

# Fond du Lac County Success from the Field

## Resource Management Planning, a Concept that STILL Works

### Background

Jeffrey Bord and his wife, Kathy, are conservation minded farmers who have implemented various practices to protect the land they operate, while also helping them meet their bottom line. Their operation was formerly set up for dairy, however it has transitioned to being exclusively a row crop operation.

### Highlights

RMS stands for Resource Management System Planning. It involves the inventory of a landowner’s total operation, (all land uses). It gives the landowner a baseline plan to identify resource concerns, and provides ideas and methods to address those resource concerns. The RMS plan takes into account landowner goals and expectations (both present and future). The RMS plan allows the landowner to do as much or as little as he/she wants to do, but serves to provide an awareness of conservation opportunities; a “roadmap to conservation” for the landowner. It also serves as a tool for the landowner and NRCS to work together. In Jeffrey’s case, this RMS process started many years ago with former District Conservationist, Erv Lesczynski and Jeff’s father and mother, Arlyn and Frances Bord, and continues to this day with Jeff and current Fond du lac District Conservationist, Cory Drummond.

Through RMS planning, Jeffrey continues to maintain contour strips originally installed by his father on areas of highly erodible land through conservation technical assistance (CTA). He also installed filter strips on all of the ditches that run through his land through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Jeff has installed NRCS designed waterways through CTA and CRP assistance. Through Environmental Quality Incentives Program assistance he also closed his ag waste storage system to ensure that there are no groundwater issues. He has also participated in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), switching over his sprayers to use less pressure and cause less drift. Jeff is currently splitting the application of his nitrogen to reduce water quality issues and increase efficiency through a CSP renewal contract. Speaking of N,P and K application, Jeff has been implementing a nutrient management plan for many years through general CTA.

“Jeff lives in one of the hilliest areas of Fond du Lac County. That in itself provides many challenges to conserve the soil



Jeff Board standing in one of many filter strips on his farm. In the background he has contour strips to reduce erosion on HEL ground.

and protect the water. I love Jeff’s operation because it looks like a post card. The contour strips, the waterways, the filter strips along with no-tilling and nutrient management is a system of practices working together to provide conservation on the landscape,” explained Cory Drummond, NRCS District Conservationist.

### Future Plans

Jeff has four more years on his renewal CSP contract, but says, “A farmers job is never done and conservation is a process. Machinery changes, technology changes and we have to adapt and try practices that will help our farm and preserve the resources here.”



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