



# **Nobles Soil and Water Conservation District**

## **Grassland Programs**

The Nobles SWCD assists with the marketing, promotion, technical assistance and management of several grassland programs designed to improve water quality, reduce soil erosion and improve wildlife habitat. The Nobles SWCD partners with other agencies such as the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Minnesota DNR, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Watershed Districts and other Conservation Groups. These partnerships allow us to work with landowners with many different programs available. Please review the list of available programs and contact our office if you have any interest in obtaining more information on a program or to receive an estimate of program benefits available to you.

### **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)**

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a program designed to take in eligible cropped and non-cropped property to seed the area down to native grasses and in some cases trees. There are close to 30 different practices that can be signed into by landowners. The most common CRP practices available to Nobles County residents include grassed filterstrips, wetland restorations, windbreaks, living snow fences and riparian buffers. CRP programs in Nobles County provide a rental payment to landowners on a per acre rate with incentive payments for some practices. Rental rates are based on soil types on the property. Landowners in Nobles County can expect payments in the range of \$104 to \$192 per acre depending on soil type and practice. Many landowners take advantage of CRP programs to “square off” cropland acres for ease of farming. Most non-crop areas eligible for CRP can assume a payment rate of close to \$80 per acre.



## **Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM)**

Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) is a state easement program that provides a onetime up-front payment to permanently leave property in grass or tree habitat. RIM programs can differ from year to year depending on legislative goals and funding available. Landowners who sign up for a RIM easement will seed down areas into native grasses or trees depending on program and will have control of the property for perpetuity. Landowners maintain all ownership rights including hunting rights. Residents in Nobles County can expect to receive between \$3,000 and \$4,500 per acre for a permanent RIM easement.



## **Native Buffer Grant**

The State of Minnesota Native Buffer Grant provides Cost-share funding for landowners who would like to seed down areas into native grasses but are not willing or eligible to sign up for CRP, RIM or other contract/easement programs. Cost-share covers a portion of seed, seeding, site prep and some maintenance costs. Program works well for landowners who want to improve diversity of sites for wildlife benefits.



## **Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program**

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a federal program that provides cost-share for landowners to provide wildlife benefits such as native grasses, trees, ponds as well as other eligible items. Contracts can be for very large or small projects in Nobles County. Signups for this program are generally annual and landowners should plan ahead in regards to what they would like to do with their property prior to sign-up.

**There are many other programs available to landowners including easement and cost-share programs through the Minnesota DNR and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Please contact the Nobles SWCD/NRCS at 507-376-9150 if you have any questions related to grassland/habitat programs in Nobles County.**