



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Program Updates

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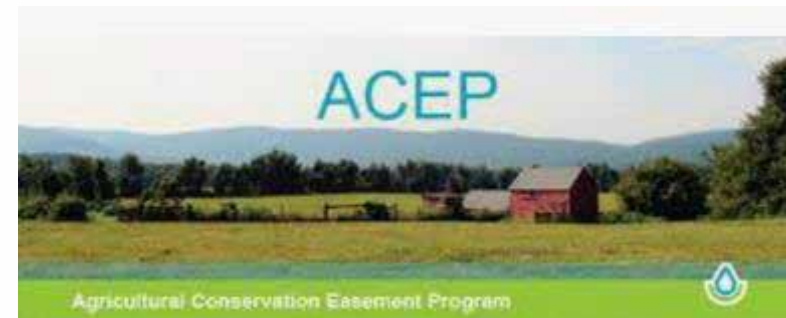
Topics

2025 Program Summaries

2026 Program Updates

Big Picture

Details



2025

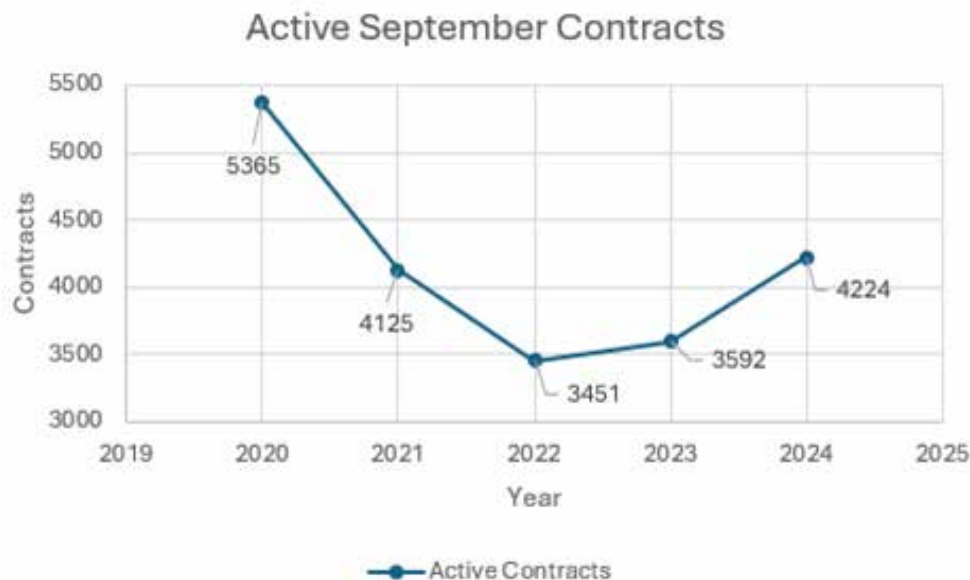


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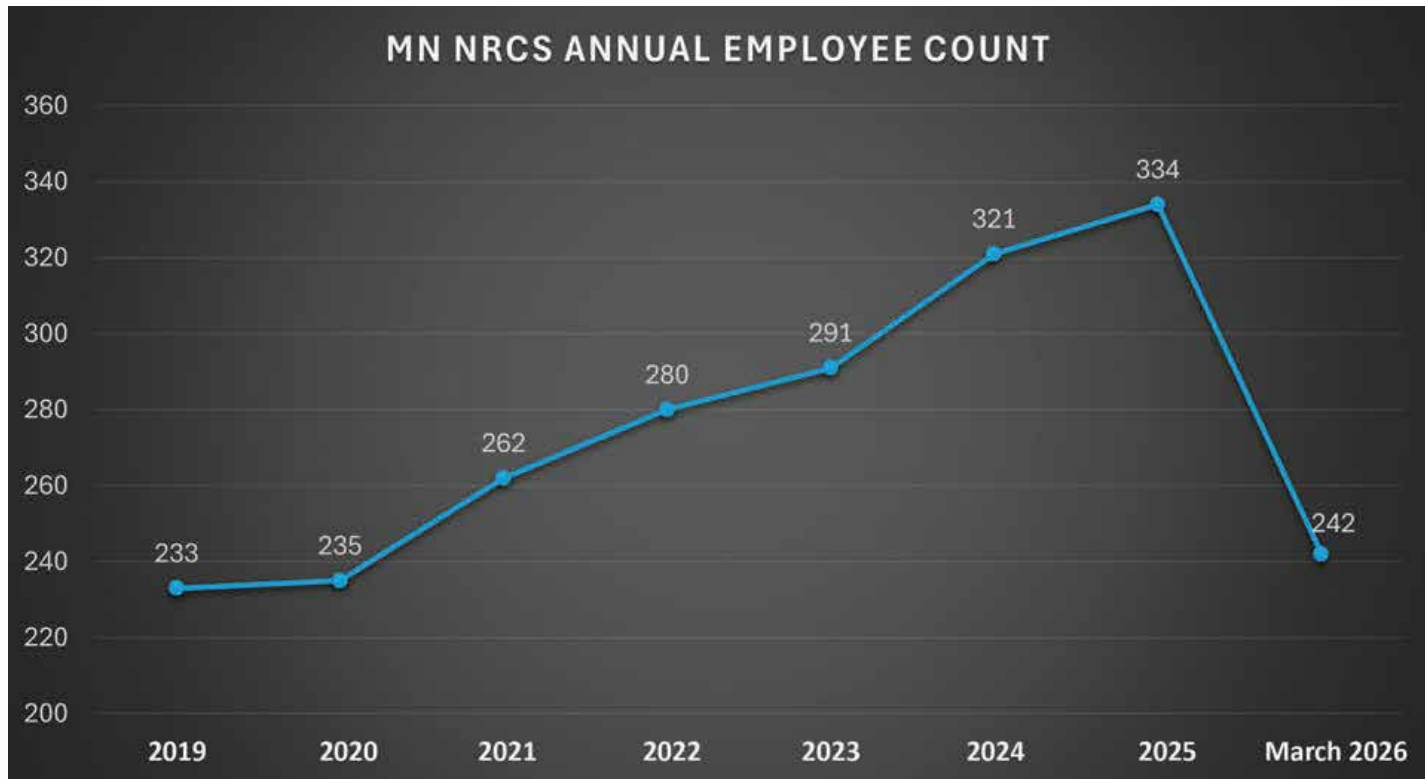
2025

Staffing à 2018-2025



β Workload 2019-2025

Sneak Peak at 2026 NRCS MN Staffing*



***People to Help
Farmers and Ranchers**

Current Staffing = 242 Full Time Employees

Optimal Staffing = 356 Full Time Employees

MN Programs 2025

EQIP- \$61.6M (99.96%+)

881 Contracts and 88,500 acres

Received 3,936 EQIP applications
(20-22% funded)



CSP - \$44.0M (99.77%+)

422 Contracts on 273,000 acres

CSP Classic Applications: 1,947 (21-24% funded)

