**Field Stewards Overview**

The Field Stewards program rewards farmers for protecting water quality, helps food companies address sustainability challenges in their supply chains and provides consumers the opportunity to support cleaner water with their purchases. This voluntary program rewards farmers for reaching and maintaining a high level of water quality protection on their farms. Maintaining the water quality friendly practices necessary to meet the certification threshold on a farm requires dedication to a high level of environmental performance. Only those farmers who meet the standards as determined by the Field Stewards Administration are eligible for participation in the Field Stewards program.

**Field Stewards Application**

This application is for a whole farm eligibility determination that will, if approved, provide for entry into participation in the Field Stewards program. Completion of this application by the Applicant serves as the basis for an eligibility review process for Field Stewards. However, if you are already certified in the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) that process is also honored by the Field Stewards Program.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Applicant Full Name (Print) | Email | |
| Address | Phone | |
| City | State | Zip |

Field Stewards producers must be in compliance with all existing applicable state water protection rules, state regulations, and meet an 8.5 standard as evaluated by the Water Quality Index for Agriculture Surface Runoff. Landowners seeking participating must confirm compliance with the following existing requirements.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | Circle One | |
| 1 | Are you in compliance with Minnesota Administrative Rules Chapter 7020 - Animal Feedlots and, if applicable, do you have a valid National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES)/State Disposal System (SDS) permit for your feedlot operation? | Yes | N/A |
| 2 | Are you in compliance with (not cited with any unresolved violations of) the Minnesota Wetlands Conservation Act (Minnesota Statutes Section 103G.221-103G.2375)? | Yes | N/A |
| 3 | Do you have a Septic System that is deemed an imminent threat to public health and/or has been cited in violation of local ordinance and is requiring an immediate upgrade? | No | N/A |
| 4 | Are you in compliance with the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act and Minnesota statutes (18B, 18C, 18D, 103H) regarding pesticide and fertilizer distribution, use, storage, handling, and disposal? | Yes | N/A |
| 5 | Are you in compliance with current State rules and statutes pertaining to shoreland and riparian protection, for example, the Minnesota “buffer law”? | Yes | N/A |
| 6 | Are you currently certified through the MAWQCP program without any pending BMPs? | Yes | No |
| 7 | Please note your total farm score here. (Attach the inspection and BMP summary forms.) |  | |

The data collection during your participation in the Field Stewards program will only be used in support of the program. Only people with a need to access your data in support of the Field Stewards program will have the authority to access your data, only summaries of enrolled acres of corn and soybean by county will be released to the public and to certificate buyers. If you are not in compliance and free of any violations per the above questions, your Certified Field Stewards representative can assist you with information on technical and financial assistance to resolve eligibility.

When you are able to answer each of the above questions, you are eligible for application to the Field Stewards program. All Field Stewards participating acres are subject to audit of compliance with the terms of your Field Stewards certification.

I testify that the above information is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that to participate in certification I must be in compliance with and free of any unresolved violations of existing applicable state water protection rules and regulations and currently meeting an 8.5 standard as evaluated by the Water Quality Index for Agriculture Surface Runoff. I agree that any compensation I receive from the Field Stewards Program is contingent upon complying with all conditions and requirements of the Field Stewards program. I hereby give my permission for the Certified Field Representative to share my personal and operation information with the Field Stewards Aggregator’s Office and Third Party Verifier. I hereby give my permission for the Certified Field Representative, Field Stewards Aggregator’s Office and Third Party Verifier to share limited operation information with the Field Stewards Program Administration as needed to administer the Field Stewards program. (If initialed below, I also release personal and operation information to the Program Administration as needed to promote the Field Stewards the program.) I further agree that I have been informed about the conditions and requirements of the program to my satisfaction. I understand that Field Stewards Program Administration reserves the right to make all final determinations regarding program eligibility, compliance, and complaint and appeal processes.

Applicant Name Date

Applicant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ In addition to the above release of information, my initials here indicate my agreement to release my personal and operation information to the Program Administration as needed to promote the Field Stewards the program to the public.

I testify that the above information is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. To the best of my knowledge this farm has been determined to be eligible for the Field Stewards program. The information submitted for review and the site inspection is complete and comprehensive. I understand the farmer to be in compliance with existing applicable state water protection rules and regulations, and currently meeting an 8.5 standard as evaluated by the Water Quality Index for Agriculture Surface Runoff.

Field Representative Name Date

Field Representative Number

Field Representative Signature