

# Productive Conservation on Working Lands (PCWL)

## What are the goals of PCWL?

- The intent of PCWL is to reduce the risk to producers for new crops that could benefit society through energy development, economic development, and environmental protection.
- The RC&D program and partners will work together to increase and develop new markets for PCWL crops.
- Based upon this demonstration project, the RC&Ds will develop a statewide model that is transferable to other parts of the nation.

## What is Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG)?

Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) is a voluntary program intended to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies while leveraging Federal investment in environmental enhancement and protection, in conjunction with agricultural production. In June 2007, Three Rivers RC&D Council adopted a CIG grant for the Productive Conservation on Working Lands demonstration project, which is funded through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. It will provide matching funds to help demonstrate the growing, marketing, and research of an alternative non-conventional crop.

PCWL is in cooperation

with:



This material is based upon work supported by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under number NRCS 68-3A75-6-117 "Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture."

The USDA, RC&D, and partners prohibit discrimination in all their programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's Target Center at (202)720-2600 (Voice and TDD) To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Ave, SW, Washington, DC or call (202)720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA and partners are equal opportunity providers and employers.

# Productive Conservation On Working Lands



*Productive Conservation on Working Lands provides sustainable economic opportunities while offering environmental benefits to the natural resources of our state without the idling of land.*



Three Rivers Resource Conservation and Development  
1160 S Victory Drive Ste. 4  
Mankato, Minnesota 56001  
507-345-7418 ext. 127  
Fax: 507-345-4818

# Productive Conservation on Working Lands (PCWL)

## What is Productive Conservation on Working Lands?

PCWL is a demonstration program that provides incentives to reduce the economic and social risks to the farmers growing new perennial conservation crops for energy and emerging industry. Your local Resource Conservation & Development office (RC&D),



Hybrid Poplar leaf

along with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, are working to develop and deliver an alternative agricultural program to landowners and/or farmers who would like to be involved in an innovative

program that provides sustainable economic opportunities and needed farm diversity while also offering environmental benefits to Minnesota without the idling of lands.

## Why should I choose PCWL?

If you have a desire to grow a new crop or are already growing a new crop, and need help with crop establishment, marketing, or research, this program could be for you. Producers interested in participating in an innovative project, such as PCWL, would be eligible for crop establishment payments, as well as marketing and research services. In addition, landowners/farmers growing a long-term perennial woody crop are encouraged to sign up for a 4% interest revolving loan (AALF) that can cover expenses of long-term agro-forestry crops.

Contact Three Rivers RC&D for more detailed information on the Agro-Forestry Advanced Loan Fund (AALF).

## What are Productive Conservation crops?

Some examples of alternative non-conventional perennial crops include, but are not limited to:

- Willows
- Hybrid poplars
- Switchgrass
- Hazelnuts

Crops will be considered based on the economic, environmental, and social benefits and will be producer initiated.



Hybrid poplar stand

## What services will be provided to the landowner/farmer?

PCWL will provide coordination with landowners. The farmer will have a place or person to call in order to coordinate the growing, harvesting, marketing, research and environmental benefit documentation needed to demonstrate results of potential productive conservation crops. A farmer can receive crop establishment payments and is encouraged to form partnerships with others in an effort to demonstrate growing and harvesting new non-conventional crops.

## How do I find out more and get started?



If you would like more information or have an idea for a project, please fill out the following :

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments or project idea: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of land (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Crop: \_\_\_\_\_ Acres: \_\_\_\_\_

Needs: (Please check all that apply):

Crop establishment payments \_\_\_\_\_

Marketing/planning assistance \_\_\_\_\_

Research on new crop \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to:

### Three Rivers RC&D

1160 S Victory Drive Suite 4

Mankato, MN 56001

Phone: 507-345-7418 Ext. 127

Fax: 507-345-4818

Joseph.Domeier@rcdnet.net

For agency use only:

Date Rec'd: \_\_\_\_\_

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_