RCPP- \$1.4M

44 Direct agreements with producers

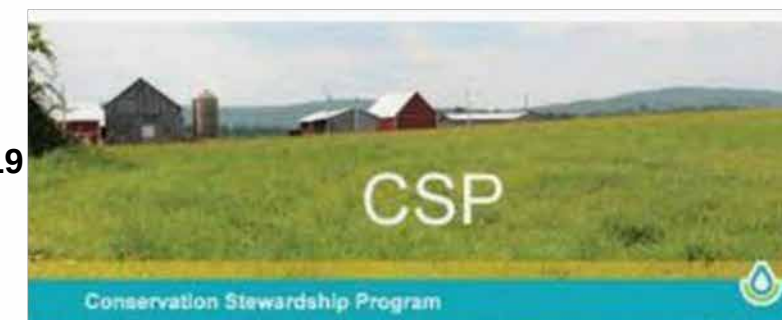
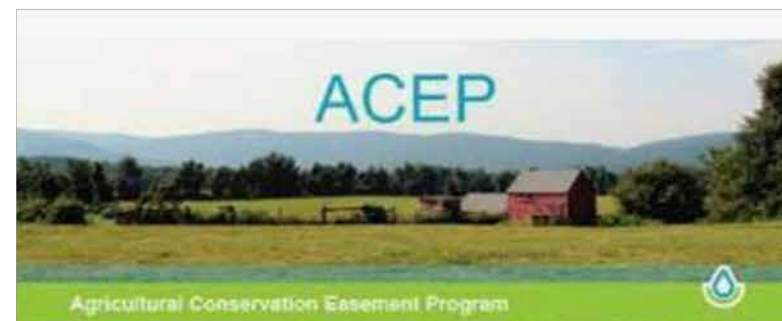
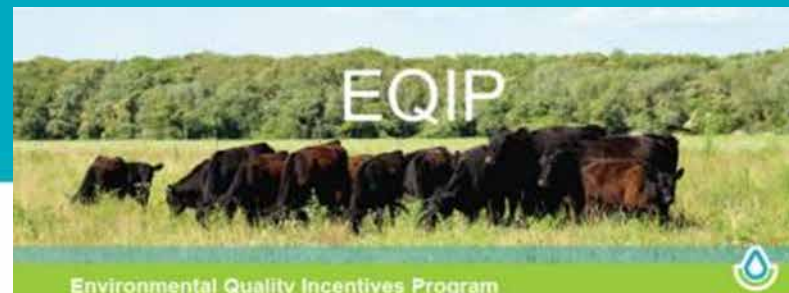
8 RCPP Partner agreements

5,000 acres

ACEP - 1,125 Easements

\$19M for repair, maintenance, enhancement of wetlands since 2019

133,600, Acres





EQIP

Environmental Quality Incentives Program



FY25 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)



EQIP Goals

Beginning Farmer- \$20.2M (319)

32.8%

Socially Disadvantaged -\$7.0 M (93)

11.3%

Livestock Producer- \$37.2M (434)

60.3%

Wildlife*- \$5.7M

9.3%

*IRA Wildlife Pools swept



MN Programs 2025 –EQIP

Top 5 Conservation Practices by Count of Agreements Incorporating

1. BRUSH MANAGEMENT

5,952.1 acres applied

2. COVER CROP

79,105.4 acres applied

3. FOREST STAND IMPROVEMENT

2,220.8 acres applied

4. GRAZING MANAGEMENT

22,647.7 acres applied

5. NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

136,679.4 acres applied



97 practices contracted

Top 10 = \$38.7M (62.8%)

Top 20 = \$49.4M (80.2%)

Bottom 20 = \$97.9K (0.16%)

CONSERVATION
STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAM (CSP)

FY26 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

(How we got to today)

2025 CSP Overview

FY2025 Initial CSP (including IRA) Allocation: \$56.1M

- **Organic-\$200,000**
- **CSP Classic \$33.6M**
 - Farm Bill Funds: \$18.1M
 - IRA Funds: \$15.4M
- **CSP Renewals-\$22.4M**
 - Farm Bill Funds: \$12.1M
 - IRA Funds: \$10.3M
- **Additional Funds Request In April 2025: \$12M (Farm Bill Funds)**





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2025 CSP Renewals Overview

2025 CSP Renewal Applications:

- **Farm Bill Renewal-190**
- **IRA Renewal-19**

2025 CSP Renewal Obligations

- **Farm Bill Renewal**
 - 59 Contracts Obligated
 - \$9.4M Obligated
 - Contract Average: \$159,500
- **IRA Renewals**
 - 19 Contracts Obligated
 - \$1.7M Obligated
 - Contract average: \$88,200

Unobligated Renewal Allocation Funds Rolled Over to Classic



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CSP Classic Applications: 1,947

- **Farm Bill Applications Ranked-865**

- Total Requested Funding: \$93M
- 342 Contracts Obligated
- \$33.0M Obligated
- Contract Average: \$96,500

- **IRA Ranked-Paused**

- Unable to obligate any CSP Classic applications
- All IRA funds were rescinded July 4, 2025



Top 10 CSP Activities

1. 595 Pest Management Conservation System
2. E590A Improving Nutrient Uptake Efficiency and Reducing Risk of Nutrient Losses
3. 590 Nutrient Management
4. E595A Reduce Risk of Pesticides in Surface Water by Utilizing Precision Application
5. E595B Reduce Risk of Pesticides in Water and Air by Utilizing IPM PAMS Techniques
6. 340 Cover Crop
7. E595G Reduced Resistance Risk by Utilizing PAMS Techniques
8. E590B Reduce Risks of Nutrient Loss to Surface Water by Utilizing Precision Application
9. 345 Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till
10. E340H Cover Crop to Suppress Excessive Weed Pressures and Break Pest Cycles





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2026 CSP Renewals

2021 Contracts Eligible for CSP Renewal Application-188

- Notifications mailed on or before April 18, 2025

2026 CSP Renewal Timeline

- Deadline for application: June 6, 2025
 - 100 Renewal applications received
- Contract obligation deadline: December 12, 2025



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2026 CSP Renewals



CSP
Conservation
Stewardship
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2026 CSP Timeline

2026 CSP Program Timeline

- **Application Deadline**
 - MN established deadline: October 31, 2025
 - Extended to national all program deadline: January 15, 2026
 - **Announcement of Regenerative Agriculture Pilot Program (RPP)**
 - 1,913 Applications
 - **Including 2026 Renewal applications rolled into general CSP**
- **Application Preapprovals**
 - General CSP: May 1, 2026
 - RPP: May 15, 2026
- **Contract Obligation: September 4, 2026**

