

# ***Whole Farm Conservation Planning: A Blueprint for Sustainability***

*Administered By*



*In partnership with Anez Consulting and the NRCS*



*Drafted By Lily Becker  
Kanati Land Management*

Kanati Land Management, a privately-owned conservation company located in Avon, MN, is leading the effort to inform and deliver conservation. Partnering with Anez Consulting Inc. from Willmar, MN and supported by the USDA and NRCS, Kanati Land Management and Anez Consulting Inc. is launching a project defined as Accelerated Conservation Delivery and Implementation in the West Central Technical Service Area (WCTSA) (hereafter referred to as “the Project”) which includes the twelve counties of Benton, Big Stone, Chippewa, Douglas, Kandiyohi, Meeker, Morrison, Pope, Stearns Stevens, Swift and Todd. There is a tremendous sense of urgency to protect the integrity of “whole farms” and what they represent – the dedication, passion, responsibility, and admiration towards the land by those who own it. The purpose of this Project is to furnish landowners with well-thought-out conservation plans and the potential for financial benefits to ensure their property remains sustainable while protecting the conservation values of the farm. This undertaking considers all land uses and practices including those not included in the USDA Farm Bill. The approach looks at a farm as a whole entity and connects cropland, pasture, forestland, and farmstead land uses. This provides intrinsic value in preserving working farms and protecting natural resources in Minnesota.

The focus of the project’s first year will be outreach and promotion of the Project, which will include informing landowners, soil and water conservation districts, financial partners, implementers, growers, and the general public of the Project and the programs available to them within west central Minnesota. The Project’s outreach efforts will include social media campaigns, large group ‘Learning Luncheons’, one-on-one meetings, and innovative virtual plannings. The goals of these efforts are targeted within the WCTSA with Learning Luncheons being hosted in towns across the twelve counties. The dates of these luncheons will be spread throughout November of 2023 through March of 2024 in the following towns: Foley, Melrose, Montevideo, Ortonville, Benson, Little Falls, Morris, Willmar, Alexandria, and Glenwood, along with two virtual meeting date options. Within the first year, Kanati and Anez will also begin designing prescriptive Whole Farm Conservation Plans. The conservation plans developed by Kanati and Anez will promote adaptive conservation practices, water quality, wildlife habitat improvement, and numerous other conservation applications. All practices will be designed and installed in accordance with the MN NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG). Following extensive

planning in the first year of the grant, the final two years will involve further construction, development, and implementation of these certified conservation plans ending in September of 2026.

Formed in 2019, Kanati Land Management considers social, economic, and environmental considerations for wildlife, and provides conservation and sustainable living for landowners, businesses, citizens, and non-profit organizations. Using a team-based approach, Kanati is intent on finding ways to further develop innovative systems for conservation. The company was built on the vision to serve landowners and help them obtain their goals in both areas of conservation and wildlife management while also rendering them with means of implementation. Kanati strives to eliminate confusion and offers direct, personal communication with participants throughout the entire process; not leaving them to step into the unknown alone and allowing them to depend on their expertise. The company works with a diverse group of clients including agricultural producers, absentee landowners, recreational landowners, small-scale urban agriculture landowners, beginning farmers, and nontraditional landowners such as cities, counties, and other government agencies. Dependent on developing positive relationships with their clients, the company has become a sought-out platform as conservation advisors trusted by landowners.

In keeping with the core values of Kanati, Anez Consulting Inc., established in 1997, helps their clients reach their agronomic and business goals while remaining good stewards of the land. The company is well-versed in all aspects of soil health and crop analysis, sustainability, and planning. With a firm footing in agriculture, Anez has a quality reputation for helping clients navigate through the regulatory steps of conservation programs offered through the USDA, MDA, as well as area SWCD programs.

Kanati Land Management and Anez Consulting Inc. are well-respected and proven performers in the conservation field. From compliance and conservation, to engineering and design, the two companies have the expert staff to form a dynamic, client-focused team with the shared goal of developing strategic Whole Farm Conservation Plans. Landowners can set up one-on-one consultations with Kanati and Anez to discuss their conservation needs and land priorities. These meetings can include discussions on building positive relationships, in-person farm assessments, mobile mapping systems, drone imaging, detailed notes and job diary documentation. The information gathered will help in developing a distinct Whole Farm Conservation Plan catered to the needs and wants of the client's property. The Conservation Plan is shared promptly with the owner and can be directly sent to the NRCS and SWCD offices. Participating in a Whole Farm Conservation Plan allows the landowner to manage practices that protect the conservation values of the property, such as maintaining soil health, protecting water quality, and preserving wildlife habitat.

Whole Farm Conservation is about loving the land, it's about having pride and purpose, it's about preserving familial heritage and protecting a legacy. The average landowner has little knowledge of what is available to them and their days are consumed by running their farm, leaving little time to seek out the right information on their own. This project connects landowners with people who understand their hopes, fears, and needs in order to protect their property and the demanding work that has gone into developing it. Kanati Land Management, partnered with Anez Consulting Inc., are eager to share their wealth of expertise with landowners for the opportunity to help them create informative networks to support one another and to build upon their available resources.

Follow Kanati Land Management's Facebook page for upcoming event locations and times or email them at [info@kanatiland.com](mailto:info@kanatiland.com).