**Field Walkover Process**  
**Root River Field to Stream Partnership**

1. **2010-2015**  
   **Strong relationships are key**  
   Baseline relationships were key. Monitoring and farmer surveys were conducted. Time was taken to meet with producers, understand their operations and gather input about the best approach for field walkovers.

   - Four farmers, SWCD, and MAWRC Partners participated in a local advisory team.

2. **June-2014**  
   Evaluated fields with precision conservation planning tools. Created maps to help guide the walkovers.

3. **January-2015**  
   Local SWCD hired experienced & devoted conservation technician.

4. **Letters**  
   Farm leaders and trusted crop advisor sent letters to neighbors, encouraging participation.

5. **March-2015**  
   Walkover process tested with farm leaders and improved.  
   March-May: 52 walkovers completed (583 fields, 8,412 acres)  
   - Ron Meiners - field walkover technician  

6. **Thank you**  
   County Commissioners mailed each participant a thank you letter.

7. **August-2015**  
   Simplified walkover reports mailed to participants along with individual action plan.

8. **Technician completed a follow-up site-visit to discuss report and how to move forward. Letter of intent signed.**

9. **Spring-2016**  
   Targeted practice installation begins

10. **Results**  
    - 100% farmer participation (47/47 farmers), representing 92% of the watershed crop acres.
    - 85% of farmers signed letters of intent to install priority practices.
    - $45,000 walkover investment produced over $1.8 million in conservation cost-share assistance.
    - Over 70% of the farmers addressed their priority sites in three years. Some farmers installed without cost-share.

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