



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) is a voluntary opportunity for farmers and agricultural landowners to take the lead in implementing conservation practices that protect our water. Those who implement and maintain approved farm management practices will be certified and in turn obtain regulatory certainty for a period of ten years. This program addresses concerns about the changing regulatory requirements from multiple state and federal agencies. Certainty is a commitment provided by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, the Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

WORKING WITH FARMERS TO ACHIEVE WATER QUALITY RESULTS

Efforts to deliver the program statewide began in July of 2015. Working with the SWCDs in the state, eight regions have been organized and partners identified to deliver certification to producers. Local staff are assessing and certifying producers in two of the regions currently with the other regions soon to follow. A promotion grant offered to SWCDs should yield at least 750 applications by the end of FY2016, adding to the 264 applications already signed by producers.

RESULTS AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2015:

71 certified farms totaling
39,695 certified acres implementing
195 NEW conservation practices.

CONSERVATION DELIVERED

A total of 195 new structural conservation practices have been installed or will be installed as part of the MAWQCP. These practices include:

- Water and Sediment Control Basins
- Agricultural Waste Facilities
- Contour Buffers
- Terrace Projects
- Streambank Protection Projects
- Grassed Waterways
- Cover Crops



The Vold family (Greg, Richard, Dorothy, Suzanne, and Brad), operators of Dorrich Dairy, receive their MAWQCP field sign. Also pictured: Brad Redlin (MDA), Grant Pearson (Stearns County SWCD) and Holly Kovarik (Pope County SWCD).