

## **RICHARD DE WILDE | CSP CONTRACT HOLDER**

*Harmony Valley Farm  
Viroqua, Wisconsin*



Richard de Wilde is part owner of Harmony Valley Farm, an organic vegetable farm that serves a 1,500-member CSA, the Dane County Farmers Market, and local retailers, restaurants and wholesalers. He signed up with CSP in the fall of 2009 because he wanted to get involved in the growing movement toward compensating farmers for good stewardship practices.

“This is a wise direction for the Farm Program,” he says. “I wanted to support CSP because subsidizing conservation is important.” Before contracting with CSP, Richard had established several conservation practices on the farm, including cover crops, waste oil recycling, stream bank buffers, same-day application and incorporation of manure, and beneficial insect habitat.

“We try to continually take on little conservation projects, and CSP gives us that extra push to get us going,” says Richard, who signed up for both pasture and habitat improvements. Over the next five years he will be diversifying and improving the feed quality of his poorer pasture lands, establishing two-and-a-half acres of bumblebee habitat, replanting older shrub rows for beneficial insect habitat, and replacing old box elder trees with shrubs for additional habitat in wet areas along the river. “We’re helping ourselves as well as the environment,” he says, noting that, “These improvements will give us a lot of added benefit with more beauty and wildlife.”

According to Richard the sign-up was a breeze, but he recommends working on the application ahead of time if you want to make the process even faster.

### **CONTRACT SNAPSHOT**

#### **Previous On-Farm Conservation Practices:**

- Same-day incorporation of applied manure and compost
- Cover crops
- Shrub rows for beneficial insect habitat
- Waste oil recycling

#### **Conservation Improvements through CSP:**

- Pasture diversity
- Habitat for beneficial insects and wildlife

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