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PF Wildlife Biologist

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Rich Geving

Soil Conservation Technician

Kevin Behrens

Soil Conservationist

John Becker

Civil Engineer - Geotechnical

2024

Est. 1954

Conservation Newsletter



Conservation Farmer

The Douglas SWCD is proud to announce Troy and Tracy Heald and their kids from Country Blossom Farms LLC as this years Douglas County Outstanding Conservation Farmer of the Year. Troy and Tracy and their kids, Taylor, Tristin and Tiana bought this 100 acre land back in 2009

and have since turned it into a beautiful apple orchard, family fun activities and so much more! In total they have planted over 12,000 apple trees, installed 3 high tunnels, planted shelter windbreaks, cover crops, and numerous grass buffers between tree rows and strawberries. They have a weather station on site that records data with NOVA and allows them to set the amount of water needed for drip irrigation and also start pest management practices based on what the temps and moisture are gauging. They use a drip irrigation system on the apple trees and a buried drip line on the strawberries to ensure enough moisture is getting to the plants but not to much which can cause diseases and ward pests. Pest management strategies are no small feat on this apple farm, but they have an abundance of pest management strategies in place, such as pheromone traps, hawks on a kite, sound machines, light sensors, traps, and if needed can add herbicides and pesticides through the irrigation lines as a last resort.



In 2023

Country Blossoms Farm LLC, worked with SWCD staff and became Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certified and recieved two of the endorsements available. One in Integrated Pest Management and the other for being Climate Smart.

They have been very active in the community by participating in three different farmers markets over the years, and offer many tour opportunities including being on the Conservation Bus Tour. They are good stewards of their land and very active with Agriculture Utilization Research Institute (AURI) and MN Apple Growers Association.



Collaborative Bus Tour

The Collaborative Bus Tour around Crooked Lake Basin and Osakis Lake Watershed Area went off without a hitch! In all there were 46 participants on the bus. Lots of project highlights and stops along the way which included: Water and Sediment Control Basins, Sauk Easement, Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM)/Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) Easement, Crooked Lake, Ag. Waste System, Hayed Buffer, Sediment Ponds, Shoreline Restoration Projects, Wetland Restoration, Tree plantings and CRP.

The partners and organizations involved to make this bus tour possible included Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Sauk River Watershed District, Douglas County Land and Resource Management, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Minnesota Board of Soil and water Resources (BWSR), Douglas County Water Quality Legacy Fund, Sauk River Watershed Collaborative, Minnesota Land Trust, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Clean Water and Land Legacy Amendment, and Houston Engineering, INC.

On behalf of all the partners involved for the collaborative bus tour, we want to thank you very much for taking part. We hope you learned something useful. Every day is a new opportunity to learn more, this bus tour was an opportunity for many teachable moments.

If interested in possibly implementing or learning more about the tour highlights, projects, or other conservation practices, please contact the office!

Buffers and Beyond

Soil loss, wind erosion, and gullies are just a few things farmers have experienced over the last few years. Douglas SWCD can help! There are programs to address these every day problems in our farm fields.

One practice is a buffer (which is still the law for public ditches and waterways), and another option is a field windbreak. Buffers are a strip of land that is covered in vegetation typically between a field and road, or a field and a waterway, to help reduce the amount of runoff and erosion. Windbreaks are a single to multiple rows of trees and possibly shrubs planted in a linear fashion.

If you have some land, a farm field or shoreline with erosion, soil loss, or simply need some technical assistance, please reach out to the SWCD office today! We can assist you in planning, and help to determine which practices are best. Also there might be cost share funding available (depending on the project and where you are in the county).

One Watershed One Plan (1W1P)

The 1W1P program offers planning resources and staff support for groups working together to develop comprehensive watershed management plans. These plans break the traditional planning boundaries (county lines) to follow the water – from the watershed headwaters to its outlet. A completed, approved plan is a source of non-competitive funding for SWCD's to implement projects in prioritized areas. Douglas has five watersheds and is participating in four plans (Douglas SWCD opted out of the Red Eye due the small acreage within Douglas). Douglas is at the headwaters of four of the watersheds, (all the water here flows out of the county). The Pomme de Terre and Chippewa Rivers flow south to the Minnesota River while the Long Prairie, Red Eye, and Sauk Rivers all flow towards the Mississippi River.