2027 CSP Renewals: ????

- **237 Active 2022 contracts**



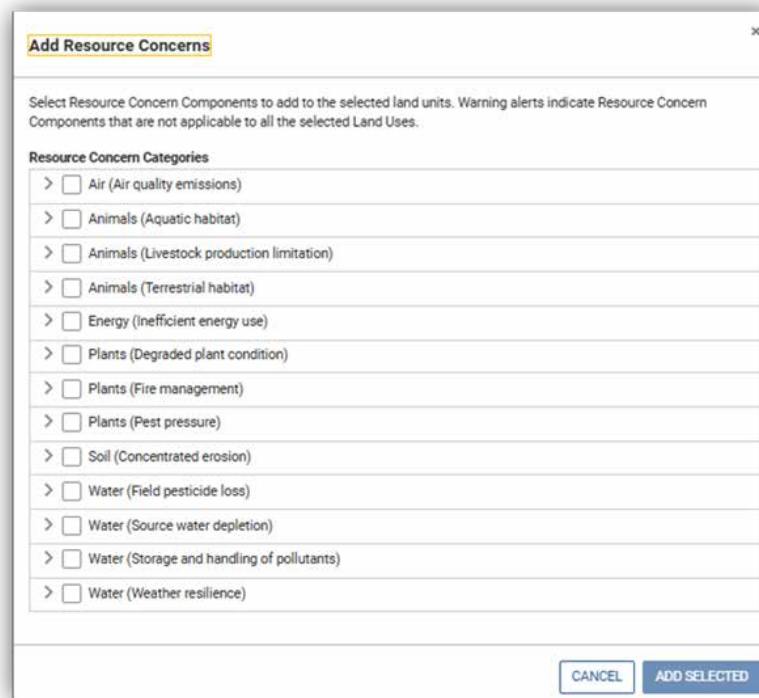
2026 CSP-RPP

The Regenerative Pilot Program (RPP) is a farmer-first, outcomes-based approach to conservation that emphasizes natural resources through improved soil health, water management, and natural vitality for the productivity and prosperity of American agriculture and communities.



Regenerative Pilot Program CSP Requirements

- **Whole Farm Assessment**
 - A complete assessment of all applicable resource concerns is required, with the goal of establishing a whole farm plan within one year after obligation.
 - Soil and water resource concerns are addressed on one land use
- **Primary Practices**



The screenshot shows a web interface titled "Add Resource Concerns". Below the title is a instruction: "Select Resource Concern Components to add to the selected land units. Warning alerts indicate Resource Concern Components that are not applicable to all the selected Land Uses." Below this is a section titled "Resource Concern Categories" containing a list of 13 categories, each with a checkbox and a right-pointing arrow. The categories are: Air (Air quality emissions), Animals (Aquatic habitat), Animals (Livestock production limitation), Animals (Terrestrial habitat), Energy (Inefficient energy use), Plants (Degraded plant condition), Plants (Fire management), Plants (Pest pressure), Soil (Concentrated erosion), Water (Field pesticide loss), Water (Source water depletion), Water (Storage and handling of pollutants), and Water (Weather resilience). At the bottom right of the dialog are two buttons: "CANCEL" and "ADD SELECTED".

Resource Concern Categories
> ☐ Air (Air quality emissions)
> ☐ Animals (Aquatic habitat)
> ☐ Animals (Livestock production limitation)
> ☐ Animals (Terrestrial habitat)
> ☐ Energy (Inefficient energy use)
> ☐ Plants (Degraded plant condition)
> ☐ Plants (Fire management)
> ☐ Plants (Pest pressure)
> ☐ Soil (Concentrated erosion)
> ☐ Water (Field pesticide loss)
> ☐ Water (Source water depletion)
> ☐ Water (Storage and handling of pollutants)
> ☐ Water (Weather resilience)



2026 CSP-RPP

Conservation Practices

Code	Asset Name	Crop	Forest	Pasture	Range
328	Conservation Crop Rotation	Y	N	N	N
330	Contour Farming	Y	N	N	N
331	Contour Orchard and Other Perennial Crop	Y	N	N	N
340	Cover Crop	Y	Y	Y	N
554	Drainage Water Management	Y	Y	Y	Y
511	Forage Harvest Management	Y	Y	Y	Y
666	Forest Stand Improvement	N	Y	Y	N
449	Irrigation Water Management	Y	Y	Y	N
484	Mulching	Y	Y	Y	Y
590	Nutrient Management	Y	Y	Y	N
595	Pest Management Conservation System	Y	Y	Y	Y
528	Prescribed Grazing	Y	Y	Y	Y
329	Residue and Tillage Management, No Till	Y	N	N	N
345	Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced	Y	N	N	N
585	Stripcropping	Y	N	N	N

Conservation Evaluation and Monitoring Activities

Code	Asset Name	Crop	Forest	Pasture	Range
CEMA 216	Soil Health Testing	Y	Y	Y	Y
CEMA 217	Soil and Source Testing for Nutrient Management	Y	Y	Y	Y

Conservation Planning Activity

Code	Asset Name	Crop	Forest	Pasture	Range
CPA 199	Conservation Plan	Y	Y	Y	Y

Regenerative Pilot Program CSP Requirements

- **Whole Farm Assessment**
 - A complete assessment of all applicable resource concerns is required, with the goal of establishing a whole farm plan within one year after obligation.
 - Soil and water resource concerns are addressed on one land use
- **Primary Practices**
- **Soil Health Testing**
 - First and last year of the contract
- **5-year contract**



