

60

**YEARS IN
CONSERVATION**

1954-2014

Douglas Soil & Water Conservation District
invites you to celebrate
“60 Years in Conservation!”

The Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District would like to thank all the Douglas County landowners and operators who have taken the time during the past 60 years to learn about, and become good stewards of, our precious soil and water resources. You are to be congratulated because your conservation measures will stay in place and become good examples for future generations.



OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, August 20, 2014
from 1-4 p.m.
Coffee and Cookies will be served

USDA Building, 900 Robert Street • Alexandria, MN

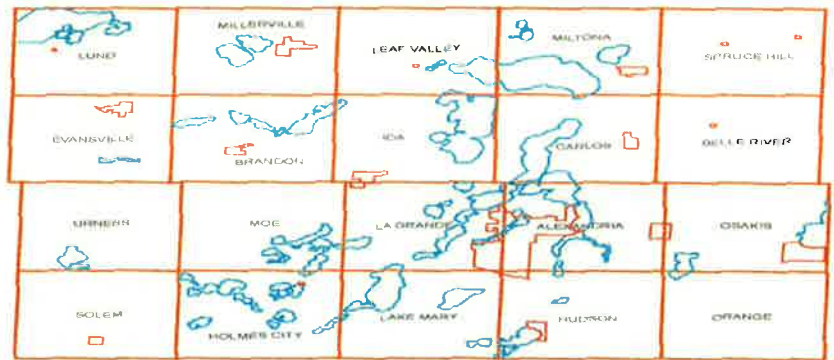
2014 Board of Supervisors

Past and Present District Supervisors

Reuben Jones, Evansville	1954-1955
Harold Johnson, Farwell	1954-1971
Albert Anderson, Evansville	1954-1962
Julian Loken, Garfield	1954-1984
Lloyd Hokanson, Evansville	1954-1965
Norman Week, Evansville	1955-1972
Luverne Ludwig, Alexandria	1963-1970
Francis Schneiderhan, Carlos	1965-1976
Ray Beilke, Carlos	1970-1992
Larry Carlson, Evansville	1971-1986
Wayne Holl, Hoffman	1973-1990
Doug Rutten, Osakis	1977-2012
Gerhard Thoennes, Alexandria	1985-Present
Jerome Ledermann, Brandon	1987-2000
Craig Haseman, Evansville	1991-1996
Craig Damstrom, Alexandria	1993-1998
Arlen Sabolik, Kensington	1997-2002
Roy Roers, Alexandria	1999-2005
Glen Matejka, Brandon	2001-2008
Lee Burkey, Evansville	2003-2004
Paul Barsness, Brandon	2005-Present
Ken Rutten, Osakis	2012-Present
Jon Schneider, Alexandria	2005-Present
Dave Wolf, Brandon	2008-Present



The 2014 Douglas County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors includes (left to right) Dave Wolf, Jon Schneider, Paul Barsness, Ken Rutten and Gary Thoennes.



Paul Barsness Dave Wolf Gary Thoennes Jon Schneider Ken Rutten

IN MEMORY OF DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

As night follows day, there is a time of passing for each of us. During the years gone by, that time came for many who shared our love for the land and our responsibilities as District leaders. Each in their own way gave us something of themselves - dedication and concern. Each in their own way enriched our lives and our land. Our ranks are diminished by their passing, but their accomplishments as stewards will abide with us forever.

2014 Douglas SWCD Staff



The 2014 Douglas County Soil and Water Conservation District staff includes (left to right) Dylan Arceneau, drill manager; Starla Arceneau, district secretary; Elwood Anderson, district technician; Jerome Haggemiller, district coordinator; Steve Henry, water resource technician; and Josh Meissner, Pheasants Forever biologist.

Thank you!

The Douglas SWCD is very grateful to Elwood Anderson and Jerome Haggemiller for their hard work and dedication to the district over the years.



Elwood Anderson
35 years



Jerome Haggemiller
25 years

AREA II ENVIROTHON



St. John's Prep was the Area II Envirothon team champion for 2014.