Pomme de Terre Field Day

The Soil Health Team for the Pomme de Terre Watershed, which Douglas SWCD a part of, hosted a strip till and cover crop field day to talk about doing more by doing less. The main part of the event was to highlight soil health and the benefits it has to our fields, crops and pocket books. Carson Klosterman, a strip till farmer near Wyndmere, ND gave a keynote presentation. There were also lots of hands on demonstrations to help get the message home such as: rain fall simulator, soil slag test, soil tunnel to walk through, machinery demonstrations and Soil your undies challenge results. Staff were able to have a drone on site to get some awesome landscape photos.

This field day was held at John Ledermann's farm site in Douglas County. There were about 30 people willing to fight the heat and humidity to attend the event. Even though the majority were not from Douglas County, it was great to hear all the discussion about various conservation practices that have worked, and other practices that producers now want to try and implement. That is exactly what the local staff at the SWCD can do! We will be your boots on the ground, and help guide you with expert advice through the entire process! Contact the local SWCD for available cost-share opportunities.



Youth Outdoor Activity Day

This year marks the 9th year for the Youth Outdoor Activity Day. If you are unfamiliar about what it is, it is a FREE family event that is put on by a core group of committee members from various organizations in the community. With all the support from local businesses and sponsors the event is able to put on over 50 hands on activities that provides experiences to the youth of the area that might not otherwise get it. Over all the event costs roughly 100k to put on, and truly takes a village! This year there were 4,643 people total at the event, including participants, activity providers, volunteers and the committee. The weather was perfect, and the kids all left with arm loads of outdoor equipment, smiles and full bellies! Again thank you very much to the donors, sponsors and volunteers that helped make this community event so worth while! For more information visit www.youthoutdooractivityday.org.



Who you Gunna call?

With lots of calls coming in lately, we wanted to make sure you are calling the right place to help with your questions:

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) - Department of Natural Resources/County

Farm land lease rates - Extension

Federal programs - Natural Resources Conservation Service

Home repair grants - Rural Development

Hydrology - Department of Natural Resources

Low interest septic loans - Soil and Water Conservation District

Shoreland restorations - Soil and Water Conservation District

Trees - Soil and Water Conservation District

Water testing kits - Soil and Water Conservation District

Wildlife (animals) - Department of Natural Resources



"Soil Your Undies" Challenge

Ever wonder how healthy your top soil is? Join the Douglas SWCD in the Soil your undies challenge! Chewed-up, ripped, torn, threadbare, riddled with holes, completely, utterly soiled--the undies in and that's just the way farmers like it.

Whether you're on crop land, pasture, or shoreline, the quick and dirty way to test your soil health is by "planting" a pair of new, cotton underwear horizontally about 3 inches deep in the site you're curious about. Don't forget to mark the spot you planted! Wait at least 60 days. This gives your soil microbes time to do their magic! I see London, I see France, it is time to dig up some underpants! The more the undies are deteriorated, the healthier the soil.

On average when others do this challenge, they do a control/standard pair, and then a cover crop or conventional till. We wanted to take it to the next level and see how all these compared! Even the landowners on the sites were excited to get involved. They were all on display at the Douglas County Fair, a Soil Health field day and will also debut at the Soil Summit in December. Below is a list of the types of practices/land that the undies were planted on:

1. Control/Standard
2. Conventional Till - Wheat field
3. Non-Disturbed Fence Line
4. Compost Pile
5. No-Till
6. Shoreland
7. Conventional Bean Rotation Field
8. Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) 15 + Years
9. Rotational Graze Pasture



Pilot Tree Planting Project in Long Prairie Watershed

Funding is currently available for forestry practices in the Long Prairie Watershed through a Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) grant. The grant can be used to help pay for trees/planting, forest stewards plans and easements. Some of the main goals of this grant include increasing the number of trees planted in the watershed, managing existing forest lands and retaining forested areas through conservation easements and the sustainable forest incentive act (SFIA). Forests play an important role in MN by filtering drinking water, supplying oxygen, storing carbon and providing habitat for a number of plants and animals. Please stop into the Douglas SWCD office for more information on this project.



