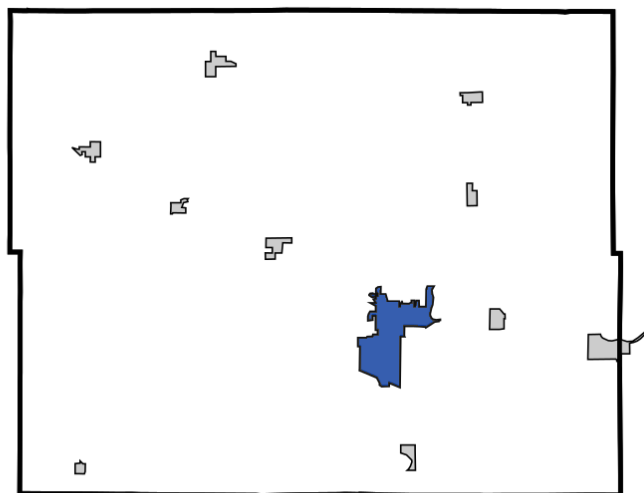
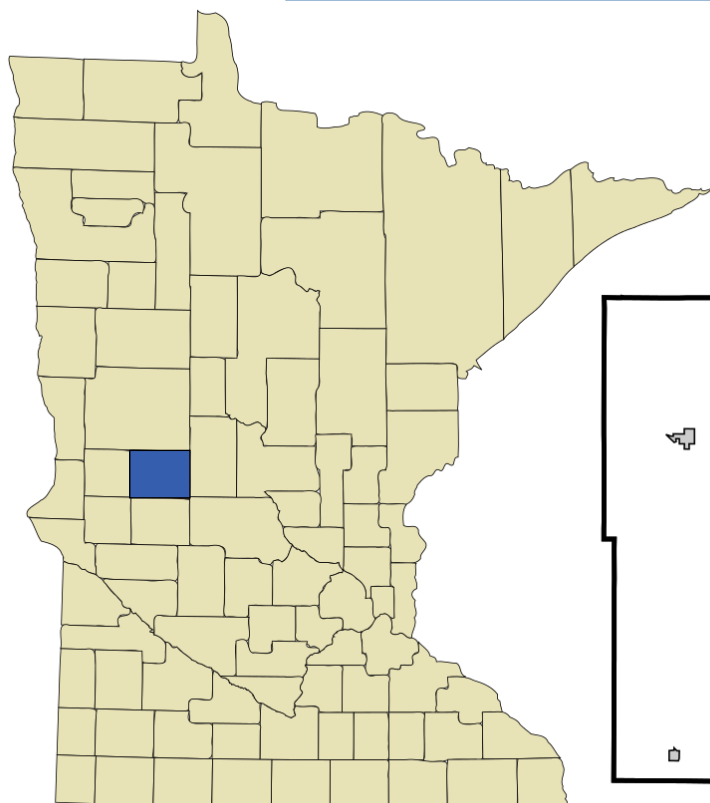


# Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District

“Bringing Conservation into the Future”

Commemorative Edition - 1954-2019

65 years of  
Conservation



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## Preface

Minnesota Statute Chapter 40, enacted in 1937, created the Minnesota Soil and Water Conservation Board. It was established to help solve serious erosion problems that were plaguing the nation in the 1930's. 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 (SWCD) by the Secretary of State on August 10, 1954. The Douglas SWCD was formed through the efforts of many concerned Douglas County residents. 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. The District is governed by five locally elected officials.

In the Beginning, the District recommended contour strip cropping as the best practice to help reduce soil erosion. As the District grew, the plan of work also included terraces and stocking 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.

Water quality became of importance around the 1980s. With that, two new programs was being launched called Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

During the 1990's, 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 help protect wetlands not already protected by the MN DNR or the US Army Corp of Engineers. Soil erosion, water quality, drainage and storm water run-off are ongoing concerns of the District. Tree sales, tree tubes, tree mats, seed sales and the No-till drill generate income for the District.

Our Mission as District Supervisors is to promote, guide, and direct an action program that will result in efficient conservation of soil and water. Our goal is to encourage use of all Douglas County land within its capabilities and to treat each acre according to its needs.

The District cooperates with the United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service under a Memorandum of Understanding whereby full-time technical assistance on engineering, agronomy, biology, woodland conservation and administration is furnished to the District by the natural Resources Conservation Service Area and State offices. Under the Memorandum of Understanding, the District uses the Natural Resources Conservation Service office in Alexandria as their headquarters.

The Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District prepares this commemorative edition for farmers, agricultural agencies, businesses and all citizens interested in the conservation and preservation of soil, water, plants and wildlife resources. We present this record of the past 65 years of accomplishments and invite you to look back and look around the county for all of the assistance provided by the Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District and its cooperating agencies.

**Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District**

**Board of Supervisors**

**900 Robert Street, Suite 102**

**Alexandria, MN 56308**

**(320) 763-3191, Ext. 3**



## A Year In review

This past year started off with a blizzardy winter mix for the Soil and Water Conservation District. Tree sales kicked off pretty rapidly considering the district annual tree open house was postponed and rescheduled. Shortly after the tree open house, the old tree shed collapsed due to the weight of the winter snow. This led to the purchase of a new building. Finally, we were able to get into tree planting, tree matting, tree tube installation, no-till planting, Wetland Conservation Act, survey and design for erosion control practices and feedlot improvement projects, and construction of erosion control practices and feedlot projects. Buffer Law implementation consumed a large amount of time. Staff also spent time on water quality monitoring, zebra mussel sampling, and lots of technical advice given.

Education activities were also a big part of the districts activities. Some of the educational activities completed this year included: Area 2 Envirothon, 26th Annual Kid's Groundwater Festival, Poster and Mural Contests, Douglas County Fair Booth, Viking Sportsmen Youth Outdoor Activity Day, Kids Fleet Farm Fishing Day, School Programming, Boy Scout/Scouts of America Merit Badge, Summer School, Conservation Bus Tour, Irrigator Clinic, Soil Health Chats and various multi-county outreach activities.

The district tree planting and matting program was again a huge success. The districts tree sales this totaled 26,360 trees including 880 potted trees which will benefit wildlife in Douglas County for many years to come. There were 5,014 trees planted by the district and 14,000 feet of fabric was installed last year. The staff was busy this past fall with the installation of erosion control practices (Sediment Blocks and Terraces) in the County. A total of five sediment blocks were installed last year. There was also 15 wetland restoration were installed as well. The District No-till drill program was also extremely busy this year in planting native grasses, soybeans, and alfalfa, for a total of 701 acres planted. All of these conservation practices will benefit the soil productivity and water quality of Douglas County. Two Clean Water Fund Grants were applied for in 2019, as a follow up from the grants applied for and awarded in 2017. In January 2020, Douglas SWCD was awarded one grant for projects in the Lake Ida Subwatershed for \$338,231. Projects to be completed include shoreline gullies, water and sediment basins, shoreline restorations, rain gardens, manure storage, and cover crops. A second application for \$683,867 to complete a project in the Lake Ida Aquatic Management Area ranked high enough for funding but there were was not enough money remaining to fully fund that application, so it was ultimately not funded.

The Ag. BMP Loan Program was also used extensively by landowners in 2019. The largest project involved providing loan funds to six landowner to purchase conservation tillage, equipment, variable rate sprayers and upgraded septic systems. A total of over \$458,500.00 in loan funds were used in the county.

The SWCD works closely with the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) on federal programs offered to county landowners. These programs include: Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The district also has a fulltime Pheasants Forever Wildlife Biologist putting proposals together for landowners whose land qualifies for CRP and other conservation programs.



## In Memory

As night follows day, there is a time of passing for each of us. During the years gone by, that came for many who shared 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 diminished by their passing but their accomplishments as stewards will abide with us forever.

Below is a list of all the staff and supervisors we have lost over the years. The Douglas SWCD appreciates all their hard work and thank them for their service and involvement with the district.

Reuben Jones	1 Year of Service
Albert W. Anderson	8 Years of Service
Julian Loken	30 Years of Service
Wayne Holl	18 Years of Service
Arlen Sabolik	6 Years of Service
Lloyd Hokanson	11 Years of Service
Norman Week	17 Years of Service
Doug Rutten	35 Years of Service

## Douglas SWCD and NRCS Partnership opportunities

Douglas SWCD would not have the success with project completion without the assistance from the local NRCS office and staff. Douglas SWCD and NRCS have a well established relationship for partnering up for field work, cost share, programs, and conservation practices. Together, the two entities are able to get more boots on the ground and accomplish more work that benefits more landowners across the county. Most people automatically assume NRCS and SWCD's are all one organization or office already, but in fact NRCS staff are federal employees and SWCD staff are LGU (Local Government Units) - meaning we are not county, city, state or federal employees, instead they are independent, semi-governmental entities.

The partnership between NRCS and SWCD is one that is very carefully designed. This unique and productive relationship continues to be a great example of providing federal resources, funding, and programs at a local level. SWCD's are a natural player by which cooperation can take place through landowners, state agencies, and Federal agencies, programs, grants and a variety of other partners. SWCD's are there to help provide landowners and others on resource management, land-use planning, and detailed soil information. SWCD's set local priorities, administer grants, facilitate fund leveraging, and provide a variety of outreach services. With the assistance of legal powers given to the districts, they are in a position to seek funding from the public and other private sources.

## Douglas Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Staff



Back (L-R):

**Mike Yrjo** - Civil Engineering Technician

**Rich Geving** - Soil Conservation Technician

**Mark Dybdal** - Conservation Program Manager

Front (L-R):

**Cindy Wojtkiewicz** - Farm Bill Technician Aid

**Laura Aaberg** - Administrative Assistant

(Not Pictured - **Cory Walker** - Conservation Service Team Leader)





# Douglas SWCD Board of Supervisors

Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5
Lund	Millerville	Leaf Valley	Miltona	Spruce Hill
Evansville	Brandon	Ida	Carlos	Belle River
Urness	Moe	La Grand	Alexandria	Osakis
Solem	Holmes City	Lake Mary	Hudson	Orange

Back (L-R)

**Mike Cleary** - Treasurer- Area 2:  
Millerville, Brandon, Moe, and  
Holmes City

**Rod Froemming** - Area 3: Leaf  
Valley, Ida, La Grand, and Lake Mary

**Bill Dropik** - Secretary- Area 4:  
Miltona, Carlos, Alexandria and  
Hudson

Front (L-R)

**Paul Barnsness** - Chairman- Area 1:  
Townships: Lund, Evansville, Urness,  
and Solem

**Ken Rutten** - Vice Chairman and  
Employee Relations- Area 5: Spruce  
Hill, Belle River, Osakis, and Orange



## **Douglas SWCD District Supervisors History**

Reuben Jones, Evansville	1954-1955
Harold G. Johnson, Farwell	1954-1971
Albert W. 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
Douglas Rutten, Osakis	1977-2012
Gerhard Thoennes, Alexandria	1985-2018
Jerome Ledermann, Brandon	1987-2000
Craig Haseman, Evansville	1991-1996
Craig Danstrom, Alexandria	1993-1998
Arlen Sabolik, Kensington	1997-2002
Roy Roers, Alexandria	1999-2005
Glen Matejka, Brandon	2001-2008
Lee Burkey, Evansville	2003-2004
John Synder, Alexandria	2005-2017
Paul Barsness, Brandon	2005-Present
Dave Wolf, Brandon	2008-2016
Ken Rutten, Osakis	2012-Present
Bill Dropik, Nelson	2017-Present
Mike Cleary, Brandon	2017-Present
Rod Froemming, Garfield	2019-Present

## Douglas SWCD Staff



Back (L-R):

**Jessica Albertsen** - Education and Outreach Coordinator

**Starla Arceneau** - District Secretary

**Danielle Anderson** - Water Planner/Land Use Technician

**Kasey Jenc** - Pheasants Forever Wildlife Biologist



Front (L-R):

**Jerry Haggenmiller** - District Coordinator

**Ian Olson** - Chippewa River Watershed Planner

**Andy Rice** - District Technician



## Douglas SWCD Previous District Employees

While reviewing the records of the Douglas SWCD, we have found many people that have been employed by the District over the past 65 years. In the early years due to limited funds, some positions were part-time or seasonal, such as clerical, survey work and tree planting. Many of the positions since then were full-time such as Manager, Secretary, Technician, CREP Technician and GIS/Land Use Technician. Whatever their position, they have played an important role in making the SWCD the success that it is today. We thank them for all their dedication and service.

Andrew Dunlap	Elwood “Woody”	LeRoy Kirchof	Thomas Tonsager
Audrie Kleespies	Anderson	Lois Rosenquist	Tim Swanson
Ben Branson	Emily Siira	Luella Bergland	Tom Morisette
Bev Hawkins	Francis Hartman	Lyle Sanstead	Tom Pierce
Bruce Erickson	Gerald Brunn	Marilyn Johnson	Tom Salto
Caleb Anderson	Harold Norris	Marlin Anderson	Trever Nelson
Carroll Henning	Jackie Wilken	Matt Anderson	Vickie Runge
Clair Guenther	James Beveridge	Matt Siebert	Ward Aas
Clarence Erickson	Jason Feeken	Mike Braaten	Wayne Haabala
Cory Hauglie	Jeremy Barlage	Mike Kuda	
Crystal Luedtke	Jerome Anderson	Nathan Gerberding	
Dan Meyer	Jill Dahl	Patrick Brejcha	
Danica Derks	Jim Anderson	Paul Swenson	
Danielle Wagner	Jimmy Keipe	Randall Grosenick	
Darla Hjelm/Koloski	Joan Volker	Rex Weinmaster	
Darlene Engebretson	John Doucette	Richard Skiba	
Darrell Klinder	John Lanigan	Robert Conrad	
Darren Klimek	Jon Roeschlein	Roxanne Hustad	
Dave Glaesemann-Volunteer	Joyce Wagenius	Scott Smith	
David Bauer	Keith Dreger	Stephanie Scoles	
David Jarvi	Kelly Garoutte	Steve Berberich	
David Walker	Kory Kosek	Steve Connor	
Dennis Alto	Krista Anderson	Steve Henry Jr.	
Duane Paasch	Larry Carlson	Steve Sellnow	
Dustin Navratil	Laruen Feeken	Susan Dau	
Dylan Arceneau	Laura Ferguson	Tara Dolphy	
	Laurie Runge	Ted Salto	

## **Douglas SWCD Good Year, Conservation Teachers, Farmers-Sportsmen and Frank Blair Jr. Conservation Awards.**

In 1998, Douglas SWCD was honored as one of only 57 Districts from nearly 3,000 nationwide to be named a Grand Award District in the 50th Annual Conservation Awards Program. Sponsored by the National Association Conservation Districts (NACD) and the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, the nationally recognized program encourages conservation districts to protect and conserve soil, water, forest, wildlife and other natural resources. Winning Districts are selected based on their success in developing and implementing an annual plan for delivering district programs and services. This is quite an honor for the district because less than two percent of the districts nationwide receive a Grand Award. The district's work is vitally important to protecting our nation's national resources and ensuring their viability for future generations.

