

**Contact: Dennis Fuchs**  
Phone 320 251 7800 ext.3  
internet dennis.fuchs@mn.usda.gov

110 Second Street South  
Suite 128  
Waite Park, MN 56387  
Phone 320 251 7800 ext.3  
Fax 320 251 9171

**Stearns County  
Soil & Water  
Conservation District**

# Press Release

## **STEARNS SWCD NAMED STATE'S OUTSTANDING CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Waite Park, December 10, 2003:** The Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation District (MASWCD) has named Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District the state's Outstanding Soil and Water Conservation District of the Year.

The SWCD award is based on a number of factors, including training for staff and supervisors, program involvement, tours and demonstrations, supervisor and staff presentations to other organizations, soliciting grants for special projects, and involvement in MASWCD and its committees. The purpose of the program is to stimulate leadership within soil and water conservation districts in the state.

"We're honored to be recognized for this award," said Urban Spanier, Chairperson, of Stearns County SWCD. The Stearns SWCD has been very active in protecting the natural resources and has been very successful in receiving grants to assist landowners with installation of conservation practices, such as animal waste storage basins, soil erosion and sediment control practices and structures, unpermitted manure basin storage investigations, wildlife habitat, lakeshed management, and other water quality projects.

Dennis Fuchs, Stearns County SWCD, administrator, said that "the Stearns County SWCD Board of Supervisors has also played a very active role in encouraging State Legislators, Congress, and other policy makers to develop conservation policies that promote natural resource protection". Fuchs also stated "the current and past Stearns County Commissioners have provided adequate financial support to enable the SWCD to retain a staff that collectively provides an excellent technical knowledge base".

The award was announced Tuesday, Dec. 2, at the 67th annual MASWCD Convention held in Bloomington. Members of the state's SWCDs (including district staff and supervisors), along with conservation groups, state agencies, and other officials attended the meeting.

If you have any questions call the USDA-NRCS or the Stearns County SWCD at (320) 251-7800, extension 3. All programs and services of the Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation are available without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status.