United States Department of Agriculture

NRCS Partners with Central Lakes College to Teach Agricultural Conservation

Minnesota Natural Resources Conservation Service

nrcs.usda.gov/mn

CONSERVATION EDUCATION FOR FUTURE FARMERS & LAND STEWARDS

SAINT PAUL, MINN, Sept. 21, 2020 – **The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)** ihas partnered with **Central Lakes College i**n Staples, MN and 8 other Midwest community colleges to support hands-on student learning about conservation and to foster conservation-minded farmers and ranchers. On Monday, **Community College Alliance for Agriculture Advancement (C2A3)** representatives and **NRCS** signed a national memorandum of understanding, agreeing to enhance and accelerate training and adoption of technologies and best practices for improved agricultural productivity and natural resources stewardship.

"This new National agreement solidifies an existing partnerhsip that provides a framework to work together on common goals," said **Troy Daniels, NRCS MN State Conservationist.** *"The more successful we are, the further we can drive innovation and regenerative practices. It's a wonderul opportunity for us to train existing and future practitioners from the ground up."*

The agreement aims to reach not only agriculture students but also the broader community, through events such as field days.

Photo: Field Day @ Central Lakes College

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Collectively, the **C2A3** colleges are working on a grant through **USDA's North Central Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program**, which seeks to increase awareness, knowledge, and skills related to soil health, cover crops, and no-till agriculture. Newly developed content, like videos and case studies, will help illustrate profitability, sustainability, and productivity concepts. They will share these assets with each other.

Other **C2A3** member institutions include **Clark State Community College** (Springfield, Ohio), **Illinois Central College** (Peoria, Illinois), **Ivy Tech Community College** (Lafayette, Indiana), **Northcentral Technical College** (Wausau, Wisconsin), **Northeast Community College** (Norfolk, Nebraska), **Northeast Iowa Community College** (Calmar, Iowa), **North Dakota State College of Science** (Wahpeton, North Dakota), and **Richland Community College** (Decatur, Illinois).

For more information, visit **nrcs.usda.gov** or contact your local NRCS field office. For more information about **C2A3**, visit the organization's website at **agalliance.net**.