Good Year Awards -were for outstanding conservation farming in the district furnished by the Good Year Tire Company.

1962 Lyle Sanstead  
1963 Tom Mielke  
1964 Tom Rutten  
1965 Harold Holmgren  
1966 Carl Holm  
1967 Herbert Hausmann  
1968 Archie Zeithamer

Conservation Teachers - were awarded from Minnesota Association for Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) to a teacher that was nominated by the local SWCD that showed exceptional conservation efforts in the classroom.

1990 Jim Odden—State Winner  
1991 John Esbjornsson  
1992 Sharon Illetschko

Farmers-Sportsmen - was an award given to a farmer that participated in conservation practices to help benefit wildlife.

1990 Art Engelbrecht  
1991 Art Engelbrecht

Frank Blair Jr. Conservation Award - Youth Conservation Achievement Trophy named for Frank Blair Jr. Former Minnesota Director of Game and Fish.

1990 Erik Jones  
1991 Earth Day Committee

## Douglas SWCD Outstanding Conservationists

1955	Dennis Nelson	1988	Charles and Marcia Bolin
1956	Earl Erickson	1989	Kay and Marion Satterlie
1957	Francis Thompson	1990	Harold and Jeff Larson
1958	Siira Brothers	1991	Carlton and Twila Johnson
1959	Harlon Hanson	1992	Lester and Wanda Betterman
1960	Luverne Ludwig	1993	Russel C.A. and Orrin T. Johnson
1961	Stanly Hanson	1994	Clarence and Diane Otto
1962	Art Engelbrecht	1995	Jerry and Virginia Morical
1963	Webster Sorenson	1996	Steve and Sue Nessman
1964	Maynard Nessman	1997	Jim and Suzanne Martin
1965	Wayne Holl	1998	Julian and Beverly Nelson
1966	Sydney Johnson	1999	Viking Sportsmen Club
1967	John Benesh	2000	John Ledermann
1968	Donovan Johnson	2001	Mike and Kristen Telkamp
1969	Ray Beilke	2002	Norbert and Lori Johnson
1970	Deloyd Johnson	2003	Randy and Eric Satterlie
1971	Herb Grundman	2004	Warren and Norma Engelbrecht Darren and Tara Engelbrecht
1972	Towne Makela	2005	Ray Elmer
1973	Douglas Rutten	2006	Scott and Ken Anderson
1974	Edna Barsness & Sons	2007	Dennis and Jenell Week
1975	Harlon Froemming	2008	Verna Peterson
1976	Emil Nack	2009	Leroy and Debbie Buse
1977	Darrell Klinder	2010	Douglas County Lakes Association (DCLA)
1978	Sid Satterlie, Jr.	2011	Frank and Susan Foslien
1979	Arllys and Loren Kakac	2012	Reece and Mary Lund Kerby and Steph Lund
1980	Richard and LaNeil Schlosser	2013	John and Pat Lindquist
1981	Paul Suchy	2014	Roger and Florence Chlian
1982	Roger and Pat Dittberner	2015	Steve and Janet Schiltgen
1983	Gary and Bev Mrnak	2016	Craig Haseman
1984	Don and Shirley Haseman	2017	Smokey Timbers Foundation
1985	Dennis and Kathy Johnson	2018	Kevin and Ellen Roers
1986	Jerome and Betty Ledermann		
1987	Larry and Vicki Carlson		

## 2019 Outstanding Conservationist



**The Lund Family: Larry, his wife, Mary Kay, William, his wife, Hailey and their two kids; Briella and Emma**

The Lund Family Farm, Larry (Mary Kay) and William (Hailey) Lund, a father-son farming family operation from Brandon, MN were recognized as the Douglas SWCD 2019 Outstanding Conservationist for Douglas County. Over the years the Lund's have been a perfect example of participation for the district's programs. Both Larry and William have completed forestry improvement and establishment practices through shelterbelts planted around their building sites. They use reduced tillage to eliminate wind erosion on ag fields. They promote pasture improvement and management by having 120 ewes and 70 heifers that are rotationally grazed on pasture land throughout the summer months.

The Lund's practice cropland management by using reduced tillage on the 900 acres of tillable land they farm. Straight shanks on tillage equipment are used to keep residue on the surface to reducing soil erosion. Soil and manure tests are used to ensure nutrients are applied at proper rates.

Integrated pest management practices are represented by the Lund's use of consultants for crop scouting to ensure proper application rate and timing of insecticides and pesticides. The Lund's crop rotation includes corn, soybeans, small grains and alfalfa to help prevent crop disease.

Livestock and manure management; the Lund's milk 100 cows, raise 70 heifers, 70 steers, 120 head of ewes, 250 laying hens and raise 1,000 butcher hens. Through the EQIP program in 2018, the Lund's installed an ag. waste system which included re-constructing of an earthen manure pit, stacking slabs, diversions and a vegetative treatment area for feedlot runoff. The Lund's have a comprehensive nutrient management plan for proper manure application. In addition to the Ag. Waste System, a new barn was built that includes a robotic milker!

The Lund family has installed five acres of buffer strips along sensitive areas and are following the MN buffer law to ensure shoreline and streambanks along their property are stabilized. This will also provide adequate habitat for a variety of wildlife species.

The Lund's hosted the 2019 Douglas County "Lunch on the Farm" and were a stop for the SWCD's 65th Conservation Bus Tour, giving the public a chance to view their working operation.

The Lund Family was recognized at the 2019 Minnesota

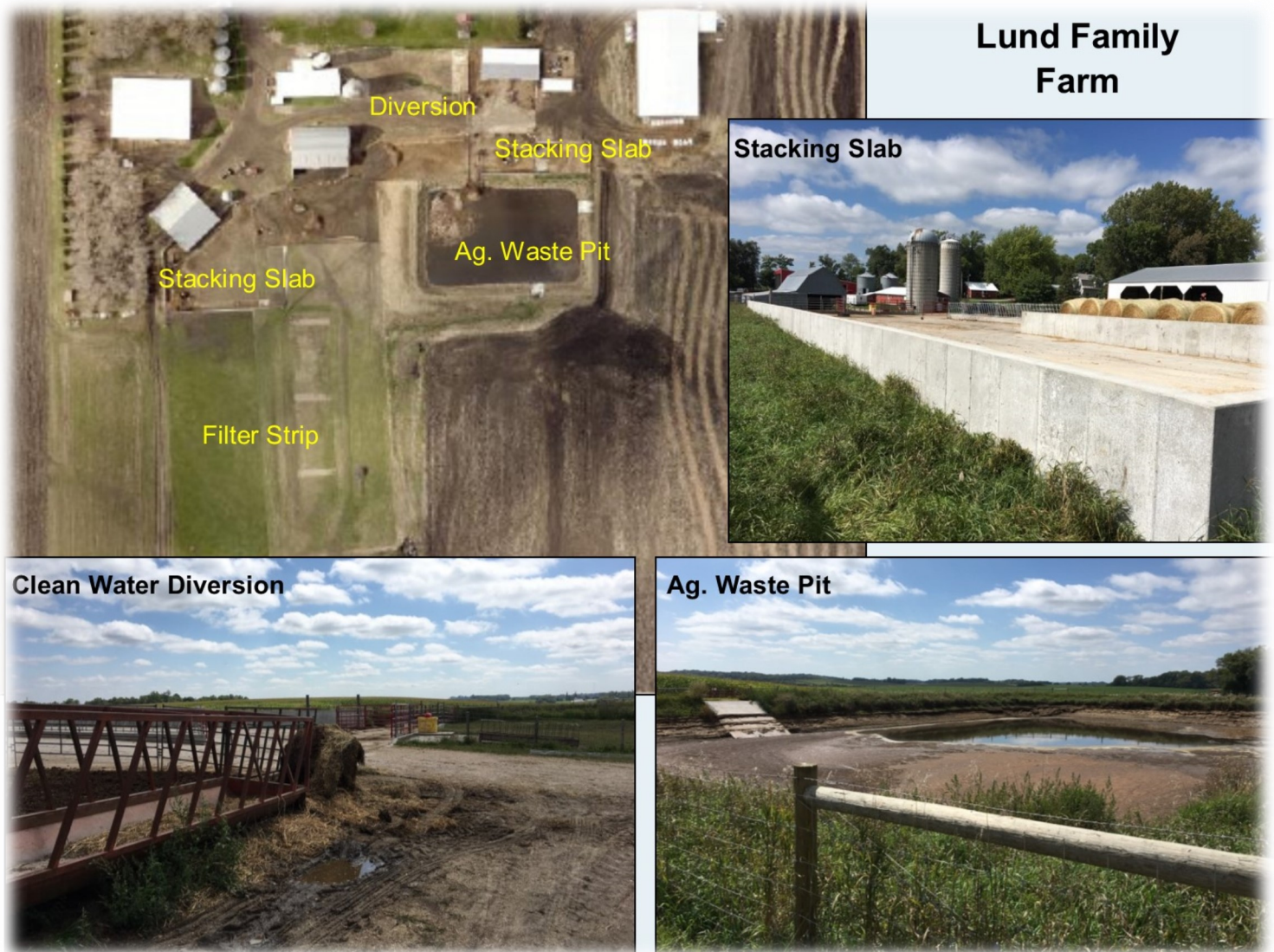




Association of Soil and Water Conservation District (MASWCD) State convention on December 11, 2019. There, they were recognized for all of their hard work towards conservation in front of all the Minnesota Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) Staff and Supervisors.

On Behalf of the Douglas SWCD Staff and Supervisors we want to extend a congratulations to the Lund Family for all their hard work and accomplishments!

## **Congratulations Lund Family!**



**The Lund Family Farm Operation: Aerial view, and photos of the most recent finished conservation projects finished on the farm.**

## “Looking back 65 years”

On the Following pages are annual report summaries from the SWCD. This information is presented as it was written at the current time.

In the Early 1930's, 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.

### 1954

- The Douglas Soil Conservation District was organized by farmers for the purpose of getting soil and water conservation practices applied to the land. The Chapter of Organization was issued to the District by the Secretary of State on August 10, 1954. The District then included the townships of Lund, Millerville, Leaf Valley, Evansville, Brandon, Urness, Moe, La Grand, and Solem. Governing the District were five farmer Supervisors, Harold Johnson, Chairman; Albert Anderson, Julian Loken, Lloyd Hokanson and Reuben Jones, who later resigned in 1955 and was replaced by Norman Week.
- A Plowing and Queen of the Furrow Contest was held.
- Education Tour was held.
- 240 Acres of Trees were planted.

### 1955

- Soil Stewardship materials were sent to all faiths in the District.
- Robert Amborn, Farm Planner, was assigned by the Soil Conservation Service in 1955.
- Outstanding Conservation Farmer chosen was Dennis Nelson.
- A Plowing and Queen of the Furrow Contest was held.
- The District co-sponsored a Land Judging Contest at the Harold Johnson Farm.
- Educational Conservation Tour held.
- Several erosion demonstrations held at the Douglas County Fair.
- Worked on the “Douglas County Soil Conservation Journal,” to be printed and sent out in 1956.



### 1956

- Added Alexandria, Ida, Hudson, Carlos, Belle River and Holmes City Townships.
- Held Plowing Contest, Queen of the Furrow Contest, land Judging Contest.
- Held Joint Meeting with all Sportsmen Clubs to explore working cooperatively on projects.
- A publication, “Douglas Soil Conservation Journal” was sent to every farmer in the county to suggest methods of halting erosion and increasing yields.
- Held tours of the County for Douglas County Commissioners and teachers on erosion, conservation practices and wildlife area improvements.
- Soil Stewardship materials were sent to all faiths in the District.
- Conservation Farmer chosen was Earl Erickson.
- Douglas County Fair Booth set up—theme was centered around the soil conservation plan.
- 0.5 Acres of trees were planted.



## 1957

- Clifford Emmert, SCS Conservation Aid was assigned to assist the District.
- Held Plowing, Land Judging, Contour Liner, and Queen of the Furrow Contests.
- Held Conservation Air Tour.
- Held Educational Meetings with 4-H, FFA, Farm Bureau and Farmers Union.
- Set up Field Trails with the Alexandria Sportsmen Clubs for improving duck habitat.
- Conservation Farmer was Francis Thompson.
- 2.5 Acres of trees were planted.

## 1958

- Added Osakis and Orange Townships.
- Held 1st Annual Cooperators meeting at American Legion Club - 250 attended.
- Held Tour in Cooperation with Evansville Commercial Club and Vo-Ag. Department of Evansville.
- Held Field Trials in cooperation with Alexandria Sportsmen Club.
- Farmers applied 1,577 acres of Contour Strips.
- Fair Booth display.
- Outstanding Farmers chosen were the Siira Brothers.
- 14.1 Acres of trees planted.



## 1959

- Added Miltona and Spruce Hill Townships.
- Observed Soil Stewardship Week.
- Held Soils and Forage management Clinic.
- Selected Conservation Farmer - Harlon Hanson.
- Held hay and Forage Day in cooperation with County Extension Service.
- Darlene Engebretson was hired as the first District Employee.
- 4.0 Acres of trees were planted.

## 1960

- Added Lake Mary Township.
- Selected Conservation Farmer - Luverne Ludwig.
- Held Hay and Forage Clinic.
- Held Education Meeting for Contractors.

## 1961

- Held Annual Cooperators Meeting.
- Held Queen of the Furrow Contest.
- Awarded an Outstanding 4-H Member for conservation practices - Jerry Engelbrecht.
- Selected Conservation Farmer - Stanley Hanson.
- 1.0 Acres of trees planted.

## 1962

- Held Annual Cooperators Meeting.
- Fair Booth display.
- Conservation Awards:
  - Outstanding Conservation Farming - Art Engelbrecht and Lyle Sanstead.
  - Conservation Speaking Contest - Helen McWhortor.
  - Outstanding Conservation Project - Daniel Peterson.
- Held Residue Management and Stubble Mulch Field Day and Land Judging Contest.
- 70 windbreaks, shelter belts and Erosion Control projects installed.
- Tried selling Christmas Trees.

