

## **Brian and Gloria Greenslit, Renville County, Franklin, Minnesota**

Agriculture is a way of life for Brian and Gloria Greenslit on their 2,050-acre farm located in one of Minnesota's most intensively farmed counties. In 2004, Renville County was first in corn production and third in soybean production in Minnesota; however, not all of the land was suited for crops. So, the Greenslits enrolled 450 acres of their more marginal

land into CRP, including lands enrolled in the state Conservation Reserve Enhancement and Reinvest in Minnesota programs. Land that was once problematic is now sporting productive, healthy riparian buffers, filterstrips, native grasses and forbs, wetlands and uplands.

CRP and other conservation programs provided a needed and economically viable alternative to farming their marginal land, where input costs regularly exceeded the yield. "It was a sound business decision that made our whole farm more profitable," says Brian. If better habitat and nesting cover are considered part of the profits, then pheasants and other grassland birds on the Greenslit's property are cashing in, too. Brian and Gloria enjoy the splendor of their farm's native grasses and forbs each fall, as well as the increased number and diversity of wildlife species that the var-

ious habitats on their property attract throughout the year.

Clearly, acre-by-acre, and farm-by-farm, 20 years of the Conservation Reserve Program has provided tremendous support for wildlife and the environment, farmers, landowners and society at large. Please join me in thanking America's conservation-minded farmers

and landowners for participating in CRP.