Meet the new Staff

Hello! I am John Becker, Civil Engineer with the USDA -NRCS, MN, graduated MSU Bozeman, MT with a degree in Civil Engineering and emphasis in soil mechanics. I grew up in Livingston, MT and spent much of my time in Paradise Valley along the north entrance of Yellowstone National Park. I has always had a passion for the outdoors and conservation. Growing up in MT, I had a trapline along the Yellowstone River, caught rattlesnakes, hunted mule deer, pronghorn, elk, and deer, fly fished the blue-ribbon trout fishing streams, and played many sports. My favorite was baseball, and I was a left-handed pitcher for the Bobcats at MSU. Many people are moving to MT now, “the grass is greener”. To be honest, it’s not. It’s arid and the grass is brown except by the rivers. Montana is not beautiful just because of what it is, mountains, rivers, and wildlife. It is beautiful because of the hard work and conservation efforts people put forth to protect the land and the entirety of what the land supports. The land is not an it, the soil breaths life and is to be considered an extension of yourself. I moved out of Montana to Nebraska to better develop my skills at the National Soil Mechanics Lab. I moved here to apply them, learn new skills, and help farmers help the land. The grass is greener where you water it.



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.

Weed Watch:

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has updated the identified list of noxious weeds. On the top of the list is- Black swallow-wort, Brown knapweed, Common teasel, Canada thistle, Wild parsnip and Common tansy. 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. 320-762-2999.



Happy Birthday!

On August 10, 2024 the Douglas SWCD will be celebrating its 70th birthday! Stay tuned for more upcoming information and a possible celebration.



Minnesota Agriculture Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP)

The MAWQCP is voluntary and helps landowners and farmers to protect our state’s streams, lakes and rivers. Farmers are the original stewards of our soil and water. To become certified, it is as easy as 123. 1- application, 2- assessments, and 3- benefits. Producers working on certification also have priority for technical and financial assistance (including exclusive funding pools) to implement practices that promote water quality. The program has been available statewide since 2016. To date over 1,400 farms are certified which covers over one-million acres statewide, of that, there are 10 in Douglas County.

More information on these certifications is located on the Douglas SWCD website, or by calling the office.

Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM)

This state program, implemented at the local SWCD, offers permanent conservation easement options on privately owned land in MN. RIM focuses on permanent wetland restoration, adjacent native grassland wildlife habitat complexes and permanent riparian buffers. Landowners are compensated for the conservation easement and establishing native vegetation on marginal, flood-prone, environmentally sensitive, or highly erodible lands. Land remains private and landowner is responsible for maintenance.

Local RIM easement options: Grassland Reserve; Wetlands; Riparian & Floodplain Restoration; 1W1P (watershed specific); Working Lands (pilot on grazing/hay land).



Other District Highlights

The Douglas SWCD is very proud to have boots on the ground to make a lasting impression on the land while helping get conservation efforts in the community.

Some highlights we accomplished this year are:

3 MN Ag. Water Quality Certified Landowner

4 Low income septic upgrades

Over 25,000 trees sold; 3,962 trees planted by district

23 Tree plantings

3 Shoreland improvement projects

1,235 Acres planted with the district no-till drills on 82 different sites

103 Acres of cover crops planted

1 Ag. Waste Pit Closure

15,220 Feet of fabric mulch installed

311 Tree tubes installed

5 Water and Sediment Control Basins

5 Terraces

Ag. BMP Loans - 1 Septic update, 2 - manure spreader, 3 - No-Till planters for a total of \$414,630

Met with hundreds of landowners on site

A message from the Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Before you break out new ground, ensure your farm meets conservation compliance. The term “sodbusting” is used to identify the conversion of land from native vegetation to commodity crop production after December 23, 1985. As part of the conservation provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, if you’re proposing to produce agricultural commodities (crops that require annual tillage including one pass planting operations and sugar cane) on land that has been determined highly erodible and that has no crop history prior to December 23, 1985, that land must be farmed in accordance with a conservation plan or system that ensures no substantial increase in soil erosion.

Eligibility for many USDA programs requires compliance with a conservation plan or system on highly erodible land (HEL) used for the production of agricultural commodities. This includes FSA loan, disaster assistance, safety net, price support, and conservation programs; Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservation programs; and Risk Management Agency (RMA) Federal crop insurance.

Before you clear or prepare areas not presently under production for crops that require annual tillage, you are required to file Form AD-1026 “Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification,” with FSA indicating the area to be brought into production. The notification will be referred to NRCS to determine if the field is considered highly erodible land. If the field is considered HEL, you are required to implement a conservation plan or system that limits the erosion to the tolerable soil loss (T) for the predominant HEL soil on those fields.

