

REINVEST IN MINNESOTA "RIM"
A REPORT ON
THE RIM RESERVE PROGRAM
JANUARY, 1987



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RIM RESERVE PROGRAM

Minnesota Statutes 1986
Chapter 383
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INTRODUCTION

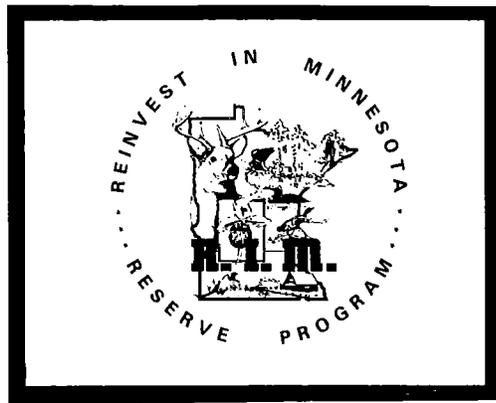
Minnesota has some of the richest cropland in the world. The agricultural products raised on its 23 million agricultural acres places Minnesota very high in overall agricultural production compared to the other 49 states.

However, approximately 2.5 million acres of cropland are categorized as "marginal." These are lands that are severely limited for crop production and are very vulnerable to wind and water erosion. These are the marginal farmland acres targeted for inclusion in the RIM Reserve Program.

The RIM Reserve Program is one of the major initiatives within the Reinvest in Minnesota Resources Act of 1986. The 1986 program goal is to retire marginal agricultural acres from crop production through limited or perpetual conservation easements. A perennial vegetative cover must be established on enrolled acres to control soil erosion, improve water quality and to develop and enhance valuable fish and wildlife habitat.



Governor Rudy Perpich signs the 1986 Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) bill into law. Looking on (left to right) is Senator Steven Novak, Senator Randy Peterson and Representative John Rose. The signing ceremony took place in April at the Emmet D. Williams school in Roseville.



THE RIM RESERVE PROGRAM

(Excerpt from the Soil and Water Conservation Law)

Chapter 40.41 Purpose and Policy

It is the purposes of sections 40.41 to 40.45 to keep certain marginal agricultural land out of crop production or pasture, to protect soil and water quality and support fish and wildlife habitat. It is state policy to encourage the retirement of marginal, highly erodible land, particularly land adjacent to public waters and drainage systems, from crop production and to reestablish a cover of perennial vegetation.

PROGRAM CRITERIA

Eligible Lands:

Lands that are eligible for enrollment in RIM Reserve must meet the definition of marginal croplands as approved by the Commissioner of Agriculture. These soils are inherently unproductive and are subject to significant productivity loss when eroded.



In addition, the land enrolled must meet the following criteria:

- A. Was owned by the applicant as of January 1, 1985;
- B. Is adjacent to marginal agricultural land (up to an acreage equal to the eligible cropland);
- C. Was in crop production for at least two years during the period 1981 to 1985;
- D. Is at least five acres in size or is a whole field;
- E. Is not set aside or retired under another federal or state program;
- F. Is physically possible to crop; and
- G. Does not exceed 20 percent of the landowner's total state agricultural acreage.

Eligible Landowner:

An applicant must be a Minnesota resident who owns eligible cropland, and qualifies as a family farmer, a family farm corporation, or an authorized farm corporation.

Program Options:

- A. Ten-year Easement. A lump sum payment based on 90 percent of the federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) payments in the area of the enrolled land.
- B. Perpetual Easement. A lump sum payment based on 70 percent of the estimated market value of the agricultural land in the township of the enrolled land.

A landowner may not receive more than \$50,000 annually in payments through the program.



Wally Bernhardson, (left) Chairman of the Soil and Water Conservation Board, discusses the RIM Reserve Program with Jim Nichols, Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture.

Public Access:

The landowner retains complete control over public access to RIM Reserve lands.

Easement Restrictions:

The following activities are prohibited on RIM Reserve lands:

- A. Crop production;
- B. Alteration of wildlife habitat;
- C. Grazing; and
- D. Spraying of chemicals or mowing except as needed to comply with noxious weed laws.

