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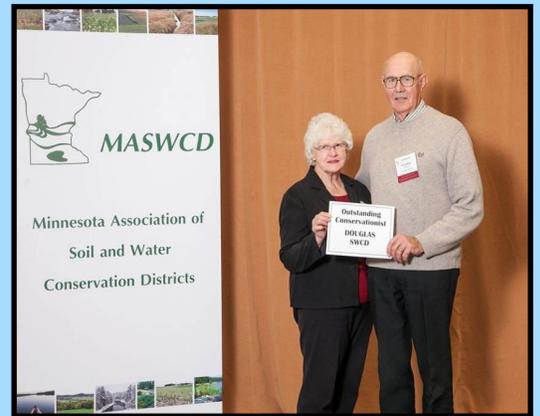
**TREE OPEN HOUSE**

Douglas SWCD will host their annual **Tree Open House** on **Wednesday, January 31, 2018**, at the **USDA Service Center** (directly behind McDonald's on Hwy. 29 North in Alexandria).

Stop in between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to enjoy cookies, coffee and apple cider. SWCD and NRCS Staff will be on hand to assist you with planning, layout and species selection for your tree planting projects.

If you are unable to attend the Tree Open House, but still want to order trees, please see our Tree Order List, (page 9 in this newsletter). For additional questions, please call the Douglas SWCD at 320-763-3191, Ext. 3.

**2017 DOUGLAS COUNTY'S OUTSTANDING CONSERVATIONISTS**



Smokey Timbers Foundation was recently honored as Outstanding Conservationists at the annual meeting of the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, December 3-5, 2017 in Bloomington, Minnesota. They were selected by the Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) for the award.

Each year, the state's SWCDs recognize individuals and organizations for outstanding accomplishments in implementing conservation practices and improving Minnesota's natural resources. The award program is conducted with support from The Farmer magazine, and the award ceremony receives sponsorship from the *Minnesota Corn Growers Association*.

**Congratulations Smokey Timbers Foundation!**

# Meet our new staff



Hi, My name is Jessica Albertsen. I joined the Douglas SWCD staff as the Education and outreach Coordinator in June of 2017. One of my primary duties is to provide outreach opportunities with

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) awareness and promote the Douglas SWCD and Land and Resources Programs.

I'm a graduate of the University of Minnesota Crookston, where I received my B.S. degrees in Agriculture Education, and Natural Resources. Following Graduation I taught grades 5-12 Agriculture Education and Shop for a year, then worked in Ames, IA as a Biological Science Research Technician for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agriculture Research Service (ARS).

In my free time I love spending time outdoors hunting, fishing, camping. I grew up in Evansville, moved away for college and jobs, but recently moved back to the area, and live in Starbuck with my husband. I am looking forward to being back in Douglas County and working with the community members.



My name is Nick Heseltine and I'm an NRCS contractor in Douglas County. I will be managing NRCS files at

the Service Center, Archiving completed contracts and processing new applications.

Before starting at the NRCS, I worked for Douglas County Land and Resources and the MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in seasonal positions.

I plan to continue my education and pursue a fulltime career in the Natural Resources field.



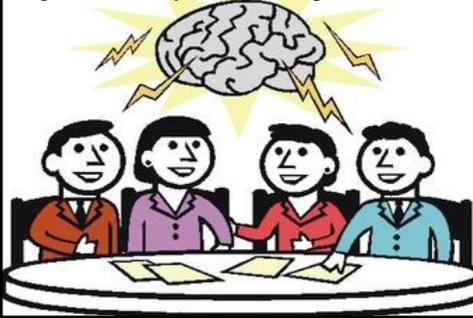
Hello, my name is Danielle Anderson. This January I begin my position as the Douglas SWCD Water Planner. My position will include perusing grant funding,

coordinating the Aquatic Invasive Species program, and water quality monitoring.

In 2013 I graduated from Minnesota State University Moorhead, where I received a B.A. in Biology. After graduation, I served as a Minnesota Conservation Corps Apprentice with the Renville SWCD where I learned about what a SWCD is and what kind of programs they offer landowners. Since 2015 I have been a Conservation Technician with Todd SWCD implementing the state buffer law, designing tree plantings, and running the Minnesota Ag Water Quality program.

