

Technical and financial assistance is available to landowners and farmers interested in adopting agronomic, structural, and tile treatment practices that improve soil health and support clean water. This table outlines some of the more common programs available in the Vermilion Headwaters Watershed.



Program	Description	Agronomic Mngt	In-field Structures	Tile Treatments	How and When to Sign-up
EQIP	The Environmental Quality Incentives Program provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers through contracts up to a maximum term of 10 years in length. These contracts provide financial assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices that improve soil, water, plant, animal, air, and related resources on agricultural land. EQIP can also help producers meet Federal and State environmental regulations.	X	X	X	Applications are accepted year-round. Application ranking and approval usually occurs in the spring. Complete an application at the local SWCD or NRCS office.
EQIP-MRBI	The Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative utilizes NRCS and its partners to work with producers and landowners to implement voluntary conservation practices that improve water quality, restore wetlands, enhance wildlife habitat and sustain agricultural profitability in the Mississippi River Basin. The Vermilion Headwaters Watershed Project receives funding through MRBI.	X	X	X	Applications are accepted year-round. Application ranking and approval usually occurs in the spring. Complete an application at the local SWCD or NRCS office.

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EQIP-DWM	<p>Drainage Water Management is a special initiative of EQIP that provides funds to manage water discharged from agricultural drainage systems, based on the premise that the same drainage intensity is not required at all times of the year. With DWM, both water quality improvement and production benefits are possible.</p>		X	X	<p>This is a special initiative of EQIP. See application information listed under EQIP.</p>
CSP	<p>The Conservation Stewardship Program is a voluntary conservation program that encourages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by undertaking additional conservation activities and improving, maintaining and managing existing conservation activities.</p>	X			<p>Applications are accepted year-round. Application ranking and approval usually occurs in the spring. Complete an application at the local SWCD or NRCS office.</p>
CSP-RCPP	<p>The Regional Conservation Partnership Program promotes coordination between NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers. NRCS provides assistance to producers through partnership agreements and through program contracts.</p>	X			<p>In order to be eligible, you need to work with Precision Conservation Management.</p>
CRP	<p>The Conservation Reserve Program is a land conservation program administered by FSA. CRP encourages farmers to convert highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover that improves water quality, prevents soil erosion and provides wildlife habitat. Farmers receive an annual rental payment for the term of the contract.</p>		X	X	<p>There are two different sign up periods for CRP, each including different practices with different standards. Both sign up periods are in the spring.</p>
PFC	<p>The Partners for Conservation Program is a program of the Illinois Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Land and Water Resources. Eligible conservation projects emphasize soil erosion control and water quality protection including cover crops, nutrient management, and water well sealing.</p>	X	X	X	<p>Application period is ongoing, and dependent on funding. Call your local SWCD to sign up.</p>

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Fall Cover for Spring Savings	<p>This Illinois Department of Agriculture Cover Crop Premium Discount Program is offered for acres of cover crops installed outside of state and federal program incentives. Eligible applicants will receive a \$5/acre insurance premium discount on the following year's crop insurance invoice for every acre of cover crop enrolled and verified in the program.</p>	X			<p>Sign-up period opens in December and is first come-first served. Your local SWCD office may be able to assist you.</p>