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**Paul Barsness**  
Area 1

**Mike Cleary**  
Area 2

**Rod Froemming**  
Area 3

**Bill Dropik**  
Area 4

**Ken Rutten**  
Area 5

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**Jerome Haggemiller**  
District Coordinator

**Starla Arceneau**  
District Secretary

**Danielle Anderson**  
Water Resource Technician

**Andy Rice**  
District Technician

**Jessica Albertsen**  
Education Outreach Coordinator

**Ian Olson**  
Chippewa Watershed Planner

**Josh Meissner**  
PF Farm Bill Biologist

**NRCS Staff**

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**Rich Geving**  
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**Nick Heseltine**  
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**320-763-3191 x 3**

**Find us on Facebook:**  
**DouglasSWCD**

**Tree Open House**

Douglas SWCD will host their annual **Tree Open House** on **Wednesday, January 30, 2018**, at the **USDA Service Center** (directly behind McDonald's on Hwy. 29 North in Alexandria).

Stop in between **8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.** to enjoy cookies, coffee and apple cider. SWCD 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 Form, (page 9 in this newsletter). For additional questions, please call the Douglas SWCD office.



**2018 Douglas County Outstanding Conservationist**



Kevin and Ellen Roers from Garfield, MN, were recognized as the 2018 Outstanding Conservationist for Douglas County. Currently they are one of eight state finalists in the 2018 Outstanding Conservationist Award Program. Kevin and Ellen will be recognized at the December 11 luncheon at the MASWCD's 81<sup>st</sup> annual convention in Bloomington.

The Roers' have implemented many practices on their property, including: conservation tillage and cover crops used to reduce wind erosion. Rotational grazing system on 101 acres of pasture for his cow calf beef operation. Constructing water lines and installing six watering locations in the pasture of seven paddocks. Kevin and Ellen use insect resistance varieties of corn to avoid corn borer problems as well as have a manure management plan that they use for both their beef and dairy cattle. They have installed buffers on all the required areas by the MN buffer Law, and also voluntary on private ditches and wetlands to prevent runoff. Finally, they have installed four water and sediment control basins last fall to address gullies on a field, and hope to install five more this coming year. The Douglas SWCD is proud of Kevin and Ellen for what they have done for conservation practices and hopes it helps encourage others to follow in their footsteps.



Each year, the state's SWCDs recognize individuals, farm families, conservation organizations and other groups 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 Kevin and Ellen Roers!

# Meet our new staff



Hi, My name is Sarah Zellmar, I was the intern for the 2018 summer with the Conservation Corps. I was based out of Alexandria and working with the Douglas SWCD staff.

I was born in the Twin Cities, and currently attend the University of Minnesota

Crookston. I hope to graduate in 2020 with a degree in natural resources with an emphasis in wildlife management.

During my internship, I did lots of water monitoring and zebra veliger sampling. I also was able to go with and help out with some of the school sessions.



Hi my name is Ian Olson. I joined the Douglas SWCD in December as the Watershed Planner. I will be working with landowners and producers within the Chippewa River Watershed, I will be working to identify and address resource concerns through various federal and state programs that are available to producers. I will be working with the public and various federal, state, local and private organizations doing outreach to promote programs and conservation practices.

In 2014, I graduated from Bemidji State University with dual degrees in Wetland Ecology and Wildlife

Management. After Graduation I worked for Prairie Restorations in Scandia, MN installing prairie rain gardens and restoration projects on various landscapes. In 2016, I started working for the Yellow Medicine SWCD on federal farm programs, state cost share, and the SWCD tree program. While living Clarkfield, MN I was on the Clarkfield Volunteer Fire Department and I also trapped nuisance beaver for Yellow Medicine County.

In my free time I enjoy spending time outdoors hunting, fishing, and trapping. My wife Laura, 4 month old daughter Evelyn, and myself spend a lot of time at our family's resort on Le Homme Dieu, Berg's Resort. I look forward to working in Douglas County and the Chippewa River Watershed.

## Education and Outreach Updates

This last year has been a productive year for education and outreach!