Morris High School earned 2014 second place honors at the Area II Envirothon.



Third place in the Area II Envirothon for 2014 went to Sartell Middle School.

St. John's Preparatory named champion in 2014 Area II Envirothon

The Douglas SWCD assisted with the organization of the 2014 Envirothon in which high school students from a 12-county area demonstrated their knowledge of Minnesota's natural resources. The annual Area II Envirothon was held on Wednesday, April 23, 2014 at the Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center near Spicer.

The Area II Envirothon is a hands-on outdoor competition day for high school students. Students attended four learning stations covering Soils, Wetlands/Aquatics, Wildlife and Forestry, and a Current

event station, where the topic changes annually and requires students to give an oral presentation on the current topic. The 2014 topic was "Sustainable Agriculture/ Locally Grown Foods." Natural Resource professionals from the SWCD, DNR, Prairie Woods Environmental Center and NRCS gave presentations at each station and used the outdoors to test the students' knowledge of the natural world. Each team of five students worked together to answer the questions presented in the tests. Scores were tallied and the three highest scoring teams advanced to the State Envirothon held on May 20 at St. Johns University, Collegeville, MN.

STATE ENVIROTHON



Stillwater High School



St. John's Preparatory



Hopkins High School

Stillwater High School champion in 2014 State Envirothon

Douglas County SWCD staff helped with the State Envirothon competition at St. Johns University. The Envirothon is an outdoor learning event for high school students in grades 9-12, and is one of the state's largest environmental education competitions. Teams consisting of five students from the same school/organization visit six different learning stations covering Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, Wildlife, and a current environmental topic that changes every year.

Sponsors of this year's Minnesota State Envirothon competition included the local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD), Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees (MACDE), Minnesota Corn Growers, Great River Energy, Minnesota Erosion Control Association (MECA), Minnesota Chapter of the Soil & Water Conservation Society (SWCS), and Cenex Harvest States (CHS).

Chairman's Report

By Gary Thoennes, Chairman, Douglas SWCD Board of Supervisors

"60 YEARS OF CONSERVATION"

Minnesota Status Chapter 40, enacted in 1937, created the MN Soil and Water Conservation Board. It was created to help solve serious erosion problems that were plaguing the nation in the 1930s (Dust Bowl). Chapter 40 authorized the board to create Soil and Water Conservation Districts and to provide the districts with state level administration. The Charter of Organization was issued to the Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District by the secretary of state on August 10, 1954. At that time, the townships included were: Lund, Millerville, Leaf Valley, Evansville, Brandon, Urness, Moe, LaGrand and Solem. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the district and the USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS) on engineering, agronomy, biology, woodland conservation and administration by the area and state offices.

In the beginning, the district recommended contour strip cropping as the best practice to reduce soil erosion. As the district grew, the plan of work also included terraces and stock watering pits. Conservation tours and District Cooperator meetings were held. The district began sponsoring the Poster Contest and tree planting became a big part of the work plan.



In the early 1930s, along with the greatest depression this nation has ever experienced, came an equally unparalleled disaster known as the Dust Bowl. "Black Sunday," April 14, 1935, was the dust storm that turned day into night. Many believed that the world was coming to an end. In 1937, President Roosevelt wrote the governors of all the states recommending legislation that would allow local landowners to form soil conservation districts.

In 1954, the Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District became a reality.



The Larry Carlson family
1987 Conservation Farmers

In the 1980s, water quality was the high priority. The mid 80s brought the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

During the 1990s, development issues in the county became a priority for the Douglas SWCD. The district worked closely with the Douglas County Planning and Zoning Department on these issues. The Legislature passed the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) in 1991, to protect wetlands not already protected by the DNR or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Soil erosion, water quality, drainage and storm water run-off are ongoing concerns of the district. Tree sales with tree tubes and tree mats generate income for the district. The no-till drill program is still profitable, but this program has slowed due to competition and farmers purchasing their own no-till equipment.



Receiving the first three publications of the Soil Survey from Harry Major, Minnesota State Conservationist on March 20, 1975 were (left to right) Julian Loken, SWCD Chairman, Darwin Anderson, Douglas Co. Commissioner and the Reverend Giles Ekola.



