

We would like to recognize the producers of MOTT 5 for winning the bankers award in soil conservation. Covid, skyrocketing gas prices, drought, and soil erosion were some, but not all problems the producers of Mott 5 faced in 2020. Most folks see soil erosion as an inevitability when it comes to farming, and in most ways, it is; one cannot simply tame the winds of the Great Plains or turn off the water in a storm, but one can prepare.

Mott 5 was faced with non-functional terraces and a waterway that did not have the capacity to hold the water that should have been deposited into it. Terraces were becoming flat, overtopping, and the evidence was gully erosion.

Mott 5 started work with the NRCS in 2020 to devise a plan to rework the terrace system to meet their farming objectives and address the ever-present water erosion. The waterway came first—1,800 ft of a trapezoidal waterway planted into a native grass mixture that could withstand a 10-year flood. Then the terraces—9,000 ft. of terraces over 2 ft tall, flagged and constructed to match the lay of the land and allow for modern farming practices.

This project did not come without hardships; Penny stated that the establishment of the grass planted into the waterway took longer than expected, causing a delay in the

construction of the terraces and therefore causing the price of the terraces to increase. Even with the delay, the producers of Mott 5 are happy with the project that was completed and do not regret their decision, stating that if the erosion was not addressed, a discussion of taking the land out of row crop production was going to happen.

CONGRATULATIONS to the producers of Mott 5 for winning the Bankers Conservation Award in Soil Conservation.