- Two Free Nitrate Water Testing Clinics
- Kids Groundwater Festival
- Assisted with two other County water Festivals
- 29 School Program presentations
- Five School Poster Contest Presentations
- County Fair Booth
- Youth Outdoor Activities Day
- Cub Scouts of America Field Day
- Day Safety Camp
- Area 2 Envirothon
- State Envirothon



## Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

Over the years various aquatic invasive species have shown up and spread throughout the Douglas County waters. In the past year, Douglas County has implemented a few new resources to help control the spread. The first permanent decontamination unit was installed on Kruegers Creek access on Lake Le Homme Dieu and encourage all watercraft recreational users to use it to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Please report any suspicions of AIS to Minnesota Department of Natural Resource. In most cases live specimens or samples will need to be collected as well as the exact location it was found.

Once again the county continued to conduct veliger sampling in 20 lakes to determine presence absence for zebra mussels in various lakes across Douglas county.

For more information on AIS, water quality or lake information for Douglas County check out the website.: [www.AlexAreaLakes.org](http://www.AlexAreaLakes.org)

## Supporting our local Eagle Scouts

The Douglas SWCD loves to get involved with youth and outreach projects in the county. Nick Lundeen of Brandon recently made an outdoor classroom in the wooded natural area behind the football field of the Brandon School Campus for his Eagle Scout project. This outdoor classroom is a quick walk from the school, which will allow for many opportunities for future nature trails and other outdoor learning experiences. There are benches for the students to sit on and a cabinet that contains whiteboards and other teaching resources to help make the outdoor learning experience worthwhile. A total of over 200 volunteer hours went into this project, with support from many local businesses. Douglas SWCD donated all the fabric and staples to ensure that the weeds would not take over! Congratulations Nick!







2018 marked the 25th year of Groundwater Festivals that the Douglas SWCD has put on. Throughout the years there were thousands of 4th grade students that got to learn about all aspects of the water cycle. Each class that participates in the groundwater festival attends 5-6 presentations/aspects of the water cycle, along with bubble-ology, and a presentation from the Science Museum of Minnesota.

As the water festival date approaches, each year the students are provided the topic and asked to draw what it means to them. All the drawings are collected and voted on by the committee. The winning design becomes the image on the shirt. The 2018 Theme was “Pure Tap Water”, and the shirt design winner was Cailin J. of Parkers Prairie. Every participant, volunteer and student gets a t-shirt with the years theme and design and this year reusable water bottles were also handed out.

A huge thank you goes out to our local sponsors, local businesses, companies and volunteers. With your kind generosity and support, we are able to continue to teach the youth in our county about this meaningful event and one that will have an impact on our youth for many more years to come.



### Mark Your Calendars



- ◆ Tree Open House - January 30
- ◆ Jr. & Senior Area II Envirothon - April 18
- ◆ Tree Pick up day - April 26-27
- ◆ Kids Groundwater Festival- May 1
- ◆ Free Nitrate Water Clinics - June 17 & August 19
- ◆ Douglas County Fair - August 14-17

Additional events, changes and updates will be on the Douglas SWCD website.

### Feds Feed Families Food Drive

This year the Alexandria USDA Service Center worked together and participated in the Feds Feed Families Food Drive, and were able to raise 62 lbs of food. These items were donated to the Alexandria Area Highschool Food self for families in the area.

There was also a box decoration challenge as part of the food drive. This years' box was decorated like a SPAM can. This was our take on spam...(Striving to Provide Alexandria Meals).



### MN Ag Water Quality Certification Program

The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program is a completely voluntary program that helps landowners and farmers do everything they can to keep protecting our state's streams lakes and rivers. Farmers are the original stewards of our soil and water. They can use MAWQCP to gauge their progress in protecting water quality and preserving it for generations to come.

Certification gives the public and farmers a greater certainty about regularity standards, ultimately protecting Minnesota's water resources.

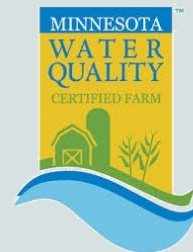
To become certified: the first step, application, is a self-verification by landowners that they are meeting state laws and regulations regarding water quality. The next step, assessment, takes it further by examining each field for its physical characteristics, management of nutrients, tillage, pests, 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 scores below 8.5 the certifier begins working with the landowner or operator to identify areas of potential improvement to achieve a certifying score. Certification includes an on-site field-by-field assessment.

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

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 pools.

If interested in programs like these, or how to become Ag. Quality Certified, please visit Douglas SWCD, office, or visit the MAWQCP website: <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/awqcp>



## 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.

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 feed to wildlife throughout the winter season.