In addition, prior to removing trees or conducting any other land manipulations that may affect wetlands, remember to update form AD-1026, to ensure you remain in compliance with the wetland conservation provisions.

Prior to purchasing or renting new cropland acres, it is recommended that you check with your local USDA Service Center to ensure your activities will be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions.

For additional information on highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation compliance, contact your local USDA Service Center.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

CRP is a non-permanent program option for farmland, offering 10 to 15 year contracts for landowners who establish approved vegetative cover to help control soil erosion, improve water quality, and enhance wildlife habitat. Landowners receive a yearly rental payment, and cost-share assistance is available for establishment.

Options vary within the program depending on the field features and your conservation goals – we will work together to find the conservation practices that fit best.

- ~23 million acres enrolled nationally
- 976,000+ acres enrolled in MN
- 42,500 acres in MN expiring fall 2024

Top conservation practices used in Douglas County:

- CP23A Wetland Restoration (grass/forbs)
- CP37 Duck Nesting Habitat (grass/forbs)
- CP38E Pheasant Habitat (grass/forbs)
- CP5A Field Windbreak (tree rows)

If you are interested and would like to talk about possible CRP options, call or stop by the Douglas SWCD office and talk to Kasey Jenc, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist.

Rural Development (RD)

USDA's Direct 502 Home Loan Program offers financing to qualified applicants that are unable to qualify for traditional financing. No down payment, and the interest rate could be as low as 1% with a subsidy. Applicants must meet income and credit guidelines and demonstrate repayment ability.

The USDA Section 504 Home Improvement program offers loans and grants to very-low income homeowners for various repairs and accessibility needs. The max. amount is \$40,000 at a fixed 1% interest rate, with a repayment term up to 20 years.

Grants up to \$10,000 are available to homeowners 62+ to be used to remove health and/or safety hazards. No repayment is required if the homeowner remains in their home for 3 years.

Contact the Alexandria, USDA RD office today to see if you qualify. For more info please call the office at 320-763-3191 x 4, or check out the website at: www.rd.usda.gov/mn.

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

The EQIP program provides technical and financial assistance to producers for conservation practices for their operation in the community. The program delivers economic and environmental benefits for a variety of conservation activities including high tunnel systems, no-till, cover crops, water & sediment control basins, forest management plans, grazing plans, nutrient management, ag. waste systems, and more.

Through the EQIP program, the NRCS helps producers improve air and water quality, build soil health, improve forest lands, conserve energy, and more to achieve climate smart agriculture for their operation. Selected 2024 EQIP applications will be pre-approved January 26th, 2024.

To participate in EQIP, applicant must be a farmer, rancher, or forest landowner who owns or rents eligible lands. For more information, visit nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

The NRCS offers technical and financial assistance to eligible producers through the CSP program to go beyond traditional agriculture practices for Ag. and forest lands. The program offers opportunities for producers to expand their operations through several climate smart practices by applying natural resource conservation enhancement activities. Participation in this program is completely voluntary and is a 5-year commitment to integrating conservation into their operations beyond traditional practices.

CSP encourages land stewards to improve their conservation performance by installing and adopting additional activities, improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities on their agricultural and forested lands. NRCS staff will conduct an evaluation of the land offered to determine eligibility requirements for the program and provide technical assistance to improve operations. The program compensates producers for adopting and maintaining a baseline level of conservation. The deadline for 2024 CSP applications is in early this year, January 12, 2024.

For a complete conservation activities list, and to learn more about CSP, visit the office today or visit nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill.

Nitrate Clinic Recap

Douglas SWCD once again held a FREE nitrate water testing clinic in March and again in October, 2023. Staff had brochures and information to take home that highlighted other tests that can be ran to ensure safe well water consumption. A total of 154 samples ran for nitrates during the clinics.



Education and Outreach

Staff have been very busy trying to make a positive push for conservation and help get a bigger appearance out in the public. Multiple presentations have been done, and meetings have been conducted to accomplish this. Ranging from Rain Garden Presentations with the Douglas County Lakes Association, presentations on water quality, shoreline management and erosion control with cost share at lake association meetings. Other educational events and activities included talking with the youth on Soil Health, Career Fairs, Career Expos, and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) festivals, Participating in Kids Fleet Farm Fishing Days talking about aquatic invasive species and the importance of keeping our lakes clean and not green.

