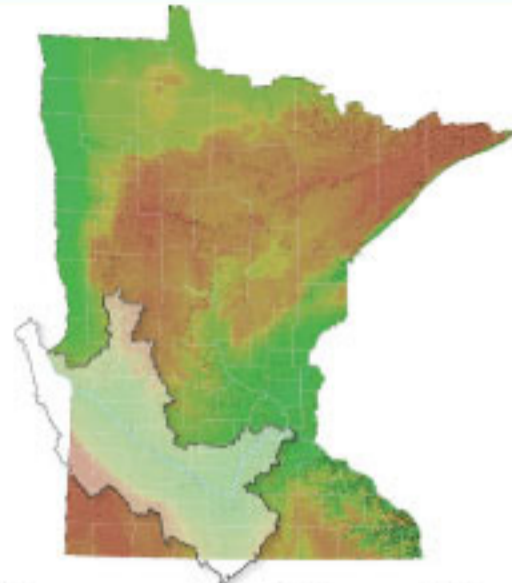


# Blue Earth River Basin

Watonwan River, Blue Earth River, and Le Sueur River Watersheds



## Minnesota River Basin

The Minnesota River Basin drains nearly 20 percent of Minnesota as well as portions of South Dakota, Iowa and North Dakota. The Minnesota River Basin encompasses roughly 15,000 square miles and contains all or parts of 38 counties in Minnesota.



## Blue Earth River Basin

The Blue Earth River Basin is a large basin within the Minnesota River Basin. The Le Sueur and Watonwan Rivers flow into the Blue Earth River upstream of its confluence with the Minnesota River at Mankato. The Blue Earth River Basin consists of three major watersheds:

- Watonwan River
- Blue Earth River
- Le Sueur River

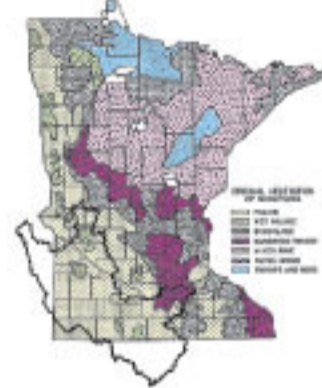


The Blue Earth Basin covers approximately 3,540 square miles (2.26 million acres). The Basin contains 3,364 miles of streams and rivers, and 3,374 miles of public drainage.



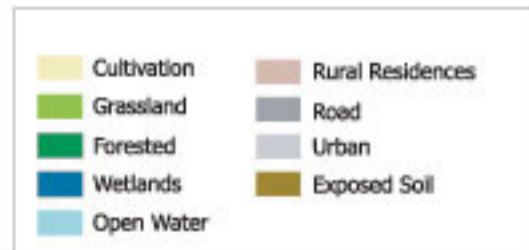
The Blue Earth River Basin includes parts of 11 South Central Minnesota counties and three Iowa counties.

## Historic Landscape

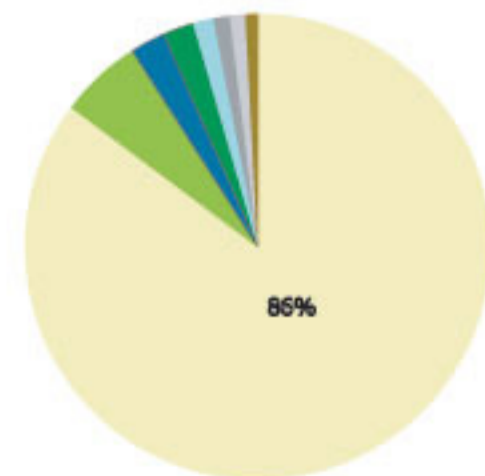


Pre-settlement vegetation was primarily tall grass prairie and wet prairie with hardwoods (the Big Woods) in the eastern part of the Basin. The Basin is a mixture of glacial lake plains, moraines, and till plains. Some stream banks have steep slopes and are often cut by the fast flowing rivers.

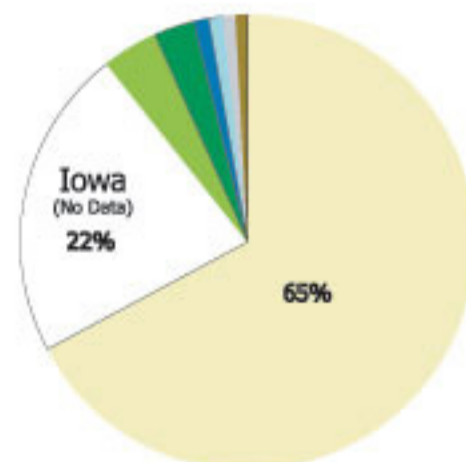
## Present Land Use



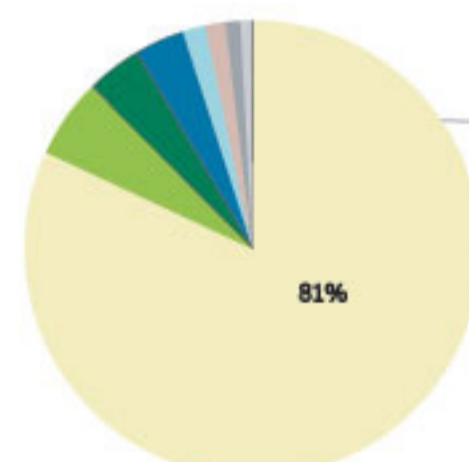
Today approximately eighty percent (80%) of the Basin is used for agriculture, dominated by corn and soybean production. Feedlots are common. A large percentage of hogs and cattle in the state of Minnesota are raised within the southeastern part of the Minnesota River Basin.



Watonwan



Blue Earth



Le Sueur