In my free time, I enjoy working on my hobby farm, hiking, and spending time with my family. I recently married and moved to a small farm outside of Brandon with my husband. I look forward to meeting and working with landowners on projects and events.

Together-Everyone-Accomplishes-More



## MASWCD- Area 2

Minnesota Association for Soil and Water Conservation Districts Area 2 is made up of 12 counties located in Central Minnesota. This year Douglas SWCD along with the other 11 counties in Area 2 were hosts at the State Convention held the first week of December in Bloomington MN.

Before the convention even started SWCD Staff attended meetings, and partnering with local businesses to acquire donations to be used at the silent/live auction at the State Convention. Douglas SWCD alone was able to put 20 gift baskets together and raise over \$800. At the end of the Auction when all said and done, the total amount raised was just over \$7,600 which will be used to purchase items and run the State Envirothon.



The Douglas County SWCD continues to promote the MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program moving into 2018. By the end of 2017 there are more than 2,100 acres of water quality certified cropland acres in Douglas County. Those acres include 2 farms with a corn/soybean/wheat rotation along with 2 vineyards in the county. As of December 11<sup>th</sup>, statewide certification numbers included 499 farming operations over 294,000 acres.

The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) is a voluntary program designed for farmers and agricultural landowners to take the lead in protecting water through their conservation practices that protect Minnesota's lakes and rivers. Farm owners and operators who implement and maintain approved farm management practices will be certified and in turn assured that their operation meets the state's water quality goals and standards for a period of ten years. The MN Department of Agriculture administers MAWQCP.

To become certified; the first step, application, is a self-verification by landowners that they are meeting state laws and regulations regarding water quality. The next step, assessment, takes it further by examining each field for its physical characteristics; management of nutrients, tillage, pests, irrigation and tile drainage; and current conservation practices. On a 10-point scale, each field must score a water quality index of 8.5 or higher to be eligible for certification. The lower the number, the more the field poses a risk to water quality. If a field is below the 8.5 mark, then certifiers work begins to suggest what areas of improvement would work for the landowner to certify their farm operation. The certification includes an on-site field-by-field verification of the assessment information.

The program has been available statewide since the summer of 2016.

At this time SWCD's are working with interested producers through the certification process.

The Douglas SWCD is ideally suited to assist farmers through the certification process because practices the MN Ag Water Quality Certification Program looks at are practices the SWCD works with farmers on a daily basis along with our federal partners, the NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service). Douglas SWCD is assisted by Grant Pearson (Stearns SWCD) in running these assessments.



So far, a total of 6 Douglas County farms have applied.

To be considered for certification, landowners must complete a three-step process, including application, assessment and verification. "This program looks at the entire operation, which is unique," said the Douglas SWCD; "Typically with the other programs that we have, we're addressing one project on one piece of their property."

The benefits of being a water quality certified farm includes "regulatory certainty," which means they are automatically deemed compliant with any new water quality rules or laws for ten years from certification which gives certified producers a longer period of time to plan for and comply with new regulations.

Another benefit comes in the form of recognition; certified farms can use their status as a way to promote their business as water quality conscious. Producers working toward certification also receive priority for technical and financial assistance to implement practices that promote water quality. Certified producers also have access to exclusive funding pods.

If interested in programs like these, or how to become Ag. Quality Certified, please visit the Douglas SWCD, call 320-763-3191 Ext. 3. Or visit the MAWQCP website: <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/awqcp>

### Mark Your Calendars



- ◆ Tree Open House - January 31, 2018
- ◆ Jr. & Sr. Envirothon - April 18, 2018
- ◆ Kids Groundwater Festival- May 2, 2018

### Free Nitrate Testing Clinics



Watch your local papers for the Free Nitrate Testing Clinics Offered through Douglas SWCD

## FOOD PLOT MIXES

The Douglas SWCD will once again have food plot seed available for landowners. Two different deer mixes are available, 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. The SWCD 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 1 acre bags. Food plots are important to retain wildlife in your area after crops are harvested in the fall and to provide feed to wildlife throughout winter season.



