



# Stearns County Pheasants Forever

Stearns County SWCD  
110 2<sup>nd</sup> Street South – Suite 128  
Waite Park, MN 56387

Tel. (320)251-7800 ext. 3  
Fax. (320)251-9171  
e-mail Jason.Selvog@mn.nacdn.net

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Contact: Dennis Fuchs – SWCD, 320-251-7800 Ext. 3  
Jason C. Selvog - Pheasants Forever, 320-251-7800 Ext. 3  
Ralph Feld – SCPF President, 320-248-4499

## **Stearns County Pheasants Forever Banquet is a Success**

The Stearns County Pheasants Forever Chapter (SCPF) held its annual banquet on March 7th at Gorecki Event Center at the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, MN. Over 370 people attended the event to help generate funds for Stearns County conservation and wildlife habitat projects.

This year's keynote speaker was Bill Sherck the "Man About the Woods" who is known for several outdoor based television programs produced by Ron Schara Enterprises. Also, addressing the crowd was Pheasants Forever's President and CEO, Howard Vincent, who congratulated the Stearns Chapter for being one of the top five chapters in the nation.

Since 1983, the SCPF Chapter has raised over \$2.8 million which has been designated to Pheasants Forever's mission of wildlife conservation through habitat improvements, public awareness, education and land management policies and programs. In 2008, Minnesota's 77 Pheasants Forever Chapters completed a total of 748 projects across Minnesota, which will provide more than 7400 acres of wildlife habitat. During Minnesota's Pheasants Forever 26-year history \$36 million has been contributed to over 22,000 projects statewide.

"When it comes to conservation, there are a lot of people who want to make a positive difference in the restoration and preservation of wildlife but just don't know how to go about doing it," said Brad Cobb, SCPF Public Relations Director. Cobb added, "Attending a Pheasants Forever banquet is an excellent way to contribute to a good cause because our county chapter retains all of the money (exclusive of membership fees) raised and uses these funds for habitat projects with farmers and landowners in our immediate area."

During the banquet the Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) recognized Mill Creek Dairy as the Outstanding Conservationists for 2008. The farming partnership, located near Kimball, is owned and operated by brothers Tom and Ed Gregory, along with Tom's wife Donna and son Nick. Mill Creek Dairy has implemented a variety of conservation practices on

their farm for the benefit of soil, water and wildlife conservation. SCPF presented the Gregory family with a framed print.

Also, the Stearns County Chapter of Pheasants Forever recognized Mark Caspers for his 20<sup>th</sup> year as an SCPF director and presented him with a Pheasants Forever jacket.

Stearns County Pheasants Forever extends a special than you to the Gorecki Event Center and their staff for their hospitality and hard work. In addition, SCPF thanks all the volunteers, private & business donors who helped make this year's banquet a success.

Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever are non-profit conservation organizations dedicated to the protection and enhancement of pheasant, quail, and other wildlife populations in North America through habitat improvement, land management, public awareness, and education. PF/QF has more than 120,000 members in 750 local chapters across the continent.

All programs and services of the Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District are available without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status.