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2022 Newsletter

Conservation Bus Tour 2021

Est. 1954

On September 8th, Douglas SWCD hosted a guided conservation bus tour around the county. There were 30 participants throughout the day who took part in the bus tour which included SWCD, NRCS, County staff, commissioners and community members. The tour was free and open to anyone willing to give up some time and learn about conservation practices. The tour included many stops highlighting a variety of successful conservation practices and county trivia questions. Some of the locally implemented conservation practices highlighted on this tour included:

- Ag. Waste Systems
- Feedlots
- Conservation Tree Plantings
- Grazing
- Lake Shore Restoration
- Pollinator Plantings
- Terraces
- Water and Sediment Control Basins
- Cover Crops
- Minnesota Ag. Water Quality Certification
- Buffers
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
- Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM)
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Wetland Restorations

Breakfast and lunch were also provided as part of the tour. Lunch was served at Chippewa Park.

Douglas SWCD wants to thank everyone that took part in helping to make our Conservation Bus Tour a huge success!



Tree Open House

Douglas SWCD will not be having their annual Tree Open House due to COVID-19 and building restrictions. SWCD staff will be available by phone/email to assist you with planning, layout and species selection for your tree planting projects. If interested in ordering trees for the 2022 year, please see the Tree Order Form. Questions, please call the office today! (Inside back cover of newsletter or at <http://www.douglasswcd.com/services/trees/>)



Minnesota Agriculture Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP)

The MAWQCP is voluntary and helps landowners and farmers to protect our state's streams, lakes and rivers. Farmers are the original stewards of our soil and water. To become certified, it is as easy as 123. 1- application, 2- assessments, and 3- benefits. Producers working on certification also have priority for technical and financial assistance (including exclusive funding pools) to implement practices that promote water quality. The program has been available statewide since 2016. To date over 1,141 farms are certified which covers 800,000 acres statewide.

In 2021 Douglas SWCD certified 3 farmers: Ben Wagner, Christian Nelson, and David and Polly Christianson with Le'toile du Nord Vineyard LLC.

Ben operates a 300-acre certified organic farm which includes a 35- head organic dairy herd that has been certified organic since the mid-1990's. He is in the process of selling his herd to a young, local beginning farmer whom he is working closely with to mentor and help establish a successful dairy operation. Ben uses a 7-year rotation on all cropland acres. The pasture is set up as a rotational paddock design developed in cooperation with NRCS. The rotational grazing plan works to promote pasture health and feed values. Manure is the primary source of nutrients applied for crops. No insecticides are used on the farm to control pests. Wetland areas are buffered with grass borders. He plans on continuing his practice of evaluating different practices that improve weed control, animal, and soil health.



Christian and his five siblings recently decided to take over operation of the family farm. Over the past several years, Christian noticed a general degrading of the soils due to excessive erosion from row crops on the hilly terrain. His concern led him, and his brother Lars, to decide to take over operation of the farm to control the erosion, improve

the soil condition and restore the productivity and health of the land. To achieve this goal, they decided to convert the cropland to pasture and build a cow/calf herd to utilize the new pasture resource. The initial step led Christian to the local NRCS/SWCD office in 2020 to develop a plan for installing pipeline and watering facilities that would support a rotational grazing system using multiple paddocks. Cost share funding through the EQIP program helped with installation of the water system, fencing and the seeding. Christian and his brother also have interests in protecting and maintaining land for wildlife. Several wetlands will be maintained and animal access limited. A wooded area on the farm will be excluded from grazing to maintain the woodland habitat. The Nelson farm will be quite the showcase for how to manage a challenging landscape that both protects and enhances the land but also benefits the landowner.



David and Polly Christianson owners of Le'toile du Nord

Vineyard LLC were awarded three MAWQCP Endorsements which provide additional recognition to certified producers who are going above and beyond. David and Polly Implemented the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Endorsement which recognizes an intentional, proactive, and multi-faceted approach to pest management. The other two are Soil Health Endorsement recognizing the five core principles of soil health, and finally Climate Smart Farm Endorsement which recognizes practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and sequester carbon.



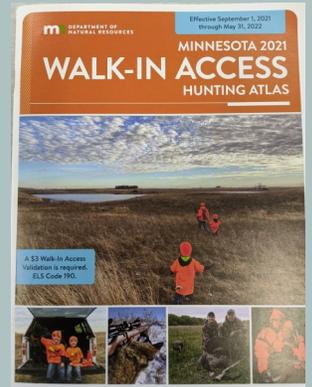
More information on these certifications is located on the Douglas SWCD website. If Interested in becoming certified in the program, or for more general information, please reach out to the Douglas SWCD today!