Douglas County Fair

Douglas SWCD once again had a big presence at the Douglas County Fair! Instead of our traditional one booth, we had a total of 6 booths there to help fill the building, and represent/showcase some of our events, activities and programs we focus on over the year! We had 121 people sign up for our prize drawing which was Wood Duck Houses donated by the Evansville Area Sportsmen group. This year, we had visitors play plinko for prizes! In all we gave away just about 1,000 prizes a day which totaled to just under 4,500 prizes total!



No-Till Drills

Available

Douglas SWCD has two 10' Haybuster no-till drills available for rent. These drills work well for seeding native grasses, pasture mixes, hay mixes, alfalfa, soybeans cover crops, and small grain. The rental rate is \$10.00 per acre (\$150 minimum) in Douglas County, and \$13 per acre (\$150 minimum plus an additional \$150 delivery fee) for surrounding counties. Douglas SWCD will deliver the drill, calibrate it for your seed, and pick it up when you are finished. Landowners interested in planting cover crops will receive the reduced rate (\$8.00 per acre), in county for the drill rental. Call the Douglas SWCD to reserve one of the drills.



Seed

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 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.



Cover Crops, Pasture Mixes, Native grass and forb (flowers) seed mixes are available to landowners for conservation practices. Douglas SWCD staff will work with landowners to determine an appropriate seed mix that is required for the practice they choose to adopt. Typically they are 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 controlling erosion due to their deep root system.

MASWCD Leadership Institute

The Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District is proud to congratulate Andy Rice, Project Coordinator, for successfully completing a one-year leadership development program sponsored by the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD).

The 2022-2023 MASWCD Leadership Program brought together 28 participants from across the state to strengthen their leadership capacity for conservation work in Minnesota. The group was comprised of local SWCD staff and board members, staff from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, and regional staff from the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The group met for seven in-depth multi-day sessions focused on leadership topics including: building personal leadership skills, developing shared vision, practicing ethical leadership, strengthening team leadership, facilitation and communicating to make a difference.

From the Douglas SWCD, Jerry the District Coordinator completed the course in 2004-2005, Kasey the Douglas County Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist completed the course in 2018-2019., Andy the district's Project Coordinator, completed this course in 2022-2023. Danielle the district's Water Planner and shoreland technician is currently enrolled in the 2023-2024 course.



This was the 13th group to complete the statewide leadership program; more than 260 staff and elected supervisors from county, state, and federal agencies working in conservation have completed the program since 1996. The content is designed and delivered by staff of the University of Minnesota Extension in partnership with the president of Leadership Tools consulting firm. For further information about the MASWCD Leadership Program, contact the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts at 651-690-9028 or visit the MASWCD website at www.maswcd.org.



Did you Know... Conservation is a major way that we can ensure our water supply lasts for future generations. Making small changes such as planting natives, going to no-till, cover crops and adding vegetation will impact more than just our own water supply—they will improve recreation opportunities, wildlife habitat, stabilize and improve the health of our soils and save money in the long run!

Be a Hero... Transport Zero!

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) have been part of our lakes ecosystem for many years, but what exactly is it? Aquatic (water-dwelling) invasive species are non-native plants, animals, and organisms that have invaded our natural ecosystems beyond their natural historic range. Currently in Douglas County, there are Zebra Mussels, Eurasian Watermilfoil, Carp, Curly-leaf Pondweed, Signal Crayfish (2023) and Flowering Rush.

Even though AIS is around, lots is being done around the county to help prevent the spread such as the CD3 (waterless way to Clean, Drain, Dry, Dispose of unwanted invasive species) Station on Lake Osakis. Three Aqua Weed Stick and Bait disposal, increased water craft inspectors, and Decontamination units both permanent and roving. The AIS task force through the county also has grants available to local lakes for prevention and treatment, and provides plant surveys every three years on various lakes.

Please report any suspicions of AIS to Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. In most cases, live specimens/samples 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



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 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 present or not. Contact our office if you are unsure if an area is a potential wetland.

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 Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. Practices include: septic updates, conservation tillage equipment, variable rate planters, sprayers and manure spreaders.

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 SWCD for approval. If the borrower is able to meet the state eligibility requirements and can successfully demonstrate how it addresses local water quality priorities.