Darren and Warren Engelbrecht
2004 Outstanding Conservationists

The 2000s brought the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), a combination of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Reinvest in Minnesota Program (RIM). Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), an impaired waters program, becomes a priority. The district works with MPCA to install Best Management Practices and monitor impaired waters within Douglas County. New state and federal programs increase the workload for the staff, providing cost sharing to property owners for updating septic systems, lake scaping, rain gardens and well sealings.

The Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District is fortunate to have an excellent working relationship with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Douglas County Board of Commissioners, and other government agencies. With the cooperation and support of these partners, we look forward to many more years of conservation.



Jim Odden, receiving his award as State Conservation Teacher of the Year in 1989.

60 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING CONSERVATIONISTS

For the past 60 years Douglas SWCDs has recognized individuals and organizations for outstanding accomplishments in implementing conservation practices and improving Minnesota's natural resources.

1955-Dennis Nelson	1956-Earl Erickson	1957-Francis Thompson
1958-Siira Brothers	1959-Harlon Hanson	1960-Luverne Ludwig
1961-Stanly Hanson	1962-Art Engelbrecht	1963-Webster Sorenson
1964-Maynard Nessman	1965-Wayne Holl	1966-Sydney Johnson
1967-John Benesh	1968-Donovan Johnson	1969-Ray Beilke
1970-Deloyd Johnson	1971-Herb Grundman	1972-Towne Makela
1973-Douglas Rutten	1974-Edna Barsness & Sons	1975-Harlon Froemming
1976-Emil Nack	1977-Darrell Klinder	1978-Sid Satterlie Jr.
1979-Arllys & Loren Kakac	1980-Richard & LaNell Schlosser	1981-Paul Suchy
1982-Roger & Pat Dittberner	1983-Gary & Bev Mrnak	1984-Don & Shirley Haseman
1985-Dennis & Kathy Johnson	1986-Jerome & Betty Ledermann	1987-Larry & Vicki Carlson
1988-Charles & Marcia Bolin	1989-Kay & Marion Satterlie	1990- Harold & Jeff Larson
1991-Carlton & Twyla Johnson	1992-Lester & Wanda Betterman	1993-Russel C.A. & Orrin Johnson
1994-Clarence & Diane Otto	1995-Jerry & Vaginia Morical	1996-Steve & Sue Nessman
1997-Jim & Suzanne Martin	1998-Julian & Beverly Nelson	1999-Vikings Sportsmen Club
2000-John Ledermann	2001-Mike & Kristen Telkamp	2002-Norbert & Lori Johnson
2003-Randy & Eric Satterlie	2004-Warren & Norma Engelbrech Darren & Tara Engelbrecht	2005-Ray Elmer
2006-Ken & Scott Anderson	2007-Dennis & Janell Week	2008-Verna Peterson
2009-LeRoy & Deb Buse	2010-Douglas County Lake Association	2011-Frank & Susan Foslin
2012-Reece & Kirby Lund		



2013 Outstanding Conservationists
John and Pat Lindquist

The Lindquists were chosen for John's involvement with Lake Christina, Ina and Anka Lake Association. Enrollment of 22.8 acres into the RIM/WRP (a permanent conservation easement), seeding cropland to native grasses, ag land and wetlands into a Ducks Unlimited Conservation Easement work with MN DNR to create a 76 acre forest management plan for removal of invasive species, European buckthorn, prickly ash and ironwood for forest stand improvements.

WETLAND CONSERVATION ACT

The MN Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) primarily deals with development issues and not much on the agricultural side of wetland impacts. Agricultural wetland regulations for most landowners are through the USDA Swampbuster program. Questions dealing with wetlands continue to be a large workload for the SWCD. Even with continued slow development in Douglas County the past years, WCA activities remained high. In 2013, 826 landowner contacts were made for wetland questions dealing with wetland boundaries, wetland regulations, wetland enhancements, or just general wetland questions. A total of 808 of these contacts ended in avoidance of wetlands.

