



Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

MAWQCP Incentives

June 2016

The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) is designed to accelerate adoption of on-farm practices that protect Minnesota's waters. Producers who implement and maintain approved management practices will be certified and in turn obtain "regulatory certainty" for a period of 10 years. Under the program, a producer demonstrating the implementation of best management practices to protect water quality receives a 10-year certification and will be regarded as meeting any new targeted reductions and water quality regulations that occur in those 10 years.

Incentives: MAWQCP provides both non-financial incentives such as certainty, recognition and good stewardship, as well as financial incentives from varied sources.

Producers Eligibility: These funds are available to Minnesota producers who are certified or actively seeking certification as evidenced by a signed MAWQCP Application.

Sources of Financial Assistance: Dedicated financial assistance for the MAWQCP comes from two sources, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service/RCPP EQIP, WRE and CSP and MAWQCP/Clean Water Funds.

- The first is the MAWQCP RCPP EQIP with up to \$1.4 million annually available statewide for producers to install practices as part of a Certification Agreement. Eligible practices and payment rates are described in the FY2016 MAWQCP RCPP EQIP payment schedule. Funds are also available for WRE easements and CSP.
- The second source is MAWQCP Financial Assistance Grant. Producers must have a signed MAWQCP producer application and the proposed agricultural best management practice must have been determined beneficial to water quality through the MAWQCP assessment process. Additionally, the practice will be identified in Exhibit A of the MAWQCP Certification Agreement. Funding per producer is limited to \$5000 per fiscal year. The total public payment (EQIP, CWF, State Cost share) cannot exceed 75% of total cost. Applications for the 2016 MAWQCP are open with no deadline time. Funds are limited and are granted on a first come basis. Grant applications are reviewed as received. The approved amount will be based on estimated total cost of practice, less committed/estimated payment from other sources. Grant awards will be paid when proof of project completion and landowner/operator payments have been made to the contractor and verification of payment has been received by the MDA. (See grant info at www.mylandmylegacy.com.) Eligible practices are identified from the following list by the certifying agent and approved by MDA staff.

MAWQCP Financial Assistance Grant Eligible Practices June 2016

Access Control	Prescribed Grazing
Alternative Drain Tile Intakes (rock, pattern, Agri Drain	Pumping Plant
H2O Quality Intakes/no perforated risers)	Residue and Tillage Management - No-Till/ Strip Till/ Direct Seed
Channel Bed Stabilization	Residue and Tillage Management - Ridge Till
Conservation Cover	Riparian Forest Buffer
Constructed Wetland	Roof Runoff Control (feedlot)
Contour Buffer Strips	Sediment Basin
Cover Crop	Septic system upgrade (<i>Imminent Threat to Public Health designated only</i>)
Critical Area Planting	Spring Development
Denityfying Bioreactor	Stream Crossing
Diversion	Streambank and Shoreline Protection
Drainage Water Management	Stripcropping
Feedlot/Wastewater Filter Strip	Structure for Water Control
Fence	Subsurface Drain
Field Border	Terrace
Filter Strip	Trails and Walkways
Forage and Biomass Planting	Tree & Shrub Site Preparation
Grade Stabilization Structure	Underground Outlet
Grassed Waterway	Vegetated Subsurface Drain Outlet (saturated Buffer)
Heavy Use Area Protection	Vegetative Barriers
Integrated Pest Management	Waste Storage Facility
Irrigation System, Sprinkler	Water & Sediment Control Basin
Irrigation Water Management	Water Well
Karst Sinkhole Treatment	Water Well Decommissioning
Lined Waterway or Outlet	Watering Facility
Mulching	Wetland Restoration
Nutrient Management	
Obstruction Removal	
Open Channel	
Pipeline	
Pond	

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