Walk-In Access Program (WIA)

Landowners may enroll private land in the WIA program, allowing hunters with a WIA validation to access the land from Sept. 1 to May 31. Land must be at least 40 acres or contiguous with a WMA/WPA or another WIA, with priority to land enrolled in a conservation program. Most landowners choose to enroll their property for two or three years in this voluntary program and are paid a flat rate of \$18 per acre to allow walk-in hunting access.

Enrolled lands are covered under the Minnesota recreational use laws that limit landowner's liability. WIA land is for hunting only. Landowners agree to maintain the wildlife habitat through the hunting season; any management activities that may impact quality of habitat must be reported to the local SWCD or DNR WIA coordinator in advance. No motorized vehicles are allowed, and parking is along roads or in designated parking areas. No target practice, dog training, camping, horseback riding, or fires are allowed in WIA areas. DNR conservation officers handle any WIA violations as well as any hunting violations.

If you have any questions about the program or if you are interested in enrolling your conservation land in the program, please stop by or call the Douglas SWCD office.



Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMP) Loan Program

The Ag. BMP Loan Program is a water quality program that provides low interest loans to rural landowners, farmers, ranchers, and agricultural supply businesses. The goal of this program is to encourage landowners to implement BMP's which can prevent and/or reduce runoff from feedlots, farm fields, and other sources identified by the county's water plan or the watershed's One Watershed One Plan (1W1P). Practices include: septic updates, conservation tillage equipment, variable rate planters, sprayers and manure spreaders.

There are three different roles of the Ag. BMP loan program: the borrower, local government, and lender.

The role of the borrower is to propose projects to the local SWCD approves applications. If the borrower is able to meet the state eligibility requirements and can successfully demonstrate how it addresses local water quality priorities, the county will approve the project and assist in locating a cooperating banker.

Local government (this is where the Douglas SWCD comes into play): the SWCD's role is to manage the projects and see them through.

The lender is a local banker who evaluates the financial aspects of the project. With approval of the county and local bank, the project is implemented. Once completed, funds are sent from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) to the local bank and the loan is drawn up between the bank and the borrower. For more information please call the office or visit mda.state.mn.us/agbmploan.



Wetland Conservation Act (WCA)

Landowners are encouraged to check with the SWCD before beginning any project that may impact a wetland(s). The State of MN has wetland laws regulating the draining, filling, or excavation within wetlands. Federal law and state law requirements vary, so check both to ensure all laws are being followed.

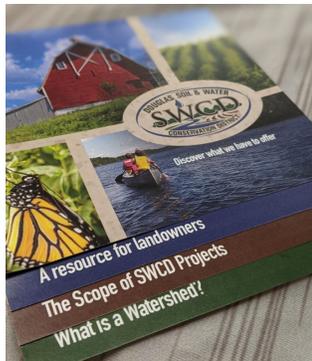
In recent years there has been a dramatic increase in the installation of/or additions/upgrades to drain tile systems. These activities need to be reviewed by our staff to prevent wetland violations. It is also a good idea to check with our office before cleaning drainage ditches as such activities may impact wetlands. Some drainageways are classified as Protected Waters by the MN Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) and require permitting through that agency as well. One issue that occurs periodically is impacts to what are classified as Type 1 and/or Type 2 wetlands. The land can still be considered a wetland regardless if there is standing water or cattails present or not. We encourage you to contact our office if you are unsure if an area is a potential wetland.

Buffers and Beyond

The Board of Soil and Water Resources (BSWR) is introducing a series of factsheets called “Building Better Buffers”. The factsheets are to provide information and to help provide landowners in the area option to improve and maintain existing buffers. These factsheets will include information on: “Buffers for Clean Water”, “Buffers for Wildlife”, “Forested Buffers”, “Alternative Practices”, and “Buffer Maintenance”. For more information contact the office or check out the BSWR website: <https://bwsr.state.mn.us/building-better-buffers>. Overall, the compliance for buffers on public waters in the state is estimated at 99% and the public ditches is right behind at 98%. Douglas SWCD staff is still checking around the county to ensure everyone is in compliance before enforcement takes place. For other questions related to buffers, give the office a call.

Programs, Practices and Services

Douglas SWCD has put together this handy guide to communicate with landowners what we are all about! Information included inside is a great resource for landowners which briefly covers the history of the Douglas SWCD. It also provides a scope of SWCD programs, practices, services, and technical support for landowners throughout Douglas County. Lastly, it highlights what a watershed is and provides you information on where each one is in the county. If interested in one of these brochures, or have questions please call the office!



Our Farms... Our Future...

On August 4, Douglas SWCD partnered with Alexandria Technical and Community College - Farm Business Management to co-host a free workshop to local farmers, operators, and landowners. Our Farms... Our Future... Managing and Maintaining the Farm with Best Management Practices was the theme of the workshop. Discussion and presentation topics covered: cost-share, federal programs, state programs, and other conservation practices that could be implemented with technical assistance.

