

## **Philip McCoun**

### **SHELBY COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**



**Philip McCoun has been a member of the Shelby County Conservation District for 13 years and Chairman for 6 years. He owns and operates McCoun Farms in Shelby County with his father Herbert. To remain sustainable, the farm has evolved greatly since Herbert established it in 1976. As Philip and Herbert make adjustments, their management decisions remain focused on conserving the farm's natural resources and adapting to the constantly changing agriculture markets.**

**In 1976, most of the farm's income came from raising hogs and tobacco. To diversify, McCoun Farms began working corn, wheat and soybean rotations in the farm's activities. As markets evolved, the hogs were phased out and cattle numbers increased. They now manage both a cow/calf and a backgrounding operation. Their livestock venture now includes sheep as well. Philip attempts to stay ahead of the market curve by utilizing specialty crops and by participating in the Beef Quality Assurance Program. He also markets hay directly to the end-user in an effort to increase market efficiency.**

**Environmental conservation is a paramount concern at McCoun Farms. All cattle are fenced from streams and buffer strips and grass waterways have been installed throughout the farm. Philip exclusively utilizes no-till on grain crop acres. He has also set aside a portion of his farm for quail habitat. Philip and Herbert currently raise 80 acres of tobacco, 1,200 acres of corn, 1,000 acres of soybeans, 500 acres of wheat, 180 acres of barley, and 200 acres of alfalfa.**

**As a graduate of the Philip Morris Agriculture Leadership Program, Philip uses skills learned in his role as President of Kentucky Corn Growers Association when managing farm workers. Philip and Monica have been married for 10 years. They have two children, Sadie and Sam.**

**After becoming Chairman of the District board, Philip instigated getting Fiscal Court to apply a millage tax for the District and as a result, the District is able to help local landowners apply best management practices to their land through funding of local programs. This tax revenue also helps improve county parks and other projects for all citizens of Shelby County.**

**As chairman of the board, Philip is a great asset to the Shelby County Conservation District and we are proud to make him our "SUPER STAR"!**