## NATIVE GRASS AND FORB SEED MIXES

The Douglas SWCD will have native grass and forb (flowers) seed mixes available to landowners for conservation practices. We will work with landowners on what type of seed mix is required for the practice they are enrolling into. Typically we have set mixes for the different practices, but we can work with landowners on custom mixes if desired. Native grass and forb plantings provide optimum habitat for wildlife and their deep root systems make them effective with erosion control.



## NO-TILL DRILL AVAILABLE

In 2016 the Douglas SWCD purchased a new 10' Haybuster No-till Drill that they will have for rent. This drill works well for seeding native grasses, alfalfa, soybeans, and small grain. The drill rents for \$9.00 per acre with a \$100.00 minimum. The SWCD will deliver the drill, calibrate it for your seed and pick it up when you are finished. Call the SWCD to reserve the drill

## WALK IN ACCESS

The Walk In Access Program targets 40 acres or more that are already in Conservation Programs or non Crop areas and the program 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 covered under the Minnesota recreational use laws that limit landowner's liability. Where private does not, recreational use laws provide extra liability protection for WIA access under the 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 900 Robert Street, or give Josh a call (320) 763-3191 ext 3.

## CRP OPTIONS

### **New land and re-enrollment options for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) coming soon!**

You will have options! NRCS in conjunction with FSA is offering choices for those that have land coming out of CRP this year, approximately 5,000 acres throughout Douglas County. If you are not currently enrolled in the CRP program, this would be a great opportunity to stop in and ask about the CRP options. Practices will be available that could benefit your current farm management and positively impact your landscape and environment, for example;

*Duck Nesting Habitat  
Living snow fences*

*Farmable Wetland Programs  
Riparian Forest Buffers*

*Field windbreaks  
Shelterbelts*

*Filter strips  
Wetland Restorations*



If you are interested in CRP options for your land, or are wondering when signup starts for 2018, please contact Josh Meissner (Farm Bill Biologist) at 320-763-3191 Ext. 3 to setup an appointment.

If you plan to crop your expiring acres, be aware that HEL fields require an approved conservation compliance plan that can be written by local NRCS office staff in Alexandria. If you are unsure of a fields NHEL/HEL status, feel free to contact our office for further assistance.

## **DOUGLAS COUNTY FSA NEWS AND UPDATES**



Are you wishing you had more storage capacity for your commodities? FSFL can finance bins, dryers, grain carts, hay sheds, bulk tanks (milk), Hopper bottom grain trailers, straight trucks, etc.

FSA's Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program provides low-interest financing to producers to build or upgrade storage facilities and to purchase portable (new or used) structures, equipment and storage and handling trucks.

The low-interest funds can be used to build or upgrade permanent facilities to store commodities. Eligible commodities include corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley, minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain, pulse crops (lentils, chickpeas and dry peas), hay, honey, renewable biomass, fruits, nuts and vegetables for cold storage facilities, floriculture, hops, maple sap, rye, milk, cheese, butter, yogurt, meat and poultry (unprocessed), eggs, and aquaculture. Qualified facilities include grain bins, hay barns and cold storage facilities for eligible commodities.

Loans up to \$50,000 can be secured by a promissory note/security agreement and loans between \$50,000 and \$100,000 may require additional security. Loans exceeding \$100,000 require additional security.

Producers do not need to demonstrate the lack of commercial credit availability to apply. The loans are designed to assist a diverse range of farming operations, including small and mid-sized businesses, new farmers, operations supplying local food and farmers markets, non-traditional farm products, and underserved producers.

### **Environmental Review Required Before Project Implementation**

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires Federal agencies to consider all potential environmental impacts for federally-funded projects before the project is approved.

For all Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs, an environmental review must be completed before actions are approved, such as site preparation or ground disturbance. These programs include, but are not limited to, the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program and farm loans. If project implementation begins before FSA has completed an environmental review, this will result in a denial of the request. There are exceptions regarding the Stafford Act and emergencies. It is important to wait until you receive written approval of your project proposal before starting any actions, including, but not limited to, vegetation clearing, site preparation or ground disturbance.