Youth Outdoor Activity Day

This family-friendly event focused on outdoor recreation and create the next generation of outdoor enthusiasts that is completely free. Over 40 hands-on activities and demonstrations such as shooting sports, fishing, aquatic invasive species, UTV and ATV rides, rock climbing, camping, outdoor cooking, animal habitat, and wildlife management. This public event is made possible through a consortium of participating volunteer organizations, businesses, individuals, and donors. Hosted and organized by the Viking Sportsmen (VS) and Douglas County Pheasants Forever (PF), the annual event takes place at the Alexandria Shooting Park the last Sunday of August.

No-Till Drills for Rent

Douglas SWCD has two 10' Haybuster no-till drill to rent out. These drills work well for seeding native grasses, pasture mixes, hay mixes, alfalfa, soybeans, and small grain. The rental rate is \$9.00 per acre (\$100 minimum) in Douglas County, and \$11 per acre (\$150 minimum plus an additional \$150 delivery fee) out of county. The SWCD will deliver the drill, calibrate it for your seed and pick it up when you are finished. Call the Douglas SWCD to reserve one of the drills.



Rain Gardens

A rain garden is an outdoor space designed to collect run off that can cause erosion. Rain gardens are typically made up of native shrubs, grasses and flowering perennials that are planted in a small depression, which is generally formed on a natural slope. It is designed to temporarily hold and soak in rain water runoff that flows from rooftops, driveways, patios, lawns or other impervious structures. Rain gardens are unique, cost effective, low maintenance and a colorful way to showcase a conservation practice of filtering runoff and reducing erosion on your property. Douglas SWCD has been designing and helping landowners around the county put in rain gardens. If interested in rain gardens, or curious about how they can make a difference on your property, reach out to the Douglas SWCD today.



Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

CREP is a program that has been growing in popularity statewide due to the program incentives that were introduced during the summer of 2018.

CREP targets high-priority conservation concerns specifically related to our water resources – wetlands, lakes, rivers, and wellhead protection areas – and establishes permanent vegetation. Farmers are paid a one-time RIM payment in addition to an annual CRP rental payment for 14-15 years. Participation is voluntary and contracts are perpetual.

The Douglas SWCD office can answer questions you might have about what the program offers.



Other District Highlights

The Douglas SWCD is very proud to have boots on the ground and make a lasting conservation difference in the community. Some highlights we accomplished this year are:

3 Ag. Waste System

3 MN Ag. Water Quality Certification Program

4 Low income septic upgrades

Over 33,000 trees sold ; 21,605 trees planted by district

32 Tree plantings

8 Wetland restorations

5 Shoreland improvement projects

1,905 Acres planted with the district no-till drills on 102 different sites

40 Acres of cover crops planted

3 Ag. Waste pit closures

17,950 Feet of fabric mulch installed

828 Tree tubes installed

Sauk River Watershed 1W1P completed and approved by BWSR

2 AG. BMP Loans - 1 well and 1 manure spreader

Conservation Practices Bus Tour

Met with hundreds of landowners on site

Lots of virtual events/outreach: career fair, school sessions, AIS, and water festivals.

Tree Pickup Day

This year Douglas SWCD sold over 33,000 bareroot and potted trees. It took staff about a week to bag up and label the over 240 orders. The annual tree pick up days were on April 30 and May 1. With COVID restrictions still in place, staff asked everyone to stay in their vehicles while staff got the names on the orders and brought them out. The overall event was a huge success! People were very excited to get their trees picked up. By 8:30 on Friday there was a line of over 30 cars long. On Saturday, the rest of the orders were picked up, which was wonderful tree planting weather although a bit hot, still a nice day to get some trees in the ground!

Rural Development (RD)

USDA Rural Development has funding available for very low- and low-income individuals and families seeking to purchase or repair a home in a rural area.

USDA's Direct 502 Home Loan Program offers financing to qualified very-low and low-income applicants that are unable to qualify for traditional financing. No down payment is required, and the interest rate could be as low as one percent with a subsidy. Applicants must meet income and credit guidelines and demonstrate repayment ability. Generally, rural areas with a population less than 35,000 are eligible.

The USDA Section 504 Home Improvement program offers loans and grants to very-low income homeowners for various repairs and accessibility needs. The maximum loan amount is \$20,000 at a fixed one percent interest rate, with a repayment term up to 20 years. Loans may be used for a wide variety of repairs including siding, windows, doors, and other updating needs to the dwelling.

Grants up to \$7,500 are available to homeowners 62 and older and must be used to remove health and/or safety hazards. No repayment is required on the grant if the homeowner remains in their home for 3 years. Examples of grant eligible repairs include fixing a leaking roof, replacing a failing septic system or drilled well, installing a ramp or remodeling a bathroom for accessibility needs, and replacing a furnace.

