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## SWCD Staff

### **Jerome Haggemiller**

District Coordinator

### **Starla Arceneau**

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### **Andy Rice**

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### **Jessica Albertsen**

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### **Cory Walker**

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### **Cindy Wojtkiewicz**

NRCS Technician Aid

# 2021 Newsletter

## 2020 Douglas County Outstanding Conservationist

Est. 1954

The Douglas SWCD nominated Lakeside Jerseys - Kevin and Steph Krohnfeldt, along with their children Kelsey and Cole as this years Outstanding Conservation Farmer. They farm 350 acres and milk 75 Jersey cows on the southwest side of Lake Miltona in Miltona and Leaf Valley Townships. Kevin started farming in 2009 but quit his full-time job and started full time farming in 2015 when he took over the farm from his parents Burnell and Loretta Krohnfeldt. The Krohnfeldt's switched to 100% no-till in 2019/2020 to cut down on expenses and conserve moisture on the sandy soils they farm. They use a variable rate planter on the corn and soybeans to optimize yields, and plant a rotation of corn, soybeans, small grain and alfalfa on their farm.



A manure storage facility was installed on the farm in 2013 to control runoff from the feedlot area and eliminate daily hauling of manure from the dairy cows. Manure is tested annually as well as soil testing on the fields to ensure manure is applied for the crops need. A manure management plan is followed to apply manure at agronomic rates and to avoid spreading near sensitive areas. Manure is typically applied to the small grain acres and cover crops are then planted on these acres. Cover crops of oats, annual rye, and field peas are planted on the acres where the manure is spread, to tie up the nutrients in the manure to ensure they will be available for the next years crops. Some years depending on the growth of the cover crops they are harvested in the spring for livestock feed. In 2020 a water and sediment control basin was installed with the assistance of State Cost Share and EQIP funding to solve an erosion problem on one of the fields they farm. Pollinator Habitat and field border has been established with the assistance of the EQIP program.

The Krohnfeldt's annually host Zion School kindergarten class and parents to visit the farm to educate students on soil conservation, dairy farming, crop farming and preservation of the land. They see this to keep family's informed on how milk and food are produced and what farmers are doing to protect the soil and natural resources.



Kevin is always open to new ideas and willing to make changes to his farming operations which may include no-till modifications, refining cover crop mixes, and seeding rates. The Krohnfeldt's attend conservation tillage conferences, cover crop seminars, and field days always trying to gain new information to improve yields and reduce input costs.

As quoted by Kevin and Steph. "I'd like to say that people like Benet Glanzer (our Agronomist), Stu Olson (our Ag Zyme Rep), our extended Krohnfeldt family who lend a hand with the field planting and harvesting, Mark Boesl (our excavator for the terraces and buffer strips), Mark Koep (our Feedlot Rep), the folks at NRCS office, Jerry Haggemiller (our Soil and Water Conservation Coordinator), and Brian Zimmermann at Ag Country, plus the many holistic farm classes and conservation classes we go to play a huge part in our efforts to keep our footprint small on the earth!! These people deserve a ton of credit as well, for helping us with the right resources and tools to make it possible to keep our environment and waters clean and keep our soil healthy in a more natural way!!"

On behalf of the Douglas SWCD Staff, Supervisors and NRCS Staff, Congratulations Krohnfeldt family!

## Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

Over the years, various aquatic invasive species have shown up and spread throughout the Douglas County waters. This year alone there were two new zebra mussel lake infestations on Moses and Aaron. The first CD3 (A waterless way to Clean, Drain, Dry, Dispose of unwanted invasive species) Station was purchased and is ready to install on Lake Osakis. There were also three Aqua Weed Stick and Bait disposal areas purchased which will be placed at lakes around the county to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

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

For more information on AIS, water quality or lake information for Douglas

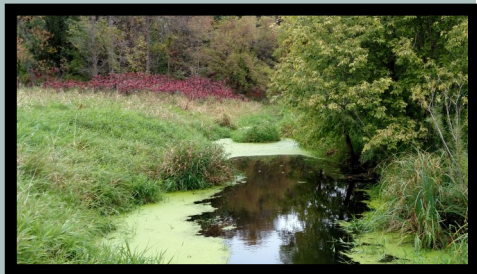
County check out the website: [www.AlexAreaLakes.org](http://www.AlexAreaLakes.org)



## 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. Federal law requirements and state law requirements vary, so check both to ensure all laws are being followed.

