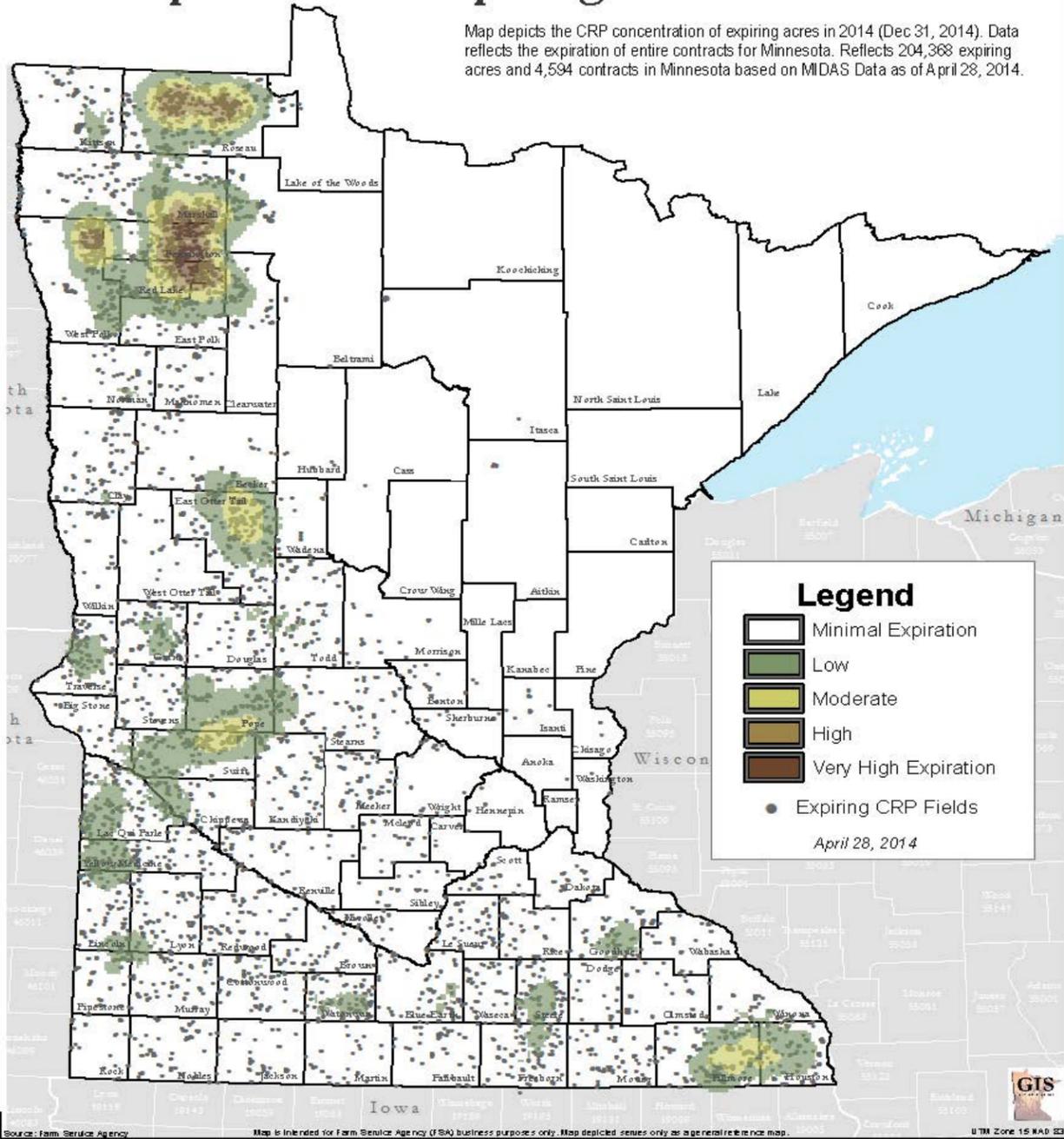




Minnesota Farm Service Agency

FSA Reports - All Expiring CRP Fields in 2014

Map depicts the CRP concentration of expiring acres in 2014 (Dec 31, 2014). Data reflects the expiration of entire contracts for Minnesota. Reflects 204,368 expiring acres and 4,594 contracts in Minnesota based on MIDAS Data as of April 28, 2014.