The landowner agrees that other land supporting natural vegetation owned or leased as part of the same farm operation will not be converted to agricultural crop production during the term of the easement. Examples of natural vegetative cover include trees, shrubs, permanent pasture, range and wetlands.

Establishing Vegetative Cover:

Approved landowners will receive up to \$75 per acre to establish a perennial grass-legume or native grass cover. Additional assistance up to \$75 per acre will be provided for approved tree and shrub plantings. Supporting conservation practices may also be installed as needed to protect and enhance the area.

Easement Renewal:

An expired ten-year easement may be renewed at the option of the Commissioner of Agriculture for an additional ten-year period or enrolled as a perpetual easement.

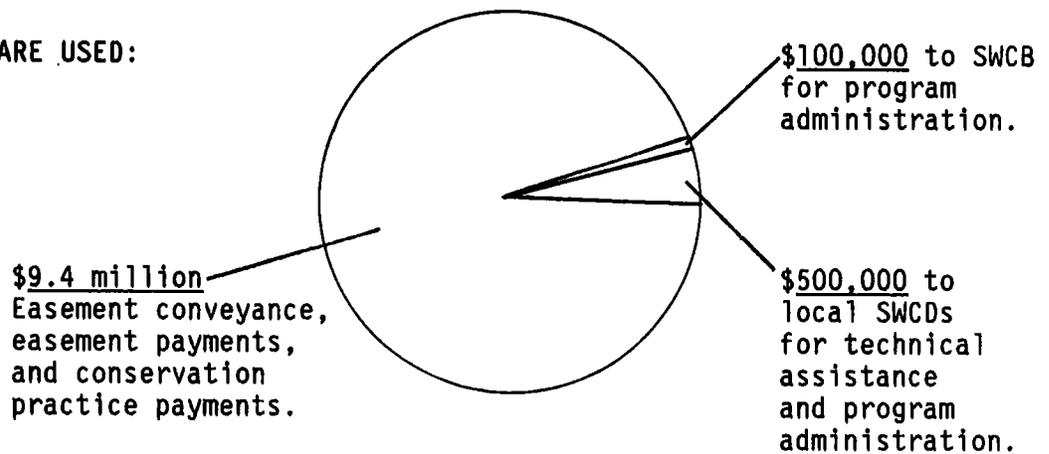


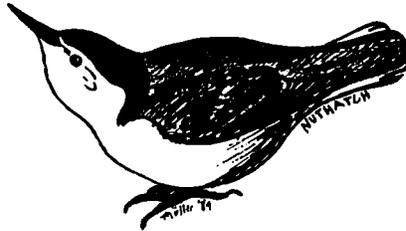


1986 PROGRAM FUNDING

A total of \$10 million was appropriated to the Department of Agriculture, Soil and Water Conservation Board for administration of the RIM Reserve Program and for easement payments.

HOW THE FUNDS ARE USED:





Program Implementation

Local Decision Making:

Each of the 91 Soil and Water Conservation Districts developed local RIM Reserve Screening Committees to identify the areas within the SWCD which are highest priority for RIM Reserve enrollment and to review the applications for enrollment and assign priorities to individual applications.

The local RIM Screening Committee was established by each SWCD and was chaired by a SWCD supervisor.

The following agencies were invited to participate in the local Screening Committee process:

- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR);
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (PCA);
- USDA - Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS);
- USDA - Soil Conservation Service (SCS); and
- USDI - Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

In addition, representatives of private, local and state conservation, farm and environmental organizations were sought as members of the local Screening Committee.

Allocation of Funds:

The RIM Reserve easement funds (\$9.4 million) were allotted to each of the SWCDs according to a formula based on the following:

- Acres of marginal agricultural land;
- Land value factor; and
- Agency priorities (DNR, PCA, USFWS and SCS).

The easement allotment represented the above factors as well as a SWCB decision to establish a \$250,000 maximum allotment per SWCD. This resulted in a \$442,000 balance that was available to SWCDs documenting landowner interest in excess of available funds.

The easement allotment figure (see pages 8 and 9) represents a target amount available to each SWCD. The funds remained in the state RIM Reserve Account until the easement was conveyed. The RIM Reserve service allocation (\$500,000) to SWCDs for program administration was calculated using a \$1,250 minimum allocation per SWCD. Since SWCD personnel were directed to attend training sessions, conduct Screening Committee meetings, and promote public awareness of the program, a minimum allocation was justified. In addition to the minimum allocation, an additional amount was added based on a percentage of the easement allotment.