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 land can still be considered a wetland regardless if there is standing water or cattails are not present. We encourage you to contact our office if you are unsure if an area is a potential wetland.

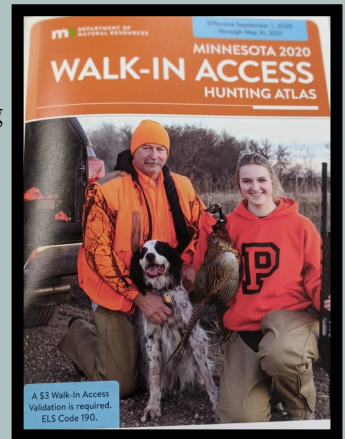


## Walk-In Access Program (WIA)

The WIA program targets private land that is at least 40 acres and may be a non-crop area or currently enrolled in a conservation program. Most landowners choose to enroll their property for two or three years in this voluntary program. Landowners are paid \$10 per acre to allow walk-in hunting access and may add up to \$3 per acre if within ½ mile of existing state or federal hunting land, 140-acre area, and a multiyear contract is signed.

Enrolled lands are covered under the Minnesota recreational use laws that limit landowner's liability. Recreational use laws provide extra liability protection for WIA access under the MN State Statute 604A.20 to 604A.27. WIA land is for hunting only. No motorized vehicles are allowed on WIA areas and parking is along roads or in designated parking area. No target practice, trapping, dog training, camping, horseback riding or fires are allowed in WIA areas. DNR conservation officers handle any WIA violations as well as any hunting violations.

If you have any questions about the program or if you are interested in enrolling your conservation land into the program, please stop by or call the Douglas SWCD office.



## Cost Share–Erosion Control

The Erosion Control and Water Management Program provides grants to SWCDs so they can help landowners offset the cost of installing conservation practices that improve water quality by reducing soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution.

Landowners or operators can apply for up to **75%** cost share for their project. Once approved by the local SWCD Board, work can begin. These funds help the local SWCD implement state-approved conservation practices. Some of the practices include: rain gardens, streambank and shoreline protection, water and sediment control structures, and side inlets. Most practices have a life span of 10 years, which means that they must be maintained for that length of time.

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



## Nitrate Clinic

Douglas SWCD once again held a FREE nitrate water testing clinic on August 25, 2020 from 9 am - 4 pm. This year due to COVID-19 and our building being closed to the public, the nitrate clinic was held out at the Douglas SWCD Tree Shed. Instead of holding two nitrate clinics during the summer, staff decided to switch it up and hold one in the late summer, and another during the late fall/winter months. There was a total of 67 samples ran for nitrates.



## 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 specifically related to our water resources – wetlands, lakes, rivers, and wellhead protection areas – and establishes permanent vegetation. Farmers are paid a one-time RIM payment in addition to an annual CRP rental payment for 14-15 years. Participation is voluntary and 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.



## Mark Your Calendars!

January 18 - SWCD Office Closed  
(Martin Luther King Day)

January 29 - Non Operating Landowner Webinar

February 15- SWCD Office Closed (Presidents' Day)

April 5-9 - Minnesota State Virtual Envirothon

April 25 — May 2 - Stewardship Week

May 31- SWCD Office Closed (Memorial Day)

\*Starting in May, the 3rd Monday of the Month (unless otherwise noted) is Cooler Dropoff Day for lake sampling. Please have them to the office no later than 1:00 PM



## Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMP) Loan Program

The Ag. BMP Loan Program is a water quality program that provides low interest loans to rural landowners, farmers, ranchers, and agricultural supply businesses. The goal of this program is to encourage landowners to implement BMP's which can prevent and/or reduce runoff from feedlots, farm fields, and other sources identified by the county's water plan or the watershed's One Watershed One Plan (1W1P).

There are three different roles of the Ag. BMP loan program: the borrower, local government, and lender.

The role of the borrower is to propose projects to the local county. If the borrower is able to meet the state eligibility requirements and can successfully demonstrate how it addresses local water quality priorities, the county will approve the project and assist in locating a cooperating banker.

Local government (this is where the Douglas SWCD comes into play): the SWCD's role is to manage the projects and see them through.

The lender is a local banker who evaluates the financial aspects of the project. With approval of the county and local bank, the project is implemented. Once completed, funds are sent from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) to the local bank and the loan is drawn up between the bank and the borrower.

