

Don Baloun, State Conservationist - Minnesota
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Don Baloun has served as the State Conservationist for the NRCS in Minnesota since 2010. Since he began his career with NRCS in 1979, Don has held numerous staff and managerial positions within the agency. Don's career led him to the states of Iowa and Wisconsin where he served as a Soil Scientist, Soil Conservationist, District Conservationist, Area Resource Conservationist, DNR/NRCS Liaison, and Assistant State Conservationist.

While serving as Assistant State Conservationist for NRCS in Wisconsin, Don was responsible for the development and implementation of the Farm Bill Easement Programs for Wisconsin, agency outreach, and communication with NRCS partners.

Don served on several National Headquarter details for the agency, including EQIP Policy Team Leader, EQIP Manual Re-write, WRP-NHQ Program Manager Assistance, acting WRP Program Manager, Regional Assistant Chief's Office-Management Analyst, and CCPI Policy Matrix Development.

Don received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin - River Falls, where he majored in Soil Science, with a double minor in Plant Science and Soil and Water Conservation.

Don is an avid outdoorsman who practices the conservation he embraces in his work. In his spare time, he enjoys archery hunting whitetail deer, turkey hunting, pheasant hunting, and fishing.