Contact the Alexandria, USDA Rural Development office today to see if you qualify. For more information please contact USDA Rural Development at 320-763-3191 x 4, or check out the website at: www.rd.usda.gov/mn.

Food Plot, Native Grass and Forb Seed Mixes



The Douglas SWCD has food plot seed available for landowners. There are two different deer mixes, a perennial mix and an annual mix. The perennial mix includes Alsike Clover, Lanino Clover, Medium Red Clover, White Dutch Clover, and Chicory. The annual mix includes Forage Peas, Radish, Turnips, and Haybet Barley. There is also has a Pheasant/Turkey mix containing Wildlife Sunflower, Wildlife Grain Sorghum, FSG Pearl Millet, and Sugar Graze II Sorghum Sudangrass. Each mix is packaged in one acre bags. Food plots are important to retain wildlife in your area after crops are harvested in the fall and to provide food for wildlife throughout the winter.

Native grass and forb (flowers) seed mixes are also available to landowners for conservation practices. SWCD Staff will work with landowners on what type of seed mix is required for the practice they are enrolling into. Native grass and forb plantings provide optimum habitat for wildlife and their deep root systems make them effective with erosion control.

Chippewa Watershed Planning Initiative Grant Accomplishments

Since 2018 the Watershed Conservation Planner Initiative (WCPI) has been working to assist landowners and operators in the Chippewa River Watershed (parts of Douglas, Pope, Chippewa, Kandiyohi, Grant, Stevens, West Ottertail and Swift counties) to write and implement conservation plans for their operations. Since the beginning of 2018, 48 Plans have been written with a total of 23,639 acres being planned on with various conservation practices. The plans could reduce sediment erosion by an estimated 42.29 tons of sediment per year from sheet and rill erosion. This WCPI program officially ended on December 31, 2021.

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

An EQIP conservation investment helps improve environmental health and the economy of Minnesota's communities. EQIP can help provide financial assistance for a variety of conservation activities, such as: Pollinator Habitat, Farm Energy Improvement, No-Till, Cover Crops, Water & Sediment Control Basins, Terraces, Rotational Grazing Systems, Nutrient Management, Ag Waste systems and many more.

NRCS ranks EQIP applications to help producers improve water and air quality, build healthier soil, improve grazing and forest lands, conserve energy, enhance organic operations, and achieve other environmental benefits. For 2022 EQIP contracts awarded, that will take place after March 4, 2022.

To participate in EQIP, applicant must be an individual, entity or joint operation that meets EQIP eligibility criteria. Contact the Douglas NRCS office about questions related to EQIP.



Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)



Through CSP, NRCS has provided financial and technical assistance to eligible producers to conserve and enhance soil, water, air and related natural resources on their land. Eligible lands include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pastureland, rangeland, nonindustrial private forest lands, agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe, and other private agricultural land (including cropped woodland, marshes, and agricultural land used for the protection of livestock) on which resource concerns related to agricultural production could be addressed. Participation in this program is completely voluntary for a 5 year period. Deadline for 2022 applications is Feb. 4th.

CSP has encouraged land stewards to improve their conservation performance by installing and adopting additional activities, and improving, maintaining, and managing existing activities on agricultural land and nonindustrial private forest land. NRCS staff will conduct an evaluation of the land offered to determine basic information about CSP eligibility requirement, stewardship threshold requirements and payment types.

Where Would We “BEE” Without Pollinators?

The 2021 Douglas County Fair was back in person. Douglas SWCD had a pollinator friendly booth and the theme was “Where would we “bee” without pollinators”. On display were native and invasive plants and flowers fair goers could look at and see if they could identify them. There was a daily bundle of trees give away for the adults (a whopping 289 names in the bucket) and over 450 prizes a day to give away with the spin to win prize wheel! Every person (mostly kids) that spun the wheel were asked a trivia question related to pollinators in Minnesota. If they got the question correct, they got to pick one of the many prizes!



Conservation Trees, Planting and Fabric Mulch

2021 marked the 59th year Douglas SWCD sold trees. The tree open house was canceled but staff were available to take tree orders and answer questions. Douglas SWCD sold out of all the trees that were pre ordered! We had a beautiful start to spring with weather was very accommodating to getting all the trees planted in a timely fashion. In total, there were 33,000 trees sold of that 21,605 were planted by district staff in a total of 32 plantings, with over 17,980 feet of fabric and 828 tree tubes installed.

We are now taking orders for trees for spring 2022 plantings. Whether you are looking at planting a hedge, shelterbelt, living snow fence, field windbreak or wildlife habitat, we have the right shrubs and trees for all your needs. We offer a variety of small shrubs, large shrubs, small trees, deciduous trees and conifers.