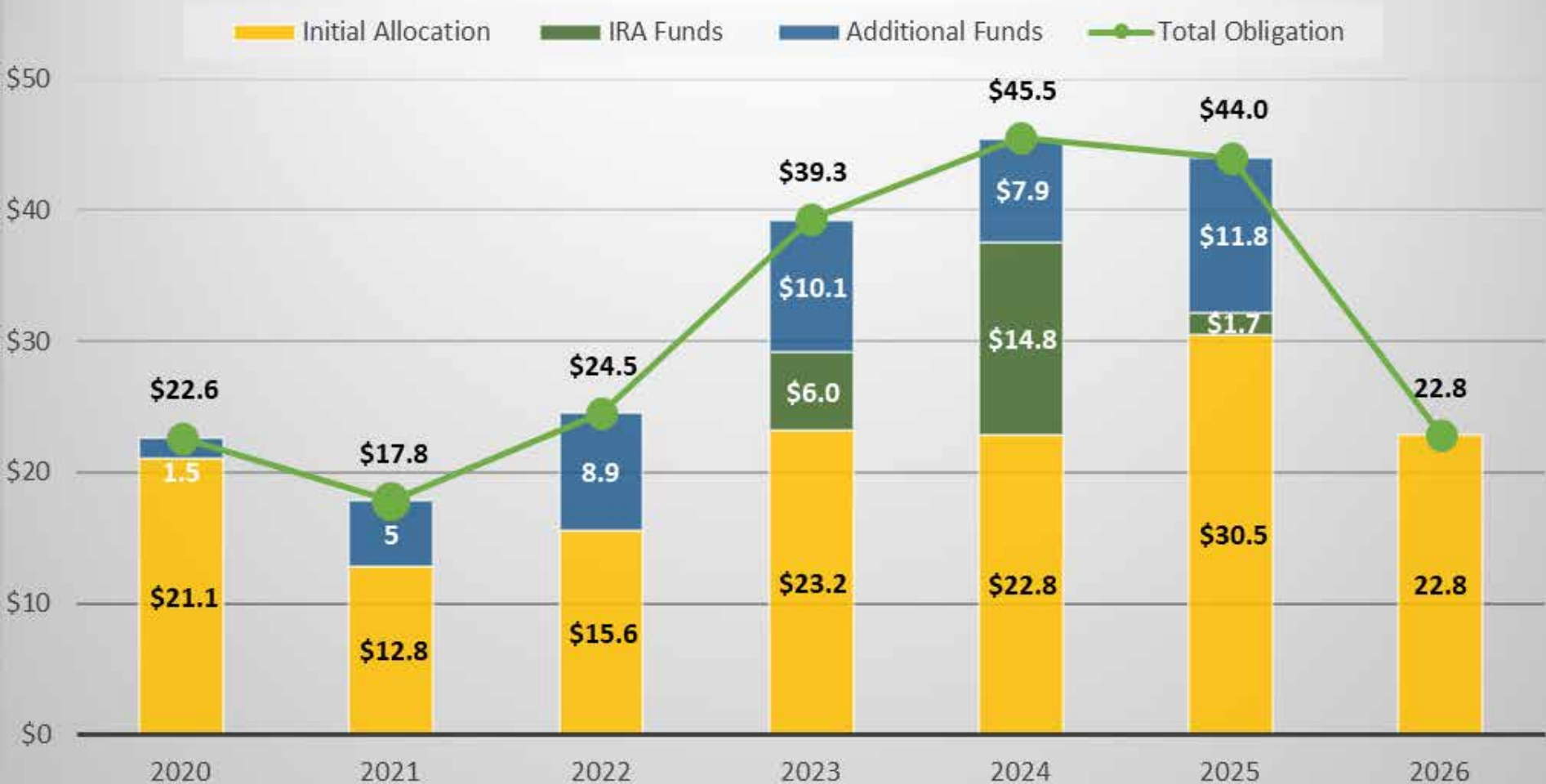
2026 CSP Changes

- **Payment Schedule and Activities**
 - No longer have enhancements or bundles
 - Plan conservation practices
 - Same payment rates as EQIP
 - Exceptions:
 - Existing activity payment
 - Supplemental payments
 - Cover crop
 - No historically underserved payment rate
- **Newly eligible/newly acquired land modifications**
- **Contract limit increase**
 - Individuals and entities: \$300,000
 - General Partnerships and Joint Ventures: \$600,000



MN CSP Allocations

MN CSP Funds (in Millions)

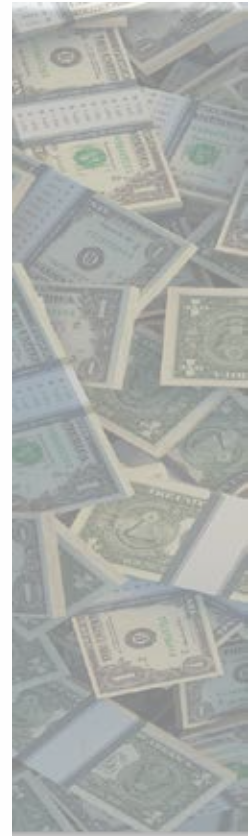




2026 CSP Allocation

Fund allocation breakdown

- **5% Beginning Farmer/Rancher**
- **5% Socially Disadvantaged Farmer/Rancher**
- **25% RPP**
- **65% General Agland and Forestry Applications**
 - **\$500,000 (?) Organic**

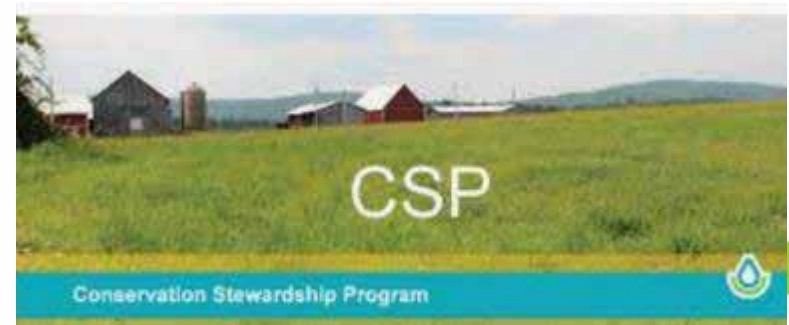
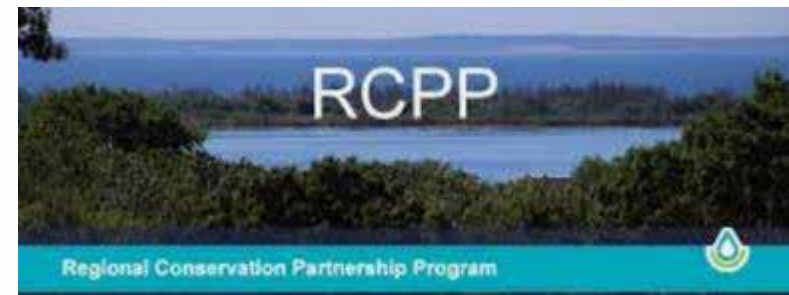
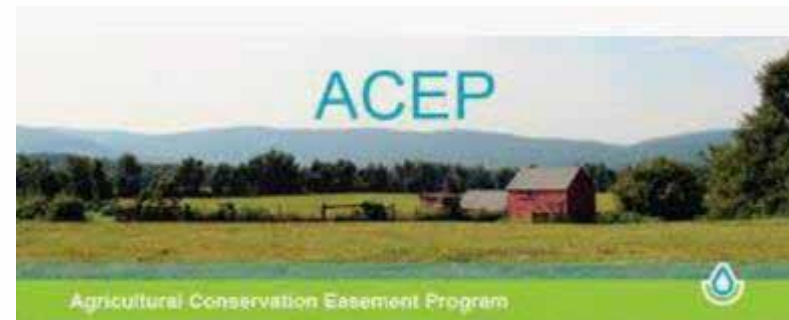


