

**Outstanding Conservationists – 2007
Heusinkveld Farm
Cleon, Steve, Jeff and Nate**

The Fillmore Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has announced the selection of **Heusinkveld Farm** of Spring Valley as the District's **Outstanding Conservationists of the Year**.



Heusinkveld Farm is a three-generation family dairy operation owned and operated by Cleon Heusinkveld and his sons, Steve and Jeff and Jeff's son, Nate. The Heusinkvelts milk 270 cows and operate about 600 acres, ninety percent of which is in a four year 50/50 hay and corn rotation. Their practices include cover crops on their corn silage acres, well maintained grass waterways, terraces, a farm pond, conservation tillage, and implementation of a nutrient management plan reducing their commercial fertilizer input significantly. They are currently cooperators in a grazing study conducted by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to measure runoff from pastures and manured crop fields. The Heusinkvelts operation has prevailed through tough economic times for dairy farms making many improvements while keeping conservation on the land.

As outstanding conservationists, the Heusinkveld's will be eligible to compete for Minnesota's Outstanding Conservationist Award, which will be announced at the 2007 Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Districts annual meeting set for December 2-4 in Rochester.

**The Fillmore SWCD wishes to congratulate the
Heusinkveld Family – Cleon, Steve, Jeff, and Nate –
on their conservation achievements!**