



Stearns County Soil & Water Conservation District

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Stearns SWCD Technician is Presented with Habitat Award By Stearns County Pheasants Forever

The Stearns County Chapter of Pheasants Forever (SCPF) awarded Vince Manderfeld with their Habitat Award during the Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) regular Board Meeting on May 17th. The award recognizes an individual that has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the development of wildlife habitat in Stearns County.

For the past 22 years, Manderfeld has been working with landowners to develop wildlife habitat and water quality practices through the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Stearns County Farm Service Agency estimates that since CRP began in 1985, Manderfeld has developed over 30,000 acres of CRP plans for Stearns County landowners.

"His record of accomplishments is written across the countryside in Stearns County", said Brad Cobb, SCPF Public Relations Director. "I know that Stearns County's wildlife habitat and water quality are healthier because of Vince", added Cobb.

"Vince is a behind the scenes guy, quietly plugging away at improving Stearns County wildlife habitat. I am delighted to see that SCPF notices Vince's valuable contributions to conservation", said Dennis Fuchs, Stearns County SWCD Administrator. "Vince is a walking encyclopedia of knowledge concerning native grass, forbs, trees and shrubs, and has been vital staff member of the Stearns County SWCD/USDA Service Center for almost 27 years," Fuchs said.

"I feel honored to be chosen for this special award from Pheasants Forever," said Manderfeld after accepting the award. "It is one of the highest compliments to receive recognition from an organization like Pheasants Forever. He indicated that team work and partnerships are what makes accomplishing such goals possible. "I am fortunate to work in an area with several organizations that have the same conservation vision and work together to put habitat on the ground".

Manderfeld lives in rural St. Cloud, Minn. with his wife Nancy. Manderfeld has been a District Technician at the SWCD since 1980.

Pheasants Forever is a non-profit conservation organization 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. Such efforts benefit landowners and wildlife alike. Charity Navigator, America's charity watchdog, gives PF their highest rating of 4 stars and says that PF outperforms most non-profits in America.

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.