Not only do we provide trees for your selection, we also provide services from planning to planting, fabric mulch installation and tree tube installation. Fabric mulch improves the survival rate of your trees by providing moisture retention and protection from weed competition. With the fabric mulch, post-planting maintenance is virtually eliminated! Tree tubes protect your trees from rodents and deer, encourage straight, sturdy trees and act as mini-greenhouses reusing the moisture from the trees. Our staff will gladly work with you and we can provide design assistance for farmstead shelterbelt, field windbreak, living snow fence and wildlife habitat plantings. If you are looking at completing a tree planting, you might be eligible for cost-share to help pay for the planting. There are federal and state programs that provide funding to help pay for the costs associated with a tree planting.

Roots Down and Boots on the Ground!

This year Douglas SWCD got right to work and started planting trees as soon as possible! We had a couple sites to kick off the tree season that were all hands on deck. With just about 13,000 bare root red pines and white spruce that needed to be hand planted, we were very fortunate to have the two different Conservation Corps Minnesota and Iowa (CC) crews from Duluth to assist with some of the first few days of planting.

The weather was beautiful and perfect for planting! Part of the requirement to have the CC help is to have an education component for every project they work on. Douglas SWCD staff were able to fulfill that requirement by teaching the proper way to plant a bareroot seedling tree, use a tree spade, and answer questions as they arose during the week about what programs, practices and projects we work on and accomplish in the office. The most asked question we get in the office is how do you plant and care for the trees. The best way to ensure survival is plant the seedlings roots down, pack in the soil and gently step around the tree and water it!



Weed Watch:

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has updated the identified list of noxious weeds. On the top of the list is still Palmer Amaranth, Wild Parsnip, Canada Thistle, Oriental Bittersweet and Common Tansy which have been confirmed in Douglas County. Please do your part by helping to control or eradicate noxious weeds to help control the spread. Contact Tom Anderson the county weed inspector with any questions or suspected weeds. Call 320-762-2999



Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

Over the years, various aquatic invasive species have shown up and spread throughout the Douglas County waters. The first CD3 (A waterless way to Clean, Drain, Dry, Dispose of unwanted invasive species) Station was purchased and is ready to install on Lake Osakis. There were also three Aqua Weed Stick and Bait disposal areas purchased which will be placed at lakes around the county to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.



Please report any suspicions of AIS to Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. In most cases, live specimens or samples will need to be collected as well as the exact location it was found. For more information on AIS, water quality or lake information for Douglas County check out the website: www.AlexAreaLakes.org

FREE Nitrate Clinic

Douglas SWCD once again held a FREE nitrate water testing clinic on Sept 2, 2021 from 9 am - 4 pm. This year with our building still closed to the public, the nitrate clinic was held out at the Douglas SWCD Tree Shed. Staff had brochures and information to take home that highlighted other tests that can be ran to ensure safe well water consumption. A total of 70 samples ran for nitrates during the clinic.



Cost Share–Erosion Control

The Erosion Control and Water Management Program provides grants to SWCDs so they can help landowners offset the cost of installing conservation practices that improve water quality by reducing soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution.

Landowners or operators can apply for up to **75%** cost share for their project. Once approved by the local SWCD Board, work can begin. These funds help the local SWCD implement state-approved conservation practices. Some of the practices include: rain gardens, streambank and shoreline protection, water and sediment control structures, and side inlets. Most practices have a life span of 10 years, which means that they must be maintained for that length of time.

County Ditch 23/Lake Ida Wetland

On the Southwest side of Lake Ida, shortly before County Ditch 23 reaches the lake, it runs through a 40-acre wetland. Through intensive sampling, it was discovered that the wetland is outputting phosphorus to Lake Ida during the summer months. Excessive phosphorus can lead to unsightly algae and excessive plant growth in a lake. Once the phosphorus is in the water it is difficult to remove it, so it is best to avoid it reaching a waterbody. To address the phosphorus leaving the wetland, Douglas SWCD obtained two grants, the first grant was to fund the sampling and a feasibility study. This study identified multiple ways to address the problem and helped guide our decision on what to do. The second grant is to complete the recommend project identified through the feasibility study.

The recommend project is to construct an open channel along the North end of the wetland to carry low flows around the wetland. This will prevent upstream water from picking up the phosphorus the wetland is outputting and carrying it into Ida. The preliminary plans for the project have been completed. Our next step is applying for the necessary permits to complete the work. We hope to begin construction in 2022. If you have any questions, please call the Douglas SWCD office.

Mark Your Calendars!