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2026 Program Updates



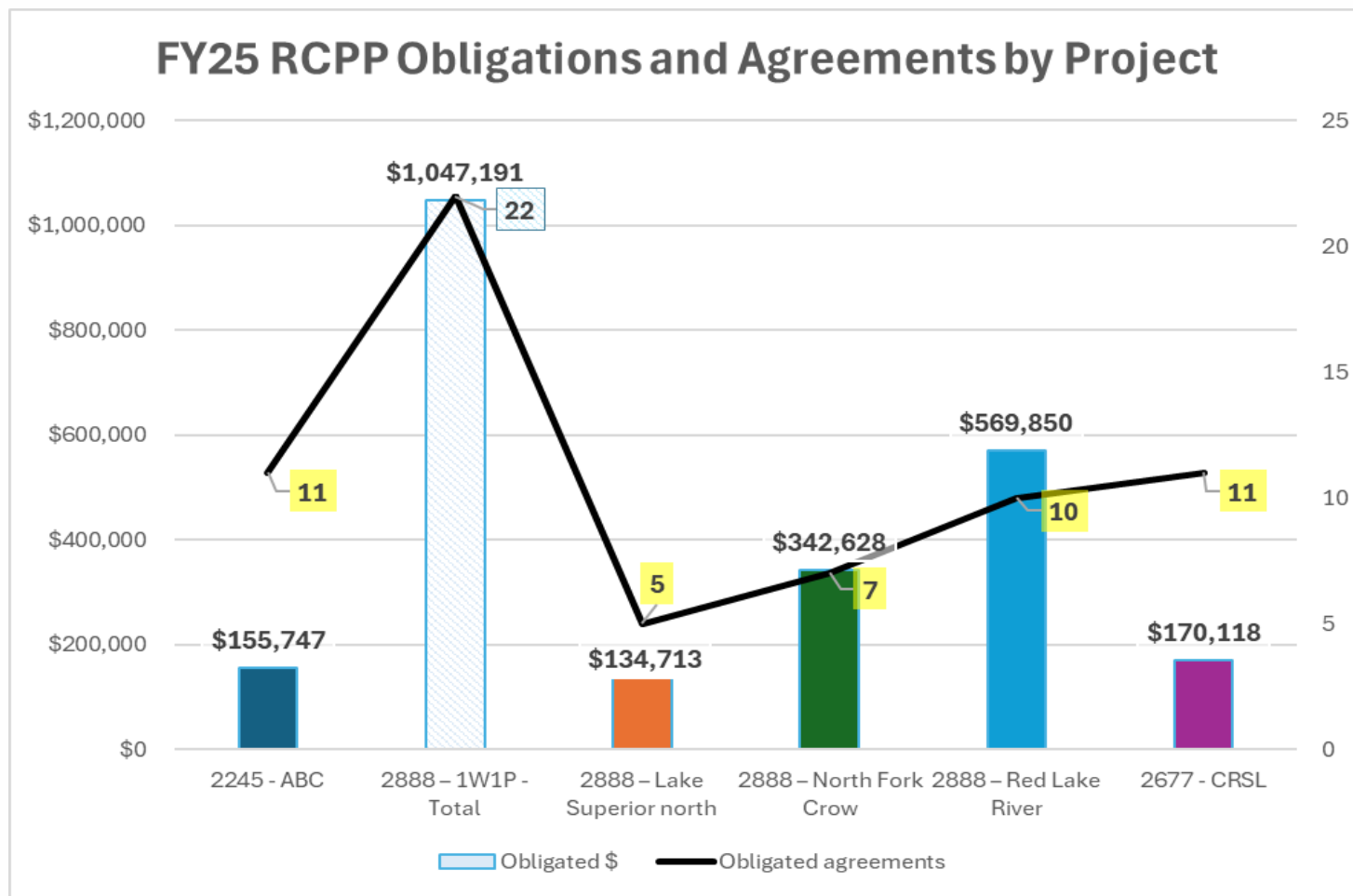
RCPP

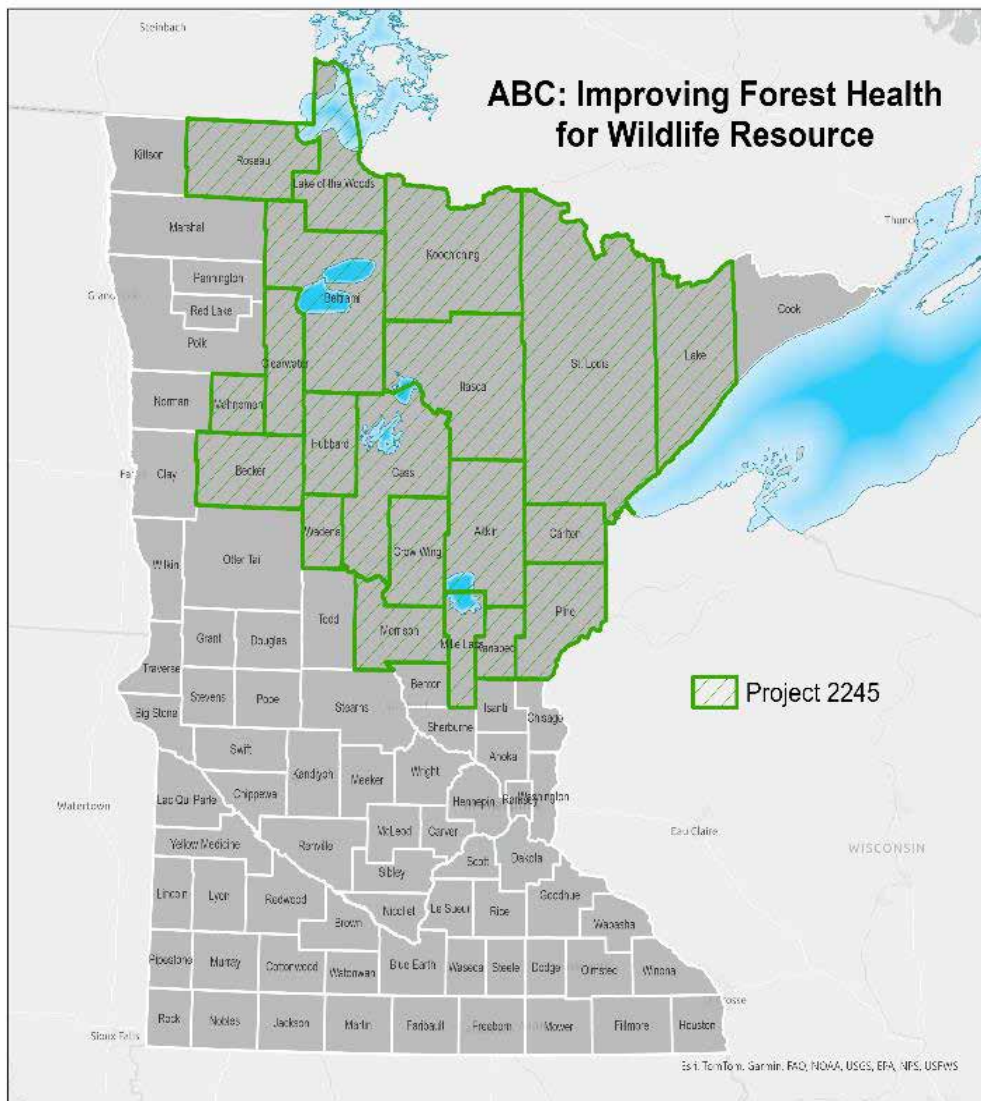


**REGIONAL CONSERVATION
PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**

44 Producer Contracts

\$1,373,056 obligated between 3 RCPP projects.





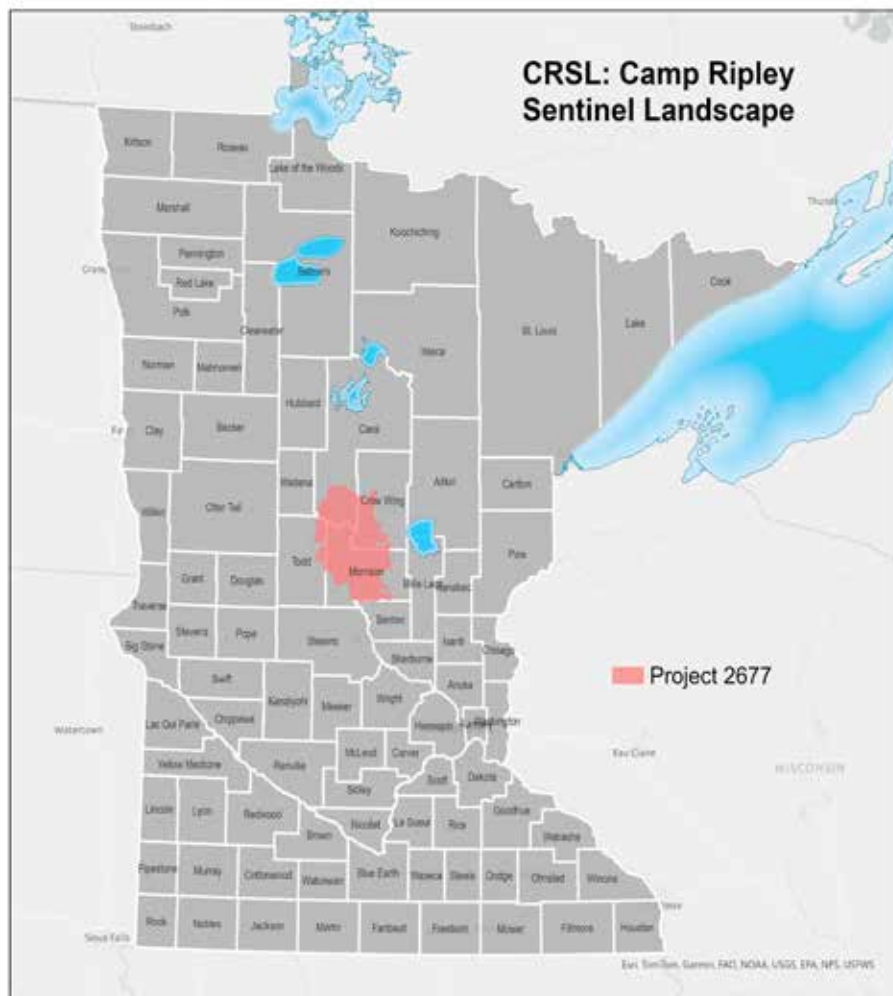
2245 - American Bird Conservancy (ABC) – Improving Forest Health for Wildlife Resources (MN, WI, MI)

