

## SIREN Workshop, September 24, 2010

### Conventional/Sustainable Farming Practices Rolf Mahlberg

Mahlberg Farm Borders One Mile of Sensitive Lake Shoreline



#### Sustainable Practices Utilized

Conservation Security Program (CSP) payments to implement practices including: recycling farm oil, limiting soil compaction, managing crop residue, managing nutrients, buffering lakeshore, planting perennial native grasses in sensitive areas.

Mahlberg farm receives a payment of approximately \$30.00 per acre for participation in the program.



#### Sustainable Practices Utilized

CRP Grass Buffer Strip Program utilized along the shoreline to separate cropland from the lake.

Receive additional payment of \$100 per acre per year for the filter strips from the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District

Twenty-three acres of marginal upland is in the CRP program for 2011.



#### Sustainable Practices Utilized

Nutrients are applied to the farmed land based on needs identified by soil sampling.

Two acre grids used for soil samples. This method prevents nutrients from being over applied.



#### Sustainable Practices Utilized

Crop residue is left on the soil surface to minimize erosion potential reducing both water and wind erosion.


This practice is called conservation tillage when at least 30% of the soil is covered with residue after the crop is planted in the spring.



**Sustainable Practices Utilized**

Terraces installed to solve erosion problem and store water on the landscape.

Terraces prevent nutrient laden soil particles from entering the lake located downhill.



**Sustainable Practices Utilized**

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) program used to install desilting basin. Additional incentive payment received from the Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District. The Mahlberg family paid 25% of the project costs.

The basin removes sediment and nutrients, before they can enter the lake. The basin also provides wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities, like fishing, for the family.

