

**Congratulations to Grayhouse Farms for being named the Area 8 and Mountain Region Outstanding Conservation Farm Family for 2012**



Grayhouse Farms: (left to right) Amy, Andy, Peggy, Reid, Jimmy, and Amanda Gray

Iredell SWCD is pleased to announce that Grayhouse Farms has been named the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' 2012 Outstanding Conservation Farm Family for Area 8 and the Mountain Region.

Reid Gray started the farm with his wife, Peggy, in the 1960's. Their sons, Jimmy (wife Amanda) and Andy (wife Amy) both work on the farm with their dad today. Grayhouse Farms includes a 700-head dairy operation, 1,150 acres of crop and hay fields, 114 acres of pasture, and 440 acres of woodland. Several conservation plans have been completed for the farm over the years, but the 2010 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Plan encompasses all of the conservation practices on the farm. A CSP Plan is only offered to farms that uphold the highest level of conservation. Some of the conservation practices on the farm include but are not limited to livestock exclusion, animal waste storage, and conservation cropping systems.

The entire Gray family is involved in the community and promotes conservation education in some way. They have hosted field days on wildlife, forestry, and other conservation topics. Furthermore, both Reid and Jimmy have served on the Iredell SWCD Board of Supervisors, and Andy currently serves as the Iredell County Farm Bureau President.

Overall, Grayhouse Farms exemplifies the stewardship of natural resources. This is evident through the farm's involvement in the Iredell Farmland Preservation District and through the farm's three conservation easements. Iredell SWCD is proud to congratulate Grayhouse Farms on this honor! Keep up the good work!