## 1963

- Held Conservation Speaking Contest - KXRA- Robert Anderson was the winner.
- Held Cooperator Meeting.
- Held Conservation Field Day.
- 40,000 trees were planted in the District, 30 ac. of farmstead windbreaks, 8,500 ft. of field windbreaks.
- Conservation Farmer - Webster Sorenson.
- Goodyear Award winner- Tom Mielke.
- Diversions, Terraces installed, 2,700'.

## 1964

- Held Conservation Speaking Contest - Robert Anderson was the winner.
- Held Conservation Field Day.
- 30,000 trees planted.
- Tile - 6,952 ft., Diversions, terraces, - 2,700' wildlife development, 26 ac.
- Conservation Farmer - Maynard Nessman.
- Goodyear Award winner was Tom Rutten.



## 1965

- Planned Water Diversion Project at Douglas County Fairgrounds.
- Held Radio Speaking Contest - Josh Bakke was the winner.
- Conservation Farmer - Wayne Holl.
- Goodyear Award was Harold Holmgren.
- Conservation cropping system - 3,151 ac., Contour farming, 82 ac.

## 1966

- Standard Soil Survey, 56,515 ac. mapped.
- Field Windbreaks, 12,050 ft.
- Wildlife Wetland Development - blasted in sloughs, 132 ac. of wetland improved.
- Conservation Farmer - Sydney Johnson.
- Goodyear Award - Carl Holm.

- Tom Fischer became the District Conservationist in Oct. 1966.
- 33,000 trees sold and planted.

## 1967

- Soil Survey acres, 58,324, another step towards completion, total now is 289,572 acres.
- Conservation cropping systems, 4,403 ac., contour farming, 207 ac., drainage, 15,590 ft. Field Windbreak planting, 28,090 ft. medium tillage, 675 ac., tile 2,942 ft.
- Held Conservation Air Tour of the County.
- Conservation Farmer - John Benesh.
- Goodyear Award Herbert Hausmann.
- 74,000 trees sold and planted.



## 1968

- Standard Soil Survey- 65,758 ac. 87% of the County has been mapped.
- Conservation Farmer - Donovan Johnson.
- Goodyear Award - Archie Zeithamer.
- Field Windbreak, 26,430 ft.
- Conservation cropping system, 3,560 ac.
- Properties adequately treated through consultive assistance, 7,838 ac.
- Held Conservation Air Tour.
- Lots of assistance on recreational problems, campground layout, horseback trails, lakeshore tree plantings, resorts. Carlos State Park asked for assistance for future planning.

## 1969

- Standard Soil Survey, 35,120 ac. Approximately 96% of the County has been mapped.
- Contour farming, 141 ac., drainage field ditch, 2,530 ft., field windbreak, 45,702 ft. Conservation cropping system, 3,249 ft. pasture and hayland management, 4,469 ac., recreation trail, 1,060ft., tile drain, 3,474 ft., wildlife management, 350.
- Resource Conservation and Development Project Application made.
- Conservation Farmer - Ray Beilke.
- Assisted with many projects not associated with agriculture, such as urban housing, lakeshore beautification, campground layouts, nature trains and snowmobile trails.
- 34 stock watering pits were constructed and 17 wildlife developments improved.
- Reviewed and approved four Group Conservation Plan Projects such as Village of Brandon, Brandon School and landowners in a beautification project.

## 1970

- Approved by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to become part of the Wes Min Resources, Conservation and Development.
- Dug stockwater pits and wildlife ponds through the winter months.
- Conservation Farmer - DeLoyd Johnson.
- An honorary survey team made the final borings for the soil survey, concluding six years of work.
- Assisted the Runestone Electric Association on their property of 16 acres. A low-lying area will be

developed to wildlife nesting and a pond.

- Assisted the Alexandria Lions Club to beautify a pond area adjacent to the cooling pond for the electric plant to attract wildlife.
- 35 Acres of trees were planted.



## 1971

- Technical Assistance given in cooperation with Wes Min RC&D on these projects; Three Havens Park, Viking Basin Irrigation Study, Millerville Wetland Development, Long Lake Dam Restoration, Lake Le Homme Dieu Shoreline restoration, Lake Andrew Watershed Improvement, Lake Victoria Watershed Improvement, Biological Chemical Lake study and Alexandria Lake Area Sanitary district, Lobster and Mill Lakes, Chippewa River and Eiseland Slough Rough Fish Structures.
- With the help of Rev. Giles Ekola, more than \$1,700 was raised, making it possible to publish the Douglas County Soil Survey, following six years of mapping work.
- Sponsored youth Projects for Conservation, such as tours, speech contest, and an outdoor laboratory and pond constructed at the Jefferson High School.
- 48 Stockwater pits and 32 wildlife ponds constructed in the county.
- One anti-pollution feedlot was completed and six more were designed.
- Viking Basin Ground Water Survey- A Reality. Thanks to Ray Beilke, SWCD Supervisor, through irrigation on his own farm, he made an application that was accepted as a Wes Min RC&D Project. Business contributions totaled \$93,000 to make this study possible. The US Geological Survey of the Department of Interior will start drilling test wells throughout 208,000 acres in Douglas, Ottertail and Todd Counties. It's expected to take until 1973 for completion. If it showed that our water table was capable of sustaining irrigation, then the sandy loams could become some of the most productive land in the County.
- 80,000 Young Trees were planted.
- Conservation Farmer - Herb Grundman.

## 1972

- Crop Residue management, 2,909 ac. Diversions, 57ft., field windbreaks, 22,080 ft., minimum tillage, 1,673 ac., pasture and hayland management, 4,177 ac., recreation trail and walkway, 7,300 ft., tile drain, 8,021 ft., land adequately treated, 9,264 ac.
- Memoranda of Understanding were signed with DNR Game and Fish, US Dept. of Interior, US Dept. of Agriculture, MN DNR Forestry.
- Construction begins on Lake Le Homme Dieu Shoreland Erosion Project "Rotary Beach", the first construction of its kind in Minnesota.
- Acres for Wildlife, a new project from Cliff Emmert, has taken off. This project encourages young people in 4-H, FFA, etc, to plant trees and food plots.
- SCS Water Bank Program boosts need for conservation.
- Viking Basin Study Progresses, test drilling almost completed.
- Chose Conservation Farmer- Towne Makela.
- 31,500 trees sold and planted in the county.

## 1973

- Conservation Farmer - Doug Rutten.
- Soil Stewardship Week observed.
- Viking Basin Study Continues.
- Roadside Erosion & Sediment Control Project, 70 erosion sites on townships and county roadsides to be

treated. 17 grade stabilization structures and 12 acres of critical area planting will be needed. 16 townships will cooperate with the County and the District.

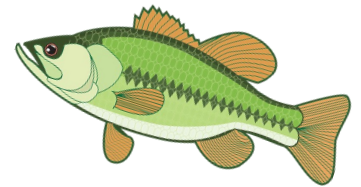
- Carp Control and Water Quality Improvement project was proposed, involving 40 water level control structures.
- Runestone Park Project under Intensive Study and plans are in the works for 200 ac., park centered around where the Kensington Runestone was founded.
- Conservation cropping systems, 3,244 ac., crop residue management, 2,575 ac., diversions, 1,290 ft. field windbreaks, 26,960 ft., drainage, 8,975. recreation trails, 2,300 ft.

## 1974

- 80,000 trees were planted in the County.
- Task Force studies 88 Structure Carp Control Project, another concept called “Carpole’s Inc.” plans to construct a carp processing plant in 1974 to utilize carp for human consumption.
- Roadside Erosion - Phase 1 completed.
- Observed Soil Stewardship Week.
- Crop residue management, 3,295 ac., diversions, 1,601 ft., drainage field ditch, 5,200 ft. field windbreaks, 37,400 ft. minimum tillage, 1,986 ac., tile drain, 8,677 ft.
- Conservation Farmer - Edna Barsness and Sons.

## 1975

- 66 acres of farmstead windbreaks, 60 acres of wildlife were planted.
- Plans for Latoka Beach completed, Lions Club is financing the improvement.
- 70 Roadside gullies were repaired and seeded.
- Environmental Impact Statement on Chippewa and Long Prairie Headwaters Fish and Wildlife Development Project (Carp Control) was completed.
- 7 Barnyard pollution control systems completed.
- Douglas County Soil Survey was distributed to the public on March 20, 1975.
- Conservation Farmer - Harlon Froemming.



## 1976

- Conservation Farmer- Emil Nack.
- Sponsored Conservation Air Tour.
- Crop residue management, 7,065 ac., diversions, 2,560, field windbreak, 27, 190 ft., minimum tillage, 1,633 ac., pasture and hayland management, 2,371 ac.

## 1977

- 86,274 trees planted by the Douglas SWCD.
- Sponsored Poster Contest and Speech Contest and Soil Stewardship Week.
- Wildlife upland management, 2,549 ac. 3,950 ft. surface drainage.
- Dennis Q. Miller began as District Conservationist.
- Conservation Farmer - Darrell Klinder.
- Construction continues on the Chippewa and Long Prairie Headwaters Fish and Wildlife Development Project (Carp Structures).

## 1978

- 90,000 trees planted, diversions, 2,400 ft., minimum tillage, 147 ac. 32 ponds.

- Roadside Erosion Projects have all been completed, doing a good job of preventing erosion.
- Soil Stewardship Celebrated.
- Education presentations given to school groups, Farmers Union, Farm Bureau, Cub Scouts.
- Outstanding Conservation Farmer- Sid Satterlie, Jr.

## 1979

- Conservation Farmer - Arlys and Loren Kakac.
- 97,000 trees planted, 27,500 ft. of windbreaks, 3,970. of diversions, 3,808 ac. of wildlife management, 8 ponds.
- Water Quality Continues to be a priority.
- 14 sites and structures completed on the Chippewa and Long Prairie Headwater Fish Project.

## 1980

- 83,000 trees planted.
- Conservation Farmers - Richard and LaNell Schlosser.
- Installed 28 Ag. waste management systems, 2,850 ft. of diversions.
- No longer can cities and lake homes be allowed to discharge raw sewage into lakes and streams. Changes have been made through the help of the SWCD, SCS and RC&D. The Alexandria Lakes Area Sanitary District processes sewage to a safe and a less nutrient level before discharging into lakes. Many barnyard runoff control structures and manure storage structures have been put in place. The carp control project covers all the lakes and streams in Douglas County. These projects contribute to the betterment of our water quality.

## 1981

- 19 Structures have been put in place on the Chippewa-Long Prairie Headwaters Fish and Wildlife Development Project.
- 72,350 trees were planted, 18 ponds were constructed, many erosion control structures put in place.
- Provided assistance to the MN DNR in processing water permits.
- No-till used on county crops, resulting in less erosion.
- Poster and Essay Contests held, also Fair Booth Display.
- Outstanding Conservation Farmer - Paul Suchy.

## 1982

- 23 Structures for carp and rough fish have been completed.
- 4,000 ft. of terraces systems installed, 67,480 trees planted.
- District purchases a no-till grain drill.
- Held poster and essay contests, slide shows, bus tour, field tours etc.
- Outstanding Conservation Farmers - Roger and Pat Dittberner.

## 1983

- District no-till drill seeds 466 acres.
- 70,700 trees planted.
- Conservation Farmers - Gary and Bev Mrnak.
- Essay and Poster/Mural Contest held.
- 36,850 ft. terraces installed, 25,585 ft. of windbreaks, 200 ft. of diversions.





## 1984

- Conservation Farmers- Don and Shirley Haseman.
- Lake Ina Wildlife Project completed. Largest dam was 450 ft. long and 100 ft. wide. This took cooperation from many individuals and agencies but will be a huge success for wildlife.
- Water Quality Study being done by USGS and involves the Douglas, Pope, Stearns, and Kandiyohi Soil and Water Districts. The published report to be completed in 1985.
- SWCD participates in voluntary program identify high priority erosion areas in County. In Douglas County, 178,000 acres show high priority wind and water erosion potential and 38,000 acres are susceptible to excessive wind erosion, losing in excess of four ton of top soil per acer per year.
- Satterlie no-till demonstration plots were a great success. They included ridge-till corn and soybeans, along with showing that alfalfa, winter wheat, and spring wheat are possible too.
- 55,000 trees were planted.

## 1985

- Founding Member of SWCD Board, Julian Loken, retires.
- Grant received from Otto Bremer Foundation results in purchase of 2 10' Haybuster drills.
- SWCD is part of Pomme de Terre River Association, along with Otter Tail, Grant, Stevens, Swift and Big Stone. Objectives are to reduce flooding, reduce erosion, control feedlot contaminants, improve water quality and restore wildlife wetlands.
- 45,125 trees were planted in the county.
- Outstanding Conservation Farmers - Dennis and Kathy Johnson.
- 200 people attended 50th anniversary of Soil Conservation Service.
- Douglas SWCD hits 1 Million Trees sold!

## 1986

- Soil and Water Stewardship Week observed.
- Conservation Farmers - Jerome and Betty Ledermann.
- CRP begins to take highly erosive cropland out of production and plant it into grasses and/or trees.
- SWCD participated in the Private Forest Management Program.
- Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Program begins through two years of efforts of a coalition of sportsmen, farm groups and environmental organizations.
- District sells and plants 56,000 trees.

## 1987

- Outstanding Conservation Farmers- Larry and Vicki Carlson.
- 250 acres signed up for RIM.
- Soil Stewardship Week observed.
- Conservation Bus Tour.
- Poster/Mural Contest held.
- No-till dill plants 1,215 acres.
- Sauk River Watershed District is formed.
- District sells and plants 300,000 trees.



## 1988

Conservation Farmers - Charles and Marcia Bolin.

- 2,370 acres planted by District's no-till drill.
- District works closely with Douglas County Planning and Zoning on new construction projects.
- 1988 began the Water Quality Comprehensive Plan for Douglas County in which the District works closely and supplies information.
- 1988 year of severe drought and heat.
- Douglas SWCD has the first Tree Open House!
- District Sells and Plants 75,000 trees.

## 1989

- Conservation Famers - Kay and Marion Satterlie.
- Jim Odden selected as County and State Conservation Teacher of the year.
- Three pollution abatement systems installed.
- SCS Memorandum of Understanding regarding Civil Rights adopted.
- 52,220 acres conservation tillage, 5,150 ft. of terraces, 55,280 ft. of field windbreaks planted.
- District Sells and Plants 345,000 Trees.

## 1990

- Conservation Farmers - Harold and Jeff Larson.
- Lakes Lobster, Miliona, Red Rock and Agnes Lake Assessment Program, Henry and Winona Clean Lakes Projects were completed.
- 80,000 trees provided to Douglas County landowners, 18,000 planted by the District.
- Wes Min RC&D 13.5 million acre area spurred Wes Min Directors to pursue the division of the Wes Min area into three manageable RC&D Areas.
- Farmer Sportsman - Art Engelbrecht.
- Frank Blair Jr. Conservation Award from General sports show- Erik Jones.
- Douglas County Water Comprehensive Plan approved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources.

