



MN FARM BILL ASSISTANCE PARTNERSHIP

Solicitation of Interest-Phase XIV

July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015

APPLICATION DEADLINE: May 9, 2014

As a MN Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) you are invited to submit a statement of interest for funding under this project. The purpose of this project is to accelerate staff capacity to deliver programs that increase grassland and wetland program enrollment for both wildlife habitat and water quality. To date, these positions have been SWCD farm bill technicians or Pheasants Forever farm bill biologists housed at the SWCD/USDA service center. See the attached staffing guidance.

The budget period for Phase XIV will run from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. If you are interested please complete the response form attached to this Solicitation by **May 9, 2014**. Email a scanned copy of the response form to Jason Beckler the Farm Bill Assistance Coordinator at jason.beckler@state.mn.us.

This program operates on a quarterly reimbursement basis for hours worked under the contract agreement. Farm Bill Assistance contracts will be calculated using a \$50,000 budget for 1 FTE. The contract will cover 90% of the approved budget with 5% coming from the SWCD and 5% from a local partner organization. You will be required to solicit and document this 5% support by contacting your local Pheasants Forever Chapter or other locally based group for the funding.

The committee believes this is the most effective way to promote grassland and wetland conservation for water quality and wildlife habitat in the state of MN. The FBAP will again collectively invest over \$1.5 million in this project during Phase XIV.

PROPOSAL EVALUATION

Submittals will be evaluated on a scale of *High, Medium, or Low* based on historical performance, added capacity/expertise, location within the DNR Prairie Work Teams/Working Lands Initiative areas, expiring CRP, resource opportunity/need, ability to provide the necessary match, and the goals identified in your submitted response form.

SELECTION PROCESS

A selection committee comprised of BWSR, DNR NRCS and Pheasants Forever will evaluate and make recommendations for allocating available funds based on the information submitted by May 9, 2014. The BWSR board is scheduled to review the results at their June 25th meeting.