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DAVE AND PATTY STAPP won this year's Kansas Bankers Association water quality award.

—Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Waste management earns quality award

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
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Dave and Patty Stapp received the water quality award from the Kansas Bankers Association this year.

The Stapps, who live 17 miles east of Oberlin and two miles north off the Long Branch Creek, put in a waste management pit for their cattle feedlot about two years ago.

Mr. Stapp said he thought that change is probably why the couple had been selected for the water quality award. The couple used the State of Kansas non-point source pollution control program through the Decatur County Conservation District to put in the waste management pit. With the cost-share program, the Stapps paid 25 percent of the cost, while the other 75 percent was paid for by the program.

"A few years ago," said Mr. Stapp, "we were planning on implementing a plan to pull the cows off the corn stocks and feed them in the lot. That would allow the next generation to also feed the cattle in the lot. With that plan,

the waste management pit was needed."

"Besides that, living near the creek, even though it has no water, it's important to keep it clean. The pit helps with that," he said.

"The pit catches manure run-off from the lots," said Mr. Stapp. "When the pit gets full, they pump the water out, but the actual manure is contained and doesn't affect the quality of water in the creek bed."

"The award just means that we're helping to keep the quality of water good for future generations," said Mr. Stapp.

The Stapps have a Black Angus cow/calf operation. He said he's been in the cattle business for 28 years and is the fourth generation of the operation. The family also raises corn and wheat.

In the early 1990's, the couple also received a soil conservation award from the district.

The couple has three kids, Kortney and her husband Jerrod Poire, Emporia; Kaitlyn, a junior at Fort Hays State University; and Sam, who is a senior at Decatur Community High School.