Application Period:

The application period for enrolling in the RIM Reserve Program was September 29 through October 10, 1986. Local SWCD offices were the central contact for the sign-up. Assistance was provided by the technical agencies serving on the local Screening Committees.



RIM CONSERVATION RESERVE

DISTRICT	EASEMENT ALLOTMENT	UNUSED ALLOTMENT	PRIORITY I ALLOTMENT	PRIORITY II ALLOTMENT	PRIORITY III ALLOTMENT	EMERGENCY ALLOTMENT	TOTAL ALLOTMENT	SERVICE ALLOCATION
AITKIN	\$38,000						\$38,000.00	\$2,900
ANOKA	\$75,000	\$67,452.80					\$7,547.20	\$4,500
BECKER	\$147,000						\$147,000.00	\$7,600
BELTRAMI	\$30,000						\$30,000.00	\$2,500
BENTON	\$170,000			\$2,128.30			\$172,128.30	\$8,600
BIG STONE	\$22,000			\$4,041.00			\$26,041.00	\$2,200
BLUE EARTH	\$122,000			\$1,122.00			\$123,122.00	\$6,500
BROWN	\$62,000			\$1,689.05			\$63,689.05	\$3,900
CARLTON	\$7,000	\$7,000.00					\$0.00	\$1,600
CARVER	\$106,000			\$6,546.66			\$112,546.66	\$5,800
CASS	\$41,000	\$41,000.00					\$0.00	\$3,000
CHIPPEWA	\$62,000			\$13,225.00			\$75,225.00	\$3,900
CHISAGO	\$148,000	\$1,822.40					\$146,177.60	\$7,600
CLAY	\$193,000			\$22,334.71	\$10,789.90		\$226,124.61	\$9,600
CLEARWATER	\$32,000	\$659.80					\$31,340.20	\$2,600
COOK	\$2,000	\$500.00					\$1,500.00	\$1,300
COTTONWOOD	\$92,000			\$20,596.64	\$15,389.20		\$127,985.84	\$5,200
CROW WING	\$14,000	\$14,000.00					\$0.00	\$1,900
DAKOTA	\$212,000			\$20,257.00			\$232,257.00	\$10,400
DODGE	\$34,000						\$34,000.00	\$2,700
DOUGLAS	\$94,000			\$13.00	\$23,013.00		\$117,026.00	\$5,300
EAST AGASSIZ (NORMAN)	\$179,000			\$7,000.00			\$186,000.00	\$9,000
FARIBAULT	\$101,000			\$26,688.40			\$127,688.40	\$5,600
FILLMORE	\$208,000			\$5,679.50	\$7,621.90	\$1,558.40	\$222,859.80	\$10,200
FREEBORN	\$198,000			\$3,890.78			\$201,890.78	\$9,800
GOODHUE	\$241,000			\$4,412.50			\$245,412.50	\$11,600
GRANT	\$69,000			\$3,602.14			\$72,602.14	\$4,200
HENNEPIN	\$101,000	\$62,168.20					\$38,831.80	\$5,600
HUBBARD	\$28,000	\$25.80					\$27,974.20	\$2,500
ISANTI	\$232,000						\$232,000.00	\$11,300
ITASCA	\$8,000						\$8,000.00	\$1,600
JACKSON	\$77,000			\$7,065.00			\$84,065.00	\$4,600
KANABEC	\$17,000						\$17,000.00	\$2,000
KANDIYOH	\$219,000						\$219,000.00	\$10,700
KITTSO	\$122,000						\$122,000.00	\$6,500
KOOCHICHING	\$2,000		\$2,952.00				\$4,952.00	\$1,300
LAC QUI PARLE	\$31,000			\$13,130.00	\$61,319.50		\$105,449.50	\$2,600
LAKE	\$2,000	\$2,000.00					\$0.00	\$1,300
LAKE OF THE WOODS	\$14,000			\$1,900.00			\$15,900.00	\$1,900
LESUEUR	\$112,000			\$26,761.00		\$2,349.00	\$141,110.00	\$6,100
LINCOLN	\$50,000			\$6,377.80	\$18,503.00		\$74,880.80	\$3,400
LYON	\$71,000				\$18,995.84		\$89,995.84	\$4,300
MAHONOMEN	\$47,000						\$47,000.00	\$3,300
MARSHALL	\$175,000				\$11,647.00		\$186,647.00	\$8,800
MARSHALL-BELTRAMI	\$34,000			\$12,418.00			\$46,418.00	\$2,700
MARTIN	\$156,000			\$5,107.32			\$161,107.32	\$8,000
MCLEOD	\$37,000			\$7,310.20	\$9,702.60		\$54,012.80	\$2,800
MEEKER	\$203,000				\$42,167.00		\$245,167.00	\$10,000
MILLE LACS	\$31,000						\$31,000.00	\$2,600