*Starting in May, the 3rd Monday of the Month (unless otherwise noted) is Cooler Dropoff Day for lake sampling. Please have them to the office before 1:00 PM

Like us on Facebook: [DouglasSWCD](https://www.facebook.com/DouglasSWCD)



2022 ARC/PLC Elections and Enrollment

Producers can elect coverage and enroll in crop-by-crop ARC-County or PLC, or ARC-Individual for the entire farm, for the 2022 crop year. Although election changes for 2022 are optional, enrollment (signed contract) is required for each year of the program. If a producer has a multi-year contract on the farm and makes an election change for 2022, it will be necessary to sign a new contract.

If an election is not submitted by the deadline of March 15, 2022, the election defaults to the current election for crops on the farm from the prior crop year.

For crop years 2022 and 2023, producers will have an opportunity to make new elections during those signups. Farm owners cannot enroll in either program unless they have a share interest in the farm.

Disaster Assistance Available for Livestock Losses

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to you for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather, disease and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law.

For disease losses, FSA county committees can accept veterinarian certifications that livestock deaths were directly related to adverse weather and unpreventable through good animal husbandry and management.

For 2021-2022 livestock losses, you must file a notice within 30 calendar days of when the loss is first apparent. You then must provide the following supporting documentation to your local FSA office no later than 60 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the eligible loss condition occurred.

* Proof of death documentation * Copy of grower's contracts * Proof of normal mortality documentation

USDA has established normal mortality rates for each type and weight range of eligible livestock, i.e. Adult Beef Cow = 1.5% and Non-Adult Beef Cattle (less than 250 pounds) = 3%. These established percentages reflect losses that are considered expected or typical under "normal" conditions.

In addition to filing a notice of loss, you must also submit an application no more than 60 days after the calendar year.

Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM)

Starting in 1986 the RIM Resources Act was enacted to help restore certain marginal and environmental sensitive land to protect and reduce soil erosion and improve water quality while supporting fish and wildlife habitat. To date, across Minnesota, over \$200 million in state money has been used to establish over 6,000 RIM easements on 250,000 acres. RIM is a critical component of the state's efforts to improve water quality by reducing soil erosion, phosphorus and nitrogen loading while improving wildlife habitat and food attenuation on private lands. RIM compensates landowners for granting conservation easements and establishing native vegetation habitat on economically marginal, flood-prone, environmentally sensitive or highly erodible lands. This program helps to conserve, preserve and protect the state's soil and water resources by permanently restoring wetlands, adjacent native grassland, wildlife habitat complexes and permanent riparian buffers.

How does it work:

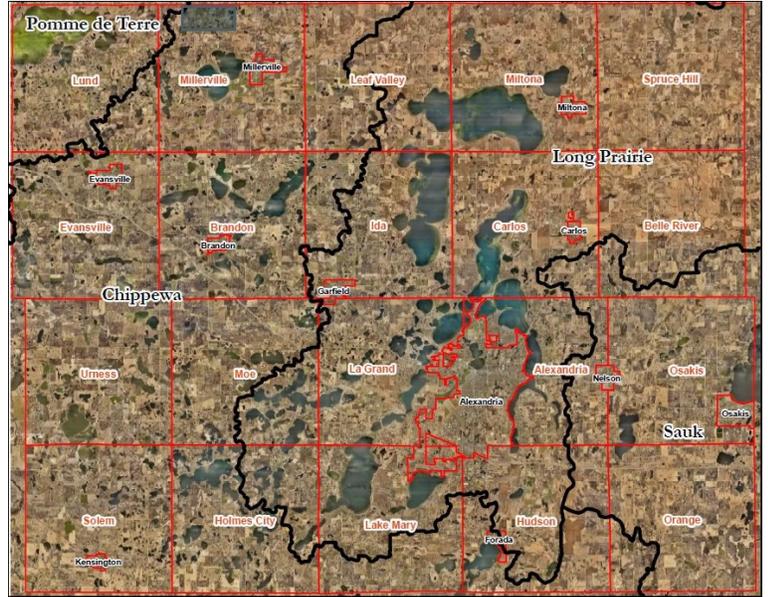
The MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) acquires on behalf of the state, conservation easements to permanently protect, restore and manage critical natural resources without owning the land outright. The landowners still own the land and are responsible for paying applicable real estate taxes and assessments along with general maintenance.

Who is involved?

This program partners with private and public landowners, state, federal and local government entities, non-profit organizations and citizens of Minnesota. BWSR provides statewide program coordination, administration and implementation at the local level through the Douglas SWCD to help get projects completed .

Comprehensive Watershed Planning

The One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) program offers planning resources and staff support for groups working together to develop comprehensive watershed management plans. These plans break the traditional planning boundaries (county lines) to follow the water – from the watersheds headwaters to its outlet. A completed, approved plan is a source of non-competitive funding for SWCD's to implement projects in prioritized areas. Douglas County has 5 watersheds and is participating in 4 plans (we opted out of the Red Eye Watershed plan due to its small amount of acreage within Douglas). Douglas is at the top of 4 of the watersheds, meaning all the water here flows out of the county. The Pomme de Terre and Chippewa rivers flow south to the Minnesota River while the Long Prairie, Red Eye, and Sauk rivers all flow towards the Mississippi River.