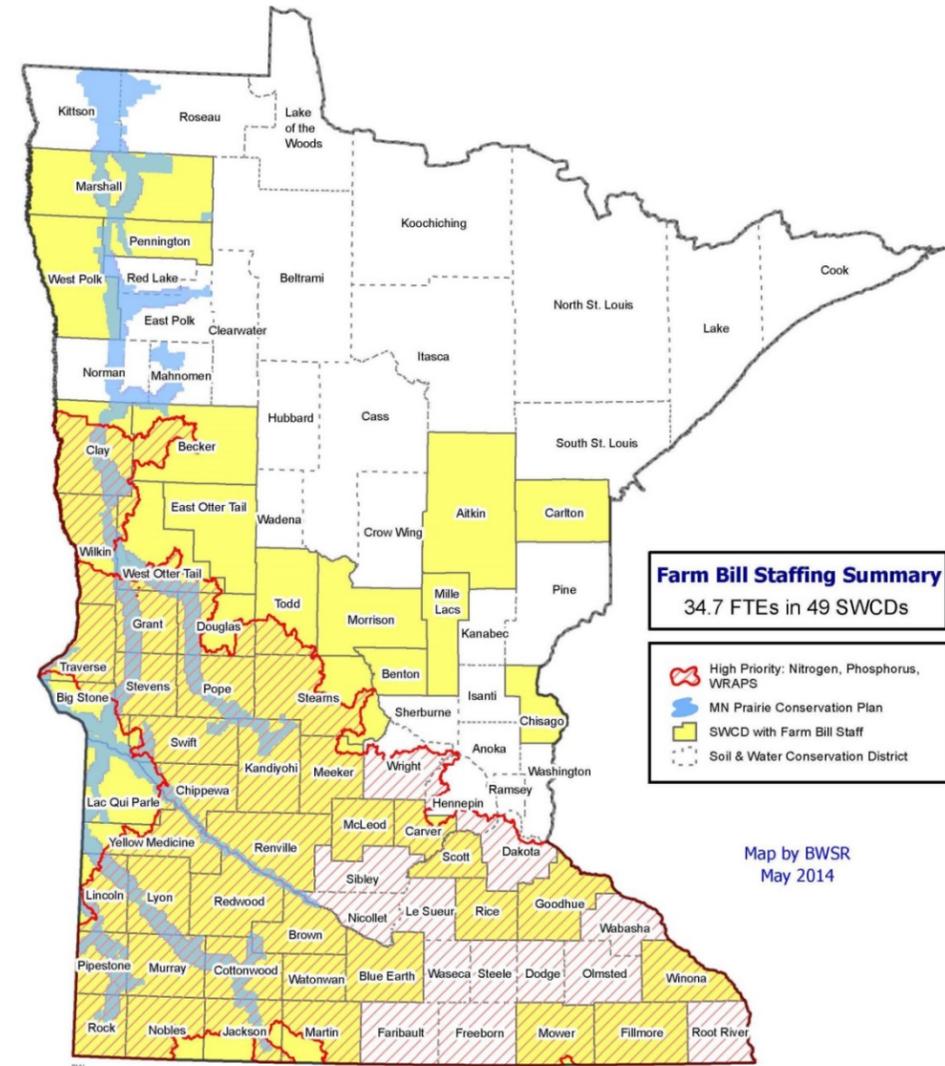
For More Information:

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Farm Bill Assistance Project

Putting conservation projects on the ground



These partners provide funding and support for staff in Minnesota's Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) to put federal and state conservation dollars — and their associated environmental benefits — on the ground in Minnesota.



Priorities for Private Land Conservation

- 60% (710,623 acres) of MN CRP acres are scheduled to expire in the next 5 years
- 20% reduction of Nitrogen in MN surface waters by 2015 (MPCA Nitrogen in MN Surface Waters, June 2013)
- 25% reduction in sediment loading for the MN River Basin by 2020 (MPCA Sediment Reduction Strategy for the Minnesota River Basin and South Metro Mississippi River, February 2014)

Opportunities for Private Land Conservation

- 2014 Federal Farm Bill – MN is located in 2 federally recognized priority areas
 - Honey Bee Pollinator Effort – \$11 million dedicated to pollinator practices in 5 states (MN, SD, ND, MI, & WI)
 - Prairie Pothole Wetland and Grassland Retention Project – \$35 million dedicated to protecting and restoring grasslands and wetlands in 5 states (MN, SD, ND, IA, & MT)
- CRP—MN CRP accounts for 1.3 million acres and \$110 million/year in conservation investments
- Staff are currently positioned to implement and achieve project goals in high priority locations
- Staff dedicated to the promotion and generation of “shovel ready” conservation practices are invaluable to securing competitive federal and state dollars