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RIM CONSERVATION RESERVE

DISTRICT	EASEMENT ALLOTMENT	UNUSED ALLOTMENT	PRIORITY I ALLOTMENT	PRIORITY II ALLOTMENT	PRIORITY III ALLOTMENT	EMERGENCY ALLOTMENT	TOTAL ALLOTMENT	SERVICE ALLOCATION
MORRISON	\$181,000			\$1,247.00			\$182,247.00	\$9,100
MOWER	\$24,000			\$1,086.70	\$7,826.60		\$32,913.30	\$2,300
MURRAY	\$57,000				\$41,171.20		\$98,171.20	\$3,700
NICOLLET	\$48,000			\$5,102.00			\$53,102.00	\$3,300
NOBLES	\$29,000			\$23,322.81			\$52,322.81	\$2,500
OLMSTED	\$111,000			\$7,939.60			\$118,939.60	\$6,000
OTTERTAIL EAST	\$250,000						\$250,000.00	\$12,000
OTTERTAIL WEST	\$207,000						\$207,000.00	\$10,200
PENNINGTON	\$74,000			\$4,918.00			\$78,918.00	\$4,400
PINE	\$50,000	\$31,846.00					\$18,154.00	\$3,400
PIPESTONE	\$12,000		\$2,312.00				\$14,312.00	\$1,800
POLK EAST	\$233,000			\$8,604.70			\$241,604.70	\$11,300
POLK WEST	\$100,000						\$100,000.00	\$5,600
POPE	\$158,000				\$69,645.48		\$227,645.48	\$8,100
RAMSEY	\$6,000	\$6,000.00					\$0.00	\$1,500
RED LAKE	\$58,000						\$58,000.00	\$3,800
REDWOOD	\$82,000			\$22,317.92	\$82,113.84		\$186,431.76	\$4,800
RENVILLE	\$64,000			\$11,771.20	\$31,051.00		\$106,822.20	\$4,000
RICE	\$151,000			\$1,580.00	\$2,682.00		\$155,262.00	\$7,800
ROCK	\$25,000	\$20,920.00					\$4,080.00	\$2,300
ROOT RIVER (HOUSTON)	\$210,000						\$210,000.00	\$10,300
ROSEAU	\$163,000				\$5,140.50		\$168,140.50	\$8,300
SCOTT	\$210,000			\$4,642.42			\$214,642.42	\$10,300
SHERBURNE	\$250,000	\$10,503.70					\$239,496.30	\$12,000
SIBLEY	\$31,000				\$34,583.63	\$800.00	\$66,383.63	\$2,600
STEARNS	\$250,000			\$1,995.76			\$251,995.76	\$12,000
STEELE	\$60,000			\$15,301.00	\$25,962.00		\$101,263.00	\$3,800
STEVENS	\$41,000			\$2,175.51			\$43,175.51	\$3,000
ST. LOUIS NORTH	\$4,000						\$4,000.00	\$1,400
ST. LOUIS SOUTH	\$9,000	\$6,340.00					\$2,660.00	\$1,600
SWIFT	\$107,000			\$7,090.71			\$114,090.71	\$5,900
TODD	\$126,000			\$6,184.35	\$7,445.00		\$139,629.35	\$6,700
TRAVERSE	\$23,000			\$4,268.18			\$27,268.18	\$2,200
WABASHA	\$153,000					\$5,915.40	\$158,915.40	\$7,800
WADENA	\$53,000			\$1,943.80			\$54,943.80	\$3,500
WASECA	\$131,000			\$12,335.02			\$143,335.02	\$6,900
WASHINGTON	\$138,000	\$105,046.86					\$32,953.14	\$7,200
WATONWAN	\$96,000	\$17,000.00					\$79,000.00	\$5,400
WILKIN	\$107,000	\$50,107.54					\$56,892.46	\$5,900
WINONA	\$99,000						\$99,000.00	\$5,500
WRIGHT	\$250,000	\$97,498.39					\$152,501.61	\$12,000
YELLOW MEDICINE	\$59,000						\$59,000.00	\$3,800
TOTAL	\$8,958,000.00	\$541,891.49	\$5,264.00	\$367,122.68	\$526,770.19	\$10,622.80	\$9,325,888.18	\$499,900.00
POOL BALANCE	\$442,000.00						\$74,111.82	