## Native Grass & 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.

## Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

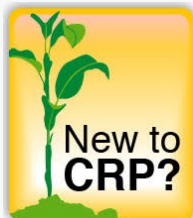
CREP is a program that has been growing in popularity statewide due to the program incentives that were introduced during the summer of 2018. CREP targets high-priority conservation concerns, in exchange for removing environmentally sensitive land from production and establishing permanent resource conserving plant species. Farmers are paid an annual rental rate for 10-15 years. Participation is voluntary and a contracts are perpetual.

We welcome all questions and enjoy sitting down with our local landowners to discuss their expectations and programs available. Currently the CREP signup is waiting on the pending 2018 Farm Bill, but the Douglas SWCD office can still answer questions you might have about what the program offers.

## Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

CRP is a program that pays yearly rental payments in exchange for farmers removing environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and planting perennial species that will improve the environmental quality, positively impact your landscape, prevent soil erosion, and increase wildlife habitat. Landowners enter into these contracts that last between 10-15 years.

The 2019 Sign up for CRP is dependent on the pending 2018 Farm Bill. If you are interested or have questions, stop in to the Douglas SWCD office and talk to Josh Meissner (Farm Bill Biologist).



In the past, these were the CRP options for enrollment;

*Duck Nesting Habitat*  
*Filter strips*  
*Shelterbelts*

*Farmable Wetland Programs*  
*Living snow fences*  
*Wetland Restorations*

*Field windbreaks*  
*Riparian Forest Buffers*

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.

## No-Till Drill Available

Douglas SWCD has a 10' haybuster No-till Drill that they have for rent. This drill works well for seeding native grasses, alfalfa, soybeans, and small grain. The rental rate is \$9.00 per acre in Douglas County with a \$100.00 minimum mobility fee. 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 land that's 40 acres or more that is 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, 140 acre area, or if a multiyear contract is signed.



Enrolled lands are covered under the Minnesota recreational use laws that limit landowner's liability. 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 or call the Douglas SWCD office.



## Weed Control

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has updated identified the list of the 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. Please contact Tom Anderson the county weed inspector with any questions or suspected weeds. 320-762-2999

## Tree Planting and Fabric Mulch

The Douglas SWCD provides services that include tree planting, fabric mulch installation and tree 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 2019 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 and prices).

Douglas SWCD sold over 35,500 trees, planted 10,961 trees and installed over 30,000 feet of fabric within the county. The goal for the next year is to increase the numbers and continue growing the conservation tree program.

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!

## A Heartfelt Thank You

As you may have noticed there is a new supervisor's name on the front cover. This year Garhard (Gary) Thoennes retired from his role as a SWCD supervisor on the SWCD Board. Gary has served as a board member since 1985, (thirty-three years) and has been very supportive of the Douglas SWCD, projects and staff. The District has been very fortunate to have Gary's expertise over the years in executing new conservation programs such as Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM), Wetland Conservation Act (WCA), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to improve the natural resources within Douglas County.

Gary will be missed and we wish him the best of luck with his retirement.



## Lake Ida Ditch 23 Investigation

The wetland along County Ditch 23 is off loading a significant amount of phosphorous directly into Lake Ida, increasing the risk of algae in the lake. Douglas SWCD secured a grant in 2017 to investigate what is happening in the wetland and upstream in CD 23.

Sampling in the ditch and wetland have been completed. A total of 24 sampling events were completed by the SWCD between May and October of this year, along with multiple soil core samples in the wetland by Widseth Smith Nolting and Barr Engineering. Barr Engineering is analyzing all the data collected and working on recommendations to address the problem.

Barr Engineering has also completed a culvert study and surface water flow modeling for the Lake Ida Watershed to identify other potential pollutant sources. We anticipate having a complete report with recommendations in early 2019.



## 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**. The deadline to establish buffers along county ditches was **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 where a buffer needs to be added. The law requires the buffer on a public water 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.

Overall, Douglas County is sitting at 96% compliant on all bodies of water requiring a buffer. 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.



## One Watershed One Plan (1W1P)

Currently the Douglas SWCD is participating in writing two plans, one for the Sauk River Watershed and the other in the Pomme de Terre River Watershed. We are also gearing up to start working on the Long Prairie River 1W1P. Each plan takes 2 – 3 years to complete, and must be approved by Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) before being implemented. Here is some information on 1W1P.

What is One Watershed One Plan?

1W1P is a program through BWSR that supports partnerships of local governments in developing prioritized, targeted, and measurable implementation plans. Key principles are planning at the major watershed scale and aligning local plans with state strategies.

Who is involved?