## 1991

- Conservation Farmers- Carlton and Twila Johnson.
- Conservation Teacher- John Esbjornsson.
- Farmer Sportsman - Art Engelbrecht.
- Three individuals were selected for Conservation Awards; Ray Beilke was selected as outstanding Supervisor, for his work in promoting conservation, leading the steering committee for the Viking Basin, USGS Ground Water Study, representing the SWCD on the Water Plan Baord and the Planning and Zoning Board. Dick Howe was selected for the Distinguished Service Award for his work in developing Comprehensive Water Plan and Al Eednloff was nominated for the media Award for his efforts to improve the public understanding of resources conservation and the goals of the District.
- The Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) Passed and beginning in 1992, local units of government will have control over wetland activities including draining, filling and burning. The new program will promote no net loss of wetlands, if one acre is lost, it will be replaced at a 2:1 ratio. The District will be the clearing house for wetland maps and making determinations involving wetland work.
- Land spreading of petroleum contaminated soil was a new concern for Planning and Zoning, thanks to SCS and the District for soils interpretation regarding these decisions.



- Douglas SWCD was the first District to purchase a shipment of “Tubex”, plastic tree protectors designed to protect seedlings from damage from animals, chemicals, wind, etc. and accelerate early growth rates.
- 1990 and 1995 Farm Bills have created opportunities to accelerate application of conservation practices on the land, particularly through CRP.
- District Sells and plants 65,750 trees.

## 1992

- Conservation Farmers- Lester and Wanda Bettermann.
- Pastor Bartlet, of Our Savior and Fahlun Lutheran Churches was recognized for his conservation efforts in promoting Soil Stewardship Week. He purchased 100 trees and distributed them after church services as a youth activity and has used the Soil Stewardship materials for 31 years in his church communities.
- Sharon Illetschko of Brandon School selected as the 1992 Conservation Teacher of the Year.
- “Take Pride in America” Award presented to Craig Damstrom.
- 70,500 trees sold to Douglas County Landowners.
- Implementation of Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) has gone extremely well.
- 12th CRP Sign-up was held in June, bringing the total since 1986 to 634 contracts on 40,080 acres in Douglas County.

## 1993

- Conservation Farmers - Russel (C.A.) and Orrin T. Johnson.
- District sponsors St. Agnes Students to attend Long Lake Conservation Camp.
- Lake Ellen Restoration was completed. This was a cooperative effort with USFWS.
- Waste Pesticide Collection Day held in Alexandria.
- Douglas County now has 32 Lake Associations formed.
- Douglas County now has 45 RIM and PWP easements totaling nearly 1,600 acres in permanent cover types of trees, grasses and wetland restorations.
- The District has seven wells that are monitored throughout the year for fluctuations.
- District Sells and Plants 65,000 Trees.



## 1994

- Soil Conservation Service (SCS) changes name to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).
- Outstanding Conservationists - Clarence and Diane Otto.
- District staff harvested carp from three Douglas County traps.
- 1,000 acres of Hybrid poplar planted through Wes Min RC&D.
- First Annual Kid’s Ground Water Festival held in cooperation with SWCD, RC&D, U of MN Extension, Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR), Miliona Science magnet School and MWWA Public Education Committee.
- Gloria Weisel receives 1994 MN Environmental Education Award because she was the originator of the Kid’s Groundwater Festival.
- Mercury studies are being done on Lake Carlos and le Homme Dieu.
- District Sells and plants 45,500 trees.
- District Sold and planted over 2 Million Trees total!

## 1995

- Outstanding Conservationists- Jerry and Virginia Morical.

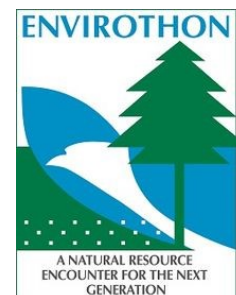
- District signs Joint Powers Agreement to join State Revolving Fund Cluster Group. Eight SWCDs of West Central MN created the MN River Source Joint Powers Area of which the District is a part. Focus is designing and installing water quality conservation practices.
- The State Revolving Fund (SRF) was started by the MN Dept. of Ag for the purpose of loaning money to Local Units of Government for Agricultural Best Management Practices.
- 1995 was the fourth year of the Wetland Conservation Act, with the major portion of the workload being in development. Douglas County is now in Wetland Banking. A 60-acre wetland restoration was completed on part of the Runestone Park property. Credits will be used to mitigate county road projects in the future. Two private landowners also deposited wetland credits into the Wetland Bank.
- District sells and plants 45,000 trees.

## 1996

- Outstanding Conservationists- Steve and Sue Nessman.
- District holds Conservation Bus Tour, seeing Dairy Barn at Nessmans, Wetland Bank restoration at Kensington Runestone Park, Roger Chlians farm and Douglas County Landfill.
- Jerome (Jerry) Haggenmiller receives “Outstanding District Employee” Award at MASWCD Convention.
- 1st Annual Area II Envirothon held at Minnewaska Area High Schools nature area.
- A Water Testing Clinic was held in cooperation with the Douglas SWCD, Land and Resources management and MN Dept. of Ag., to test for nitrates in well and other drinking water.
- District Sells and plants 55,000 trees.

## 1997

- Outstanding Conservationists- Jim and Suzanne Martin.
- Special Minnesota River Cost-Share Agreement signed Pope, Swift, and Chippewa Counties, with Douglas SWCD serving as the Fiscal Agent.
- District chosen as Goodyear/NACD Grand Award Winner for their success in developing and implementing an annual plan for delivering District Programs and services.
- Observed Soil Stewardship Week.
- Held poster/mural contest.
- District Celebrates 34 Years in tree sales!
- District sells and plants 45,450 trees throughout the county.



## 1998

- Outstanding Conservationists. - Beverly and Julian Nelson.
- National Audit conducted at Alexandria FO on Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Civil Rights Review.
- District hires a GIS and Land Use Technician, through a Local Decision Makers Grant from the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to map sensitive shore land areas in the County.
- District moved to the new USDA Service Center, combining the Farm Service Area (FSA), Wes Min RC&D, Rural Development, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Douglas SWCD. The move will make it easier to complete work in an economical and timely manner by sharing equipment and information.
- State Revolving Fund Loan Program in its third year for updating septic systems, animal waste control systems, waterways and erosion control basins and terraces. \$214,414.00 has been loaned out.
- District sells and plants 108,000 trees throughout the county.

## 1999

- Viking Sportsmen Club was selected as Outstanding Conservationists for 1999.
- Douglas SWCD works with Country Water Plan Coordinator on Water Testing Clinics, Best Management Practices in the Lake Andrew watershed, Lake Assessment Plan on Lake Ida and Lake Monitoring.
- Douglas SWCD assists Sauk River Watershed District with improvement projects on two farm sites within the Judicial Ditch 2 (JD2). Septic systems continue to be updated using the SRF Loan Program.
- District holds Poster/Mural Contest, assists with Area II Envirothon, holds Kids Groundwater Festival.
- New rules are in effect to ban phosphorus fertilizers within 50 ft of the ordinary high water mark and prohibit burning within 100 feet of ordinary high water mark, more education a priority.
- District provides 173,100 trees/shrubs to the Douglas County residents.
- District takes part in Jr. Viking Sportsman/s Youth Habitat Day, helping kids to build bluebird and wood duck houses and teaching them how to attract wildlife.

## 2000

- Outstanding Conservationist- John Ledermann.
- Douglas County Commissioners continue to provide excellent support to the SWCD and regularly attend SWCD Board meetings.
- 102,400 trees were supplied to the Douglas County landowners.
- Douglas SWCD received over \$300,000 for loans in Douglas County since the start of the State Revolving Fund Loan Program (SRF).
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) begins for marginal land located within the MN River Watershed. CREP is a combination of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Program. It emphasizes the establishment of buffer strips along rivers, lakes, streams, drainage ditches and wetlands to improve water quality and provide wildlife habitat.
- Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)- The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Ducks Unlimited (DU) became partners to promote the conservation of Minnesota's prairie wetlands. This program buys permanent easements on ditched, tiled and farmed or pastured wetlands at full-appraised ag-value.
- District holds Conservation Tour looking at native grass test plots at the Al Zeithamer farm, Chippewa River Rough Fish Control Structure, hybrid poplar planting, Zebarth Elk Farm and lakescaping project at Vern Lorsung home.
- Revised Feedlot Rules become effective on Oct. 23, 2000. The rule states that all owners of animal feedlots with 50 or more animal units (10 or more in shoreland areas) which is within 1,000 feet of any water or 300 feet from a river, need to register their operation by Jan. 1, 2002.
- Chlorophyll-a and phosphorous monitoring continues on area lakes.

## 2001

- Outstanding Conservationists- Mike and Kristen Telkamp.
- Supervisor Glenn Matejka serves on Chippewa River Watershed Executive Committee and MN River Joint Powers Group.
- District Staff attend CREP Tour and meet Governor Ventura.
- District CREP Program meets its goal of retiring 100,000 acres of marginal farmland adjacent to water resources, to improve water quality and wildlife habitat.
- Douglas SWCD hosts Area II Meeting, gives Power Point Demonstration.
- Danielle Wagner gives GIS Presentation at Douglas County Commissioners Meeting.
- 70,600 trees were planted and sold in the county.



## 2002

- Outstanding Conservationists- Norbert and Lori Johnson.
- District Board approves Smokey Timbers Girl Scout Camp as an RC&D Project and Approved RC&D assisting with Grant Writing for Drained Wetland Inventory.
- Five WRP applications were approved for funding in Douglas County totaling 1,159 acres.
- A Lakescaping Tour was held at the Chuck Gelino home on Lake Miltona. Staff provided a grilled lunch and 150 people attended. The open house showed the public the benefits to the landowner for improving water quality and wildlife. As a result of the open house, 40 landowners were planning to do a lakescaping project in 2003.
- The LOL Girl Scouts have decided to go forward to sell the Smokey Timber Girl Scout Camp so Wes Min RC&D is now working with businesses to raise the funds to purchase the camp and keep it as a Smokey Timbers Environmental Youth Camp for all youth groups to use.
- Glacial Ridge Trail Project, started in 1969, was officially recognized as a MN Scenic Byway. An information brochure was completed with the help of the Chamber of Commerce.
- Douglas SWCD through the State Cost-Share Funds and with the help of NRCS Area Office Engineer, assisted a lakeshore owner in repairing a bluff area between their house and the lake. The slump was 15ft. Deep, 40 ft. wide and within 20 ft. of the house. A pipe drop structure was installed to solve the problems of fragile soils.
- Mapping Sensitive Lakeshore work continues with 50 lakes having been completed and 15 more near completion. Copies of these maps are available at the Douglas SWCD.
- 51,200 trees were planted and sold from the District.

## 2003

- Outstanding Conservationists- Randy and Eric Satterlie.
- Glenn Matejka, SWCD Supervisor was appointed to serve on the State Finance Committee.
- Glenn Matejka, serves as Co-Chairman for the Area II Association.
- Douglas SWCD purchases a tree matting machine with monetary assistance from the Leaf Valley Toms, Pheasants Forever and the Viking Sportsmen.
- District Board signs NRCS Cooperative Working Agreement and Contribution Agreement.
- District holds Environmental Quality Improvement Program (EQIP) meeting.
- Impaired Waters becomes focus of SWCD, referring to streams, rivers and lakes that do not meet the water quality standards as set forth in the Clean Water Act. Bodies of water not meeting the standards become on the State “Impaired Waters” List. Solutions to restore the impaired water must be determined.



## 2004

- Warren and Norma Engelbrecht and Darren and Tara Engelbrecht were selected as Outstanding Conservationists for Douglas County.
- Pastor Lois Burkart and the Worship Team of the First Presbyterian Church of Osakis have been recognized by the District for their promotion each year of Soil and Water Stewardship Week.
- Douglas SWCD makes Poster/Mural Presentations and holds Contest.
- GIS - Mapping lakeshore work continues.
- The District works with the Kid's Groundwater Festival and Area II Envirothon.
- Wes MN RC&D reaches their goal and purchases the Smokey Timbers Girl Scout Camp, which will become an environmental camp for all youth groups.
- TMDL— Total Daily Maximum Load on Impaired Waters is now a priority. The District is working with



MPCA (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency) to install management practices on impaired waters within Douglas County.

- Douglas SWCD celebrates “50 Years of Conservation” on Sept. 19, 2004 at a Recognition Banquet and Program.

## 2005

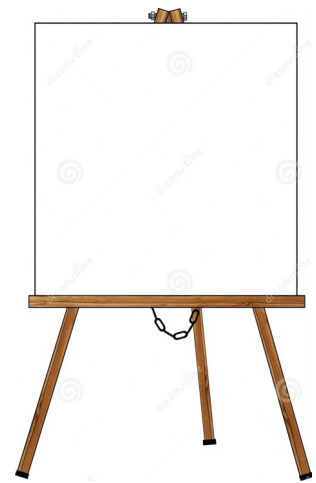
- Outstanding Conservation Farmer - Ray Elmer.
- 12th Kid’s Groundwater Festival.
- Area 2 Enviorthon.
- Poster and Mural Contest.
- Supervisor-Doug Rutten received the MASWCD Outstanding Supervisor Award.
- Made birdhouses for youth at Habitat Day.
- Completed a sediment block project.
- Wetland restoration with stoplog structure.
- Wildlife tree plantings.
- Tree and fabric mulch projects.
- Cement Ag. waste system.
- Lakescaping projects.
- Soil and Water Stewardship Week.

## 2006

- District no-till drill planted 755 acres.
- Outstanding Conservation Farmer’s - Scott and Ken Anderson.
- 51,000 trees planted in Douglas County.
- 13th Kid’s Groundwater Festival.
- 350 contacts were made for wetland questions.
- Poster/Mural Contest Held.
- Area II Envirothon.
- County Fair Booth.
- Douglas County had the 2006 MASWCD Teacher of the Year; Doug Alvstad from Evansville!
- Douglas SWCD is District of the Year for the State of Minnesota.
- Douglas SWCD Receives DNR Waters Appreciation Award in December 2006.

## 2007

- District no-till drill planted 1,083.20 acres.
- Outstanding Conservation Farmers- Dennis and Jennell Week.
- 35,000 trees planted in Douglas County.
- 14th Kid’s Groundwater Festival.
- Poster/mural contest held.
- Area II Envirothon.
- County Fair Booth.