- 30 applications were assessed and ranked for this signup.
- \$155,747 obligated
- 11 contracts obligated



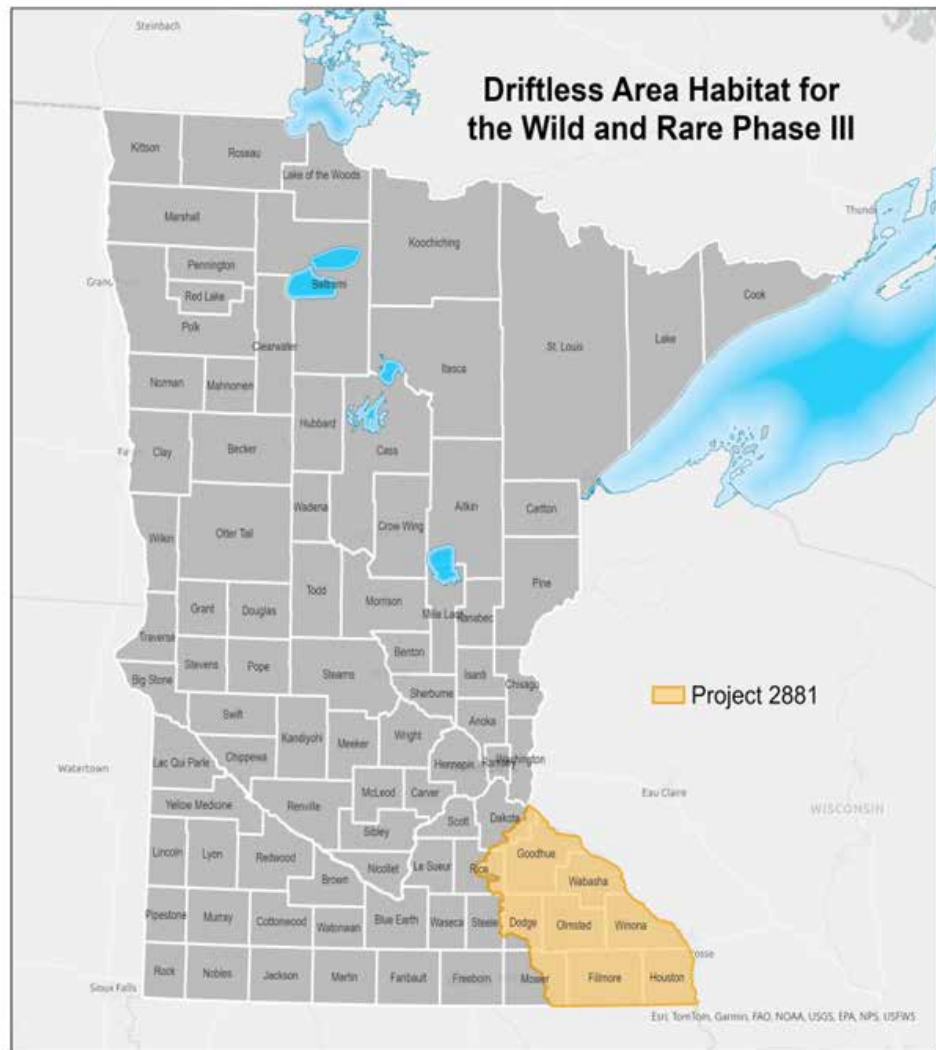
2888 – Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts - One Watershed One Plan (MASWCD – 1W1P)

- There were 4 Watersheds in FY25
 - A total of \$1,047,191 and 22 contracts obligated
 - Red Lake River: \$569,850 and 10 contracts obligated.
 - Lake Superior North: \$134,713 and 5 contracts obligated
 - North Fork Crow: \$342,628 and 7 contracts obligated
 - Root River: 0 contracts



2677 – Morrison SWCD – Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape (CRSL)

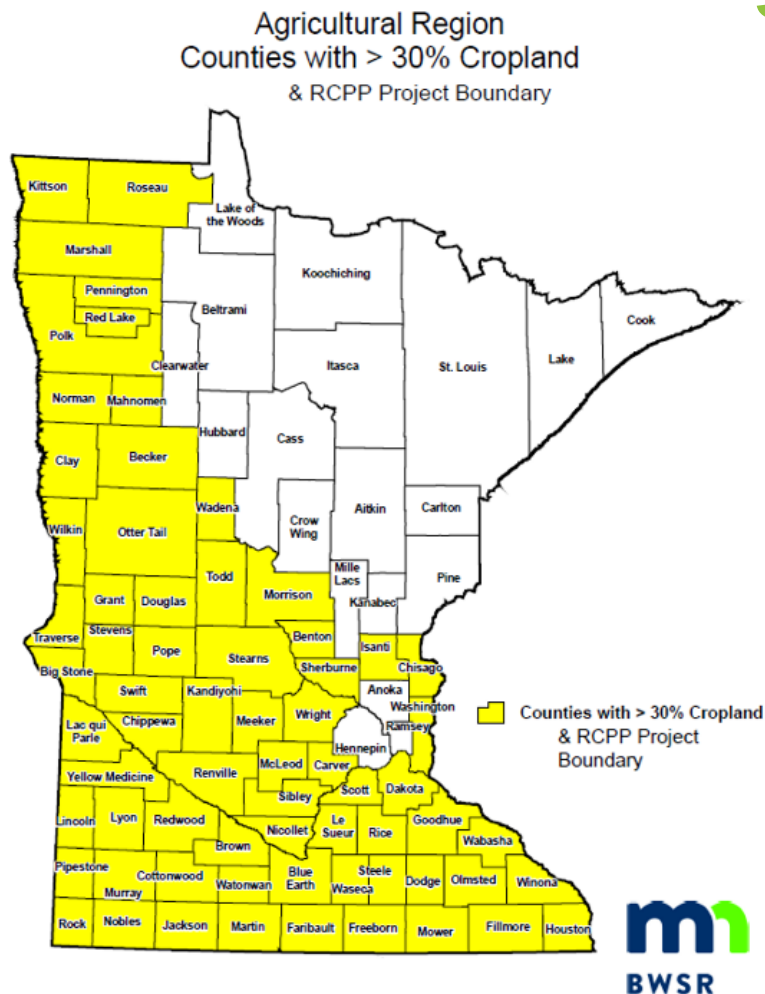
- 12 applications were assessed and ranked for this signup.
- \$170,118 obligated
- 11 contracts obligated