Remember to contact your local FSA office early in your planning process to determine what level of environmental review is required for your program application so that it can be completed timely.

Applications cannot be approved contingent upon the completion of an environmental review. FSA must have copies of all permits and plans before an application can be approved.

### **FSA Livestock Program Opportunities**

With recent extreme cold conditions, The Douglas County FSA Office reminds our livestock producers of the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) program that provides assistance to eligible producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law. LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, wildfires, extreme heat or extreme cold.

For 2018, eligible losses must occur on or after Jan. 1, 2018, and no later than 60 calendar days from the ending date of the applicable adverse weather event or attack. A notice of loss must be filed with FSA within 30 days of when the loss of livestock is apparent. Participants must provide the following supporting documentation to their local FSA office no later than 90 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the eligible loss condition occurred.

\* Proof of death documentation      \* Copy of growers contracts      \* Proof of normal mortality documentation

Contact the Douglas FSA Office with any questions @ 320-763-3191 Ext 2

## What is a Buffer?

What is a buffer and what are the benefits of having a buffer? A buffer is an area consisting of perennial vegetation, excluding invasive plants and noxious weeds, adjacent to a stream, river, lake or wetland. Buffers are critically important to keeping water clean. They help filter pollutants and runoff from entering the water from the surrounding land. Phosphorus, nitrogen, and sediment are the most common pollutants in Minnesota lakes and rivers, according to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Having a buffer installed helps keep those chemicals from entering a watercourse. Without a buffer of plants to filter runoff, pollutants such as sediment and algae-causing nutrients can drain to the water. The purpose of this buffer law is to protect state water resources from erosion and runoff pollution; stabilize soils, shores, and banks; and protect or provide riparian corridors.



## Updates on Minnesota's Buffer Law

Buffers have been a hot topic in the news ever since the Buffer and Soil Loss Statute was signed into law in June 2015 by Governor Mark Dayton. However, regulations pertaining to maintaining perennial vegetation (buffers) adjacent to watercourses and water bodies have existed since the 1970s & 1980s when counties adopted local shoreland ordinances requiring 50' buffers on DNR Public Waters. Ditch Law 103E also has required one rod (16.5') buffers along ditches that have undergone the redetermination of benefits process. So while this "Buffer Law" is new, the buffer requirements have been around for decades.

In Douglas County, the buffer requirement is 50' along DNR public waters and 16.5' along public drainage systems (county ditches). The deadline for establishing buffers along public waters was **Nov. 1, 2017**. Landowners who have not yet met these requirements are encouraged to stop into the SWCD office and fill out a conditional compliance waiver to avoid any potential non-compliance penalties from Douglas County. This waiver will give an extension to landowners interested in financial or technical assistance. The deadline to establish buffers along county ditches is **Nov. 1, 2018**. There is a MNDNR webpage dedicated to buffer information that contains frequently asked questions and a link to the buffer map. It is available at [www.dnr.state.mn.us/buffers/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/buffers/index.html).

The SWCD staff is available to assist landowners/operators when determining the buffer width required and if any buffer needs to be added. The law requires the buffer on a public waters to be measured from the top or crown of the bank. Where there is no defined bank, measurement will be from the edge of the normal water level. Buffers along public drainage systems shall be measured in the same manner as for measuring the vegetated grass strip under Minnesota Statute 103E.021, subd 6. SWCD staff is available to complete field evaluations to check buffer widths and/or flag buffers (at no charge) if needed.

Financial assistance may be available if the buffer has not yet been seeded. The acreage requiring a buffer can be put into an eligible program or a landowner can sign up for buffer cost-share at the SWCD office. Funding is limited, therefore money will be given on a first come first serve basis. The buffer cost-share for Douglas County is a one-time flat rate payment of \$300/ac for buffers to be planted to native vegetation and \$200 for buffers to be planted to introduced vegetation. A 10 year contract will be held between the landowner/operator and the Douglas SWCD. If you are interested in this cost-share please contact Andy Rice by **February 1, 2018**.