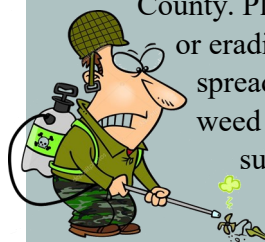
For more information please call the office or visit [mda.state.mn.us/agbmploan](https://mda.state.mn.us/agbmploan).



## Weed Watch:

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 and 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. Call 320-762-2999



Like us on Facebook: [DouglasSWCD](https://www.facebook.com/DouglasSWCD)





## Education and Outreach

The education and outreach activities the district staff hosts were put on abrupt hold this year due to the COVID-19 outbreak. All events, activities, seminars, and presentations were canceled or rescheduled for a later date. That includes the Kids' Groundwater Festival (First time in 28 years), Our Farms... Our Future - Managing and Maintaining Healthy Soils seminar workshop, educational/school sessions, June Nitrate Clinic, Area II and State Envirothon, kids poster contest and many more. We look forward to starting these activities back up when we are able.

## Buffers and Beyond

The Board of Soil and Water Resources (BSWR) is introducing a series of factsheets called "Building Better Buffers". The goal of these factsheets is to provide information and to help provide landowners in the area option to improve and maintain existing buffers. These factsheets will include information on: "Buffers for Clean Water", "Buffers for Wildlife", "Forested Buffers", "Alternative Practices", and "Buffer Maintenance". For more information contact the office or check out the BWSR website: <https://bwsr.state.mn.us/building-better-buffers>. Overall, the compliance for buffers on public waters in the state is estimated at 99% and the public ditches is right behind at 98%. Douglas SWCD staff are still making checks around the county to ensure everyone is in compliance before enforcement takes place. For other questions related to buffers, give the office a call.

## Did you know?

Earthworm populations consume 2 tons of dry matter per acre per year, partly digesting and mixing it with soil. They are Mother Nature's best tillage tool!

## No-Till Drills Available

Douglas SWCD has purchased a second 10' Haybuster no-till drill to rent out. These drills work well for seeding native grasses, pasture mixes, hay mixes, alfalfa, soybeans, and small grain. The rental rate is \$9.00 per acre (\$100 minimum) in Douglas County, and \$11 per acre (\$150 minimum plus an additional \$150 delivery fee) out of county. The SWCD will deliver the drill, calibrate it for your seed and pick it up when you are finished. Call the Douglas SWCD to reserve one of the drills.

## Rain Gardens

A rain garden is an outdoor space designed to collect run off that can cause erosion. Rain gardens are typically made up of native shrubs, grasses and flowering perennials that are planted in a small depression, which is generally formed on a natural slope. It is designed to temporarily hold and soak in rain water runoff that flows from rooftops, driveways, patios, lawns or other impervious structures. Rain gardens are unique, cost effective, low maintenance and a colorful way to showcase a conservation practice of filtering runoff and reducing erosion on your property. Douglas SWCD has been designing and helping landowners around the county put in rain gardens. If interested in rain gardens, or curious about how they can make a difference on your property, reach out to the Douglas SWCD today.



## Conservation Trees, Planting and Fabric Mulch

2020 marked the 58th year Douglas SWCD sold trees. The tree open house was a huge success, which quickly led to a spring of selling out of all the trees that were pre ordered! We had beautiful weather which was very helpful in getting all the plantings done. In total, there were 26,400 trees sold, 22 plantings completed by staff, with over 8,800 feet of fabric and 370 tree tubes installed.

We are now taking orders for trees for spring 2021 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 also provide services from planning to planting, fabric mulch installation and tree tube installation. Fabric mulch improves 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 protect your trees from rodents and deer, encourage straight, sturdy trees and act as mini-greenhouses reusing the moisture from the trees. Our staff will gladly work with you and 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 funding to help pay for the costs associated with a tree planting. Contact the Douglas SWCD for your tree planting needs and get growing.

### **Did you know?**

One large tree (at least 12 inches in diameter) can lift up to 100 gallons of water from the ground and discharge it into the air!

### Tree Open House

Douglas SWCD will not be having their annual Tree Open House due to COVID-19 and building restrictions. SWCD staff will be available by phone/ email to assist you with planning, layout and species selection for your tree planting projects. If interested in ordering trees for the 2021 year, please see the Tree Order Form (pg. 11 or at <http://www.douglasswcd.com/services/trees/>). Questions, please call the Douglas SWCD office today!