Pomme de Terre Watershed – Planning is complete, and funding is available for projects within the watershed.

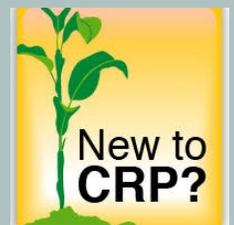
Sauk Watershed – A bit more groundwork needs to be completed before project funding is available. The goal is to have project funding for prioritized areas available early 2022.

Long Prairie Watershed – Currently in the planning process, this will be completed winter of 2022/23. Project funding should be available the end of 2023.

Chippewa Watershed – Houston Engineering has been hired to write the plan at the direction of the local partners. The plan will take approximately 2 years to complete.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Landowners interested in restoring farmland to native grasses, wetlands, or trees may voluntarily enroll their land in CRP. Options vary within the program depending on the field features and your conservation goals, whether focused on water, soil, or wildlife. Continuous CRP has an ongoing signup where farmers and landowners may enroll on a rolling basis. Other options include General CRP with the next signup coming this winter followed by the signup for CRP Grasslands. Both the General and Grasslands signups are competitive and all three programs, including Continuous CRP, provide annual rental payments during a 10-15 year contract for land devoted to conservation cover.



Who can enroll and what are the benefits? Farmers and ranchers who enroll in CRP receive a yearly rental payment for voluntarily establishing long term, resource-conserving plant species such as approved native grasses or trees to help control soil erosion, improve water quality, and enhance wildlife habitat on cropland. Currently, there are nearly 22.9 million acres enrolled, but with the passing of the 2018 Farm Bill there is room for further enrollment up to 25.5 million acres in FY 2022. If you are interested in enrolling or have questions, call or stop by the Douglas SWCD office and talk to Kasey Jenc, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist.

SARE Grant

Douglas SWCD applied for and received a educational grant to revamp and improve some of the learning stations at the Kids' Groundwater Festival. This provides hands on demonstrations at Conservation Field Days, outreach and education opportunities to learn about sustainable agriculture practices which covers all aspects of the environment. Overall, it will help promote the three concepts of sustainable agriculture by highlighting economy impact, career opportunities and importance of community involvement and environmental impact.



Sustainable Agriculture
Research and Education



2022 Tree Order Form
Douglas Soil & Water Conservation District
 900 Robert Street, Suite 102
 Alexandria, MN 56308
 320-763-3191 Ext 3 www.douglasswcd.com

Office use only
 Paid _____
 Receipt _____

Date _____ Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Payment for trees must accompany order. Trees will be reserved for you upon payment only. Make check payable to Douglas SWCD. No guarantee can be made for tree(s) survival.

| Number of Bundles | Species of Trees | Growth Rate | Mature Height | Cost |
|---|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|------|
| Small Shrubs (Sold in bundles of 25 trees @ \$42.50) | | | | |
| | Arrowwood | Moderate | 6-10' | |
| | Buffaloberry | Moderate | 6-14' | |
| | Black Chokeberry | Moderate | 3-6' | |
| | American Cranberrybush | Moderate | 8-12' | |
| | Gray Dogwood | Moderate | 6-12' | |
| | Redosier Dogwood | Moderate | 7-10' | |
| | Juneberry | Moderate | 6-15' | |
| | Common Lilac | Mod-Rapid | 8-12' | |
| Large Shrubs/Small Trees (Sold in bundles of 25 trees @ \$42.50) | | | | |
| ** | Apricot | Mod-Rapid | 10-15' | |
| ** | Mountain Ash | Slow | 20-30' | |
| * | Chokecherry | Mod-Rapid | 12-25' | |
| ** | Red Splendor Crabapple | Rapid | 10-25' | |
| * | Nannyberry | Moderate | 10-20' | |
| | American Plum | Mod-Rapid | 10-20' | |
| * | Laurel Leaf Willow | Rapid | 25-40' | |
| Large Trees (Sold in bundles of 25 trees @ \$42.50) | | | | |
| ** | Paper Birch | Rapid | 50-70' | |
| ** | Black Cherry | Moderate | 50-70' | |
| ** | Pin Cherry | Moderate | 40-55' | |
| ** | Hackberry | Rapid | 40-60' | |
| ** | Red Maple | Mod-Rapid | 50-70' | |
| * | Silver Maple | Rapid | 50-80' | |
| ** | Sugar Maple | Moderate | 50-75' | |
| ** | Bur Oak | Slow | 40-70' | |
| ** | Red Oak | Moderate | 60-80' | |
| | Siouxland Poplar - Cottonless | Rapid | 50-100' | |
| ** | Black Walnut | Moderate | 35-65' | |
| Conifers (Sold in bundles of 25 trees @ \$42.50) | | | | |
| | Northern White Cedar | Moderate | 20-40' | |
| | Red Pine | Moderate | 75-100' | |
| | White Pine | Rapid | 75-100' | |
| | Black Hills Spruce | Moderate-Rapid | 30-60' | |
| | Norway Spruce | Rapid | 40-100' | |
| Potted Conifers - 1 gallon (\$11 each) | | | | |
| | Northern White Cedar | Moderate | 20-40' | |
| | Red Pine | Moderate | 75-100' | |
| | White Pine | Rapid | 75-100' | |
| | Black Hills Spruce | Moderate-Rapid | 30-60' | |
| | Norway Spruce | Rapid | 40-100' | |
| Special Order - Ask about other species before January 28th | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| ** Tree Tubes Strongly Recommended | * Tree Tubes Recommended | Tree Cost |
| | | Tube Cost |
| Planting Charges: | Fabric/Plastic Mulch: | Stake Cost |
| \$0.75 Our Tractor for Planting | _____ ft @ \$0.35 per foot | Fabric Cost |
| \$2.00 Hand Planting Bare-Root | _____ fabric squares @ \$2.00 each | Staple Cost |
| \$150 Min. Planting Charge In County | | Subtotal |
| \$150 Min. Planting Charge + \$150 Transport Charge - Out of County | | 7.380% Sales Tax |
| | | Planting Charges |
| Tube/Stake Charges: | Fabric Installation: | Tube Installation |
| _____ 4' tubes @ \$4.00 each | \$0.50 per foot (\$150 Min) | Fabric Installation |
| _____ 5' stakes @ \$2.00 each | \$2.00 per fabric square (\$150 Min) | Grand Total |