SWCDs, counties, and watershed districts are required participants. Input from state and federal agencies, and the public are sought throughout the process and included in the plan.

What goes into the plans?

- A narrative describing the watershed's land and water resources
- A summary of the priority issues and resources concerns
- Measurable goals for addressing each priority issue
- A targeted implementation schedule outlining actions
- A description of the program(s) that will be used to implement the actions in the schedule
- A description of the ongoing partnership that will work together to implement the plan

Ultimately, the 1W1P program encourages planners to look beyond individual water management projects – plans include programs that address education, recreation, soil health, monitoring, and more. The program also encourages local government to move beyond jurisdictional boundaries to build regional partnerships.

Additional information can be found at: <http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/planning/1W1P/index.html>

## Douglas County Water Quality Legacy Fund

Douglas SWCD has partnered with Douglas County Land and Resources, The Nature Conservancy, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR), and the Douglas County Lakes Association (DCLA) to create a Water Quality Legacy Fund (WQLF). The purpose of the WQLF is to help assist with grants that require matching funds from local entities. With this fund, the county will be able to apply for more grants, and provide funding to individual projects when the need arises.

This fund has been created to assist with the protection and restoration of the natural water resources in Douglas County. If interested in donating or becoming a sponsor please call the Douglas SWCD office or visit [www.wcif.org/give/funds/cdw.html](http://www.wcif.org/give/funds/cdw.html).



## Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Program updates:

### Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

The USDA's NRCS will be once again in charge of EQIP. The 2019 Signup deadline is January, 18, 2019 for first sign up and for second sign up it is April 19, 2019. NRCS will be ranking 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.

Minnesota producers implement conservation practices through EQIP, the agency's largest Farm Bill conservation program. 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.

A 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, 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 Alexandria, or go to: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>



### Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

NRCS in the past nine years has offered CSP and over 70 million acres across the nation's resources have been enrolled. Availability of CSP for the 2019-2020 year, is currently dependent on the outcome of the 2018 Farm Bill.

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 production of livestock) on which resource concerns related to agricultural production could be addressed. Participation in the program is voluntary.

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. A CSP program evaluation has been required. The evaluation determined 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 is under the participants control for the term of the proposed contract that is operated substantially separate from other operations.



## Douglas County News and Farm Service Agency (FSA) Updates

### United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Market Facilitation Program

USDA launched the trade mitigation package aimed at assisting farmers suffering from damage due to unjustified trade retaliation by foreign nations. FSA will administer MFP to provide payments to producers of eligible commodities who have been impacted due to loss of traditional exports; those crops are: corn (fresh and processed), cotton, dairy, hog, sorghum, soybean (fresh and processed), wheat, shelled almond, and fresh sweet cherry producers. An announcement about further payments will be made in the coming months, if warranted. The current sign-up period for MFP runs through Jan. 15, 2019, with information and instructions provided at [www.farmers.gov/mfp](http://www.farmers.gov/mfp). Eligible producers should apply after harvest is complete, a payment on 50% of the producer's total will production, multiplied by the MFP rate for a specific commodity will be issued once production is reported. A second payment period, if warranted, will be determined by the USDA at a later date.

Applicants must also have an average adjusted gross income for tax years 2014, 2015, and 2016 of less than \$900,000. Applicants must also comply with the provisions of the Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) regulations. Producers of certain commodities can now sign up for the Market Facilitation Program (MFP).

### Maintaining the Quality of Farm-Stored Loan Grain

Producers who take out marketing assistance loans and use the farm-stored grain as collateral are responsible for maintaining the quality of the grain through the term of the loan. Grain bins are ideally designed to hold a level volume of grain. When bins are overfilled and grain is heaped up, airflow is hindered and the chance of spoilage increases.

### Unauthorized Disposition of Grain

If loan grain has been disposed of through feeding, selling or any other form of disposal without prior written authorization from the FSA office staff, it is considered unauthorized disposition. The financial penalties are severe and a producer's name will be put on a loan violation list for a two-year period. Please call before you haul any grain under loan.

### Reporting Solar Panels Constructed on Cropland

Producers who have solar panels constructed on their farms should notify the Douglas County FSA office. Any area that is no longer considered suitable as cropland (producing annual or perennial crops) should be designated in FSA's records and aerial photography maps. When base acres on a farm are converted to a non-agricultural commercial or industrial use, the total base acres on the farm must be reduced accordingly. Non-cropland areas used for solar panels might impact payments calculated using base acres, such as Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) annual rental payments.

