

Food Plot, Native Grass and Forb Seed Mixes

The Douglas SWCD has 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 food for wildlife throughout the winter.

Native grass and forb (flowers) seed mixes are available to landowners for conservation practices. SWCD Staff will work with landowners on what type of seed mix is required for the practice they are enrolling into. 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.



Check it out!

Upcoming events and activities

May 13 - SWCD Board Meeting (7:30 AM)

May 10 - CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program) Deadline

May 17 - 2nd EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program) Deadline

May 20 - Volunteer Lake Monitoring - cooler drop off day

May 20 - State Envirothon

May 27 - SWCD Office Closed (Memorial Day)

June 10 - SWCD Board Meeting (7:30 AM)

June 17 - FREE Nitrate Testing Clinic at SWCD

June 17 - Volunteer Lake Monitoring - cooler drop off day

July 4 - SWCD Office Closed (Independence Day)

July 8 - SWCD Board Meeting (7:30 AM)

July 13 - Kids Fleet Farm Fishing Day

July 15 - Volunteer Lake Monitoring - cooler drop off day

August 10 - Douglas SWCD is 65 years old!

August 14-17 - Douglas County Fair

August 17 - Aquatic Invasive Species Starry Trek

August 19 - Volunteer Lake Monitoring - Cooler drop off day

August 19 - FREE Nitrate Testing Clinic at SWCD

August 25 - Youth Outdoor Activity Day

September 2 - SWCD Office Closed (Labor Day)

September 9 - SWCD Board Meeting (7:30 AM)

September 16 - Volunteer Lake Monitoring - cooler drop off day

Douglas SWCD 65th
Anniversary
Conservation Tour

The tour will be
scheduled at a later
date this summer!
Check our website for
more information!



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Cost Share Available for Water Quality and Erosion Control Practices

Funding is currently available in Douglas County to provide financial assistance to landowners or land occupiers for implementation of conservation practices that help improve water quality and reduce soil erosion. Douglas SWCD will work with landowners to utilize cost-share dollars through different funding sources to provide up to 75% cost-share for eligible conservation practices. Eligible conservation practices include but are not limited to water and sediment control basins, grassed waterways, terraces, filter strips, ag waste pit closures, ag waste management systems, rain gardens, stream bank stabilization and shoreland restoration projects.

Projects are funded on a first come, first served basis and funding is limited. People interested in completing a conservation practice should contact Douglas SWCD.



Figure 1. (Before) Eroding stream bank along the Chippewa River (Picture May 2015)



Figure 2. (After) Stream bank stabilization project funded through cost-share (Picture May 2019)

No-Till Drill Available

Douglas SWCD has a 10' haybuster no-till drill for rent again this year. This drill works well for seeding native grasses, pasture mixes, hay mixes, alfalfa, soybeans, and small grain. The rental rate is \$9.00 per acre in Douglas County. 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.



Buffer Law Updates

Douglas SWCD staff has already been out this spring checking buffers for compliance with the MN Buffer Law. Due to the weather and a late harvest, some sites were unable to be seeded last fall before the November 1st, 2018 deadline. The SWCD has been working with landowners on these sites to get them into compliance.

Douglas SWCD will be monitoring buffers this year to track compliance with the MN Buffer Law. All parcels are to be reviewed within a 3-year rotation. The county is split up into 3 areas for review with each area being checked in a 3-year timeframe. In addition to this, random spot checks will be conducted on at least 50 parcels located outside of the scheduled area for that year.

In Douglas County, the buffer requirements are 50' along DNR public waters and 16.5' along public drainage systems. A buffer, also known as a riparian filter strip, is vegetated land adjacent to a stream, river, lake or wetland. Buffers help filter out phosphorus, nitrogen, and sediment, and are an important conservation practice for helping keep our water clean. If you have any questions on the MN Buffer Law or buffers, please contact Douglas SWCD.



Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program

The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program is a 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 regulatory 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>



Douglas SWCD Board of Supervisors

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Urness	Moe	La Grand	Alexandria	Osakis
Solem	Holmes City	Lake Mary	Hudson	Orange

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