

2009 Outstanding Conservationist

Nick & Tara Meyer Meyer Dairy Farm

The Stearns County SWCD Board of Supervisors and staff selected Nick and Tara Meyer to receive the 2009 Outstanding Conservationists award for their efforts in implementing conservation practices on their land and improving Minnesota's natural resources.



Nick and Tara own and operate Meyer Dairy Farm located near Sauk Centre. The operation consists of 170 milk cows and 360 acres of corn and alfalfa. Nick succeeded his parents Gerald and Joyce in 2003 to become manager of this family farm. They brought their feedlot into compliance by installing runoff controls and an animal manure storage facility. Also, a grassed waterway was installed to address an erosion problem along an intermittent stream leading to the Sauk River. The Meyers follow a nutrient management plan which involves soil testing, manure testing, and applying manure and fertilizer within agronomic rates to minimize adverse effects on the environment. They have adopted pest management practices, which utilize crop scouting and economic thresholds to help determine the best methods to control pests. Mulch tillage is used on cropland acres to help reduce soil erosion.

Several acres of wetland are maintained in grass, which helps provide food and habitat for pheasants, songbirds, and other wildlife. A well maintained farmstead shelterbelt consisting of multiple rows of trees and shrubs helps protect the farmstead from extreme weather, and also provides excellent habitat for wildlife.

Nick and Tara are shown in front of their dairy operation near Sauk Centre.

