

Conservation Stewardship Program

Producer Spotlight



Will Corman

Tri-C Farms Inc.
Hardy, Nebraska



Operation size:
5,000 acres



Crops:
Corn, soybeans,
and wheat



Livestock:
120 cow-calf pairs



Years in CSP:
13 years

Conservation Stewardship Program at-a-glance

Administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) provides financial and technical assistance to producers seeking a holistic approach to conservation, while maintaining production on their farms or ranches.

The five-year contracts require producers to expand on their existing conservation efforts through practice enhancements that help them implement methods of farming and ranching that provide an even greater benefit to natural resources, including air, water, and soil.

Conservation practices

Will has implemented a number of conservation practices and enhancements to increase the profitability of his farm and become a better steward of natural resources. Over the years, three have made a significant contribution to his conservation management goals:



Nutrient management

Producers manage the application of plant nutrients and soil amendments in a manner that reduces negative environmental impacts.



Irrigation water management

Producers control the volume and frequency of irrigation to reduce waste and improve soil and plant productivity.



Pest management conservation system

Producers manage pests through a combination of tools that minimize harmful side effects and encourage balanced plant and insect ecosystems.

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Personally, we participate for the efficiency gains and profitability, but the underlying benefit is to protect the water and soil.

-Will Corman ”



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Positive impacts

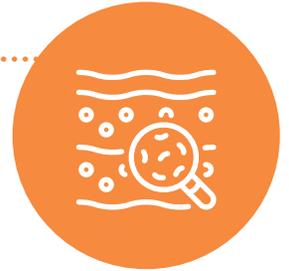
Improved water quality

Since his enrollment in CSP, Will has invested in precision agriculture technologies that limit runoff into local streams and rivers. For his operation, this has included GPS mapping combined with individual nozzle control on his sprayer to limit overapplication of inputs. In addition, he chooses to split apply his nitrogen fertilizer—a method that requires smaller amounts of fertilizer to be applied throughout the growing season. In contrast to a single application before planting, this method ensures crops are given only what nutrients they are able to process at a given time.



Improved soil health

Will conducts soil tests each year to gain a better understanding of nutrient levels on his farm. Testing for nitrogen and micronutrients helps him manage fertilizer effectively by providing a comprehensive look at what inputs are needed for each field. Other factors, such as soil pH and organic matter, help him build soil profiles that are better able to absorb and recycle nutrients.



Increased profitability

The financial assistance provided through CSP has improved the bottom line of Will's operation. Because CSP covers a portion of the costs associated with each individual practice or enhancement, he can invest the money saved into farming methods that will improve his farm for generations to come.



“ CSP helps us bring new strategies and technologies to the operation with limited financial risk.

-Will Corman



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