

# Nhiacha Enterprise

## Focusing on the watershed



### Keeping the water clean

Nhiacha Yang, a Hmong farmer in the Green Bay area, wasn't quite sure what to think about getting advice from NRCS. There was some apprehension on his part about applying for government programs. John Malvitz, District Conservationist in Brown County, knew that there was a manure runoff concern on his farm given its location near a stream. One day, John stopped by to talk with Mr. Yang and explain how NRCS could help him solve some of the issues with his barnyard. Despite the language barrier, and after several visits from John, Nhiacha understood what practices would be planned to improve his barnyard, how to apply for NRCS assistance and finally, what it took to install the suggested practices.

Nhiacha Enterprise is a farm located in Neshota River Watershed, an area targeted for water quality improvement through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). The enterprise is primarily a butchering facility that processes chickens, hogs, beef, sheep and goats. Many of these animals are held in outdoor lots, or in the barns on the farm. The barnyard lots were in poor condition, with very little or no vegetation posing a manure management issue. The flow of water from the barn roofs were an additional problem washing manure and runoff into an intermittent stream. A survey of the site was completed and a full design of the improved barnyard was presented to Nhiacha. He applied for and was granted an Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contract funded through the GLRI. The practices installed included a new concrete barnyard and a reception tank built to intercept the waste runoff. Roof gutters were installed on some of the buildings to stop the rainwater from running across the barnyard.

Nhiacha was very grateful for the assistance NRCS provided to him and is impressed with the success of the project. He is working with NRCS to help others in the Hmong community learn about NRCS programs.

### Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Conservation Beyond Boundaries

NRCS is working with its conservation partners in the eight-state area to combat invasive species, protect watersheds and shorelines from non-point source pollution, and restore wetlands and other habitat areas.

Through financial assistance and technical assistance, NRCS is assisting private landowners with conservation planning and a variety of conservation practices, such as cover crops, conservation crop rotations, filter strips, prescribed grazing and wetlands restoration.

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