

Farm Finance and Conservation: 2018 Environmental Defense Fund Report



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The Environmental Defense Fund ("EDF") recently issued a report titled:

Farm Finance and Conservation – How Stewardship generates Value for Farmers, Lenders, Insurers and Landowners ("Report")

The authors are:

- Maggie Monast, Environmental Defense Fund
- Laura Sands, K-Coe Isom
- Alan Grafton, K-Coe Isom AgKnowledge

The *Report* is stated to be the result of a collaboration between EDF, the agricultural managerial accounting firm K-Coe Isom AgKnowledge and three Midwestern grain farmers. It is stated to analyze the "impact of conservation on farm budgets with three in-depth case studies that combine the farmers' own records with their experience adopting conservation practices. The case studies are argued to demonstrate "how these farmers have made conservation work financially and share lessons they have learned in the process of adopting conservation practices."

Data is stated to have been taken by AgKnowledge from its client database. This data was utilized to:

- perform a comparative analysis of 10 additional farmers, including farmers who practice no-till, farmers who practice no-till and cover crops, and farmers who have not adopted conservation practices
- combine the analysis with expertise from AgKnowledge on how farmers can maximize cost savings from conservation adoption

The *Report* also includes:

- a study of the farm financial system conducted by EDF, California Environmental Associates and two environmental finance and business consultants
- examination of the financial implications of agricultural conservation to the broader set of businesses, agencies and individuals with financial ties to farmers
- ideas on how businesses, agencies and individuals with financial ties to farmers can monetize the value of conservation

A [link to the report](#) can be found here.