



Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program Endorsements

Many conservation practices targeting water quality have benefits for other conservation goals, and the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program Endorsements provide additional recognition to certified producers who are going above and beyond to implement conservation on their farms. Endorsements build upon the criteria established in the certification assessment process. Endorsements are also an educational opportunity for producers who'd like to learn more about whole farm resilience.



The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Endorsement was developed in consultation with the Pesticide and Fertilizer Management Division at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, the University of Minnesota and Certified Crop Advisors. This endorsement recognizes producers who take an intentional, proactive, and multi-faceted approach to pest management and follow an IPM plan developed by a trained agronomist or person with appropriate credentials.



The Wildlife Endorsement was developed in consultation with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy, Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Monarch Joint Venture, Stearns Soil and Water Conservation District and US Department of Agriculture/ Natural Resources Conservation Service. This endorsement recognizes producers who implement intentional, purposeful actions with wildlife benefits in mind including integrated pest management, species diversity, preservation of food sources and preservation of nesting cover.



The Soil Health Endorsement was developed in consultation with the Minnesota Soil Health Coalition, Minnesota Office of Soil Health, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, Sustainable Farming Association and the United States Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service. This endorsement recognizes producers who manage their operation in accordance with the five core principles of soil health: minimize disturbance, keep the soil covered, maintain a living root, maximize diversity and integrate livestock.



The Climate Smart Farm Endorsement was developed in consultation with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. This endorsement recognizes producers who implement practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and sequester carbon. It is also an opportunity for producers to explore practices that qualify for agricultural carbon markets.