- 10 miles of fabric installed with fabric machine.
- 12 sediment blocks installed.
- 2 terraces installed around the county.
- 9 wetland restorations completed around the county.

## 2008

- District no-till drill planted 1,269.10 acres.
- Outstanding Conservation Farmer - Verna Peterson.
- 40,000 trees planted in Douglas County.
- 6.8 miles of tree fabric installed for tree plantings.
- 9 sediment control blocks were installed throughout the county.
- 1 terrace was installed in the county.
- 6 wetland restorations were completed.
- 15th Kid's Groundwater Festival.
- Poster/mural contest.
- Area II Envirothon.
- County Fair Booth.



## 2009

- District no-till drill planted 1,039 acres.
- Outstanding Conservation Farmers - Leroy and Debbie Buse.
- 37,500 trees planted in Douglas County.
- 9.7 miles of fabric.
- 8 sediment blocks installed throughout the county.
- 4 wetland restorations completed throughout the county.
- 16th Kid's Groundwater Festival.
- Poster/mural contest.
- Area II Envirothon.
- County Fair Booth set up and display.

## 2010

- District no-till drill planted 1,016 acres.
- Outstanding Conservation Farmer - Douglas County Lakes Association. (DCLA).
- 38,500 trees planted in Douglas County.
- 13.8 miles of fabric installed.
- 5 sediment blocks installed.
- 7 wetland restorations completed.
- 17th Kid's Groundwater Festival.
- Poster/mural contest.
- Area II Envirothon held at the Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center. At least 2 of the teams present were from Douglas County (Brandon-Evansville School).

- County Fair Booth set up and display.

## 2011

- District no-till drill planted 551 acres.
- Outstanding Conservation Farmer - Frank and Susan Foslien.
- 29,500 trees planted in Douglas County.
- Over 10.5 miles of fabric installed.
- 4 sediment blocks installed throughout the county.
- 16 wetland restorations completed throughout the county.
- 18th Kid's Groundwater Festival.
- Poster/mural contest.
- Area II Envirothon.
- County Fair Booth set up and display.
- Soil Stewardship Program.
- Essay Contest.
- Community Eco Fair.



## 2012

- District no-till drill planted 1,015 acres.
- Outstanding Conservation Farmers - Reece and Mary Lund, and Kerby and Steph Lund.
- 28,875 trees planted in Douglas County.
- Over 12 miles of fabric installed.
- 9 sediment blocks installed through the county.
- 7 wetland restorations completed throughout the county.
- 19th Kid's Groundwater Festival.
- Poster/mural contest.
- Area II Envirothon.
- County Fair Booth set up and display.
- Douglas County Eco Fair.
- Essay Contest.

## 2013

- District no-till drill. Planted 775 acres.
- Outstanding Conservation Farmer - John and Pat Lindquist.
- 16,724 trees planted in Douglas County.
- Over 8 miles of fabric installed.
- 4 sediment blocks were installed throughout the county.
- 5 wetland restorations completed throughout the county.
- 826 wetland landowner contracts were made for wetland questions, of that 808 were ended in avoidance of wetlands
- 20th Kid's Groundwater Festival.

- Poster/mural contest.
- Essay Contest.
- Area II Envirothon held at the Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center near Spicer, MN.
- Staff helped with the State Envirothon which was held at St. Johns University.
- County Fair Booth set up and display.
- Douglas County Eco Fair.

## 2014

- District no-till drill planted 502 acres on 31 farm sites.
- Outstanding Conservation Farmer - Roger and Florence Charlion.
- 22,300 trees sold and planted in Douglas County to 252 county residents.
- 6 new shelterbelts containing 2,225 trees and shrubs on 7.8 acres to protect 29 acres of farmstead
- 10,100 feet of tree fabric installed on 5 sites.
- 600 tree tubes were installed on 3 sites.
- Lots of landowners inquiring about wetland restoration projects.
- 21st Kid's Groundwater Festival.
- Poster/mural contest.
- Area II Envirothon held at the Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center near Spicer, MN.
- County Fair Booth.
- Douglas County Eco Fair.
- 60 Year as an SWCD Celebration.

## 2015

- District no-till drill planted many acres.
- Outstanding Conservation Farmer - Steve and Janel Schiltgen.
- 22,000 trees sold and planted in Douglas County.
- Over 10,100 feet of fabric was installed.
- 16 sediment blocks installed.
- 12 wetland restorations completed.
- 22nd Kid's Groundwater Festival.
- Poster/mural contest.
- Area II Envirothon.
- County Fair Booth.
- Douglas County Eco Fair.



## 2016

- Outstanding Conservation Farmer - Craig Haseman.
- District no-till drill planted lots of acres with the drill.
- 20,359 trees planted in Douglas County.
- 10,100 feet of fabric was installed.
- 9 sediment blocks installed.

- 8 wetland restorations completed.
- 23rd Kid's Groundwater Festival.
- Poster/mural contest.
- Area II Envirothon.
- Boy Scout Merit Badge.
- County Fair Booth.
- MN Ag. Water Quality Certification Program.
- Todd County Envirofest
- Elwood "Woody" Anderson retires from the District after over 35 years of service.
- District Purchases a 10' Haybuster no-till drill to use and rent out.

## 2017

- District no-till drill plants over 1,000 acres.
- Outstanding Conservation Farmer - Smokey Timbers Foundation.
- 27,314 trees sold in Douglas County.
- 36,600 feet of tree fabric was installed.
- 24th Kid's Groundwater Festival.
- 18 sediment blocks installed.
- 2 terraces installed.
- 2 grade stabilization structures installed.
- 2 Ag. waste systems.
- 37 wetland restorations completed.
- Over \$542,000 in grant funds were used to assist landowners in installing these conservation practices.
- 2 Clean Water Grants were started in 2017, the first was a feasibility study on reducing phosphorus inputs into Lake Ida from the Aquatic Management Area-County Ditch 23 inlet and the other involves completing soil borings on unpermitted. Ag. Waste Pits to determine if the pits will need to be reconstructed to prevent contamination to groundwater.
- Poster/mural contest.
- 17 School and Educational School Sessions Held.
- Multi-County Outreach working with Swift, Stevens and Pope counties to expand the number of students reached for natural resources and environmental education efforts.
- Area II Envirothon.
- Boy Scout Merit Badges with troops from both Douglas and Pope County, 28 youth total worked on and earned: Survival Safety, Aquatic Invasive Species, Forestry, and 1 and 2 mile hike badges.
- County Fair Booth was focused on Aquatic Invasive Species and Water Quality. Individuals that stopped by had a chance to win some great prizes such as bird feeders, bee boxes, tackle boxes, fishing rods, and even a life jacket.
- MN Ag. Water Quality Certification Program.
- Ag. BMP Loan Program involved providing loan funds for 21 landowners to construct a larger cluster septic system on Lake Milona. A total of \$474,000 in loan funds were used in the county.



## 2018

- Outstanding Conservation Farmer - Kevin and Ellen Roers.
- 35,560 trees sold in Douglas County.
- 10,961 trees planted in Douglas County.
- 15 tree/fabric installation sites, 12 of them being mechanical plantings and 3 were hand planting sites with fabric squares.
- 30,380 feet of fabric installed in the county.
- 8 Sediment Blocks were installed.
- 3 Ag. Waste Systems installed.
- 14 Wetlands Restored.
- 1,200 Acres of Native Grasses, soybeans and alfalfa planted with the no-till drill.
- Over \$630,000 in federal and state grant cost share funds used to assist landowners in with conservation practices.
- 25th Kid's Groundwater Festival. Each student that participated received a reusable water bottle, and some Aquatic Invasive Species fishing tackle (bobbers). There was 520 students from Osakis, Woodland, Carlos, Miliona, Brandon-Evansville, Garfield, Voyager, Lincoln, and Oaskis schools participated. Students got to take part in seven of the 17 different learning stations that ranged from: surface water problems, aquifers, and wells, wetlands, water treatment, water Pictionary, water jeopardy, Bubbleology, and the Science Museum of Minnesota.
- Poster/Mural Contest Held- "Watersheds; Our Water, Our Home" was the topic/theme.
- Area II Envirothon was held at the Prairie Woods Environmental learning Center near Spicer, MN. This years current event theme was "Grazing Lands in Minnesota".
- State Envirothon was held down in Slayton, MN, and SWCD staff helped judge wildlife and current events.
- Staff taught and presented at multiple school and educational sessions, some of which included:
  - \* Youth Outdoor Activity Day—at the Alexandria Shooting park, where over 2,000 participates interact with 50 plus hands on stations that promote outdoor exploration and environmental learning. It is a completely free, friendly, family event that even provides lunch!
  - \* Swift County Water Festival—Staff presented on Aquatic Invasive Species
  - \* Glacial Hills day at the State park—Staff presented on Aquatic Invasive Species, and talked about water quality and how the students can help be the change towards a cleaner and greener environment.
  - \* Pope/Stevens Conservation Day—Staff taught about "Mirrors of Minnesota Marvel" which included fun facts, trivia on the great state of Minnesota along with state symbols.
  - \* Cub Scouts/Boy Scouts of America—Staff worked on merit badges with the student participants, we highlighted nature exploration, Aquatic Invasive Species, First Aid, Composting, and Growing Green.
- County Fair Booth—Soil Health themed. There was a prize wheel, creepy critters to dig up in the soil, trivia questions and door prizes. There was roughly 4,100 individuals that stopped by the booth and 3,980 prizes handed out.
- MN Ag. Water Quality Certification Program.
- Eagle Scout Projects. Douglas SWCD loves to give back to the community and get involved with youth and outreach projects that benefit conservation in the community. Nick Lundeen of Brandon-Evansville school reached out to us to have help with his outdoor classroom Eagle Scout project. Douglas SWCD donated the mulch fabric, and staples used to create a weed barrier under the entire area to ensure weeds would not take over.





- Irrigators Clinic held. Douglas SWCD was the host , and held the clinic at the Forada Supper Club. There was sales vendors, presentations, and it provided a great opportunity for community members and landowners/producers to ask questions and talk to professional staff.
- Kids Fleet Farm Fishing Days. Is an annual event hosted by Mills Fleet Farm. They have a event set up at Every Fleet Farm location in Minnesota. It's a free event for families to participate in, they get to learn about aspects of Water Quality, Water Safety, Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), bait, proper life jacket fitting, and casting practices. Douglas SWCD Staff ran the AIS table, and provided promotional items to those though stopped by. There was close to 150 that came through the event.
- Multi-County Outreach. Helping with the Stevens school programs and jumpstarting their Aquatic Invasive Species prevention program at the school.
- Gary Thoennes, long time supervisor for Douglas SWCD steps down and retires after serving for 33 years.
- Two nitrate testing clinics were held, to test the nitrate levels in the well and drinking water. Over 55 samples were brought in and tested.
- 10 press releases were sent out to the paper to highlight events and



## 2019

- Outstanding Conservation Farmer - Larry and Mary Kay and William and Haley Lund Families.
- 26,360 trees sold from Douglas County SWCD, of which 880 were potted.
- 5,014 trees were planted by the district.
- 14,000 feet of fabric installed.
- Tree Open House held. Attendance was slightly lower then expected compared to years past, but considering it was rescheduled due to the weather, it was still a over all success!
- 5 sediment blocks/ sediment control basins installed by the district.
- 15 wetlands restored.
- 701 acres of native grasses, soybeans and alfalfa planted with the no-till drill.
- 26th Kid's Groundwater Festival (512 students participated). Schools that were invited and or participated were District 206 (Woodland, Voyager, Lincoln, Carlos, Miltona, Garfield, Zion Lutheran School, St. Mary's), Parkers Prairie, Brandon-Evansville, West Central Area Schools, Osakis, St. Agnes, and the home school groups within the county. Aquatic Invasive Species was a new station covered this year.
- Poster/mural contest– "Life in the Soil; Dig Deeper" was this year's topic/theme.
- Area II Envirothon was held at the Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center near Spicer, MN. This year's current events theme was "Agriculture and the Environment: Knowledge and Technology to Feed the World". Over all there was 26 teams that participated from a variety of schools across central Minnesota.
- County Fair Booth - Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) themed. Kids got a chance to pick a fish from a fish bowl to see what kind of promotional prize they could win. Adults that stopped by to ask questions were able to put their name in for a chance to win 25 bareroot trees.
- MN Ag. Water Quality Certification Program is still being offered. No new participates for the 2019 year, but Douglas County has a total of 6 Farmers certified with the program.
- Irrigator Clinic held at the Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center. Lots of district staff from multiple counties were present, vendors, producers and other landowners from the area. Topics highlighted were irrigator systems, sensors, and other new and improved equipment to make the farming practices more efficient and technology based.
- New "tree shed" purchased.
- Career Fair Booth for 9th graders across the county. Over 250 students stopped by the booth to ask about up coming job opportunities and what we do with each program offered.

- Soil Health Chat series hosted in three counties within the Chippewa River Watershed. Douglas County hosted one at the Long Lake Lodge in Brandon, MN. Pope County had one in the Starbuck Community Center, and Swift County had one at a local coffee shop. Each of the three Soil Health Chats were set up to have producers, farmers, landowners, county staff, SWCD staff, implement dealer staff, and community members that were simply curious about soil health. They were an open forum with some short presentations to help get the conversations started and to help everyone interact. Ian Olson who is the Douglas SWCD Chippewa River Watershed Coordinator was the one that set these up. Between the three events there was over 60 people in attendance.
- Multi-County Outreach was a big focus this year for Jessica Albertsen the Education and Outreach Coordinator for Douglas SWCD. She worked with six different counties across Minnesota to jump start their education programs. Topics included Composting, Forestry Fun, Mirrors on Minnesota Marvels, Soil Health, and Aquatic Invasive Species.
- Over 50 School and Educational Sessions held at a variety of schools within the county. Over 600 youth K-12 were taught about various conservation practices they can do, even at their age to help make the earth cleaner and greener.
- Kids Fleet Farm Fishing Days. Is an annual event hosted by Mills Fleet Farm. They have a event set up at Every Fleet Farm location in Minnesota. It's a free event for families to participate in, they get to learn about aspects of Water Quality, Water Safety, Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), bait, proper life jacket fitting, and casting practices. Douglas SWCD Staff ran the AIS table, and provided promotional items to those though stopped by such as: fishing/hunting license holders, sunglasses, bobbers, temporary tattoos, AIS identification cards, key chains and coloring books. There was over 190 that came through the event.
- Sponsored St. Agnes School for the environmental educational camp.
- Aquatic Invasive Species Education and Outreach reached a lot of students this year. There was at least 31 sessions alone in Douglas County to emphasize and embrace AIS prevention. Each student got to learn about the most common forms of AIS we have in the county and see/feel preserved specimens. Then they got to put on their thinking caps and try to create their own picture/drawing or AIS message to tell others to stop the spread, Clean, Drain, Dry and Dispose. Those images are featured weekly or by weekly on the Kids Corner of the AlexandriaLakesArea.org website, which is the county website for water quality, shoreline questions and AIS updates.
- Zebra Mussel Population Density Study, finished up its fourth year of data collection. This was a collaborative effort from the Douglas SWCD office, Douglas County Land and Resources Management, and Douglas County Sheriff's office. The point of this research is to determine the presence absence of zebra mussel veliger's (microscopic baby zebra mussels), while looking into the bell curve of when they peak the most in the surveyed water bodies.
- 65th Anniversary Conservation Bus Tour, was held around the county. The tour made seven stops around the county and featured 33 different conservation practices. These practices included: living snow fence, wetland banking, tree planting, wetland restorations, water and sediment control basins, lakeshore restorations, shelterbelts, no-till drill, MN Ag. Water quality Certification Program, high tunnel, gully stabilization, grazing system, RIM, pollinator plantings, CREP, terraces, Ag. Waste., streambank restoration, buffers and SWAG grant stop.