Overall, Douglas County is sitting at 93% compliant on all bodies of water requiring a buffer, which is also where the State is at for buffer compliance. The majority of sites still needing a buffer already have some buffer established. Getting these sites to compliance typically requires adding small areas to the existing buffer. Douglas SWCD will continue to work with landowners throughout the winter on buffer compliance. If you have any questions or concerns, please stop into the Douglas SWCD office for assistance.

## **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**

*Popular Farm Bill conservation program seeks producer participation*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has offered the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) for the past several years and will again in 2018.

Through the Conservation Stewardship Program, farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners are going the extra mile to conserve our nation's resources. Through their conservation actions, they are ensuring that their operations are more productive and sustainable over the long run.

Through CSP, NRCS will provide 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 production of livestock) on which resource concerns related to agricultural production could be addressed. Participation in the program is voluntary.

CSP encourages 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. The NRCS will make CSP available nationwide on a continuous application basis with announced application cut-off dates for ranking periods.

Some enhancements used by farmers in Minnesota to treat resource concerns include:

- Using new nozzles that reduce the drift of pesticides, lowering input costs and making sure pesticides are used where they are most needed;
- Precision nutrient application with variable rate application using crop management zones which can reduce inputs and increase yields.
- Establishing pollinator and/or beneficial insect habitat;
- High level integrated pest management, reducing pesticide risk to the environment
- Rotating feeding areas and monitoring key grazing areas to improve grazing management.
- Extending filter strips for water quality protection.
- Using cover crops to break up compaction, improve soil health, weed suppression, or scavenge or fix nitrogen.
- Use of Nitrification Inhibitors

CSP is now in its ninth year and so far, NRCS has partnered with producers to enroll more than 70 million acres across the nation.

While local NRCS offices accept CSP applications year round, NRCS evaluates applications during announced ranking periods. To be eligible for this year's enrollment, producers must have their applications submitted to NRCS by the application deadline.

A CSP program evaluation will be required. The evaluation determines basic information about CSP eligibility requirements, stewardship threshold requirements and payment types.

For the evaluation or activities list and to learn more about CSP, visit the NRCS CSP website at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/csp/> or visit your local USDA NRCS office.

The entire agricultural operation must be enrolled and must include all agricultural land that will be under the applicant's control for the term of the proposed contract that is operated substantially separate from other operations.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL** Page 7 **QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP)**

The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will be ranking Environmental Quality Incentives Program 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.

Applications for 2018 EQIP program funding consideration were taken during a signup period last summer. Applications for 2019 EQIP program funding are being taken now until an announced cutoff date which will probably be August again this year. If additional initiatives are announced by USDA there could be separate signup deadlines for those later but applications are taken on a continuous basis.

Minnesota producers implement conservation practices through EQIP, the agency's largest Farm Bill conservation program. Interested producers should visit their local NRCS service center early to discuss resource concerns & get information on the EQIP program. Applications are taken year round on a continuous basis and reviewed for funding during certain review periods.

Producers located in parts of the Chippewa River Watershed in Douglas, Grant & Ottertail Counties had an opportunity to apply for Minnesota River Basin Initiative (MRBI) dedicated funds in EQIP during 2016, 2017, & 2018. Payment rates in the MRBI designated area are at a higher rate than general EQIP rates. Contact NRCS for more information.

EQIP offers farmers, ranchers and forestland managers a variety of options to conserve natural resources. General EQIP funding covers many conservation practices to treat resource concerns. Separate Initiative funding targets treatment of special concerns and may be considered for funding. Some initiatives for Minnesota include:

**Pollinator, Landscape Restoration Partnership-North Shore Coastal Forest Restoration, Mississippi River Basin Initiative, National Water Quality Initiative, and Grassland Retention Initiative, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, Red River Basin Initiative**

A EQIP conservation investment helps improve environmental health and the economy of Minnesota's communities.

EQIP provides 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, and much more.

