

2014 Outstanding Conservation Cooperator Award

Steve and Paula Verhoff

Steve and Paula have horses and goats. They show horses, Quarter horses Haflinger horses. Paula is a licensed therapy dog handler. They have lived in Monclova Township since 1987. They have two sons, Steve and Tony.

Their relationship with Lucas SWCD began when Paula worked at Sunshine Inc, a non-profit organization that offers services and support to people with developmental disabilities and their families in Northwest Ohio. Rudolph-Libbe purchased a barn for therapeutic horse riding, and they needed a place to take the horse manure. She began taking the manure to Toledo Botanical Garden, who then referred her to LSWCD's compost facility in Whitehouse. Steve had been composting his own horse manure for years, however he could not keep up with the amount of manure that his horses produced, so he began to take the manure to the facility as well.

Steve and Paula believe that the farmers in the area are headed in the right direction for managing nutrients, through the use of cover crops. Paula would like to see more horse owners utilize composting as an effective way to help manage manure issues.