Results of the Application Period

During the two-week sign-up period, a total of 2,149 applicants requested approximately \$25.5 million for retirement of nearly 60,000 acres under RIM Reserve. Approximately 21,000 acres enrolled through about 900 easements will be retired with 1986 funding. Of the over 900 easements, approximately 100 are perpetual and the balance are ten-year easements.

Current Developments

The SWCDs currently are finalizing individual RIM Reserve easements. Although the easement process can be a rather lengthy and time-consuming process, every effort is being made to expedite the completion of easements before the spring planting season begins.



The first RIM Reserve Easement was signed in Mille Lacs County on the Mittelsteadt farm. Left to right are Shirley Mittelsteadt, owner; Hugh Price, Chair of Governor's Commission on Hunting and Fishing; Ron Nargang, Director, State Soil and Water Conservation Board; Jim Nichols, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture; Senator Chuck Davis, Princeton; Henry Mittelsteadt, owner; and Larry Shannon, Department of Natural Resources.

APPROVED RIM RESERVE EASEMENTS
(SWCD AND AREA TOTALS)

NORTHWEST (AREA I)

8-Beltrami
4-Clearwater
13-East Agassiz
(Norman Co.)
5-Hubbard County
9-Kittson
6-Lake of the Woods
6-Mahnomen
5-Marshall-Beltrami

16-Marshall County
7-Pennington
28-East Polk
5-West Polk
5-Red Lake County
5-Roseau County
122

WEST CENTRAL (AREA II)

13-Becker
1-Cass
13-Clay
0-Crow Wing
16-Douglas
4-Grant County
28-Morrison
25-East Ottertail
12-West Ottertail
14-Pope
4-Stevens
12-Todd
3-Traverse
10-Wadena
6-Wilkin
161

NORTHEAST (AREA III)

8-Aitkin County
0-Carlton County
30-Chisago
1-Cook County
39-Isanti
3-Itasca County
3-Kanabec
1-Koochiching
0-Lake County
6-Mille Lacs
2-Pine County
1-North St. Louis
1-South St. Louis
95

EAST CENTRAL (AREA IV)

1-Anoka County
20-Benton
4-Carver

14-Dakota County
2-Hennepin
0-Ramsey
21-Scott
29-Sherburne
(Houston Co.)
35-Stearns County
5-Washington
25-Wright
156

SOUTHWEST (AREA V)

2-Big Stone
7-Chippewa
6-Cottonwood
11-Jackson
8-Lac Qui Parle
7-Lincoln
5-Lyon
7-Murray
3-Nobles
1-Pipestone
8-Redwood
1-Rock
8-Swift
4-Yellow Medicine
78

SOUTH CENTRAL (AREA VI)

13-Blue Earth County
10-Brown
4-Faribault County
22-Kandiyohi County
12-Le Sueur County
10-Martin
10-McLeod
12-Meeker
5-Nicollet
8-Renville County
10-Sibley County
7-Waseca
12-Watonwan
135

SOUTHEAST (AREA VII)

3-Dodge
25-Fillmore
17-Freeborn

28-Goodhue County
4-Mower County
10-Olmsted
20-Rice
18-Root River

8-Steele County
17-Wabasha
17-Winona
167

TOTAL: 914 Easements

SWCB Administrative Regions

