

Kevin and Kris Borgen, of Chatfield, have been selected as the **2017 Fillmore County Outstanding Conservationists**.

The Borgen Brothers farm 558 acres consisting of corn, soybeans and pasture with well-maintained grassed waterways, contour strips and several farm ponds. They have no-tilled since 1998 on all acres that don't receive manure in the spring. They plant cover crops on about 30 acres following corn silage. The University of Minnesota and Minnesota Department of Agriculture have conducted on-farm nitrogen studies with them to improve their operation while sharing information with others.



The Borgen's have an 80 cow dairy herd and also have 40 beef cows. In 2006, they completed a feedlot fix. A wall was installed in a manure retaining area with a picket fence designed to capture solids while allowing liquids to pass through an outlet to a vegetated filter strip. They also have a tank for milk house waste that is pumped daily and land applied. A manure management plan is updated yearly with the SWCD, even though not required, because of the benefits they derive from it.

They have a half-acre pollinator plot enrolled in CSP which will remain after the contract ends along with eight acres in CRP enrolled on highly erodible land. The DNR have a fishing easement and have completed a habitat improvement project on Trout Run Creek which runs through their property.

The Borgen and Lien (Kevin's wife's family) families are Adopt a Highway volunteers for a mile-long stretch of Highway 30.

