



Bond County Soil & Water Conservation District
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Press Release
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McKibben Scholarship for Agriculture Students

The Bond County Soil and Water Conservation District is accepting applications for the George McKibben Memorial Scholarship. The \$500 scholarship has been established by the Association of Illinois Soil & Water Conservation Districts (AISWCD) to assist agriculture students in their completion of their education at any Illinois state college (University of Illinois, Western, Southern and Illinois State). Any student who will be a junior or senior for the 2010-2011 academic year enrolled at any state college in Illinois; in agriculture degree program is eligible for nomination by their local soil and water conservation district. The student awarded the scholarship should demonstrate superior agriculture academic achievement, commitment to soil and water conservation and potential for innovation and/or leadership ability.

In the early 1960s no-till agriculture was not widely supported among farmers and agriculture specialists in the United States. George Elvert McKibben, however, made no-till the accepted farming technique that it is today. For thirty-seven years George McKibben was an agronomist for the University of Illinois. This work has been called the single most important contribution to corn production since the development and adaptation of hybrid seed corn.

In 1966 McKibben planted plots on which to conduct these experiments at Dixon Springs, Illinois. The plots are now named after George McKibben and are the oldest of their kind not only in Illinois, but also in the world. McKibben was recognized and given many awards during his lifetime. The best recognition he received was the fact that by 1985 more than one million acres of farmland in Illinois were using no-till as a way of farming.

McKibben died February 1, 1988, but the contributions that he made to no-till continue to be beneficial to this state as well as to the nation. He was a man dedicated to what seemed to many an impossible cause. However, McKibben believed in no-till and proved to the state, as well as the nation, that it was a success.

An application form can be accessed on going on to the Bond County Soil and Water website at www.bondswcd.org. Deadline for submitting a scholarship application is May 1, 2010. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Bond County Soil and Water office at 618-664-0555 ext. 3.