

COLE FECHTIG AND FECHTIG FARMS

Cole Fechtig and Fechtig Farms were selected as the White County SWCD 2023 Conservation Farmer of the Year for their love of the land and dedication to conservation farming.

Cole began learning about farming and the importance of taking care of the land at quite a young age from his Dad, Bruce. Cole could be found in the fields when he was 8 or 9 years old, during construction of grass waterways under the guidance of his Dad and White County SWCD's Resource Conservationist, Debbie Gray. Cole was a former SWCD conservation poster contest winner as a child and later job shadowed Debbie while he was in high school. Cole's interest and appreciation of agriculture lead him to formal education at Illinois State University, where he earned a degree in Agronomy Management.

Over 4000' of basins have been built on Fechtig farms just since 2020. Cole became the first in White County to take part in the USDA-NRCS CIC program for climate smart practices. In addition to basins and tile, use of conservation practices such as no-till and cover crops is standard practice for Cole and Fechtig Farms. Nutrient Management plans are implemented, managing nutrients and soil amendments in the fields.

Cole is an inspiration, as his Dad, Bruce, and Debbie Gray, Resource Conservationist, have been to him throughout the years. He serves as a role model to beginning farmers for his conservation ethics and dedication to preserving and conserving land he farms for future generations.

Cole and his wife, Lauren, reside and farm near Mill Shoals in White County with their son, Lane, and daughter, Abigail. Here is where they are building their legacy for the future.