### Continuing on With an Organic Dairy

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BSWR) featured some of Douglas County's organic dairy farmers this past month: Ben Wagner and Jack Schouweiler. Jack is getting into dairy farming as Ben prepares for retirement. NRCS assistance with a new manure storage system and expanded rotational grazing is part of what's making it possible for Schouweiler to slowly take over the operation as he learns from Wagner. Jack has been working as a farm hand on the Wagner farm since he was 16. He has helped implement many ideas new to the farm such as naming all the cattle. Currently the cattle get to graze outside every day and eventually will be milked in a parlor-style barn on the farm Jack is renting from Ben's brother. They've also worked with Douglas SWCD's based Chippewa Watershed conservation planner to achieve whole farm planning.





## Future Generation of Conservation

As a Soil and Water Conservation District, our love for the natural resources takes priority, especially with preservation and conservation practices. Conservation is a way of life and is critical to sustain agriculture for future generations. This year we wanted to highlight some of the next generation conservationists from the office! If interested in programs and practices for conservation or simply learning more about what conservation can do for your land, or how to enroll, contact the office today, and staff would be more than happy to help! “The future belongs to the few of us still willing to get our hands dirty” - Roland Tiangco



## Irrigator Clinic

The Douglas SWCD along with Pope, Swift, Kandiyohi, and Stearns SWCD's and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture co-hosted the 2020 Irrigator Clinic in March in Glenwood. The agenda was packed full of speakers and presenters. Some of the topics covered were climate, precipitation and water supply projections, irrigation and water quality research in central MN, basics of soil health, Irrigation variable rate technology and introducing regenerating agriculture in your conservation operation.

## Other District Highlights

The Douglas SWCD is very proud to have boots on the ground and make a lasting conservation difference in the community. Some highlights we accomplished this year are:

- 1 Ag. Waste System
- 3 Low Income Septic Upgrades
- 19 Sediment Control Basins Installed
- 11 Alternative Tile Intakes
- Over 26,400 Trees Sold
- 22 Tree Plantings
- 15 Wetland Restorations
- 3 Shoreland Improvement Project
- 925 Acres planted with the district no-till drills
- 32 Acres of Cover Crops planted
- 9 Ag. Waste Pit Closures
- 2 Terraces
- Co-hosted and held an Irrigator Clinic
- Pomme de Terre and Redeye 1W1P completed and approved by BWSR
- Met with hundreds of landowners on site
- Learned how to “Zoom” aka adapted to the changing times while still completing all tasks!



## Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Landowners have several options for enrolling land into CRP depending on their conservation goals and the field(s) features. Continuous CRP has an ongoing signup where farmers and landowners may enroll on a rolling basis while acres are available. General CRP is another option with the next signup period starting Jan. 4, 2021 running through Feb. 12, 2021 and the signup for CRP Grasslands will be open from March 15, 2021 to April 23, 2021. Both the General and Grasslands signups are competitive and all three programs, including Continuous CRP, provide annual rental payments during a 10-15 year contract for land devoted to conservation practices.

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 or trees to help control soil erosion, improve water quality, and enhance wildlife habitat on cropland. Currently, there are nearly 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 call or stop by the Douglas SWCD office and talk to Kasey Jenc, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist.



## Food Plot, Native Grass and Forb Seed Mixes

The Douglas SWCD has food plot seed available for landowners. There is two different deer mixes, 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 also 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, will work with landowners on custom mixes. Native grass and forb plantings provide optimum habitat for wildlife and their deep root systems make them effective with erosion control.

## Rural Development (RD)

USDA Rural Development has funding available for very low- and low-income individuals and families seeking to purchase or repair a home in a rural area.

USDA's Direct Home Loan Program offers financing to qualified very-low and low-income applicants that are unable to qualify for traditional financing. No down payment is required, and the interest rate could be as low as one percent with a subsidy. Applicants must meet income and credit guidelines and demonstrate repayment ability. Generally, rural areas with a population less than 35,000 are eligible.

The maximum loan amount for repair is \$20,000 at a one percent interest rate, repayable for up to 20 years. Grants of up to \$7,500 are available to homeowners 62 and older and must be used to remove health or safety hazards, such as fixing a leaking roof, installing indoor plumbing, or replacing a furnace.