## Douglas SWCD - Mind Blowing Fun Facts through 2019

- First attempt at selling trees was Christmas Trees in 1962!
- First Tree Open House was held in 1982.
- Sold/Planted over 3,066,261 trees through 2019!
- Over 14,097.1 acres of trees have been hand planted by district staff.
- Used over 89.96 miles of fabric mulch.
- First Nitrate Clinic was held in 1996.
- Held 5 Furrow Contests.
- Held 4 Land Judging Contests.
- Held 1 Contour Liner Contest.
- 32 Ag. waste systems installed.
- Over 105 wetlands restorations since 1992.
- 90 sediment blocks installed.
- 321,767 feet of field windbreaks installed.
- 26 Kid's Groundwater Festivals! (We were the first one in the state of Minnesota).
- Over 14,678 kids have attended the Kid's Groundwater Festival.
- Over 1,575 gallons of bubble solution for Bubbleology at the Kids Groundwater Festival.
- 23 Poster Contests held in the county.
- Douglas SWCD has had 3 office locations.
- More then 44,970.8 acres have been planted with District No-till Drills.
- Over the course of 65 years, Douglas SWCD has had 94 employees.
- Over the course of 65 years, Douglas SWCD has had 27 Supervisors.
- Douglas County has 6 Certified Ag. Water Quality Certification Farmers.
- 140 roadside gullies repaired and sealed in the county.
- 7 barnyard pollution control systems completed.
- 141 windbreaks, shelterbelts and erosion control projects installed in the county.
- 10 speech/essay contests held in the county.
- 12 Stewardship weeks held in Douglas County.
- 49 wildlife Ponds installed in the county.
- 6 Good Year Awards presented in the county.
- 96% of the County is compliant with the State Buffer law.
- 60 Conservation air, bus and school tours in the county.
- 17 grade stabilization projects completed in the county.
- 84 stock water pits installed in the county.
- 3 Youth Habitat days held in the county.
- 5 Eco Fairs held in the county.
- 3 Soil, Hay and Forage Clinics held in the county.
- 3 pollution abatement systems installed.
- Participated in 24 Area 2 Envirothon's.
- 64 Outstanding Conservation Farmers.

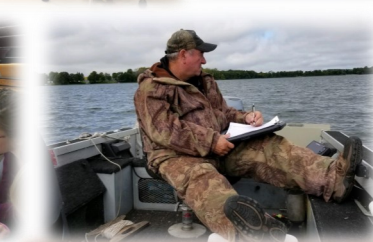




Staff hard at work









Then vs now...

# Welcome Time Travelers!!!

SWCD vehicles 1971 vs. vehicles 2019



Building 1974 vs. Building 2019



Fair Booth 2011 vs Fair Booth 2019





**No-Till Drill 1983 vs No- Till Drill 2019**



**Lakeshore Restoration in the 80's vs Lakeshore Restoration 2019**



**Kids Groundwater Festival 2002 vs Kids Groundwater Festival 2019**



**Conservation Farmer 1993 vs Conservation Farmer 2019**



## Minnesota Ag. Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP)

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>.

Through 2019 there are six certified farms, covering 2,623 acres in Douglas County.



## Buffer Law updates

The Minnesota Buffer law requires a riparian filter strip or perennial vegetative buffer of 50 feet wide along lakes, rivers and streams, and buffers of 16.5 feet wide along the public ditches. These buffers help filter out phosphorus, nitrogen and sediment. The law provides flexibility for landowners to install alternative practices with equivalent water quality benefits.

As of July 2019, approximately 96% of parcels adjacent to Minnesota's public waters and public ditches are compliant with the buffer law.

There is a wide range of vegetation suitable for a buffer. The main thing to remember, is it has to be a perennial. Which does include hay and forage crops such as alfalfa, clover, woody vegetation, perennial grains (to be harvested later) and prairie vegetation. Whatever the vegetation being planted, it is recommended to purchase certified seed to reduce the risk of planting species that are prohibited in Minnesota.

With both of the deadline dates in the past to get the remaining buffers in, the buffer enforcement has begun. For those that chose not to, or ran out of time to be compliant, penalties and fees will start getting assessed to the specific landowners. If there is any question about a specific parcel of land, please call the SWCD office and we can assist you further!



## 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 streambank along the Chippewa River (Picture May 2015)



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

## 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!

## Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM)

RIM is part of the 1986 Reinvest in Minnesota Resources Act which was enacted to help restore certain marginal and environmentally sensitive agricultural land to protect soil and water quality and to support fish and other wildlife habitat. As of this year, there has been over \$200 million state dollars put forth, and resulting in more than 6,000 easements covering more than 250,000 acres. The program currently focuses on permanent wetland restorations, adjacent native grassland, wildlife habitat complexes and permanent riparian buffers.

The Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR) RIM program is a critical component of the state's efforts to improve water quality by reducing soil erosion, and phosphorus and nitrogen loading, while benefiting or improving wildlife habitat and flood attenuation on private lands. RIM is implemented in cooperation with County SWCD's. The RIM Program compensates landowners for granting conservation easements and establishing native vegetation habitat on economically marginal, flood-prone, environmentally sensitive or highly erodible lands. This program is designed to help protect the state's soil and water resources by permanently restoring wetlands, adjacent native grassland for wildlife habitat complexes and permanent riparian buffers.

How it works: BWSR acquires, on behalf of the state, conservation easements to permanently protect, restore and manage critical natural resources without owning the land outright. The land remains in private ownership and the landowner retains responsibility for maintenance and paying applicable real estate taxes and assessments. BWSR also provides statewide program coordination and administration and implementation at the local level which is done through the Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District.

Who is all involved: RIM is the primary land acquisition program for state held conservation easements and restoration of wetlands and native grasslands on privately owned land in Minnesota. This program partners with public and private landowners, state, federal and local government entities, non-profit organization and the citizens of Minnesota. For more information about RIM, swing by or call the Douglas SWCD office!



## 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 a one time rim payment in addition to an annual rental rate for 14-15 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. The Douglas SWCD office can answer questions you might have about what the program offers.





## Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Who can enroll and what are the benefits? Farmers and ranchers who enroll in CRP receive a yearly rental payment for voluntarily establishing long term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses and or trees to help improve water quality, environmental quality, positively impact your landscapes, prevent soil erosion and develop or increase wildlife habitat on marginally productive ag lands. Landowners enter into contracts that last between 10-15 years. Currently there is 22 million acres enrolled, but with the passing of the 2018 Farm Bill, that cap has now been lifted to 27 million acres. If you are interested in enrolling or have questions stop in to the Douglas SWCD office and talk to Kasey Jenc (Pheasants Forever Wildlife Biologist).



In the past, these were the most common practices enrolled in CRP:

*Duck Nesting Habitat*

*Farmable Wetland Programs*

*Field windbreaks*

*Pollinator Habitat*

*Living Snow Fences*

*Shelterbelts*

*Riparian Forest Buffers*

*Wetland Restorations*

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 Non-Highly Erodible Land (NHEL)/Highly

Erodible Land (HEL) status, feel free to contact our office for further assistance.

If you are unsure of a fields NHEL/HEL status, feel free to contact our office for further assistance.

## No-Till Drill

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.



## Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

CSP is a conservation program administered by the USDA and NRCS, designed and developed to help build on existing conservation efforts while strengthening the over all farming operation. Conservation practices could include: improve grazing conditions, increase crop resiliency, and develop wildlife habitat.

CSP has lots of benefit options available. It has been known to help enhance resiliency to weather and market volatility, decrease need for agricultural inputs, and improved wildlife habitat conditions. Some of the crops that can be benefited are: corn, cotton, crops (in general), dairy, forestry, livestock, organics, pork, poultry, rice, soil health, sorghum, soybeans, wheat and wildlife!

CSP is a program that works for the land. It is currently the largest conservation program in the United States with thousands of people voluntarily enrolling in the program because it helps them enhance natural resources and improve the over all farming operation. For more information about CSP, swing by or call the Douglas SWCD office!



## Conservation Trees, Planting and Fabric Mulch

2019 started off as a strange year for Douglas SWCD and the tree sales. Our first Tree Open House got delayed and rescheduled due to the wonderful winter bliss. The accumulation of snow in a short time frame caused our tree shed roof to collapse. That led the SWCD to purchasing and moving into a new tree shed top priority.

Once Spring finally sprung, the trees were selling fast! We sold out of all the trees we preordered, and successfully got all the plantings done. In total, there were 21 plantings and over 14,000 feet of fabric installed.

Overall there was 26,360 trees including 880 potted trees sold and planted in Douglas County.

The Douglas SWCD is now taking orders for trees for the spring of 2020 plantings. Whether you are looking at planting a hedge, shelterbelt, living snow fence, field windbreak or wildlife habitat, we have the right shrubs and trees for all your needs. We offer a variety of small shrubs, large shrubs/small trees, deciduous trees and conifers

Not only do we provide trees for your selection, we provide services from planning to 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. 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!

## Annual Tree Open House!

Douglas SWCD will host their annual Tree Open House on Wednesday, January 31, 2019, at the USDA Service Center (directly behind McDonald's on Hwy. 29 North in Alexandria). Back up date is February 11.

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. Other items and topics that will be discussed are fabric installation, tree tubes, and cost share opportunities. Tree orders placed after March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 may not be guaranteed.



## Pomme de Terre River - One Watershed One Plan (1W1P)

Douglas County only makes up about 4% of the Pomme de Terre River Watershed. Our portion of the watershed is about 20,000 acres and Lake Christina covers 1/5th of the area. The smallest town in Douglas County is Melby with a population of around 10. Melby is the only community in the Douglas County portion of the watershed. It has both Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) present in the area.

Lake Christina is one of the priority lakes in the Pomme de Terre 1W1P. Lake Christina is nationally recognized as a critical staging area for migrating waterfowl, especially canvasbacks during both spring and fall migrations. Early surveys (1940's) noted 300,000-400,000 ducks and coots, including up to 150,000 canvasbacks. The MN DNR designated Lake Christina as a Wildlife Lake in 1983.

The Pomme de Terre River Watershed has lots of great conservation practices to stop and admire throughout the watershed. One popular site that has been preserved through conservation in the watershed is known as Seven Sisters Prairie owned by The Nature Conservancy. This area got its name from seven matching peaks. The overall layout of the land is very hilly, which doesn't allow for the best farming land, but the land is great for livestock grazing. This is part of the reason so many landowners in this area have been willing to put their land into easements or CRP.

This past summer, the Douglas SWCD staff took part in a Board Tour of the Pomme de Terre River Watershed which was hosted by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), and the Pomme de Terre River Association (PDTRA). The tour offered board members and staff a valuable opportunity to see first hand how partnerships between local conservation staff and landowners are making a difference in communities across Minnesota. BWSR helps to provide grant funding to local units of government through the Clean Water Fund, which began in 2009 to aid projects in protecting drinking water, wetlands, prairies, wildlife habitat, and improving the quality of water bodies. The 20-member BWSR board includes representatives from state agencies, local governments, and citizens. The projects featured during the 2019 tour illustrated how successful partnerships between federal, state and local governments and private landowners safeguard and enhance Minnesota's soil and water resources.



### Ag. BMP Loans

The Ag. BMP Loan Program is a water quality program that provides low-interest loans to rural landowners, agriculture supply businesses and farmers. This program is designed to encourage best management practices in agriculture while preventing runoff and erosion from farm fields, feed lots and other problems identified in the Douglas County water plan.

The borrower proposes a project to the local county. If the borrower meets state eligibility requirements and the project addresses local water quality priorities, the county approves the project and assists them in locating a cooperating banker. The local government manages the project (Which is the Douglas SWCD).

The local banker evaluates the financial aspects of the project, and with the approval, the project is implemented. Once the project is complete, funds are sent from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to the local bank and the loan is drawn up between the local bank and the borrower. Funds come from the Clean Water Fund and legislative appropriations. Contact the Douglas SWCD for more information!



## 65th Anniversary Celebration Conservation Bus Tour

Dating back to 1954, the Douglas SWCD was established by a local group of farmers for the purpose of promoting the art and science of good land use. The job of SWCD staff is to assist landowners and operators in planning and applying the soil and water conservation practices needed to protect and improve their soil and water resources.

August 10 officially marked 65 years of conservation for our district. Douglas SWCD celebrated by hosting a Conservation Bus Tour around the County on August 6. The group left the office at 9 AM and returned around 3 PM.



**2019 Conservation Bus Tour Group Photo**

This free event was to help showcase all the great conservation practices and projects that have been implemented in the county over the past years. The projects highlighted on the bus tour were:

- Agricultural Waste Systems
- Buffer Strips
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
- Conservation (CRP) Tree Planting
- Grazing Systems
- Gully Stabilization
- High Tunnels
- Lakeshore Restoration
- Living Snow Fence
- Minnesota Agriculture Water Quality Certification Program
- Native Grasses
- No-Till Practices
- Pollinator Plantings
- Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM)
- Streambank Restoration
- Terraces
- Water and Sediment Control Basins
- Wetland Restorations

Participants and staff enjoyed fresh grilled burgers and locally grown corn on the cob at Chippewa Park for lunch.

There were 13 staff, 2 County support, 2 supporting agencies and 14 community members for a grand total of 31 on the bus!