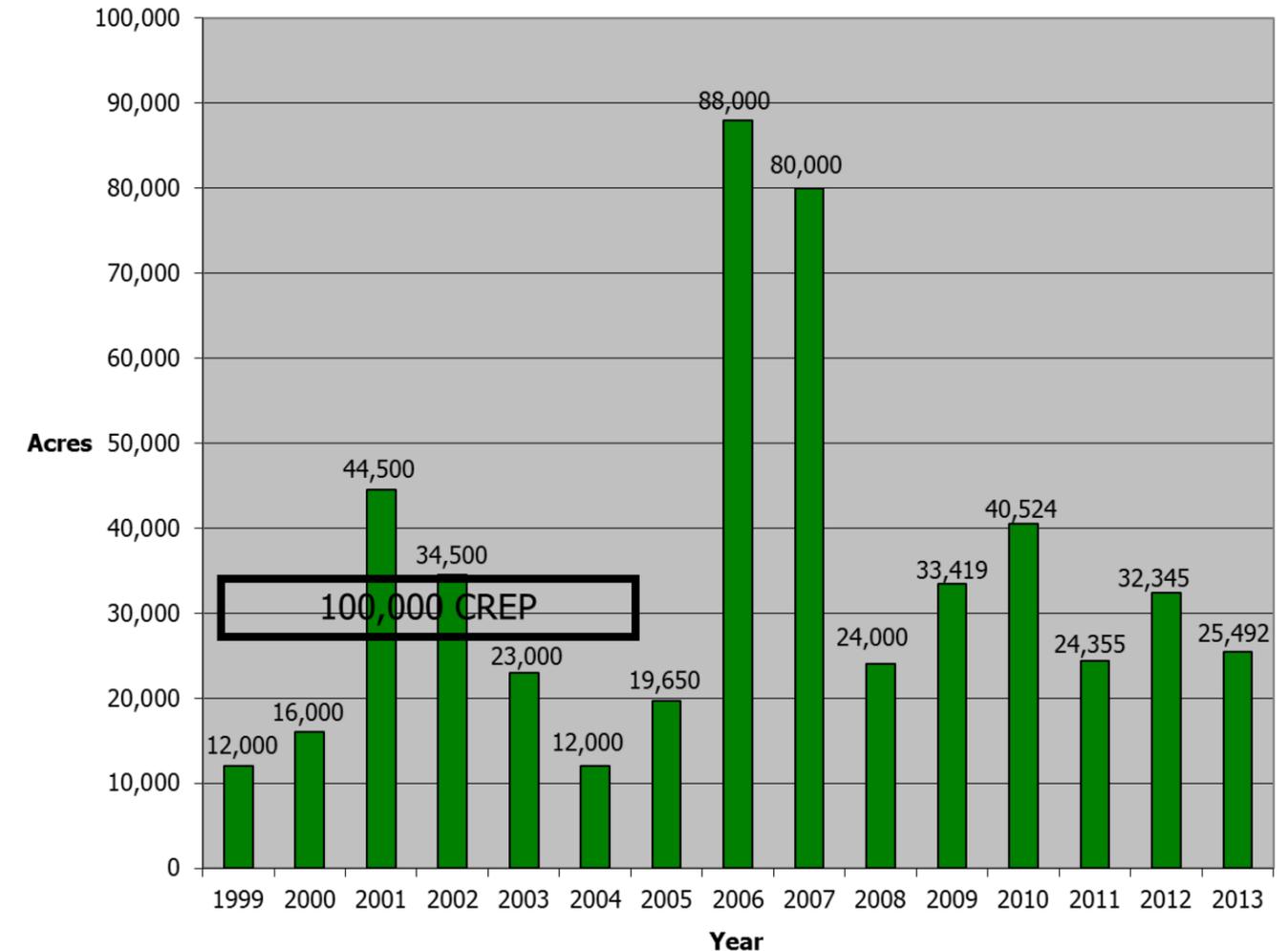
Funding

- \$1.5 million request would continue employment of 46 positions (34.7 FTEs) during transition to other funding
- Since 2002 over \$9 million spent by partners to employee technical staff at the local level
- Current LCCMR funding will be spent by June 30, 2015

What People are saying about the Farm Bill Assistance Program

- “Conservation is hard work and requires a capable and engaged workforce. USDA does not have the staff to do any more than take care of what walks in the door. The Farm Bill Tech’s allow the SWCD’s to fill that void within USDA. Take it from the leading County in Minnesota with conservation easements the Farm Bill Assistance program works and is money well spent.”
Tom Kalahar, District Manager, Renville County SWCD
- “The Farm Bill Assistance program is not only invaluable to the SWCDs to provide staffing, but also to the landowners and all grassland programs within our county. The number of acres and the quality of acres enrolled in grassland programs such as CRP, CREP II, and RIM Reserve in Winona County are direct results of the Farm Bill Assistance program.”
Daryl Buck, District Manager, Winona County SWCD
- “I firmly believe that an ambitious Farm Bill Technician equipped with well-funded programs (and a good payment structure) can do more for wildlife habitat and populations than I can in the short term, and if funding is available for perpetual easements, perhaps the long-term as well.”
Cory Netland, Area Wildlife Supervisor, Minnesota DNR
- “The most rewarding part of my job is working with landowners to achieve a common goal towards improving soil health, water quality and wildlife habitat.”
Kevin Roth, Farm Bill Technician, Nobles County

Project Results



- During Fiscal Year 2014 Farm Bill Assistance staff connected landowners to programs that restored, protected, and managed 29,000 acres of grasslands and wetlands
- Program has achieved 509,785 acres to date
- 60,000 acres of vegetative and other water quality practices will be implemented in fiscal years 16 & 17.
- Farm Bill Assistance staff are critical to ensuring that conservation programs are fully subscribed