Contact the Douglas County USDA Rural Development office today to see if you qualify. For more information please contact USDA Rural Development at 320-763-3191 x 4, or check out the website at: [www.rd.usda.gov/mn](http://www.rd.usda.gov/mn).

## Water Monitoring Grant

Douglas SWCD has been working hard all summer on finishing up 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) and applied for this grant that provides funding for water quality monitoring. 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. 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.

## Registration for state's estimated 18,000 feedlots moves to online service

Livestock feedlot owners and operators can now register their feedlots and manure storage areas online with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

Minnesota's estimated 18,000 registered feedlots with 50 or more animal units, or 10 or more located in a shoreland area, must be registered with the state. They must update their feedlot information with the MPCA or delegated county feedlot program every four years. The next deadline for updating feedlot registration is Dec. 31, 2021.

The MPCA's new online feedlot registration system replaces the previous paper and e-mail forms process. The new, quick and easy service can be accessed 24/7 using a computer, smart phone, or mobile device. To register, users must provide basic feedlot information such as location, type of operation, and number of livestock.

Minnesota feedlot permits are necessary only for feedlot construction or expansion with 300 or more animal units, for feedlots needing to correct pollution problems, or for large feedlots — 1,000 or more animal units. Counties also may require feedlot permits or conditional use permits. About 1,200 large feedlots in Minnesota have permits, which meet the registration requirement; separate registration is not necessary.

Registration helps the MPCA to identify pollution hazards and work with feedlot owners to manage environmental impact. It also helps in budgeting for technical and financial assistance for livestock producers.

Some counties delegated to administer the MPCA's feedlot program may continue to register feedlots and manure storage areas with paper forms.

For more information about feedlot registration and the online registration system, visit the MPCA's website, or call your MPCA area office or delegated county feedlot officer.

*Douglas County has already started and will continue to mail out paper forms with return envelopes. The Feedlot Coordinator will then enter the information and return the paper form to the producer. However, anyone that wishes to re-register online on their own may do so. If you have any questions on the registration process, contact Mark Koep, Feedlot Coordinator at 320-762-2932.*



### Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

An EQIP conservation investment helps improve environmental health and the economy of Minnesota's communities. EQIP can help provide financial assistance for a variety of conservation activities, such as: Pollinator Habitat, Farm Energy Improvement, No-Till, Cover Crops, Water & Sediment Control Basins, Terraces, Rotational Grazing Systems, Nutrient Management, Ag Waste systems and many more.

Signup for EQIP is continuous and the next batching date is March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Contracts will be awarded on a ranking system. NRCS ranks EQIP applications to help producers improve water and air quality, build healthier soil, improve grazing and forest lands, conserve energy, enhance organic operations, and achieve other environmental benefits.

To participate in EQIP, an applicant must be an individual, entity or joint operation that meets EQIP eligibility criteria. Potential applicants can contact the Douglas NRCS office to discuss their resource concerns.

### Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Through CSP, NRCS has provided financial and technical assistance to eligible producers to conserve and enhance soil, water, air and related natural resources on their land. Eligible lands include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pastureland, rangeland, nonindustrial private forest lands, agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe, and other private agricultural land (including cropped woodland, marshes, and agricultural land used for the protection of livestock) on which resource concerns related to agricultural production could be addressed. Participation in this program is completely voluntary for a 5 year period.

CSP has encouraged land stewards to improve their conservation performance by installing and adopting additional activities, and improving, maintaining, and managing existing activities on agricultural land and nonindustrial private forest land. NRCS staff will conduct an evaluation of the land offered to determine basic information about CSP eligibility requirement, stewardship threshold requirements and payment types.

For the evaluation or complete activities list, and to learn more about CSP, visit the Douglas NRCS Office today.



## Farm Service Agency (FSA)

### 2021 ARC/PLC Elections and Enrollment



Producers can elect coverage and enroll in crop-by-crop ARC-County or PLC, or ARC-Individual for the entire farm, for the 2021 crop year. Although election changes for 2021 are optional, enrollment (signed contract) is required for each year of the program. If a producer has a multi-year contract on the farm and makes an election change for 2021, it will be necessary to sign a new contract.

If an election is not submitted by the deadline of March 15, 2021, the election defaults to the current election for crops on the farm from the prior crop year.

