NEWS RELEASE

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RIM Wetlands sign-up begins September 30, 2022

Blue Earth County, Minn. — Landowners have a new option to restore their environmentally sensitive cropland with the reintroduction of the Reinvest In Minnesota Wetlands Program (RIM Wetlands). Signup for RIM Wetlands begins September 30, 2022. Funding decisions will be made via quarterly batching periods while funds are available, with the first round of decisions slated to begin in late November.

"This is a great opportunity to expand wetland restoration and protection goals across not only Blue Earth County, but Minnesota as a whole," said Conservation Technician Haley Johnson.

The most recent RIM Wetlands Program took place in 2015. RIM Wetlands is a voluntary statewide program designed to improve water quality and habitat, which is administered by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). The program aims to protect and restore habitat on marginal cropland across Minnesota through wetland restoration. The program is funded through the Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) and the Clean Water Fund (CWF).

"Wetlands provide diverse wildlife habitat and water quality improvements, and restoring and protecting them benefits all Minnesota citizens," said BWSR Executive Director John Jaschke. "Local soil and water conservation district staff are ready to help landowners on conservation options that work for them."

Landowners accepted into the RIM Wetlands Program place their land into a permanent conservation easement through the state's Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) easement program. Private ownership continues, and the land is permanently restored and enhanced for water quality and habitat benefits.

Blue Earth Soil & Water will begin accepting on September 30, 2022. Landowners wanting to learn more should contact: Blue Earth Soil & Water @ (507) 345-4744.

More information about the RIM Wetlands Program can be found at
https://bwsr.state.mn.us/rim-wetlands