Local government (this is where the Douglas SWCD comes into play): is to manage the projects and see them through. The Douglas SWCD will approve the project and assist in locating a cooperating banker.

The lender is a local banker who evaluates the financial aspects of the project. With approval of the Douglas SWCD 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.

Walk-In Access Program (WIA)

WIA provides public hunting opportunities for hunters with a validation to access private land that is already enrolled in existing conservation programs or lands with high quality natural cover. *WIA signup typically opens in March*

- 40+ acres or contiguous with another WIA
- 3-year agreement
- \$18 per acre, flat rate
- Hunt access Sept 1 to May 31
- Opt out at any time
- No motorized Vehicles
- Covered under MN recreational use laws



If you have any questions about the program or have interest in enrolling, please stop by or call Kasey at the office. You may also check online for information and current WIA sites at mndnr.gov/walkin.



2024 Tree Order Form
Douglas Soil & Water Conservation District
900 Robert Street, Suite 102
Alexandria, MN 56308
320-763-3191 Ext 3 www.douglasswcd.com

Office use only

Paid _____

Receipt _____

Date _____ Name _____ Phone _____
Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Payment for trees must accompany order. Trees will be reserved for you upon payment only. Make check payable to Douglas SWCD.
No guarantee can be made for tree(s) survival.

Number of Bundles	Species of Trees	Growth Rate	Mature Height	Cost
Small Shrubs (Sold in bundles of 25 trees @ \$50)				
	Arrowwood	Moderate	6-10'	
	Buffaloberry	Moderate	6-14'	
	Nanking Cherry	Rapid	6-10'	
	Black Chokeberry	Moderate	3-8'	
	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'	
Large Shrubs/Small Trees (Sold in bundles of 25 trees @ \$50)				
**	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'	
Large Trees (Sold in bundles of 25 trees @ \$50)				
	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'	
Conifers (Sold in bundles of 25 trees @ \$50)				
	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'	
Potted Conifers - 1 gallon (\$13 each)				
	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'	
Special Order - Ask about other species before January 31st				

** Tree Tubes Strongly Recommended * Tree Tubes Recommended		Tree Cost	
		Tube Cost	
		Stake Cost	
		Fabric Cost	
		Staple Cost	
		Subtotal	
		7.380% Sales Tax	
		Planting Charges	
		Tube Installation	
		Fabric Installation	
		Grand Total	
Planting Charges:			
\$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			
Tube/Stake Charges:			
_____ 5' tubes @ \$4.00 each			
_____ 6' stakes @ \$4.00 each			
Fabric/Plastic Mulch:			
_____ ft @ \$0.40 per foot			
_____ fabric squares @ \$2.00 each			
Fabric Installation:			
\$0.60 per foot (\$150 Min)			
\$2.00 per fabric square (\$150 Min)			
Turf Staples:			
_____ Turf Staples @ \$0.08 each			
Tube/Stake Installation:			
\$2.00 per tube/stake (\$150 Min)			

Please contact Douglas SWCD before ordering if interested in having us plant trees, install fabric or install tubes.

Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District



900 Robert Street Suite 102

Alexandria, MN 56308

320-763-3191 Ext. 3

Prsrt First Class Mail

U.S. Postage

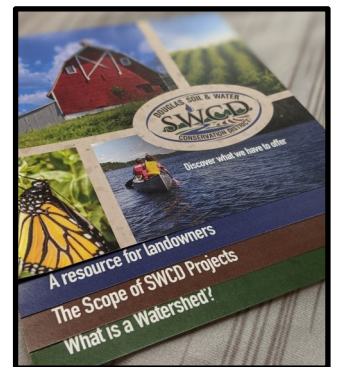
PAID

Permit No. 3876

Twin Cities, MN

Programs, Practices and Services

Douglas SWCD has put together this handy guide to communicate with landowners what we are all about! Information included inside is a great resource for landowners which briefly covers the history of the Douglas SWCD. It also provides a scope of SWCD programs, practices, services, and technical support for landowners throughout Douglas County. Lastly, it highlights what a watershed is and provides you information on where each one is in the county. If interested in one of these brochures, or have questions please call the office!



Conservation Trees, Planting and Fabric Mulch

2023 marked the 61th year Douglas SWCD sold trees. The tree open house was back and staff were available to take tree orders and answer questions. Douglas SWCD sold out of all the trees that were pre ordered! .

We are now taking orders for trees for spring 2024 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.

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