



Stearns County Soil & Water Conservation District

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Conservationist is Recognized By Stearns County Pheasants Forever for Habitat Contributions

At their January Directors meeting, the Stearns County Chapter of Pheasants Forever (SCPF) recognized Steve Sellnow, retired Stearns County District Conservationist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) by presenting him with a Pheasants Forever jacket as recognition for his significant commitment to wildlife habitat in Stearns County.

For the past 25 years, Sellnow has been a vital part of Stearns County's wildlife habitat efforts. During Sellnow's tenure as Stearns County's District Conservationist, he approved more than 40,000 acres of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) plans.

"Steve always emphasized partnerships to get the job done, "for the good of the cause" as Steve would say", said Jason Selvog, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist. "Steve encouraged NRCS staff to work with other organizations and agencies to help promote and enroll conservation practices", added Selvog.

Partnering with the Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Pheasants Forever, USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), local lake associations and local watershed districts helped generate over 16,000 of CRP in just the past 4 years. "Steve was a big part of Stearns County's CRP success", said Dennis Fuchs, Stearns County SWCD Administrator. "Without Steve's commitment and guidance there simply wouldn't be as many wildlife acres in Stearns," added Fuchs.

"This is just a good group to work with," said Sellnow after accepting the jacket. "I was fortunate to work in an area with several organizations that have the same conservation vision and work together to put habitat on the ground".

Sellnow lives in St. Cloud, Minn. with his wife and best friend Beverly. Sellnow retired with 35 years of dedicated service to NRCS.

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.