**Learning about Conservation Practices**



**High Tunnel Stop**

## Upper Chippewa Grant:

The priority of this grant is to protect water quality resources for public use and public health; in the heart of Douglas County's livestock country. Currently this area is under intensive agricultural use with an abundance of water features and hydrologically sensitive soils. Many of these farms have existing permitted or unpermitted (damaged, unused or un-lined) liquid manure storage areas (LMSA's) in need of repair, replacement or closure, or also open lots near wetlands and vulnerable soils with high water tables. The goal of this project is to improve drinking water quality by upgrading, replacing or closing existing damaged or unpermitted manure storage areas, in addition to addressing open lot runoff. Currently there are five project locations that have been identified and up to four more are anticipated to be identified in the next two years, for a grand total of 10 projects all within three sub watersheds primarily in Millerville, and Leaf Valley Townships.

Groundwater movement is extremely variable, emphasizing the need for protecting it. From the local perspective, unpermitted, often unlined LMSAs pose a risk through the dynamics of groundwater movement and the variability of surface water flow based on a sharp increase in modification of drainage systems via tile drainage and the alteration of Type one and two wetlands throughout the project area. This project will not only benefit those living in the project area, but many throughout Minnesota and beyond. Total grant awarded was \$356,960.

## Water Monitoring Grants

Douglas SWCD has been working hard all summer on their SWAG. What is this SWAG you may ask? It's not quite what you think. SWAG stands for Surface Water Assessment Grant. Douglas SWCD sought out the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) last fall and applied for this grant that provides funding for water quality monitoring. Starting in May of this year, SWCD staff have been sampling six different lakes and one stream in the Chippewa River Watershed. These lakes include Moon, Moses, Stowe, Devils, Little Chippewa, and South Oscar. The stream is County Ditch 60, north of Brandon. Sampling will continue during the summer months until September 2020.

The MPCA will use the data collected to determine if the water bodies tested meet the state standards for designated uses such as swimming and fishing. If any of the waters do not meet the standards they will be identified for protection or restoration in the next Chippewa Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) report that will be completed by the MPCA.



## Weed Control:

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



## News releases



Phone: 320-763-3191, X 3

Address: 900 Robert St., Suite 102, Alexandria, MN 56308

Website: [www.douglasSWCD.com](http://www.douglasSWCD.com)



"Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District"

## Douglas SWCD Annual Tree Open House

Stop in and talk to SWCD Staff about:  
• Tree Plantings on your property  
• Cost Share Options

Wednesday, January 30, 2019  
8:00am - 5:00pm

900 Robert St.  
Suite 102  
Alexandria, MN 56308

Requested RSVP by January 19th  
to the Douglas SWCD or Call (320) 763-3191 Ext 3

Cookies, Apple Cider,  
and Coffee will be  
provided!

10+ press releases were sent out!

Topics included:

- Irrigator Clinic
- Nitrate Clinic
- Tree Open House
- Buffers
- Aquatic Invasive Species
- Outstanding Conservationist
- Kids Groundwater Festival
- Conservation Bus tour
- Soil Health Chats
- Ditch 23-Lake Ida

The Chippewa River Watershed Conservation Planning Initiative presents:

### Soil Health Chats

#### You're invited...

Join us for an informal & informational discussion led by local farmers and local professionals. These Soil Health Chats are free to attend, and light refreshments will be served.

#### What is a Soil Health Chat?

A locally hosted event to provide area farmers and producers with an opportunity to connect with others currently using soil health practices like cover crops, strip/no-till, and more.

#### Soil Health Chat Locations:

**Long Lake Lodge**  
16021 Long Lake Rd NW, Brandon, MN  
Tuesday, July 9th, 2019  
5:30pm-8:30pm

**Starbuck Community Center**  
307 E 5th St, Starbuck, MN 56381  
Wednesday, July 10th, 2019  
5:30pm-8:30pm

**McKinney's on Southside**  
300 14th St S, Benson, MN  
Thursday, July 11th, 2019  
5:30pm-8:30pm



#### Soil Health Chat Speakers:

- Local Farmers/Producers
- Local Crop Consultants
- U of MN Extension Staff
- Ian Olson, Watershed Planner
- Local NRCS and SWCD Staff



RSVP is requested but not required. For those who may be interested in attending contact Ian Olson by email at [ian.a.olson@mn.nacdn.net](mailto:ian.a.olson@mn.nacdn.net) or by calling (320) 763-3191 x3.



## Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District Conservation Practices Bus Tour

What is a Conservation Practices Bus Tour?

Come join the Douglas SWCD Staff as they celebrate their 65th year in conservation on a guided bus tour around Douglas County. This tour is open to anyone and will include many stops highlighting a variety of successful conservation practices along the way!

Date: August 6, 2019

Time: All Day

Address: 900 Robert St., Suite 102, Alexandria, MN 56308 (Bus is leaving from the SWCD office at 9 AM and returning by 3 PM)

Reserve your spot today! (Space is limited)

To Reserve your spot on the bus call 320-763-3191 X 3

For more information:

Website: [www.douglasSWCD.com](http://www.douglasSWCD.com)

Find us on Facebook: DouglasSWCD



Locally Implemented Conservation Practices highlighted on the tour:

- Ag. Waste
- Conservation Tree Planting
- Grazing
- Lake Shore Restoration
- No Till/Strip Till Practices
- Pollinator Plantings
- Streambank Restoration
- Terraces
- Water & Sediment Control Basins
- Wetland Restorations

FREE Bus Tour with lunch Provided!



## What's in your water?

Date: June 17, 2019

Time: 8:30am - 5 pm

Place: 900 Robert Street  
Alexandria, MN 56308

**How to collect Samples:** To take your sample, run your cold tap for five to ten minutes then collect about one cup of water in a plastic baggie (double bag) or clean jar. Keep the water cool until arrival. You can collect the water anytime within one day of the nitrate analysis (if you are going to the local office right after work, you can collect the sample in the morning and keep it cool all day until you arrive).

For more information please contact the Douglas County Soil and Water Conservation District

Website: <http://www.douglasSWCD.com/>  
Phone: 320-763-3191 Ext 3

Location: 900 Robert Street, Suite 102 Alexandria, MN 56308



2019 Tree Order		Form		Receipt	
(320) 763-3191 Ext. 3		Douglas Soil & Water Conservation District		900 Robert St., Suite 102, Alexandria, MN 56308	
Date	Name	City	State	Phone	Zip
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 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	Moderate	5-10'		
18-24"	Buffberry	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	12-18'		
18-24"	Gray Dogwood	Moderate	7-10'		
18-24"	Redosier Dogwood	Moderate	7-10'		
18-24"	Junberry	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 Spindler 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	60-70'		
18-24"	Pin Cherry	Moderate	40-55'		
18-24"	Hackberry	Rapid	60-90'		
18-24"	Red Maple	Mod-Rapid	60-70'		
18-24"	Silver Maple	Rapid	60-90'		
18-24"	Sugar Maple	Moderate	60-80'		
18-24"	Blue Oak	Slow	70-80'		
18-24"	Red Oak	Moderate	60-90'		
18-24"	Shouland Poplar - Cottonwood	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	50-60'		
10-16"	White Pine	Rapid	70-100'		
10-16"	Black Hills Spruce	Moderate-Rapid	45-60'		
10-16"	Norway Spruce	Rapid	80-100'		
<b>Special Order</b>					
15-18"	Northern White Cedar	Moderate	40-50'		
15-18"	Red Pine	Moderate	50-60'		
15-18"	White Pine	Rapid	70-100'		
15-18"	Black Hills Spruce	Moderate-Rapid	40-60'		
15-18"	Norway Spruce	Rapid	80-100'		
<b>Ask about other species before January 30</b>					
<b>Planting Charges:</b>		<b>Tube/Stake Charges:</b>		<b>Tree Cost</b>	
\$0.75 Our Tractor for Planting		4" tubes @ \$3.00 each		<b>Tube Cost</b>	
\$1.50 Hand Planting Bar-root		5" stakes @ \$1.50 each		<b>Stakes Cost</b>	
\$100.00 Min. Pkg. Chg.)		<b>Tube/Stake Installation:</b>		<b>Subtotal</b>	
<b>Public Installation:</b>		\$1.50 per tube/stake (\$100 Min)		<b>7.38% Sales Tax</b>	
\$0.50 per foot		* Tree Tubes Strongly Recommended		<b>Planting Charges</b>	
				<b>Grand Total</b>	

## Nitrate Well Testing

The Douglas SWCD held a free Nitrate Well Testing Clinic at the end of June, and again at the end of August. This was for community members, resort members and visitors to check the levels of nitrates in their well and drinking water. Between the two clinics there was over 90 samples ran and tested. If the results were high, SWCD staff provided resources and possible solutions to help address amount of nitrates in their water. These were the requirements in order to bring in a sample: To take your sample, run your cold tap for five to ten minutes before collecting about one cup of water in a double plastic baggie or a clean jar. The water needs to be collected within one day of the inspection and kept cool.



## Soil Health Chats

Douglas SWCD partnered with Swift County Soil & Water Conservation District and Pope Soil and Water Conservation District in the Chippewa River Watershed to host a series of Soil Health Chat Clinics.

What exactly is a Soil Health Chat? It is a locally hosted event to provide area farmers and producers with an opportunity to connect with others currently using soil health practices like cover crops, strip/no-till and more. These soil health chats were informal and informational. Discussions were led by local farmers and local professionals. Each county that partnered with the Soil Health Chats hosted one of the three Soil Health Chats. Over all there was over 27 people that came to the events. It was a great way for farmers, producers, landowners, SWCD/NRCS Staff, vendors, and equipment dealers to get together and discuss the soil health and what practices work best in a certain area.



## Soil Investigation Grant

Douglas SWCD applied for a soil investigation grant through the Board of Soil and Resources (BWSR) and was awarded \$93,000. This project seeks to inventory twenty registered feedlots identified as having an Unpermitted Liquid Manure Storage Area (LMSA). Specifically, this inventory would include offering cost-share for soils investigations. Soils investigations are required for farmers to demonstrate resource concern to access needed cost-share for LMSA upgrades, bringing the structure up to a permitted status per MPCA standards. Soils investigations for LMSAs have not been supported with cost-share within Douglas County previously, and it has been only sporadically available from other TSA's. These feedlots are located in three townships and have also been identified as having groundwater that is vulnerable to nutrient pollution, necessitating a need for nitrate testing per MN Department of Agriculture. These townships also house the vast majority of remaining unpermitted LMSAs in the County.



## Kids Groundwater Festival

The First Kids' Groundwater Festival in Minnesota was held in Douglas County, on May 3, 1994. Over 650 fourth grade students across the county came to learn about groundwater and how they can become better stewards of this precious natural resource. The original committee consisted of seven-members and took over eleven months to plan. To date, over 14,512 fourth graders have attended the festival.

The purpose of the festival is to teach all fourth-grade students in Douglas County, Osakis, Parkers Prairie schools, and West Central Area Schools about ground water:

- What it is and how it fits into the hydrologic cycle,
- Its importance to all life,
- How it relates to another natural resource, and
- How human activities affect water quality and water quantity.



The festival is set up where each class of students attends six to seven stations out of the 21, has a lunch break, and gets to see an interactive demonstration by the Science Museum of Minnesota; explaining the scientific facts about water in many interesting and experimental ways. The demonstration focuses on combining oxygen and hydrogen gases, along with how much water we use and waste on a day to day basis. This gives the students a real shock for how big their water and carbon footprints are and provides ways to help reduce it. The rest of the day schedule is set up, so each group goes to a Pictionary/water Jeopardy game, wetlands, groundwater, and bubbleology where the students get to be put in a human sized bubble!

Some of the other sessions they might get to attend or learn about are: wells, well drilling and sealing, groundwater, water problems, aquifers, wetlands, water treatment. how water gets into our homes and businesses, good vs. bad water, glaciers, runoff, streams, aquatic invasive species (AIS) and the water cycle.

The excitement and enthusiasm really show in the students' faces and amount of energy they express. When they get to the groundwater festival, they know ahead of time what kind of fun is in store for them. In the planning process, way before the students even arrive to the festival, a theme/topic for the year is voted on by the committee members and relayed back to the students. This gives the students a chance to make or create the t-shirt logo/design, which everyone participating in the event receives and wears.

Each student is given a pre and post test for the event to help measure the educational value of the event, and to see what they comprehend from the day. All teachers and staff also have the option to evaluate the day and provide some useful feedback, which is reviewed by the committee and taken into consideration in planning the next year's kids' groundwater festival.



The 2019 Kids' Groundwater Festival Committee included the following individuals: Danielle Anderson, Jessica Albertsen & Jerry Haggenmiller, Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District; Natosha VanLiere, District 206 Volunteer Coordinator; Marilyn Bayerl, Bayerl Water Resources; Lisa Pikop, Principal District 206; Vicki Gesell, Alexandria Light and Power; Lynn Boysen, MN Dept. of Health; Nathan Reinhold, Douglas Pope Solid Waste, and Rebecca Sternquist & Mark Koep, Douglas County Land and Resources Management. This committee organized the festival and would not have been a success without the help from our 125 + volunteers, and funding donations from local businesses, community organizations, service groups fire departments local government agencies and private business owners.. This year's Kids' Groundwater Festival was held on May 1, at the Runestone Community Center (RCC).

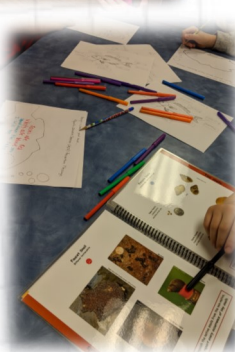


## Education and Outreach activities

Education and Outreach activities have made a big impact on both the local schools and adults. On average Jessica Albertsen the Education and Outreach Coordinator was out in the field 2-3 days a week, documenting, teaching, and promoting conservational practices.