To participate in EQIP, an applicant must be an individual, entity or joint operation that meets EQIP eligibility criteria. Potential applicants can contact their local NRCS service center to discuss their resource concerns to determine if EQIP can help.

For more information about EQIP or other technical or financial assistance programs offered by NRCS, please contact your local service center: In [Douglas County – 320-763-3191](tel:320-763-3191) or go to: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>





## **TREE PLANTING AND FABRIC MULCH**

The Douglas SWCD provides services that include tree planting, fabric mulch installation and tube installation. Fabric mulch will improve 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 will protect your trees from rodents and deer, encourage straight sturdy trees and act as mini-greenhouses reusing the moisture from the trees. Cost-Share is available for eligible practices. Contact the SWCD office to learn more.

## **CONSERVATION TREES AVAILABLE**

The Douglas SWCD is now taking orders for trees for the spring of 2018 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 (see page 9 for trees varieties).

Not only do we provide trees for your selection, we provide services from planning to planting. Our staff will gladly work with you on finding the right tree for your site. 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 cost-share to help pay for the costs associated with a tree planting. Contact the Douglas SWCD for your tree planting needs and get growing!

## **Community Outreach**

The Douglas USDA Service Center has done some awesome community outreach projects during the 2017 year. It started with working together to have a joint fair booth to hand out information on programs. Followed by raising donations to help the Hurricane victims of Houston. Together we were able to fill a pick up truck of items to send over.

Finally, there was a food drive where the proceeds were to go to the area high school food shelf to help families of our community.

## **Weed Control**

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has a new and updated identified list of noxious weeds. On the top of the list are Palmer Amaranth, Oriental bittersweet and Common Tansy which have been confirmed in Douglas County. MDA is taking the steps to eradicate the Palmer Amaranth, and if approved, grant monies will be applied for to deal with the other two weeds. Please do your part by helping to control or eradicate noxious weeds to help control the spread.

## **Aquatic Invasive Species Facts**

Over the years various aquatic invasive species have shown up and spread throughout the Douglas County waters. Here is some information on Curly-leaf pondweed which is an invasive aquatic perennial native to Eurasia, Africa, and Australia. It was first introduced in the United States in the mid-1880's by hobbyists who used it as an aquarium plant. Curly-leaf pondweed also thrives and grows when other plants go dormant (during the cold winter months). If mother nature doesn't provide enough snow cover on the lakes, Curly-leaf pondweed will grow and spread very rapidly.

Coming up from February 28-March 1 there will be an Aquatic Invaders Summit! For more information visit [www.AlexAreaLakes.org](http://www.AlexAreaLakes.org)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Twp. \_\_\_\_\_ Sec. \_\_\_\_\_

Payment of trees must accompany order. Trees will be reserved for you upon payment only. Make check payable to Douglas SWCD. Substitution of tree size may be necessary as our suppliers cannot guarantee us tree size. No guarantee can be made for trees not surviving.

