

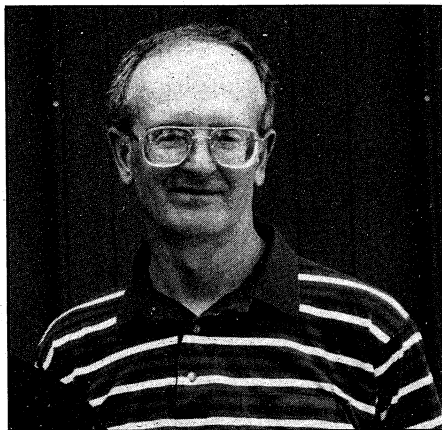
1997 Outstanding Cooperator

James Vogelbacher was proudly named the Outstanding Cooperator of the Lucas Soil and Water Conservation District for 1997.

Jim has been a cooperator with the district since 1969 and farms over 250 acres.

Jim grew up on the family farm working with both his father and grandfather. He kept busy feeding and caring for the livestock, and as he got older he drove tractor - his favorite job. After he graduated from Clay High School and the University of Toledo, he went on to become a tool and die maker. After a few years, he took a position with Toledo Edison working at the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant in the Electrical Maintenance Department. His vacation time from Davis-Besse is put to good use in the spring and fall for work on the farm. In the early 1980's Jim found the merits of a time and soil saving practice that others had used- "no-till". He now uses conservation tillage almost exclusively on all his fields.

In 1974 he began installing surface drainage, eventually tiling all his farmable ground. In 1993 Jim participated in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) signing over 32 acres into switch and canary grasses.



James Vogelbacher of Curtice

Jim also participated in the Maumee River Basin Equipment cost-share program in 1992.

Jim and his wife, Mona raised three children, Charles (Dawn), Kathleen (Rod), and Melissa (Fred) all of them helping in their own way on the farm. Granddaughter, Chelsea, has taken over as official tractor and combine passenger, enjoying time spent with grandpa on his farm. Jim looks forward to retirement from the Edison so he can farm full time, a job he doesn't plan to retire from for many years.

It is with great pride that we recognize James Vogelbacher as our 1997 Lucas County Outstanding Cooperator!