For crop years 2022 and 2023, producers will have an opportunity to make new elections during those signups. Farm owners cannot enroll in either program unless they have a share interest in the farm.

### **Disaster Assistance Available for Livestock Losses**

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to you for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather, disease and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law.

For disease losses, FSA county committees can accept veterinarian certifications that livestock deaths were directly related to adverse weather and unpreventable through good animal husbandry and management.

For 2020 livestock losses, you must file a notice within 30 calendar days of when the loss is first apparent. You then must provide the following supporting documentation to your local FSA office no later than 60 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the eligible loss condition occurred.

\* Proof of death documentation \* Copy of grower's contracts \* Proof of normal mortality documentation

USDA has established normal mortality rates for each type and weight range of eligible livestock, i.e. Adult Beef Cow = 1.5% and Non-Adult Beef Cattle (less than 250 pounds) = 3%. These established percentages reflect losses that are considered expected or typical under "normal" conditions.

In addition to filing a notice of loss, you must also submit an application for payment by March 1, 2021

## Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM)

For the past 35 years the RIM Resources Act was enacted to help restore certain marginal and environmental sensitive land to protect and reduce soil erosion and improve water quality while supporting fish and wildlife habitat. To date, across Minnesota, over \$200 million in state money has been used to establish over 6,000 RIM easements on 250,000 acres. RIM is a critical component of the state's efforts to improve water quality by reducing soil erosion, phosphorus and nitrogen loading while improving wildlife habitat and food attenuation on private lands. RIM compensates landowners for granting conservation easements and establishing native vegetation habitat on economically marginal, flood-prone, environmentally sensitive or highly erodible lands. This program helps to conserve, preserve and protect the state's soil and water resources by permanently restoring wetlands, adjacent native grassland, wildlife habitat complexes and permanent riparian buffers.

How does it work:

The MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) acquires on behalf of the state, conservation easements to permanently protect, restore and manage critical natural resource without owning the land outright. The landowners still own the land and are responsible for paying applicable real estate taxes and assessments along with general maintenance.

Who is involved?

This program partners with private and public landowners, state, federal and local government entities non-profit organizations and citizens of Minnesota. BWSR provides statewide program coordination and administration and implementation at the local level by the Douglas SWCD.

# Douglas County One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) Updates

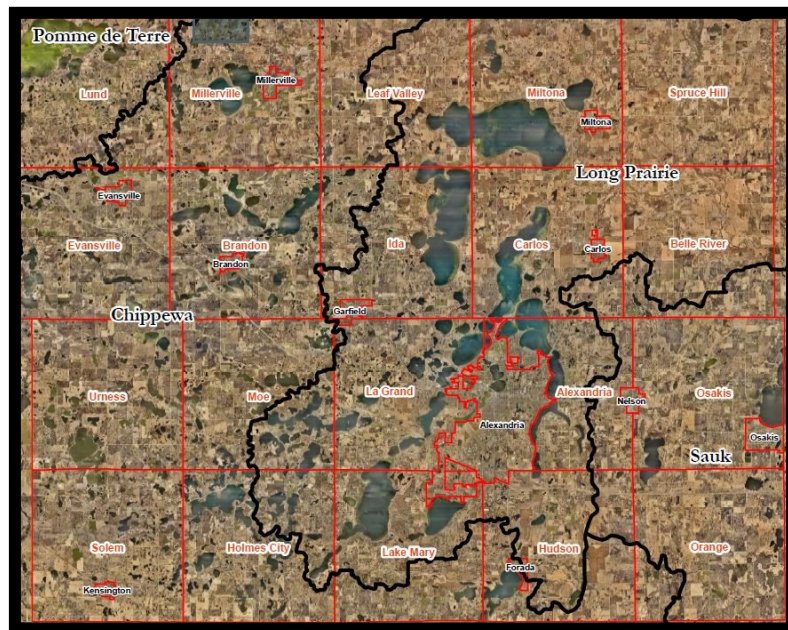
Water doesn't follow county boundaries and neither should the water management plan. 1W1P is a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP) developed by local partners under the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). This program encourages strong working relationships across county borders and has representatives from each of the counties involved within the watershed. Local SWCDs work together with the county staff and watershed districts or associations to develop a watershed-wide plan that meets all the needs and goals of the watershed. This process takes a long time, and some of the watershed plans have been in the works for four plus years.