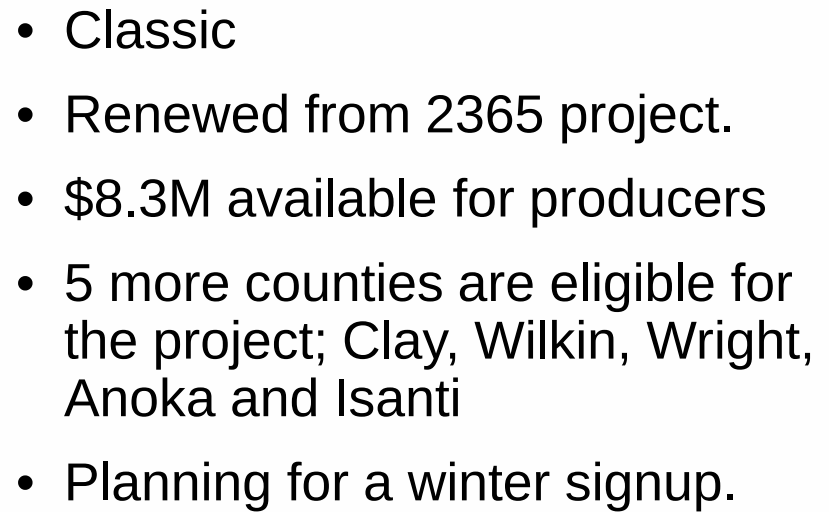
2881 Trout Unlimited Driftless Area -Habitat for the Wild and Rare Phase (MN, WI)

- \$990,000 available for the project
- Dakota, Rice, Goodhue, Steele, Dodge, Olmstead, Wabasha, Winona, Mower, Fillmore and Houston counties
- No applicants for FY2025.

3053 -BWSR - Advancing Soil Health in MN Agriculture



- FY23 Award
- Alternative Funding Arrangement (AFA)
- \$25M RCPP to Producers
- \$25M BWSR Staff, Training and to producers
- Signups are currently underway with 68 SWCDs.

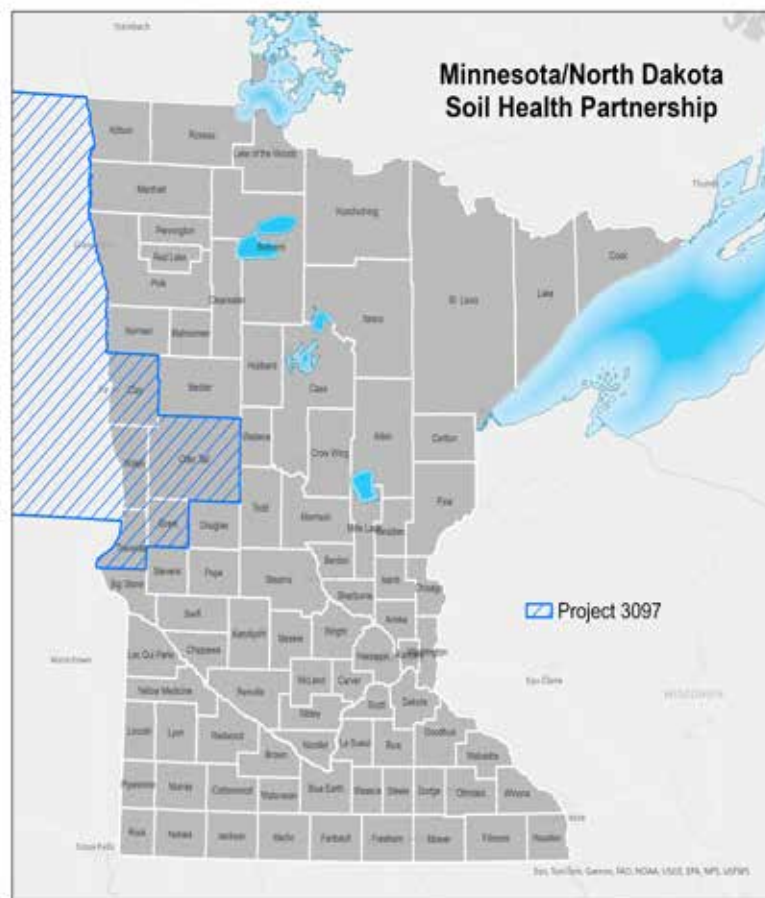


MN is included in the following projects

3097 – Red River Basin Commission - ND and MN Supply Chain Soil Health Partnership (**AFA- ND Lead**)

3535 – American Coalition for Ethanol - Expanding Soil Health Through Carbon Markets (**AFA – SD Lead**; IA, IL, IN, KS, MN, MO, NE, OH, SD, and WI)

3097 –Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) – ND/MN Supply Chain Soil Health Partnership

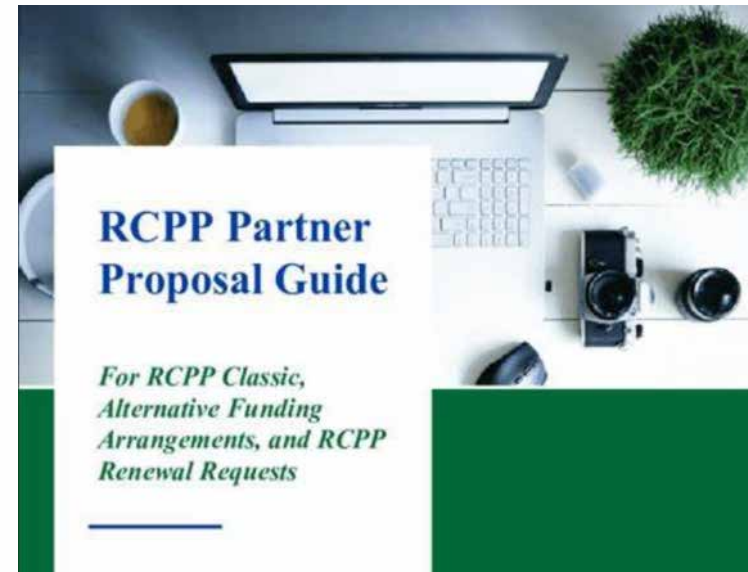


- FY23 Award
- Alternative Funding Arrangement (AFA)
- \$15M RCPP in financial assistance.
 - \$5M for MN producers
- Signups are currently underway with the 5 MN SWCDs: Clay, Wilkin, Otter Tail, Traverse, Grant

FY2025 Proposals – was not announced **FY2026 Proposals – possible future announcement**

**If announced: How
much/which funds?**

**MN will need to prioritize
projects where partners will
deliver much or all the
Technical Assistance.**



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Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) Updates



