



Environmental Initiative builds partnerships to
develop collaborative solutions to
Minnesota's environmental problems.



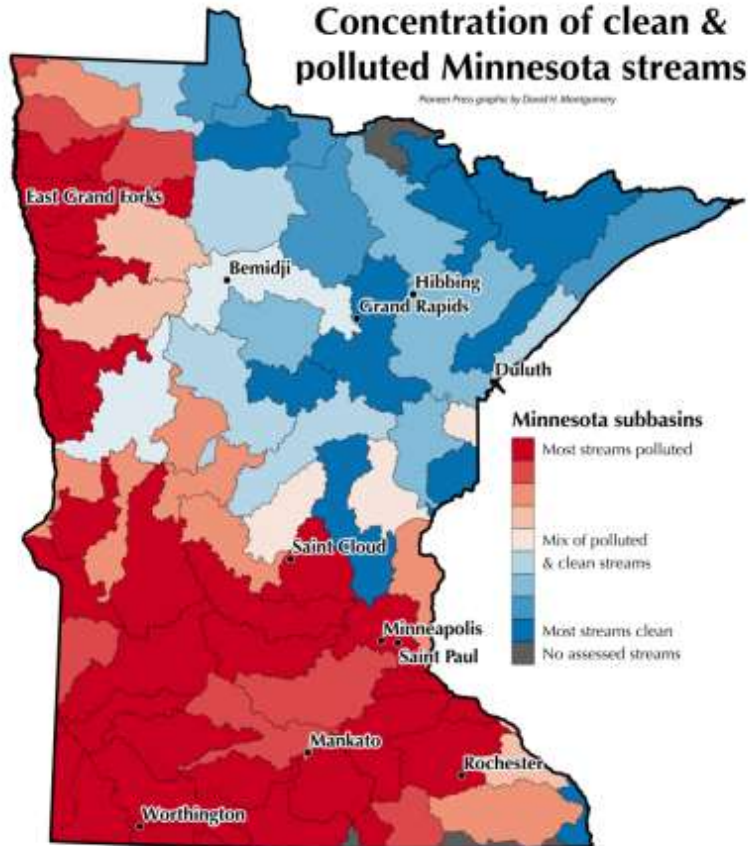
What are we trying to fix?

Three Problems

- Water quality
- Untraceable commodity crop supply chains
- Declining resources for conservation