Some of the Education and Outreach Themes, events and topics consisted of:

- Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention
- Arbor Day Bingo
- Big-Ole SUPathon
- Composting 101
- Conservation Brain Games
- Conservation Towers
- Cream of the Crop
- Dig Deeper in Soil
- Fish Printing
- Fishing 101 (knot tying, rules of the game)
- Fishing Frenzy
- Forestry Fun
- Growing Green
- Kids Fleet Farm Fishing Days
- Life Cycles and Bugs/Insects
- Mirrors of Minnesota Marvel
- Mouse Trap Racecars
- Nature Bingo
- Pollinator Habitat
- Pop Can Fishing Rods
- Scat and Tracks of Mammals in Minnesota
- Soil Profiles
- Survival
- What part of the plant are we eating
- Where does our food come from
- Who Really owns the water?
- Youth Outdoor Activities Day

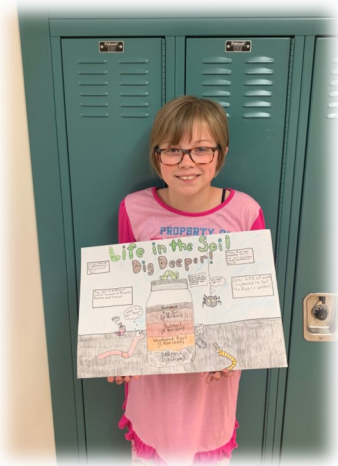




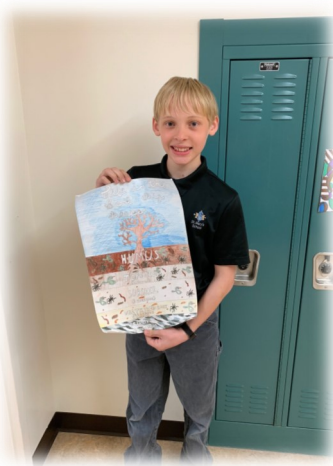
## Kids Poster Contest

“Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper” was the theme of the Douglas SWCD 2019 Poster and Mural Contest for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students throughout the County. Earlier this spring, Jessica– the Education and Outreach Coordinator from the Douglas SWCD visited classrooms and gave presentations on the importance of our soil health. The students got to make dirt cakes to resemble a soil profile, then used the information they learned to create posters and murals for the contest.

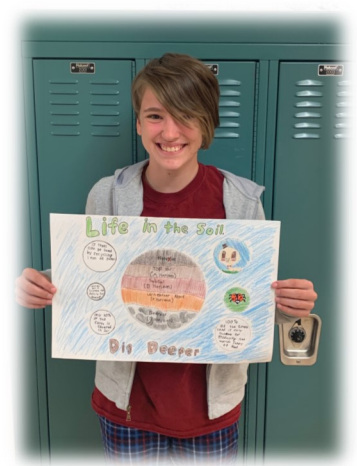
Once all posters were submitted SWCD staff and supervisors voted on the posters and notified the schools. The winning posters were displayed at the Douglas County Fair in the Soil and Water booth.



**Kaitlyn Evjen**  
**1st Place Winner**  
**St. Mary's Elementary**



**Andrew Fleming**  
**2nd Place Winner**  
**St. Mary's Elementary**



**Heather Marquardt**  
**3rd Place Winner**  
**St. Mary's Elementary**





## Douglas County Fair booth

Once again Douglas SWCD had a booth in the Fish and Game Building. This year's theme was more focused on water aspect of soil and Water. It highlighted a miniature dock and a bunch of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) that are currently infesting our Douglas County Waters, to help bring home the importance of Clean, Drain, Dry, Dispose.

There was also information on Ag. Water Quality Certification Program, Kids Groundwater Festival, Youth Outdoor Activities Day, Poster winners, and Water Quality Monitoring/Sampling the office does throughout the year. Staff were available to help answer questions that might come up as people went by.

The kids got to pick a fish, and were given a prize depending on the color of fish they chose. Prizes included coloring books, comic books, bobbers, temporary tattoos, hot/cold packs, fishing/hunting license holder, stress ball fish, sunglasses, collapsible flying disks, and t-shirts.

The adults that visited the booth got to put their names in a drawing for a chance to win a bundle of 25 bareroot trees of their choice during the 2020 tree season.



2019 SWCD Fair Booth Display

## Youth Outdoor Activity Day

This annual event is a free, family-friendly event intended to provide youth a fun environment in which to learn about outdoor recreation. Activities included trap shooting, archery, hunting, angling and many other related skills. Over 45 hands-on activities and demonstrations were planned. This public event is made possible through a consortium of participating volunteer organizations, businesses, individuals, and donors. This event takes place at the Alexandria Shooting Park. Both Douglas SWCD and Douglas County Land and Resources partner to be donors, and also have staff helping with the event. This is a great way to get kids outdoors, learning new and fun outdoor recreational activities, and most importantly putting the electronics down!

This year there were a total of 2,105 youth that participated in the event! Although the rain wouldn't stay away and caused the over all event to be shut down early, it was still a lot of fun and a huge success.

Education with our youth is so important, especially with natural resources, and aquatic invasive species (AIS), even though there might not be a booth set up explaining it, the county's AIS message is throughout the entire Youth Outdoor Activities Day experience. The logo and information is on the free t-shirts every participant gets for volunteering, advertised on the website, and throughout the event at the various booths through promotional items.

If interested in volunteering, participating or what other awesome activities this event has to offer visit the website! [www.youthoutdooractivityday.org](http://www.youthoutdooractivityday.org). It is always the last Sunday in August, so mark your calendars and we hope to see you there!



Youth Outdoor Activity Day Entrance Tent

## Envirothon

The Douglas SWCD assisted with the organization of the 2019 Envirothon in which high school students from a 12-county area demonstrated their knowledge of Minnesota’s natural resources. The annual Area 2 Envirothon was held on Thursday April 18th at the Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center near Spicer.

The Area 2 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 2019 topic was, “Sustainable Agriculture: Understanding sustainable agriculture on large and small farm operations, as well as the indicators of sustainable farming”. 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



Various stations include current events, oral presentation, forestry, wetlands, and soils. Photos represent students participating at the 2019 Area 2 Envirothon.

## Multi - County Outreach

Other counties in our area want the same opportunity for their students to learn about conservation practices, the importance of agricultural and benefits of natural resources. Jessica Albertsen the Education and Outreach Coordinator for the Douglas SWCD has gone out to a variety of counties in our MASWCD Area 2 and assisted with jump starting other counties educational programs, helping lead a station at Nature Day’s, Water Festivals, Conservation days, Poster Contest presentations, and other school programs. She has been to Swift, Stevens, Pope, Grant, Todd, Traverse, and Pope Counties.



Teaching about Soil Erosion and Soil infiltration at the Pope-Stevens-Grant Water Fest - Fall 2019

Teaching about Aquatic Invasive Species at Swift County Nature Day- Fall 2019

Teaching about “Mirrors of Minnesota Marvels” at Pope–Stevens Conservation day - Fall 2019



## Aquatic Invasive Species

Zebra Mussels are a non-native aquatic invasive species (AIS) that were first confirmed in Douglas County by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in the summer of 2009. As of November 2018, there are a total of 40 lakes and water bodies within the county listed as infested with Zebra Mussels. Some of those water bodies are unnamed lakes and rivers. The complete list can be found on the DNR website.



In cooperation with Douglas County Land and Resources Management and the Douglas County Water Patrol, RMB Environmental Laboratories and the Douglas SWCD, a zebra mussel veliger study was created to monitor seven lakes. This study continued from the 2016 sampling efforts, with modifications such as starting at an earlier date in the season and adding Lake Osakis to the list of sampled lakes. Samples were collected weekly from late May through August and bi-weekly in September from recently infested lakes (Miltona, Ida, Turtle, Osakis) and well-established infested lakes (Le Homme Dieu, Darling, Irene).

Volunteers monitored six additional lakes for zebra mussel veligers (Vermont, Rachel, Pocket, Smith, Aaron and Red Rock). The goals of the project were to determine if veligers could be detected in the recently infested lakes and if so, what density and patterns the veligers exhibited over time. In the lakes with established infestations, the goals were to also see what density and pattern the veligers exhibit as well as if the density patterns were similar to other northwest Minnesota lakes that have been studied.



The overall results of all the lakes tested, indicated the large densities in high traffic areas; therefore risk for veliger transfer is during the months of Late

June through July. In relation, this is also the time of year when Douglas County lakes see an increase of boating activities.



In 2019, Douglas County conducted just over 10,600 inspections on 20 lakes at 25 unique public water accesses by watercraft inspectors. Education, public awareness, on-site prevention, and monitoring/management are all key components to slow the spread of AIS within Douglas County.

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 to help control the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Please report any suspicions of AIS to Minnesota DNR and encourage all watercraft recreational users to use it to help prevent treatment of Natural Resources. 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 seven lakes (Irene, Miltona, Ida, Le Homme Dieu, Darling, Osakis, and Turtle) to determine presence or 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)

## Water Testing

The Douglas SWCD through RMB labs in Detroit Lakes, MN offers water testing options. Water testing kits are available in the Soil and Water office and are collected daily at 11:00 am Monday through Thursday. The kits available are: Total coliform Bacteria, Nitrate, Arsenic, and Lead. Additional kits available upon request.

To collect a sample for RMB testing: run your cold tap water for at least ten minutes before collecting about one cup of water in the jar provided in the selected kit; keep the water cool until delivered to the SWCD Office before 11:00 AM. Please note that testing is completed the same day as sample collection.

## 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, or landowners. 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/dcw.html](http://www.wcif.org/give/funds/dcw.html).



## 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.



## Ditch 23/Lake Ida

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. Douglas SWCD got results and suggestions from Barr Engineering to potentially move forward. The results came in towards the beginning of August, and staff met with the Lake Ida Association, other landowners, and held their SWCD Board meeting where concerned citizens came to hear about the improvement possibilities. Douglas SWCD will be applying for two new and additional Clean Water Fund grants to cover up to 75% of the total cost of the projects.

Barr Engineering and the Douglas SWCD held a public meeting in November where 21 staff, county employees and concerned lake citizens were present to hear the findings from the study. Barr Engineering proposed their top suggestions and conservation practices to try on this specific area, and then had time to answer questions and provide further feedback.



## Walk-in Access (WIA)

The Walk-In Access Program targets land that's 40 acres or more, 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, or if a multiyear contract is signed.

Enrolled lands are 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 or call the Douglas SWCD office.



# Irrigator Clinic

The Douglas, along with Kandiyohi, Pope and Stearns Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture once again hosted the annual Irrigator Clinic. This year the Clinic was held on March 21st, at the Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center in Spicer Minnesota.

This year's topics of interest were Cover Crops, Soil Health Under Irrigation, Precision Irrigation, and Soil Moisture Sensing Technology. After lunch we regrouped and learned about Groundwater Usage, Permitting, Surface Water Impacts, Gorans Family Farm Subsurface Water Quality Research and Rosholt Research Farm.

This clinic is set up to have vendors, manufactures, parts distributors, and district staff available to answer questions and provide in site on potential conservation practices and other implementations to try on their farms.

Every year the Irrigator Clinic has been held, it moves around between the partnering counties, and more SWCD's and other agencies get involved. As a follow up to complete the clinic and provide feedback for staff, there is an evaluation (see below for examples) that is handed out to vendors, presenters, and participates to find out what topics they would love to learn more about, or cover for the next year.



## March 2019 Irrigator's Clinic Evaluation

Please rate the quality of the information and topic. Add comments if you wish.

	Poor				Excellent
Groundwater Usage Permitting	1	2	3	4	5
Cover Crops & Soil Health Under Irrigation	1	2	3	4	5
Rosholt Irrigation Research	1	2	3	4	5
Irrigation Soil Moisture Sensing Technology	1	2	3	4	5
Gorans Family Farm Subsurface Water Quality Research	1	2	3	4	5

How did the timing of this event and length of the program work for you?

Time of year

- ☐ Good timing  
☐ Timing OK  
☐ Poor timing

Length of Program

- ☐ Right length  
☐ Program too long  
☐ Program too short

Is \$10 a fair price to pay for this workshop? ( ) Yes, ( ) No

Did you find the vendor area beneficial? ( ) Yes, ( ) No

How was the amount of time with the Vendors?

☐ Right Length ☐ Too Long ☐ Too Short

How would you rate the Facility? ( ) Poor, ( ) Fair, ( ) Good, ( ) Great

Was the location of the clinic convenient?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Made No Difference

What areas of irrigation would you like to see additional RESEARCH developed?

- ☐ Cover Crops Benefits on Irrigated Soils  
☐ Nitrogen Management on Irrigated Soils  
☐ "Double Cropping" on Irrigated Soils  
☐ Irrigation Water Management Technology  
☐ Other, please explain \_\_\_\_\_

Please share a few topics that you would suggest for the next Irrigator's Clinic.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Thank-you for your comments and participation!*

## March 2019 Irrigator's Clinic VENDOR Evaluation

Please rate the quality of the information and topic. Add comments if you wish.

	Poor				Excellent
Groundwater Usage Permitting	1	2	3	4	5
Cover Crops & Soil Health Under Irrigation	1	2	3	4	5
Rosholt Irrigation Research	1	2	3	4	5
Irrigation Soil Moisture Sensing Technology	1	2	3	4	5
Gorans Family Farm Subsurface Water Quality Research	1	2	3	4	5

How would you rate the Facility? ( ) Poor, ( ) Fair ( ) Good, ( ) Excellent

Was the location of the clinic convenient?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Made No Difference

How did the timing of this event and length of the program work for you as a vendor?

Time of year

- ☐ Good timing  
☐ Timing OK  
☐ Poor timing

Length of Program

- ☐ Right length  
☐ Program too long  
☐ Program too short

The day of the event, how organized was the event?

☐ Very organized ☐ Somewhat organized ☐ Not at all organized

Prior to the event, how much of the information that you needed did you get?

☐ All of the information ☐ Most of the information ☐ Some of the information  
☐ A little of the information ☐ None of the information

How was the provided vendor time?

☐ Much too long ☐ Too long ☐ About right ☐ Too short ☐ Much too short

Do you feel the event was worth your time and financial contribution?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Why or Why Not? \_\_\_\_\_

What areas of irrigation would you like to see additional RESEARCH developed?

- ☐ Cover Crops Benefits on Irrigated Soils ☐ "Double Cropping" on Irrigated Soils  
☐ Nitrogen Management on Irrigated Soils ☐ Irrigation Water Management Technology  
☐ Other, please explain \_\_\_\_\_

Is there anything else you'd like to share about the event?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for your comments and support!*

## Thank you

Although the Douglas SWCD does a lot of projects, community outreach, grants and offers services on its own, we could not be as successful without our local partnerships and such a great community to be part of.

Special thanks goes out to some of the local entities: Douglas County Land and Resources Management (LRM), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Rural Development (RD), Public Works (PW), Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR), Pheasants Forever (PF), and others

The Douglas SWCD will continue to serve the county. Our goals for 2019 include:

- Increase public awareness
- Promote programs
- Sell 1,500 more trees
- Apply for more grants to assist with cost share
- Increase press releases to 16 for the year
- Increase awareness and sell more seed for native seed and food plot mixes
- Hire part time drill movers for the summer months
- Hold two community nitrate clinics
- Increase number of Multi-County Outreach Programs by four
- Increase public awareness and promoting Douglas SWCD with partnering agencies.

## Financial Statements

- Breakdown of County Revenue
- Deferred Revenue Breakdown
- Statement of Activities and Governmental Fund Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance
- Statement of Net Assets and Governmental Fund Balance Sheet
- Budget and Actual General Fund
- Notes to the Financial Statements
- Management Discussion and Analysis

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