Easement Landowner Profile

Wallace Family
Sac County

Craig and Jackie Wallace purchased their 90-acre Sac County Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in 2013.

"Several WRP easements have popped up in the Sac County area and that has helped to generate a lot of interest in the program," said the Wallace's son, Ben, who helps manage and maintain their easement.

Enjoying the Benefits

The local Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) fisheries and wildlife office exposed our family to WRP, Wallace said.

"We experience the benefits of our WRP easement on many levels," said Ben. "The native grasslands and wetland restoration provide critical habitat for fish and wildlife species - both game and non-game. Our family enjoys hunting waterfowl, upland birds, and deer on our property.

Family Conservation Tradition

Ben Wallace comes from a long lineage of conservation-minded family members. "We find value in protecting and enhancing our natural resources," he said. "Establishing perennial grasses and restoring wetlands improves water quality and helps reduce soil erosion."

Wallace says oxbow restorations on the family easement are providing habitat for the Topeka shiner - a Federally-listed endangered species.

"Watching wildlife colonize the area has been very rewarding," he said. "It just goes to show that if you construct or plant the proper habitat, nature will find a way to fill the void that was once there."

Wallace says he would like to see more easements pop up around the state. "I would like to see the wetland programs expanded and funded at a higher level so that more of these easements can be restored."

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