

CONSERVE Todd County: Field borders and their benefits.

Submitted by Todd County NRCS

Sometimes in a quest for bigger harvests, producers put every inch of land to work. But more land for crops or pastures doesn't always lead to bigger yields.

It's best to use land for its greatest purpose, enabling more than a traditional yield. In addition to the harvest, the farm or ranch provides habitat for wildlife and benefits our soil, water and air.

Producers in Todd County and across the United States use a number of conservation practices to best use working lands. One common way producers do this is through conservation field borders.

Field borders make operating easy for farm equipment, providing a sod based area at the edge of the field to turn machinery during field operations. They also protect water quality by trapping sediment and nutrients, much like a filter. These planted areas, depending on their location, reduce erosion, and trap sediment and nutrients that can have negative effects downstream. They also slow water down as it runs off fields.

Properly managed field borders increase plant diversity and the availability of food sources such as seeds and insects for cottontail rabbits, wild turkeys, gray fox and many other wildlife species. Many of these species have increased in population as field borders have been implemented.

Not only can field borders serve as a wildlife-friendly practice, but they can be convenient features on farms.

For more information, Contact NRCS at:

607 9th St NE
Long Prairie, MN 56347
(320)732-6618 ext.3