

NRCS **NEWS RELEASE**

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Mississippi River Basin Conservation Project Proposals Due March 19

ST. PAUL, MN, March 12, 2012 – State Conservationist Don Baloun reminds potential applicants that Monday, March 19, is the last day to submit proposals for water quality and wetland conservation projects through the Natural Resources Conservation Service’s Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI).

“This is a great opportunity for conservation-minded farmers to do even more to protect and improve one of America’s most valuable resources,” Baloun said.

A list of eligible Minnesota watersheds and application addresses is published in the January 3, 2012, Federal Register available at <http://federalregister.gov/a/2011-33692>

Federally-recognized Indian tribes, state and local units of governments, farmer cooperatives, producer associations, institutions of higher education and other nongovernmental organizations are encouraged to apply.

Approved proposals will include conservation practices that prevent, control and trap nutrient runoff, improve wildlife habitat, restore wetlands, and keep agricultural operations productive. Examples of such practices are nutrient, residue and tillage management, crop rotation and tree planting.

Accepted projects would support conservation efforts already underway on agricultural operations in the basin, improve the overall health of the Mississippi River and help reduce hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico.

Learn more about MRBI and other NRCS initiatives and programs in Minnesota <http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/>, or visit the nearest Minnesota USDA service center. The Minnesota Office Locator is at <http://go.usa.gov/PYb>.

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