

## **2023 Conservation Farmer – Aaron Reeves, [Collin County SWCD #535](#)**

Aaron Reeves has been selected as the 2023 Conservation Farmer. Aaron and his wife Stacy own and operate Reeves Family Farm, located north of Lake Lavon near Princeton, Texas. Aaron utilizes about 50 acres for his farming operation, which is Good Agricultural Practices certified, to produce around 25 crops that they incorporate in their farm store and kitchen. The operation functions as a grower, packer, retailer, and shipper. Reeves Family Farm considers itself a regenerative agricultural farm. In a rapidly developing county, large-scale farms are harder to find or emulate, but Aaron has adapted the best practices from the agricultural community to fit his unique scope and scale. His farm store and kitchen have allowed the urban community to see where their food comes from as well as have exposure to the production side of agriculture. Aaron has utilized partnerships with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Collin County SWCD, and other landowners to adapt a rich, productive farming history to a 21st century mosaic. Aaron has welcomed the SWCD and NRCS staff on-site numerous times since becoming a cooperator in 2017, sharing achievements and lessons with conservation professionals and a growing community of fellow cooperators. Aaron had a longstanding interest in cover crops and his Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contract helped him finally adopt the practice on the farm. Thus, he opted for a mix of oats and hairy vetch, along with crimson clover and winter pea for additional nitrogen-fixing potential. The EQIP contract also aided Reeves in building a high tunnel for extended growing seasons. Aaron has remained perceptive to potential resource concerns, anticipating and quickly adapting to the demands of his land. He has taken a measured approach to tillage by deploying low-tech farming methods and he strives for a low to no-till system. Reeves Family Farm brings multiple virtues into harmony, making conservation-minded farming both aesthetically and intellectually intriguing to visitors rounding their corner of FM 1377.