

FARM BILL PARTNERSHIP



The farm bill partnership position has brought additional conservation acres to Redwood County in 2013. Because of this partnership, 26 new parcels were enrolled in CRP totaling approximately 200 acres, developed management plans on already established conservation acres, and many proposals were sent to producers in the county.

Redwood SWCD, once again, received funding to staff a half time position to accelerate the implementation of state and federal conservation programs.

Redwood SWCD continues to participate in the Farm Bill Partnership to promote conservation practices on private land using USDA Farm Bill programs; e.g. CRP and WRP. This partnership also allows the SWCD to work with other conservation programs to protect and enhance wildlife habitat and improve water quality. During 2013, we were very busy enrolling buffer strips and wetlands in to the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program. The interest in Redwood County for RIM is impressive.

Under this partnership, we work with the USDA NRCS and FSA to target lands for conservation practices, assist the landowner and governmental agencies in following through with sign-ups and provide technical guidance on practice establishment and maintenance.

With new enrollees and re-enrollments we signed 185 contracts for just over 1,500 acres for the following practices: grassland establishment, pollinator plantings, buffer strips, farmstead shelterbelts, living snow fences, field windbreaks and wetland restorations. Redwood County has been very successful in maintaining continuous CRP practices; however, with anticipated changes in the upcoming Farm Bill we may need to work much harder to get conservation on the ground due to reduced acreage caps resulting from federal budgetary constraints.