

*25 Years of NRCS Conservation Easements
Natural Resources Conservation Service*

Easement Landowner Profile
Jack and Diane Munch
Kossuth County



Jack and Diane Munch from Fenton, Iowa, own two adjacent easements in Kossuth County that total 200 acres of upland prairie and pothole wetlands.

Background

Back in the early 2000’s the local NRCS field office staff approached the Munches about the wetland restoration potential on their land. The couple decided to put in an application for the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), and talked with their renter. He told them that “you’d be foolish not to sign up.”

They enrolled their first parcel (155 acres) in 2004 and found that they liked the program so well that they enrolled the second parcel (45 acres) in 2012.

The family has owned the land for more than 50 years. It was farmed for generations, but Jack and Diane felt that enrolling the land into a conservation easement would be the best fit for their overall goals, and they could not be happier with their decision.



Diane and Jack Munch enrolled the first of their two easements in 2004 into the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP).

Jack and Diane live on an acreage adjacent to the easements which enables them to enjoy it daily. Every couple of days they go out in their UTV and spend time on their property together. “I never imagined what our farmland would look like after putting it into the wetland program. It’s beautiful!” said Jack Munch.

Today, native grasses and forbs dominate the vegetation. Their wetlands are teeming with wildlife of all sorts. Deer, pheasants, waterfowl, songbirds, butterflies and even beavers have moved into the area where there was little wildlife before. They even saw a turkey on the property this year, which have never been near their farm before.

Trend Setters

The Munches were the first landowners to seed down permanent habitat and restore wetlands in their small area of Kossuth county. “When we first went into WRP our neighbors thought we were crazy,” said Jack.

Many of these people changed their minds once the easement was restored and the native flowers could be seen from the nearby highway. The local NRCS Service Center received phone calls from people driving by the easement asking their own land would qualify for such an easement.

The couple recently enrolled their remaining cropland into Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) pollinator habitat, and are big local supporters of conservation. Jack said he doesn’t miss daily coffee at the local elevator, and says that their CRP and WRP conservation decisions are still a common topic of discussion among local farmers.