FY25- ACEP Funds Allocation

ACEP WRE General: \$ 1,271,711

§ Rollover funding for 1 application for ~\$1,235,000

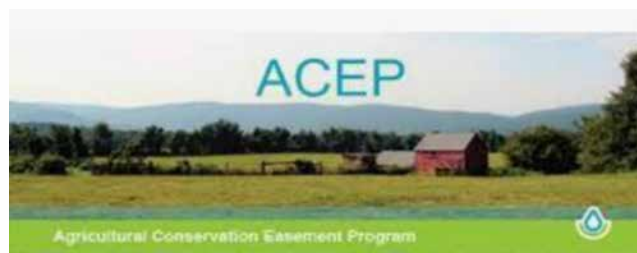
ACEP Stewardship: \$643,000

§ +\$250,000

§ +\$1.7 million – for 5 year burn contract

§ Anticipate burning over 16,000 acres in the next 5 years

§ Total: ~\$2.6 million



FY26- ACEP Funds Allocation

§ACEP ALE General: \$ 1,000,000

§ Requires eligible entity willing and able to hold easements

§ No applications

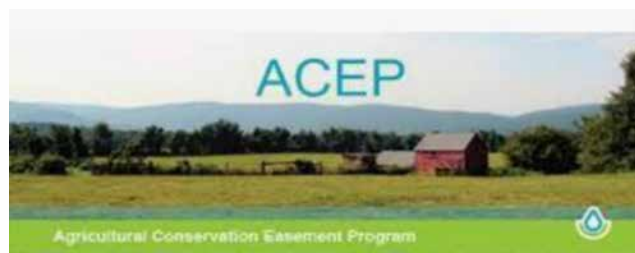
§ACEP WRE General: \$ 1,000,000

§ Anticipate funding 1-2 applications

§ Changes to Easement Valuations – subcommittee presentation

§ACEP Stewardship: \$1,537,000

§ To fund management and repairs on existing closed easements



MN Existing Easements

Program	Number of Easements	Number of Acres
ACEP-Agriculture Land Easements (ALE)	2	180
ACEP-Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)	23	2,508
Emergency Watershed Protection Program – Floodplain Easements (EWPP-FPE)	41	5,604
Emergency Wetland Reserve Program (EWRP)	25	2,103
Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP)	62	7,164
Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)	4	215
RCPP-Healthy Forest Reserve Programs (HFRP)	1	429
RCPP-WRE	2	115
Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)	965	115,282
Total	1,125	133,600

Monitoring Workload

§Every easement must be monitored every year

§25-50% of easements are monitored onsite every year

§Partner Assistance:

§FY26 ~215 onsite to be completed by PF

§FY25 ~ 175 onsite completed by PF

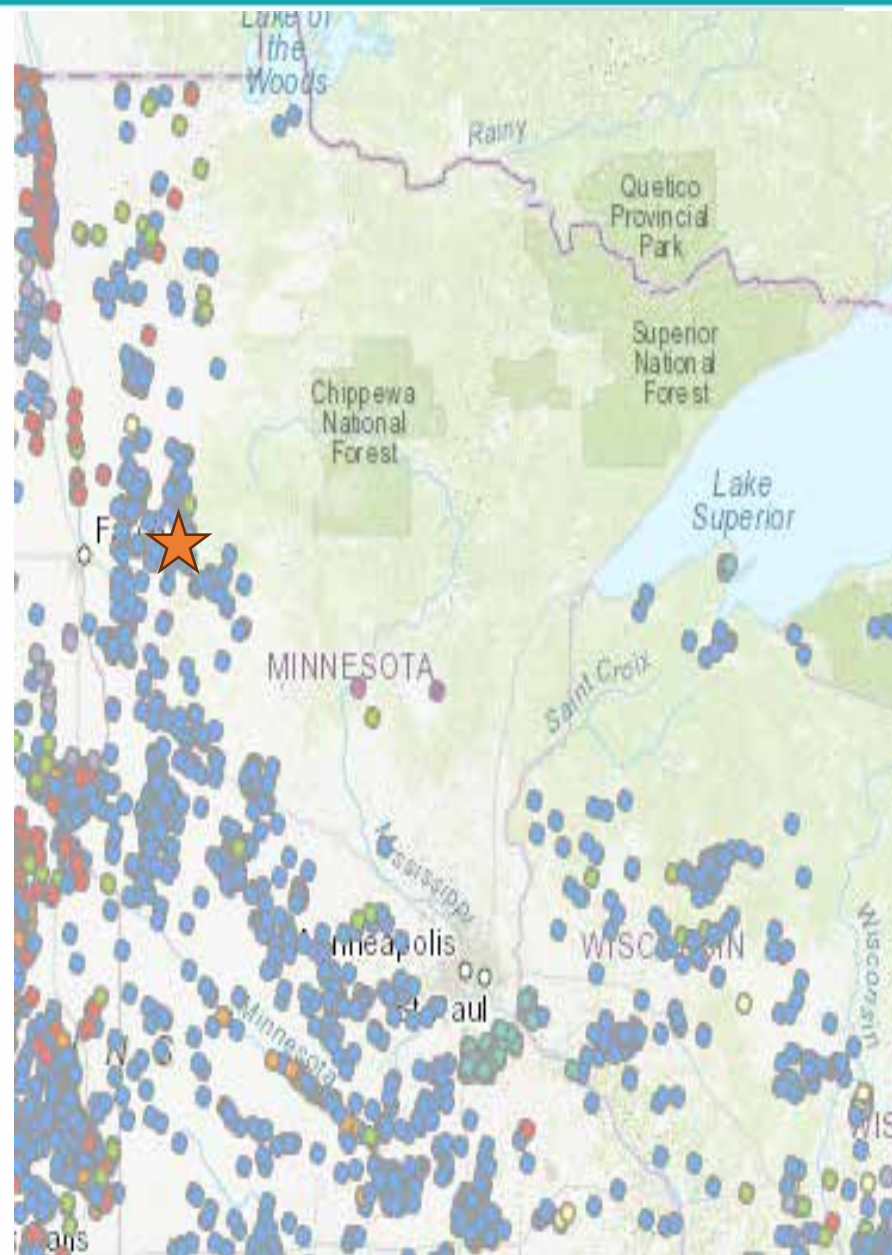
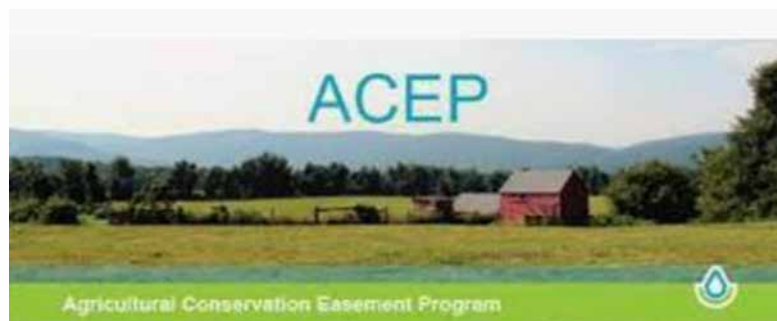
§FY24 ~ 150 onsite completed by PF

Easements and Staffing

Remaining Field Staff in MN:

§2 NTCS full-time Employees
in Fergus Falls

§2 ACES part-time
employees in Fergus Falls
and Rochester



Discussion /Questions

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