

21st Century Cropping Solutions For Critical Areas

June 4, 2009

St. James Hotel, Red Wing, MN

Mississippi Makeover
Lake Pepin Forum III

What/Where are Critical Areas?



- ▶ Riparian Areas
- ▶ Water Retention/
Aquifer Recharge
Sites
- ▶ Marginal Lands
 - ▶ Droughty Soils
 - ▶ Too Wet Soils
 - ▶ Steeper Slopes
- ▶ Expiring CRP

Which Higher Level BMP's?

- Perennials
 - Alfalfa
 - Hay/Pasture Mixtures
 - Native Grasses
 - Woody Plants
- Cover Crops
 - Annual Rye into Corn
 - Following Canning Crops
- Water Storage
 - Short Term Retention
 - Long Term Retention



Red clover overseeded into corn



3 Principles To Practice



- Build Soil Health
 - Carbon
- Lengthen Crop Rotations
- Keep the Raindrop Where it Falls
 - Retention

Positive proof of global warming.



**18th
Century**

1900

1950

1970

1980

1990