipeline and watering troughs, hardened stream crossing and planting hardwood trees on approximately 4.5 acres along streams on their property to filter agricultural run-off. Since the streams on their farm flow into the Falling River (a designated impaired waterway) they were eligible to participate in the TMDL Program; so Mr. and Mrs. Coates also worked with the Robert E. Lee Soil and Water Conservation District. Under the TMDL program they installed and received cost-share funding for: cross fencing to create a rotational grazing system on 48 acres, fencing to exclude cattle from waterways, a well, additional pipeline and additional water troughs. A total of 1.2 miles of streams were protected on their farm. The conservation practices installed will help improve both farm productivity and the conditions of natural resources on the Coate's farm.



*District Chairman, Michael Russell, presents the Clean Water Farm Award to Michael and Debbie Coates*