### Livestock Losses

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance through compensation to eligible producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, blizzards, wildfires, extreme heat or cold conditions, 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 2018 livestock losses, eligible livestock owners must file a notice of loss 30 calendar days of when the loss is first apparent; or no later than December 3, 2018.

Participants must provide the following supporting documentation to the Douglas County 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

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 400 pounds) = 3%. These established percentages reflect losses that are considered expected or typical under "normal" conditions. In addition to filing a notice of loss, producers must also submit an application for payment by March 1, 2019.

Additional Information about LIP is available at your local FSA office 320-763-3191 Ext 2 or online: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).



**2019 Tree Order**  
**(320) 763-3191 Ext. 3**

**Paid** \_\_\_\_\_ **Receipt#** \_\_\_\_\_

**Douglas Soil & Water Conservation District**  
**900 Robert St. Suite 102, Alexandria, MN 56308**

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 tree(s) survival.

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	Moderate	5-10'	
	18-24"	Buffaloberry	Moderate	12-18'	
	18-24"	Nanking Cherry	Rapid	6-10'	
	18-24"	Black Chokeberry	Moderate	4-6'	
	18-24"	Cotoneaster	Moderate	6-8'	
	18-24"	American Cranberrybush	Moderate	12-15'	
	18-24"	Gray Dogwood	Moderate	7-10'	
	18-24"	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>			
	18-24"	Apricot	Mod-Rapid	15-25'	
	18-24"	Mountain Ash	Slow	15-25'	
	18-24"	Chokecherry	Mod-Rapid	20-25'	
	18-24"	Red Splendor Crabapple	Rapid	15-20'	
	18-24"	Nannyberry	Moderate	15-20'	
	18-24"	American Plum	Mod-Rapid	15-20'	
	18-24"	Laurel Leaf Willow	Rapid	25-30'	
		<b>Large Trees (Sold in multiples of 25 @ \$1.50 each)</b>			
	18-24"	Paper Birch	Rapid	50-70'	
	18-24"	Black Cherry	Moderate	50-70'	
	18-24"	Pin Cherry	Moderate	40-55'	
	18-24"	Hackberry	Rapid	60-90'	
	18-24"	Red Maple	Mod-Rapid	50-70'	
	18-24"	Silver Maple	Rapid	60-90'	
	18-24"	Sugar Maple	Moderate	60-80'	
	18-24"	Bur Oak	Slow	70-80'	
	18-24"	Red Oak	Moderate	60-80'	
	18-24"	Siouxland Poplar - Cottonless	Rapid	80-100'	
	18-24"	Black Walnut	Moderate	80-100'	
		<b>Conifers (Sold in multiples of 25 @ \$1.50 each)</b>			
	10-16"	Northern White Cedar	Moderate	40-50'	
	10-16"	Red Pine	Moderate	50-80'	
	10-16"	White Pine	Rapid	70-100'	
	10-16"	Black Hills Spruce	Moderate-Rapid	45-60'	
	10-16"	Norway Spruce	Rapid	80-100'	
		<b>Potted Trees (\$9.00 each)</b>			
	15-18"	Northern White Cedar	Moderate	40-50'	
	15-18"	Red Pine	Moderate	50-80'	
	15-18"	White Pine	Rapid	70-100'	
	15-18"	Black Hills Spruce	Moderate-Rapid	40-60'	
	15-18"	Norway Spruce	Rapid	80-100'	
		<b>Special Order</b>			

**Ask about other species before January 30**

**Planting Charges:**

\$0.75 Our Tractor for Planting  
\$1.50 Hand Planting Bare-root  
(\$100.00 Min. Pltng. Chg.)

**Tube/Stake Charges:**

\_\_\_\_ 4' tubes @ \$3.00 each  
\_\_\_\_ 5' stakes @ \$1.50 each

### Tube/Stake Installation:

### Fabric Installation:

**\$0.50 per foot**

**\$1.50 per tube/stake (\$100 Min)**

\* Tree Tubes Recommended

**\*\* Tree Tubes Strongly Recommended**

### Tree Cost

### Tube Cost

### Stakes Cost

**Subtotal**

**7.380% Sales Tax**

### Planting Charges

## Tube Installation

**Grand Total**

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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 within 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/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 MN DNR has a good website [www.dnr.state.mn.us/wetlands/regulations.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/wetlands/regulations.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 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.

If you would like more information please contact the Douglas SWCD office.