Tube/Stake Installation: \$2.00 per tube/stake (\$150 Min)
Turf Staples: _____ Turf Staples @ \$0.08 each

Please contact Douglas SWCD before ordering if interested in having us plant trees, install fabric or install tubes.

Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District



900 Robert Street Suite 102

Alexandria, MN 56308

320-763-3191 Ext. 3

Prsrt First Class Mail

U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 3876

Twin Cities, MN

2020-2021 Douglas County Outstanding Conservationist

The Douglas SWCD wants to recognize and nominate Lakeside Jerseys - Kevin and Steph Krohnfeldt, along with their children Kelsey and Cole as this years Outstanding Conservation Farmer. Being the Minnesota Association for Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) was canceled in 2020, and proper recognition was not given, this family will be our conservation farmer for two years in a row.



Lakeside Jerseys farm 350 acres and milk 75 Jersey cows on the southwest side of Lake Miltona in Miltona and Leaf Valley Townships. Kevin started farming in 2009 but quit his full-time job and started full time farming in 2015 when he took over the farm from his parents Burnell and Loretta Krohnfeldt. The Krohnfeldt's switched to 100% no-till in 2019/2020 to cut down on expenses and conserve moisture on the sandy soils they farm. They use a variable rate planter on the corn and soybeans to optimize yields, and plant a rotation of corn, soybeans, small grain and alfalfa on their farm.

A manure storage facility was installed in 2013 to control runoff from the feedlot area and eliminate daily hauling of manure from the dairy cows. Manure is tested annually as well as soil testing on the fields to ensure manure is applied for the crops need. A manure management plan is followed to apply manure at agronomic rates and to avoid spreading near sensitive areas. Manure is typically applied to the small grain acres and cover crops are then planted on these acres. Cover crops of oats, annual rye, and field peas are planted on the acres where the manure is spread, to tie up the nutrients in the manure to ensure they will be available for the next years crops. Some years depending on the growth of the cover crops they are harvested in the spring for livestock feed. In 2020 a water and sediment control basin was installed with the assistance of State Cost Share and EQIP funding to solve an erosion problem on one of the fields they farm. Pollinator Habitat and field border has been established with the assistance of the EQIP program.

As quoted by Kevin and Steph. "I'd like to say that people like Benet Glanzer (our Agronomist), Stu Olson (our Ag Zyme Rep), our extended Krohnfeldt family who lend a hand with the field planting and harvesting, Mark Boesl (our excavator for the terraces and buffer strips), Mark Koep (our Feedlot Rep), the folks at NRCS office, Jerry Haggemiller (our Soil and Water Conservation Coordinator), and Brian Zimmermann at Ag Country, plus the many holistic farm classes and conservation classes we go to play a huge part in our efforts to keep our footprint small on the earth!! These people deserve a ton of credit as well, for helping us with the right resources and tools to make it possible to keep our environment and waters clean and keep our soil healthy in a more natural way!!"

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