Once the plans are approved, the 1W1P partners can start implementing the activities described within the plan. Funding from BWSR will implement these plans over the next ten years and improve water quality throughout the watersheds in many ways. Cost share funding will be available to landowners implementing various Best Management Practices (BMP)

Douglas County has 5 watersheds within the county: Redeye, Chippewa, Sauk, Long Prairie, and Pomme de Terre River Watersheds. Currently each are at a different phase in the 1W1P process because of the extensive workload required and the time it takes technical staff to dedicate. BWSR has indicated that each county should only be working on now more than two at a time. This is the current updates for the county.

## **Pomme de Terre River Watershed:**

In August, the Pomme de Terre River Association's (PDTRA) CWMP was approved by BWSR. The CWMP for the Pomme de Terre lays out strategies for watershed management for the next ten years. Watershed priorities include: drinking water protection, groundwater conservation, altered hydrology, poor and high quality lakes, protection and restoration of personal cover and shallow basins, excess pollutants, loss of in-stream habitat, aquatic invasive species, watershed outreach and lakeshore owner education.



With the CWMP approved, the PDTRA and its partners can begin implementing the activities described within the plan. There will be cost-share available for landowners to implement various best management practices. The plan can be viewed online from the PDTRA website at: [www.pdtriver.org/projects/one-watershed-one-plan/](http://www.pdtriver.org/projects/one-watershed-one-plan/)

## **Red Eye:**

Due to the small amount of the Red Eye Watershed in Douglas County (roughly 65 acres) Douglas County opted out of participating in the 1W1P planning process. It has been approved by BWSR, and priority work will begin.

## **Sauk River Watershed:**

The Sauk River Comprehensive Water Management Plan (aka The Sauk River One Watershed One Plan) has been completed and is currently undergoing local and state review. Once the reviews are completed, and public hearings have been held, the Plan will go to BWSR for final review and approval.

## **Long Prairie River Watershed:**

In August, BWSR awarded the Long Prairie partnership with a planning grant. This grant will cover the cost of writing the Long Prairie Comprehensive Water Management Plan. It will take the group approximately two years to complete the plan and public input will be requested during the process.

## **Chippewa River Watershed:**

Over the last year, the Chippewa watershed group has been busy reorganizing and strengthening its intercounty relationships. This is in preparation for an anticipated One Watershed One Plan planning grant that the group will apply for summer of 2021.





## 2021 Tree Order Form

**Douglas Soil & Water Conservation District**  
 900 Robert St. Suite 102, Alexandria MN 56308  
 320-763-3191 Ext 3    www.douglasswcd.com

Office use only

Paid \_\_\_\_\_

Receipt \_\_\_\_\_

Date _____	Name _____	Phone _____
Address _____		State _____ Zip _____

Payment for 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, suppliers cannot guarantee tree size. No guarantee can be made for tree(s) survival.

Number of Bundles	Species of Trees	Growth Rate	Mature Height	Cost
<b>Small Shrubs (Sold in bundles of 25 trees @ \$40.00)</b>				
	Arrowwood	Moderate	6-10'	
	Buffaloberry	Moderate	6-14'	
	Black Chokeberry	Moderate	3-6'	
	American Cranberrybush	Moderate	8-12'	
	Gray Dogwood	Moderate	6-12"	
	Redosier Dogwood	Moderate	7-10'	
	Juneberry	Moderate	6-15'	
	Common Lilac	Mod-Rapid	8-12'	
<b>Large Shrubs/Small Trees (Sold in bundles of 25 trees @ \$40.00)</b>				
**	Apricot	Mod-Rapid	10-15'	
**	Mountain Ash	Slow	20-30'	
*	Chokecherry	Mod-Rapid	12-25'	
**	Red Splendor Crabapple	Rapid	10-25'	
*	Nannyberry	Moderate	10-20'	
	American Plum	Mod-Rapid	10-20'	
*	Laurel Leaf Willow	Rapid	25-40'	
<b>Large Trees (Sold in bundles of 25 trees @ \$40.00)</b>				
**	Paper Birch	Rapid	50-70'	
**	Black Cherry	Moderate	50-70'	
**	Hackberry	Rapid	40-60'	
**	Red Maple	Mod-Rapid	50-70'	
*	Silver Maple	Rapid	50-80'	
**	Sugar Maple	Moderate	50-75'	
**	Bur Oak	Slow	40-70'	
**	Red Oak	Moderate	60-80'	
	Siouxland Poplar - Cottonless	Rapid	50-100'	
**	Black Walnut	Moderate	35-65'	
<b>Conifers (Sold in bundles of 25 trees @ \$40.00)</b>				
	Northern White Cedar	Moderate	20-40'	
	Red Pine	Moderate	75-100'	
	White Pine	Rapid	75-100'	
	Black Hills Spruce	Moderate-Rapid	30-60'	
	Norway Spruce	Rapid	40-100'	
<b>Potted Conifers (\$10 each)</b>				
	Northern White Cedar	Moderate	20-40'	
	Red Pine	Moderate	75-100'	
	White Pine	Rapid	75-100'	
	Black Hills Spruce	Moderate-Rapid	30-60'	
	Norway Spruce	Rapid	40-100'	
<b>Special Order - Ask about other species before January 30th</b>				

