

## **RANDY SCHMIDT | CSP CONTRACT HOLDER** *S&S Ag Enterprises, LLC – Crop, Dairy, Custom Heifer* *Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin*



Randy Schmidt farms 6,000 acres in Door County, and is proud to be a CSP contract holder. “Randy is very conservation minded,” says nutrient management planner, Nathen Nysse. “When I discovered that CSP accommodates large farms, I instantly suggested that Randy get involved. It’s a perfect way for him to add new conservation practices that will benefit not only his operation, but also his neighbors and the environment. CSP is a great opportunity.”

Participating in CSP gave Randy and his team a chance to sit down with landowners to discuss the conservation practices they were implementing. This in turn allowed them to confront misunderstandings about the environmental impacts of modern farming practices. “Sitting down with other landowners helps spread the word that we’re doing more than farming as usual. Everyone is concerned about the environment here in Door County, and signing up with CSP helps demonstrate that we’re committed to conservation.”

Randy currently practices minimum till, no-till, soil amendments and minimum residue application. Through CSP he’s agreed to add tissue sampling, and variable rate planting and nutrient application.

According to Nathen, “Sign-up was straightforward because we had our crop rotations in hand.” Randy says that the payments will not cover his costs, but enrolled anyway because, “It’s the right thing to do for the environment and the future of farming—being good stewards of the land is vital to agriculture.”

“It’s about protecting the environment for the next generation,” says Randy, “My dad did that for me, and I want to do that for my kids. Establishing good conservation is the right thing to do.”

### **CONTRACT SNAPSHOT**

#### **Previous On-Farm Conservation Practices:**

- **Minimum-till and no-till**
- **Minimum residue application (30% corn residue)**
- **Gypsum soil amendment to reduce runoff**

#### **Conservation Improvements through CSP:**

- **Crop tissue sampling for nitrogen**
- **Variable rate technology (VRT) for planting and nutrients**

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