For projects involving wetland impacts, the Wetland Conservation Act looks at avoiding wetlands first, changing the layout of the project to minimize the wetland impact and lastly replacing the wetland being filled. Some wetland impacts fall under exemptions in the law and are not required to be replaced. This amounted to less than 1.7 acres over the year in Douglas County.

In 2013, landowners applied for filling wetlands through the WCA replacement plan application process and one was approved for filling a wetland through the replacement plan application process. The total impact to wetlands through approved replacement plans were 6,691 square feet. These impacts were replaced with 13,382 square feet of wetland bank credits purchased from wetland banks in Douglas County.



There has continued to be steady interest in wetland banking in 2013. We are currently working with two landowners to establish wetland credits on previously drained wetlands and also with the State Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) on a proposed 65 acres wetland banking site. This site is on private land that the BWSR is working with the landowner to do a wetland restoration and easement for wetland banking.

NO-TILL DRILL

The Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District has a Haybuster 10ft drill available for rent. This drill works well for seeding native grasses, alfalfa, soybeans, and small grain. The drill rents for \$9 per acre with a \$100 minimum. The SWCD District will deliver, calibrate and assist landowners throughout the planting process. In 2014, 31 owners rented the drill and planted 502 acres.



WALK-IN ACCESS PROGRAM

The Walk In Access program targets 40 acres or more that are already in Conservation Programs and is entirely voluntary for landowners. Most landowners choose to enroll their property for two or three years. Landowners are paid \$10 per acre to allow hunting access. Up to \$3 per acre are added if within 1/2 mile of existing state or federal hunting land, or if a multiyear contract is signed.

Enrolled lands are covered under the Minnesota recreational use laws that limit landowner's liability. Where private leases do not, recreational use laws provide extra liability protection for WIA acres under MN State Statute 604A.20 to 604A.27. WIA land is for hunting only. No motorized vehicles are allowed on WIA areas and parking is along roads or in designated parking area. No target practice, trapping, 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 into the program, please stop by Douglas SWCD office at 900 Robert Street or give Josh a call at (320) 763-3191 ext. 3.



TREE PLANTING

Trees are a vital part of our environment and they play an important role in conserving our resources. Trees reduce our energy consumption, improve air, water and soil qualities and provide improved environment for humans, livestock and wildlife. These are some of the reasons that the Douglas SWCD continues to promote tree planting in Douglas County.

In 2014, the Douglas SWCD provided 22,300 trees and shrubs to 252 county residents.

Douglas SWCD provides high quality trees and shrubs, plus assistance for site selection and layout, soils information and species selection, planting service and tree care and maintenance. We also work to provide state and/or federal cost-share assistance where applicable.

In Douglas County, much of our efforts goes toward planting farmstead and feedlot shelterbelts. These multi-row plantings improve living standards during winter and summer for humans and livestock, reduce heating and cooling energy consumption by up to 30 percent, reduce livestock feed demands with improved weight gains and displace

snow drifts where they can be managed. They also attract wildlife to residences and improve aesthetics.

During 2014, Douglas SWCD staff installed six new shelterbelts containing 2,225 trees and shrubs on 7.8 acres to protect 29 acres of farmstead.

One new field windbreak/living snowfence was installed in Douglas County in 2014. These plantings are designed to protect cropland from wind erosion and reduce blowing snow on our roadways and conserve water for crop production. These plantings also provide travel corridors for wildlife and birds. These 400 trees and shrubs were planted on 1.4 acres to protect 20 acres of cropland.

Wildlife plantations and riparian forest buffer tree plantings are multiple-row plantings, usually 10 or more rows designed to improve water quality and provide wildlife habitat. In 2014, three new plantings were completed on 21 acres using 4,300 trees and shrubs.

Again in 2014, Douglas SWCD provided tree maintenance and tree growth assistance to residents in the form of tree tubes and fabric mulch (a 6 ft. wide fabric strip that eliminates weed competition and provides moisture retention). In 2014, SWCD staff installed 10,100 feet of fabric on five sites and 600 tree tubes on three sites.