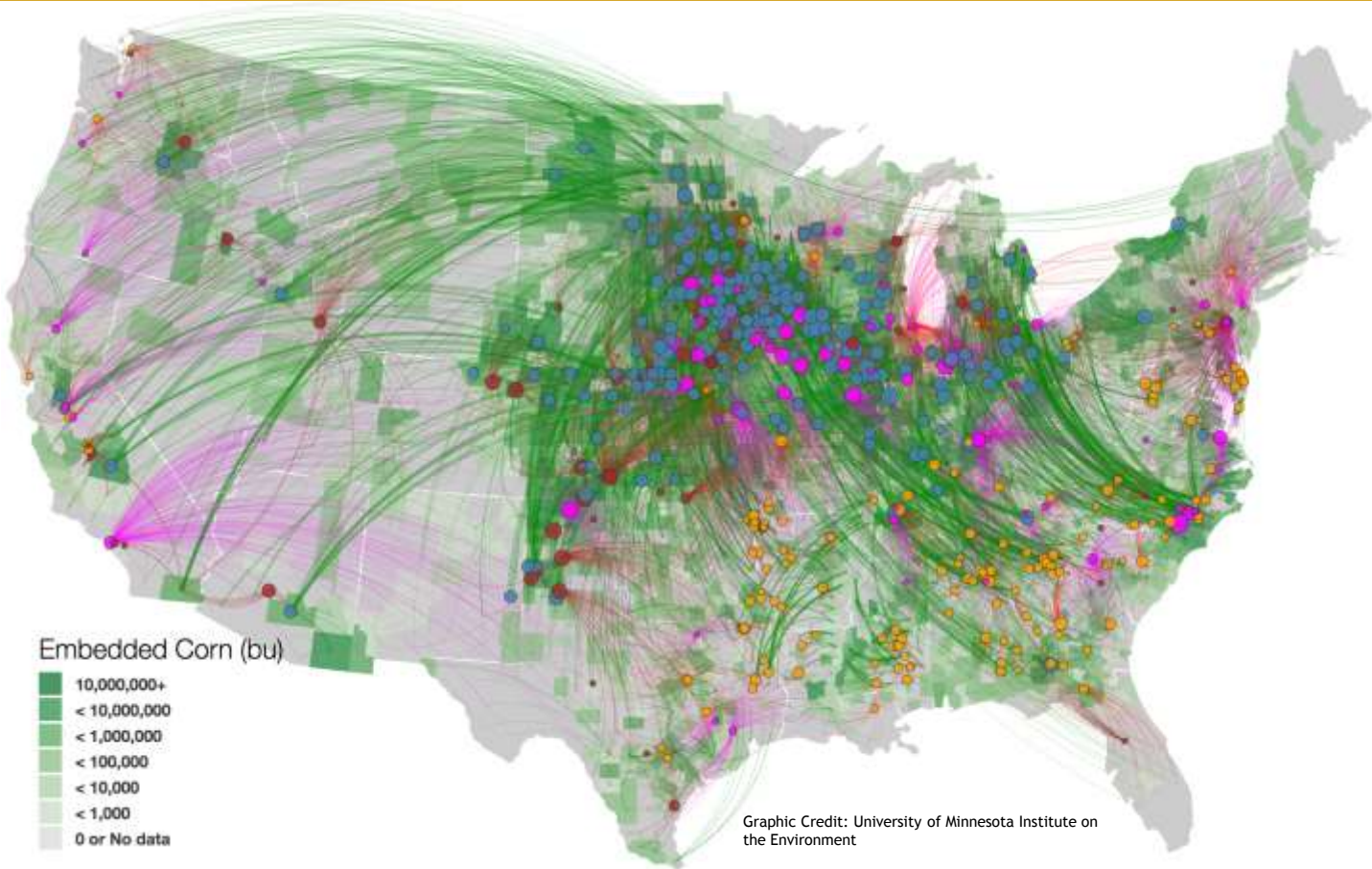
Problem 1 Water Quality



- 40% of MN waters don't meet basic standards
- Concentrated in agricultural areas of state
- Nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment major factors

Credit: David Montgomery, Pioneer Press, 2015

Problem 2 Untraceable Supply Chains



Problem 3 Declining Resources



Collaborating for Water Protection



Growing Clean Water Together

- Scalable approach to protecting water quality on agricultural lands
- Cost-effective supply chain sustainability
- Creates a financial incentive for farmers to protect water quality



How it Works: The Offset Approach



How it Works: Third Party Certified



- Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program
- Whole farm, consistent, fair
- Flexible standard for all types of farming systems

The Process



1. Buyer and Field Stewards agree to acre commitment
2. Field Stewards enrolls acres
3. Buyer pays Field Stewards
4. Field Stewards pays farmers
5. Report provided to buyer
6. Buyer makes claim

The Process: Calculating the Offset

How do you get from food product to commodity crop acres?



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Averages are calculated using public data sets and industry standards for feed conversion and processing.
Goal is transparency and replicability.

Field Stewards in Practice: 2016

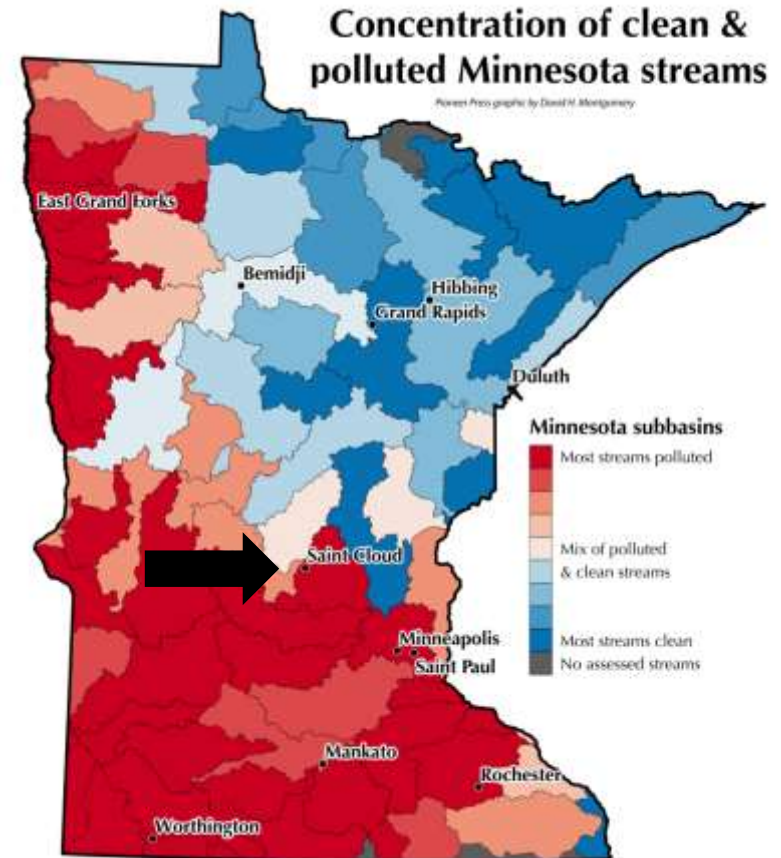
- Offsetting Just BARE chicken
- Enrolling about 5,000 corn/soy acres
- Learning from trying, evaluating, and modifying the system



Field Stewards in Practice: 2016

Stearns County, MN

- Middle Sauk River
- Upper Mississippi River Basin
- Just BARE chicken



Credit: David Montgomery, Pioneer Press, 2015

Field Stewards in Practice: 2017

- Expansion in central Minnesota
- Add new MN region with additional buyer
- Continued buyer recruitment
- Planning for multi-state expansion

Contact

Greg Bohrer
Senior Manager
(312)-909-0992
gbohrer@en-in.org



www.FieldStewards.org