

STEVE AND SUE NESSMAN ARE 1996 "OUTSTANDING CONSERVATIONISTS"

**By Craig Haseman
Douglas SWCD Supervisor**

Steve and Sue Nessman of Kensington, MN were chosen as the 1996 "Outstanding Conservationists" for Douglas County. The Nessmans live in the southwestern part of Douglas County, where they own and operate a 225-cow dairy operation.

Good overall land stewardship was a major reason in choosing the Nessmans for this award. They have used reduced tillage, contour farming and seasonal rotation of their crops. On their more sensitive land, they have installed terraces and water sediment control basins to control erosion.

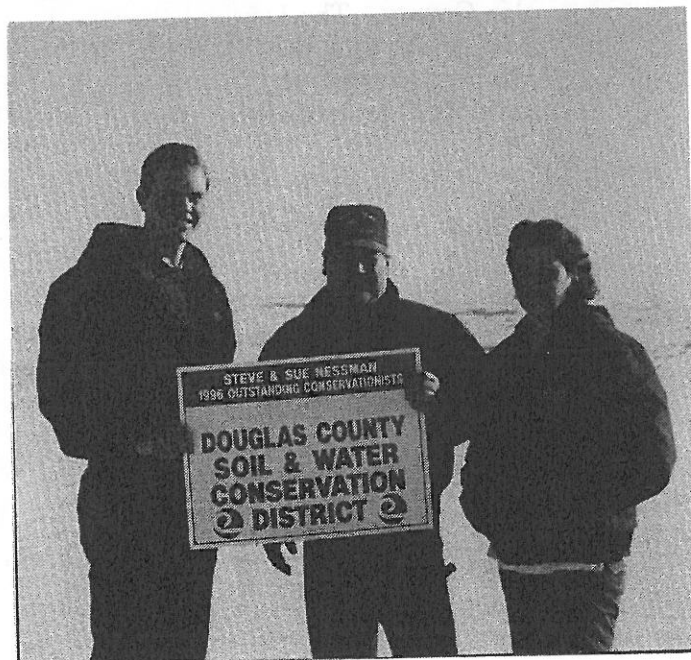
Through the use of an ag waste management plan, the Nessmans are able to meet the nutrient needs of their cropland. Manure is safely stored in their ag waste system.

Not only have the Nessmans been aware of controlling soil and water erosion on their farm, they have also enhanced wildlife habitat by planting a farmstead shelterbelt and permanent tree plots, along with providing three ponds.

Steve and Sue have been involved in many organizations through the past years such as: the Red Rock Lake Watershed on watershed clean-up; Church Council; American Dairy Association; Cenex Board; 4-H and FFA.

As you can see by the Nessman's accomplishments through wise conservation practices and their community involvement, the conservation award was well deserved.

The Nessmans were recognized at the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts State Convention. Not only were they recognized as county winners, but they were selected as one of seven regional winners for "Outstanding Conservationist" and as a regional winner for "The Outstanding Farmer/Sportsman Award" as well.



(L. to R.) Craig Haseman, SWCD Supervisor,
Steve and Sue Nessman, 1996 "Outstanding Conservationists".