

IMPLEMENTATION OF NONPOINT PRACTICES

STATE PROGRAM: Minnesota Public Facilities Authority

ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT: Rock County

ASSISTANCE AMOUNT: \$200,000



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Rock County Land Management Office has been a standout local government unit when it comes to implementing Minnesota's innovative Agricultural Best Management Practices (AgBMP) Loan Program. In the 20-year history of the program, the County has provided 377 loans worth nearly \$8 million for AgBMPs using CWSRF funds, state funds, and other financing sources in order to reduce costs to the multi-generational farms. Dennis Leuthold borrowed \$149,000 to address high nitrates in local wells by reconstructing his stockyard for 926 cows. The result of the rancher's environmental stewardship efforts was an immediate drop in nitrate levels well below drinking water standards. Elsewhere in Rock County, the owner of Fluit Farm borrowed \$200,000 to purchase a high clearance fertilizer applicator, improving his crop yield while at the same time protecting residents with shallow drinking water wells from nitrate pollution. Demonstrating the spirit of cooperative problem-solving embodied by Rock County, Fluit Farm has also offered to lend the machinery to neighboring farmers.

To read more about this case study, please visit [epa.gov/sites/default/files/2017-11/documents/pisces_compendium_final2.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2017-11/documents/pisces_compendium_final2.pdf).