

COOPERATOR OF THE YEAR

Warren and Jonda McCarren



Warren and Jonda McCarren live on Brooks-Carroll Rd. in Massie Township. They have been married 29 years and have two children, Jacob age 23 and Gracie age 21, and attend Calvary Baptist Church in Wilmington. Together they farm and own McCarren Farm Excavating, LLC. Warren began his career in conservation in 1992 with Clinton SWCD as a 319 Grant Coordinator. Shortly thereafter, he joined Greene SWCD as a District Technician, where he has remained working with landowners and producers for the 29 years.

Warren and Jonda began farming around Sabina, OH on their own in 1998. They bought a farm and rented land on which they installed numerous conservation practices including tile, filter strips along drainage ditches, grass waterways, a 3-acre wetland, cover crops, and no-till/reduced tillage. In 2017, led by their faith, they sold their farms in Sabina and returned to Warren County and bought a farm near the farm Warren was raised on. Since moving there, Warren has systematically tiled it, begun using cover crops, and instituted no-till practices. Currently the farm is in Conservation Stewardship Program, and they have plans to install a wetland and grass waterways.

In 2022, Warren worked with Warren Co SWCD to help the agency secure a grant from the Ohio EPA for the construction of a cascading waterway—one of the first of its kind in Southwest Ohio—on the McCarrens' farm. This site will serve as a research site for Central State University, providing valuable comparative data to help evaluate the effectiveness of cascading waterways. For this most recent partnership, and in light of Warren and Jonda's life-long commitment to instituting conservation practices on their own farms while supporting their communities in doing the same, Warren Co SWCD is honored to recognize the McCarrens as our Cooperators of the Year.