

# SOUTH BRANCH ROOT RIVER WATERSHED PROJECT

## Financial Assistance Programs

# BUFFER BONUS PAYMENTS



Conservation buffers are an excellent practice for filtering contaminants out of field runoff and for increasing water infiltration. They can be even more effective if paired with upland practices. Producers in the South Branch Root River Watershed Project area can receive bonus payments for practicing conservation tillage and nutrient management on cropland adjacent to conservation buffers that are along streams, sinkholes, and wetlands. Buffers must be at least 33 feet in width or meet Continuous CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) requirements. Practices must be maintained for at least three years. The Continuous CRP and other conservation easement programs are available to establish conservation buffers in targeted areas.



- **Conservation Tillage reduces soil erosion, enhances soil organic matter, and conserves soil moisture.**
- **Nutrient management maximizes nutrient use for better yields and less nutrient loss to ground water or streams..**

These practices are limited to 40 acres/year for three years. Payments may be paired with other conservation payments if other program requirements are met.

**Project Sponsors:  
Fillmore County  
Mower County**

- \$7/acre for conservation tillage practices that increase the amount of crop residue on the field over what is currently in place. Planting a cover crop as an alternative to conservation tillage is also eligible for the payment.
- \$4/acre for developing and implementing a nutrient management plan in accordance with University of Minnesota recommendations based on soil tests, and manure tests if applicable.

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