

The Resource Stewardship Plan is equivalent to a conservation plan except it addresses multiple pre-specified resource concerns and sets tangible thresholds for the following quality planning criteria: onsite resource health impacts, including soil and plant health, and offsite impacts, including water quality and quantity, air quality, as well as wildlife habitats. The idea behind the Resource Stewardship Plan is that by evaluating conservation plans against tangible stewardship thresholds, NRCS can reward stewardship activities, thereby cultivating renewed client interest in whole-farm conservation planning.

Purpose of the Resource Stewardship Pilot is to have NRCS and Partner Staff at the local level Pilot resource stewardship planning tools, which will produce a final Resource Stewardship Threshold score card. The producer's current management is scored against the resource stewardship thresholds. Those scores for each resource concern have to meet or exceed the thresholds; if not met, the producer has to select conservation practices that will meet or exceed the threshold that is found to be deficient hence a Resource Stewardship Plan is developed. EQIP Funding will be used to address resource concerns identified in the RSP planning process.

NRCS is piloting the resource stewardship plans in Minnesota; Stearns County is the only eligible county for this pilot. If you are located within Stearns County, the first step in seeking NRCS assistance is to call your local USDA Service Center and make an appointment with NRCS staff to see if you are located in the project area or if you may be eligible for other opportunities. NRCS will help you identify the natural resource problems and opportunities on your farm. You can work with NRCS to develop a conservation plan. Financial assistance from NRCS Farm Bill programs or other Federal, State and local conservation programs may be available to help fund some of the conservation practices outlined in your plan.

**Application deadline: July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**Program Contact Information:**

Project Coordinator: Shannon Carpenter, (651) 602-7935, shannon.carpenter@mn.usda.gov

Minnesota EQIP Program Contact: Brenda Tonn, (651) 602-7883, brenda.tonn@mn.usda.gov

**Approved Conservation Practices for Resource Stewardship Pilot (RSP)**

Practice Name and Practice Code	Practice Scenario (if listed only those are eligible for RSP, all others are not to be included in the docket)
Brush Management 314	
Herbaceous Weed Control 315	
Animal Mortality Facility 316	
Conservation Cover 327	
Conservation Crop Rotation 328	
Residue Management – No Till 329	
Contour Farming 330	
Contour Buffer Strips 332	
Prescribed Burn 338	
Cover Crop 340	
Critical Area Planting 342	
Sediment Basin 350	
Water Well Decommissioning 351	
Waste Facility Closure 360	
Diversion 362	
Pond 378	
Windbreak Shelterbelt establishment 380	
Fence 382	
Woody residue treatment 384	
Field Boarder 386	
Riparian Forest Buffer 391	
Filter Strip 393	
Stream Habitat improvement and management 395	
Aquatic Organism Passage 396	
Grade Stabilization Structure 410	
Grassed waterway 412	
Irrigation System, Microirrigation 441	
Sprinkler System 442	
Irrigation Water Management 449	
Lined Waterway Outlet 468	
Access Control 472	
Mulching 484	

Tree and Shrub Site Preparation 490	
Obstruction Removal 500	
Forage Harvest Management 511	
Forage and Biomass Planting 512	
Livestock Pipeline 516	
Pond Sealing or Lining, Flexible Membrane 521A	
Pond Sealing or Lining, Compacted Clay Treatment 521D	
Prescribed Grazing 528	
Pumping Plant 533	
Drainage Water Management 554	
Roof Runoff Structure 558	
Heavy Use Area Protection	Rock/Gravel Surfacing Without Geotextile (Includes Hoof Contact Gravel & Rock)
	HU-Rock/Gravel Surfacing Without Geotextile (Includes Hoof Contact Gravel & Rock)
	Rock/Gravel on Geotextile, Small
	HU-Rock/Gravel on Geotextile, Small
	Rock/Gravel on Geotextile
	HU-Rock/Gravel on Geotextile
Stream Crossing 578	
Streambank and Shoreline Protection 580	
Structure for Water Control 587	
Nutrient Management 590	
Integrated Pest Management 595	
Terrace 590	
Vegetative Barriers 601	
Subsurface Drain 606	Structural Practice Support Drain
	HU-Structural Practice Support Drain
	Secondary Main Retrofit for DWM
	HU-Secondary Main Retrofit for DWM
Tree/Shrub Establishment 612	
Watering Facility 614	
Underground Outlet 620	
Waste Treatment 629	
Water & Sediment Control Basin 638	
Water Well 642	

Early Successional Habitat Development and Management 647	
Structures for Wildlife 649	
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation 650	
Constructed Wetland 656	
Wetland Restoration 657	
Forest Stand Improvement 666	
Vegetated Subsurface Drain Outlet 739	
Denitrifying Bioreactor 747	