CRP - CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

You have options! NRCS in conjunction with FSA is offering choices for those that have land coming out of CRP this year, approximately 1,140 acres throughout Douglas County. If you are not currently enrolled in the CRP program, this would be a great opportunity to sign up. There are practices available that could benefit your current farm management and positively impact your landscape and environment, for example: field windbreaks, living snow fences, filter strips, and riparian buffers.

Set to expire on September, 30 2014	37 Contracts	1,139.7 acres
2014 General Sign-up	22 Contracts	301.2 acres
2014 General CRP accepted/applications	22-26 Contracts accepted	
2014 Continuous Conservation Reserve Program	28 Contracts	417.7 acres
2014 Total acres signed up	50 Contracts	718.9 acres

WETLAND HABITAT PROTECTION PROGRAM



The Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District is working together with the Minnesota Land Trust to promote an easement program funded through the Outdoor Heritage Fund. The easement program named "Wetland Habitat Protection Program" is targeting undeveloped shoreline on shallow lakes or wetlands. Required criteria include: Minimum 40 acres in size, agricultural use must not comprise more than 10 percent of property, 50 foot buffer along all wetlands and streams and 100 foot buffer along all rivers and lakes, at least 50 percent of the property must include uplands in natural cover that would otherwise be susceptible to agricultural row crops or residential development, must contain at least 10 acres of wetlands and/or have undeveloped shoreline along shallow lakes.

Payment rates are based on bids submitted by landowners. Each landowner will have their score based on a set of established habitat value factors. This habitat value score takes into account the size of the parcel, ecological features, amount of shoreline, protection of water quality, location in relation to other protected lands, etc. The landowner then offers a bid for the amount of compensation they would like to receive for conveying a conservation easement over their land. Applications are then ranked on the ratio of habitat value score to the cost per acre.

If you are interested in more information on the Wetland Habitat Protection program, please contact the Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District (320) 763-3191 ext. 3.

GROUNDWATER FESTIVAL

The 21st Annual Kids' Groundwater Festival was held May 2, 2014, at the Runestone Community Center in Alexandria. Again the Festival was a huge success with over 515 fourth grade students participating. All schools within Douglas County and one from Grant and Otter Tail Counties were in attendance.

Featured at the Kids' Groundwater Festival were 17 different learning stations. Each of the fourth grade students were scheduled at intervals to take part in seven different learning stations. The stations cover all aspects of the wa-

ter cycle. Students attend sessions on surface water problems, aquifers and wells, wetlands, and water treatment. Games are also played such as Water Pictionary, Water Trivial Pursuit and creating giant bubbles at the Bubbleology Station to learn about changing the properties of water. All of the students attend a session in water presented by the Science Museum of Minnesota.

The 2014 Kids' Groundwater Festival Committee included the following individuals: Steve Henry and Jerry Hagenmiller, Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District; Ruth Turner, District 206 Volunteer Coordinator; Marilyn Bayerl, Bayerl Water Resources; Lisa Pikop, Principal at District 206; Vicki Gesell,



Alexandria Light and Power; Lynn Boysen, MN Dept. of Health; Nathan Reinhold, Douglas Pope Solid Waste, and Rebecca Sternquist and Deja Anton, Douglas County Land and Resources Management. This committee organized the festival with help from many volunteers. Funding for the festival was made possible from the many donations from Douglas County service groups, fire departments, and private business owners.



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from 1-4 p.m.

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USDA Building, 900 Robert Street
Alexandria, MN



Cut this coupon out and bring to the Douglas SWCD booth at the Douglas County Fair, located in the Game and Fish Building, and you could win a \$25 gift card. The drawing will be at 4 p.m. Sunday afternoon. (Need not be present to win.)

Name

Phone number



Cut this coupon out and bring to the Douglas SWCD booth at the Douglas County Fair, located in the Game and Fish Building, and you could win a \$25 gift card. The drawing will be at 4 p.m. Sunday afternoon. (Need not be present to win.)

Name

Phone number



DOUGLAS
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SWCD
1954-2014