<b>Planting Charges:</b> \$0.75 Our Tractor for Planting \$2.00 Hand Planting Bare-Root \$150 Min. Planting Charge - In County \$150 Min. Planting Charge + \$150 Transport Charge - Out of County  <b>Fabric Mulch:</b> _____ ft @ \$0.35 per foot  <b>Fabric Installation:</b> \$0.50 per foot (\$150 Min)	<b>Tube/Stake Charges:</b> _____ 4' tubes @ \$3.00 each _____ 5' stakes @ \$1.50 each  <b>Tube/Stake Installation:</b> \$2.00 per tube/stake (\$150 Min) <i>* Tree Tubes Recommended</i> <i>** Tree Tubes Strongly Recommended</i>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>Tree Cost</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Tube Cost</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Stakes Cost</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Fabric Cost</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Subtotal</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7.380% Sales Tax</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Planting Charges</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Tube Installation</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Fabric Installation</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Grand Total</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Tree Cost		Tube Cost		Stakes Cost		Fabric Cost		Subtotal		7.380% Sales Tax		Planting Charges		Tube Installation		Fabric Installation		Grand Total	
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*Please contact Douglas SWCD before ordering if interested in having us plant trees, install fabric or install tubes.*



## Preventing Your Onsite Septic System From Freezing

Depending on your system, location, and water use, you may never have a freezing problem. However, there are several steps that you can take to prevent onsite systems from freezing. Pick and choose based on your situation:

1. To provide extra insulation, place a layer of mulch (8-12 inches) over the pipes, tank and soil treatment system (ie. straw, leaves, hay or any other loose material that will not compact and stay in place). This is particularly important if you have had a new system installed late in the year and no vegetative cover has been established. If your system is currently frozen ignore this step, as it will delay thawing come spring.
2. Let the grass or lawn get a little longer in the late summer/fall over the tank and soil treatment area. This will provide extra insulation and help hold any snow that may fall.
3. Use warm/hot water if you feel the system is starting to freeze. The Onsite Sewage Treatment Program is usually an advocate of water conservation, but if freezing is a concern, increasing low use to a normal water use can help the system.(ie. doing one warm/hot load of laundry per day, using your dishwasher, or taking a hot bath. DO NOT leave water running continuously, this will hydraulically overload the system.
4. If gone for an extended period from home or a cabin with a septic system, plan accordingly. Have someone use sufficient quantities of water in the home regularly or pumping out your tank before leaving. If there is a high water table, only pump out the tank if the tank was designed for high water table conditions. If a shallow tank is left full for several winter months, the sewage can freeze.
5. Fix leaky plumbing fixtures or appliances in your home.This will help prevent freezing problems and help your system work better year round.
6. If appliances generate very low flows such as high efficiency furnaces, put a heat tape in the pipe, and while away, have someone come and run warm water for a while. Alternately, install a small condensate pump that holds and discharges 2 gallons per cycle.
7. Keep all types of vehicles and high traffic people activities off of the system.This is a good rule to follow year round.
8. All risers; inspections pipes and manholes should have covers on them. Sealing them and adding insulation is a good idea. Insulation may be added particularly if the top of the septic tank is within 2 feet or the surface.
9. Keep an eye on your system. If seeping or ponding occurs contact an onsite professional to determine the problem.
10. Add more insulation to your system. This could include replacing pipe with insulated pipe, adding styrofoam over septic tanks or adding more soil cover.