



BWSR Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program Grant for FY 2016

Fillmore Soil and Water Conservation District

BWSR Grant Awarded
\$ 6,000

Grant Period (incl. extensions)
From: November 17, 2015
To: May 31, 2016

Funds Returned to State
Type \$0
Date Fund Returned: N/A

Expenditures by Category

As of 12/31/2016

Administration/Coordination	
Project Development	
Technical and Engineering	\$ 6,000.00
Construction	
Total Expenditures	\$ 6,000.00

PROJECT CONTACT

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Prepared by Fillmore SWCD for BWSR Website Reporting Requirements



The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) transferred to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Clean Water Fund (CWF) funds appropriated to the agency to implement the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program statewide.

The funds are being used by Fillmore SWCD to promote the program and provide assistance to landowners and operators who wish to enroll in the program.

Outputs and Outcomes

Outputs:

2015: SWCD staff planned and conducted a meeting on December 14, 2015 in Preston attended by 15 farmers who are leaders in local ag and producer groups. Mark Root, AWQCP certifier, presented information about the certification process. Attendees shared ideas for promoting the program with members of ag and producer groups. Staff time: Two technicians (4 hrs x \$46.22/hr. and 8.75 hrs x \$49.96/hr.)

January 1 to May 31, 2016: Two staff attended three open houses at local implement dealers in February with materials available for attendees. An estimated 800 people attended these events. The program was promoted on the SWCD website, Facebook page and in the newspaper insert published in February that went to over 10,000 households. Staff made follow up phone calls to people who had attended events and had expressed interest in the program to encourage them to sign up. Radio ads ran the entire month of May on two local stations. Quarter page ads were run for two weeks in the two local free papers (~25,000 distribution) plus all five community newspapers. Four AWQCP applications were completed from Fillmore County by May 31, 2016. One additional application was received on June 17, 2016. Two applicants have received certification, one is in progress, and two are new applicants. SWCD staff assisted with gathering information for some applicants. Staff time: Resource Conservation Technician 4.5 hrs x \$46.22/hr., Engineering Technician 20.75 hrs x \$49.96/hr. and Administrator 15.5 hrs x \$55.62/hr.



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.

Through this program, certified producers receive:

- Regulatory certainty: certified producers are deemed to be in compliance with any new water quality rules or laws during the period of certification
- Recognition: certified producers may use their status to promote their business as protective of water quality
- Priority for technical assistance: producers seeking certification can obtain specially designated technical and financial assistance to implement practices that promote water quality

Through this program, the public receives:

- Assurance that certified producers are using conservation practices to protect Minnesota's lakes, rivers and streams