Quantity	Size	Species of Trees	Growth Rate	Mature Height	Cost
<b>Small Shrubs (Sold in multiples of 25 @ \$1.50 each)</b>					
	18-24"	Arrowwood Viburnum	Moderate	5-10'	
	2-3'	Buffaloberry	Moderate	12-18'	
	2-3'	Nanking Cherry	Rapid	6-10'	
	18-24"	Black Chokeberry	Moderate	4-6'	
	18-24"	Cotoneaster	Moderate	6-8'	
	18-24"	American Cranberry Bush	Moderate	12-15'	
	18-24"	Gray Dogwood	Moderate	7-10'	
	2-3'	Redosier Dogwood	Moderate	7-10'	
	18-24"	Juneberry	Moderate	6-8'	
	18-24"	Common Lilac	Mod-Rapid	8-12'	
<b>Large Shrubs (Sold in multiples of 25 @ \$1.50 each)</b>					
**	12-24"	Apricot	Mod-Rapid	15-25'	
**	18-24"	Mountain Ash	Slow	15-25'	
*	2-3'	Chokecherry	Mod-Rapid	20-25'	
**	2-3'	Red Splendor Crab	Rapid	15-20'	
*	2-3'	Nannyberry	Moderate	15-20'	
	2-3'	American Plum - Prairie Red	Mod-Rapid	15-20'	
*	2-3'	Laurel Leaf Willow	Rapid	25-30'	
<b>Large Trees (Sold in multiples of 25 @ \$1.50 each)</b>					
	2-3'	Paper Birch	Rapid	50-70'	
**	2-3'	Black Cherry	Moderate	50-70'	
**	2-3'	Pin Cherry	Moderate	40-55'	
	2-3'	Sioux Cottonwood -Cottonless	Rapid	80-100'	
**	2-3'	Hackberry	Rapid	60-90'	
**	2-3'	Red Maple	Mod-Rapid	50-70'	
*	2-3'	Silver Maple	Rapid	60-90'	
**	2-3'	Sugar Maple	Moderate	60-80'	
**	18-24"	Bur Oak	Slow	70-80'	
**	18-24"	Red Oak	Moderate	60-80'	
**	12-24"	Black Walnut	Moderate	80-100'	
<b>Conifers (Sold in multiples of 25 @ \$1.50 each)</b>					
	10-16"	Northern White Cedar	Moderate	40-50'	
	6-12"	Ponderosa Pine	Moderate-Rapid	60-100'	
	12-18"	White Pine	Moderate	70-100'	
	9-15"	Scotch Pine	Rapid	60-100'	
	10-18"	Black Hills Spruce	Moderate-Rapid	45-60'	
	10-16"	Colorado Spruce	Slow	50-100'	
	15-24"	Norway Spruce	Rapid	80-100'	
<b>Potted Trees (\$8.50 each)</b>					
	15-18"	Northern White Cedar	Moderate	40-50'	
	15-18"	Ponderosa Pine	Moderate-Rapid	60-100'	
	15-18"	Scotch Pine	Rapid	60-100'	
	15-18"	Black Hills Spruce	Moderate-Rapid	40-60'	
	15-18"	Colorado Spruce	Slow	50-100'	
	15-18"	Norway Spruce	Rapid	80-100'	

**Ask about other species before January 30**

<b>Planting Charges:</b>	<b>Tube/Stake Charges:</b>	<b>Tree Cost</b>
\$0.75 Our Tractor for Planting	___ 4' tubes @ \$2.75 each	<b>Tube Cost</b>
\$0.60 Your Tractor for Planting	___ 5' stakes @ \$1.25 each	<b>Stakes Cost</b>
\$1.00 Hand Planting		<b>Subtotal</b>
(\$75.00 Min. Pltg. Chg.)	<b>Tube/Stake Installation:</b>	<b>7.380% Sales Tax</b>
	\$1.00 per tube/stake	<b>Planting Charges</b>
<b>Fabric Installation:</b>	* Tree Tubes Recommended	<b>Tube Installation</b>
\$0.50 per foot	** Tree Tubes Strongly Recommended	<b>Grand Total</b>

\*The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex (including gender identity and expression), marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.\*

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## 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 with wetlands. Although similar in many ways, the laws are different. Do not assume because you meet federal law requirements, you will also meet MN State law requirements.

In recent years there has been a dramatic increase in the installation of/or additions/upgrade to drain tile systems. These activities need to be reviewed by our staff to prevent wetland drainage violations. It is also a good idea to check with our office before cleaning drainage ditches as such activities may impact wetlands. Some drainage ways 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 MN DNR has a good website [www.dnr.state.mn.us/wetlands/types\\_technical.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/wetlands/types_technical.html) with images, describing the different wetland types. Just because the area does not have standing water and cattails does not mean it is not a wetland. We encourage you to visit the website or contact our office if you are unsure if an area is a potential wetland.



## 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 to implement state-approved conservation practices. Some of the practices include: rain gardens, streambank and shoreline protection, water and sediment control structures, side inlets, and cover crops. Most practices have a life span of 10 years (except cover crops), which means that they must be maintained for that length of time.

If you would like more information please contact the Douglas SWCD office at 320-763-3191, ext. 3.