

2025

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# Conservation Newsletter

## Conservation Farmer



Leslie (Les) and Marilyn Anderson of Garfield are this year's Conservation Farmers of the Year Recipients from the Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District. They operate a grain farm growing wheat and soybeans. The Andersons have farmed the same land for over 60 years. Over the years they established a farmstead shelterbelt, buffer/filter strips, terrace, residue and tillage management (reduced till) on the 270 acres, multi species cover crops, wildlife habitat management practices, six water and sediment control basins. The last sediment basin completed in 2023, Les constructed the basin and installed tile with his own equipment. While talking to Les, he mentioned that it is amazing how much grain has been produced on his land over the last 60+ years, "If you treat the soil with respect, the soil will keep on producing for you". Les and Marilyn learned early on that conversation plays an important role in a successful farming operation. Les and Marilyn have done many more conservation practices over time, this is just a highlight of their accomplishments.

Cropland Management and Integrated Pest Management goes hand in hand. Les works with an agronomist from ProAg Co-op for grid soil sampling. Variable rate fertilizer is applied based on the grid soil sampling results, to apply needed nutrients where it is required in the field. Les works with his local agronomist on crop scouting, for pests and disease. If detected pest and disease are mapped with GPS and a variable rate application of a prescribed program is used to control the pest. Over the years, Les has worked with the Douglas SWCD on installing structural conservation practices. Starting in 2006, Les has worked with the SWCD to design and construct, multiple water and sediment control basins and one terrace. A combination effort for EQIP and State Cost Share funding was used to assist in covering part of the costs for installing the structural conservation practices.

The commitment to the community doesn't end at the field edge for Marilyn and Les. They have been involved in the community in many other ways giving back and volunteering. Marilyn was involved with 4H when their five daughters were in school. Both Marilyn and Les are very active in their church community. Les is a past board member on the ProAg Co-op Board, school board and farm credit board. In their spare time they like to maintain a large vegetable garden and flower garden on the farm. The pride the Andersons take on keeping their farmstead well maintained year round is very noticeable by all their neighbors.

The District appreciates all the work, dedication to conservation, and willingness to try new things on their farm. With that being said, we are extremely proud to nominate them as the Douglas SWCD Outstanding Conservation Farmers of the year!

## SWCD Supervisors

### Paul Barsness

Area 1 Representative  
Chairman

### Mike Cleary

Area 2 Representative  
Treasurer

### Rod Froemming

Area 3 Representative

### Bill Dropik

Area 4 Representative  
Secretary

### Ken Rutten

Area 5 Representative  
Vice Chairman & Employee  
Relations

## SWCD Staff

### Jerome Haggemiller

District Coordinator

### Starla Arceneau

District Secretary

### Andy Rice

Project Coordinator

### Danielle Anderson

Water Planner/Land Use  
Technician

### Jessica Albertsen

Education Outreach Coordinator

### Ian Olson

Planner Technician

### Kasey Jenc

PF Wildlife Biologist

## NRCS Staff

### Cory Walker

Conservation Service Team  
Leader

### Cole Montgomery

District Conservationist

## Kids Groundwater Festival

The Douglas SWCD is proud to have hosted the 31st annual Kids' Groundwater Festival on May 1st at the Runestone Community Center (RCC). This year we had over 560 students, staff, presenters and teachers take part in the day. Dylan, WDAY weatherman from Fargo joined us again as our main presentation.

When the busses arrive, it is all hands on deck! The energy and excitement is beyond what can be captured in the photos from the event. It is so much fun to see all the little minds learning and trying to relate the take home messages to their classroom learning.

There was more than 20 different learning stations the kids got to participate in. Some of the stations had multiple sessions of the same topic to ensure all the students had a opportunity to attend. The stations were: Bubbleology, Aquatic Invasive Species, Water Treatment Plant, Water Bar/What Water Would You Drink, 3M Water Wizards, Incredible Journey—The Water Cycle, Glaciers, Flush the Kids, Wetlands, Water Pictionary, Water Jeopardy, Water Treatment, Well Sealing, Well Drilling, Enviroscape—Watershed Exploration

By the end of the day, the excitement is dulled with sleepy eyes and kids wanting to take a brain break or nap. Over all the event wouldn't be possible without the help from our donors, sponsors and volunteers!



## Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

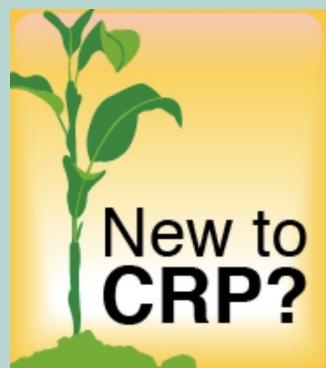
CRP is a non-permanent program option for farmland, offering 10 to 15 year contracts for landowners who establish approved vegetative cover to help control soil erosion, improve water quality, and enhance wildlife habitat. Landowners receive a yearly rental payment, and cost-share assistance is available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

- ~26 million acres enrolled nationally
- 966,800+ acres enrolled in MN
- 54,980 acres in MN expiring fall 2025
- 1,930 acres in Douglas County expiring fall of 2025

Top conservation practices in Douglas County 2024:

- 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.

## 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. There may 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 to 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.

## Youth Outdoor Activity Day

This year marks the 10th 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 over 4,200 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](http://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



## Celebrating 70 years in conservation

Ever wonder what a difference 70 years can make? For some, it might feel like a lifetime, while others say it goes by in the blink of an eye. The Douglas SWCD was organized by a group of farmers for the purpose of getting soil and water conservation practices applied to the land in Douglas County. The charter of organizations was issued to the district by the MN Secretary of State on August 10, 1954. At the time, these were the only townships in Douglas County: Lund, Millerville, Leaf Valley, Evansville, Brandon, Urness, Moe, La Grande and Solem. Shortly followed by: Alexandria, Hudson, Miltona, Belle River, Carlos, Ida, Osakis, Holmes City, Lake Mary, Orange and Spruce Hill.

The district is structured where it is governed by a board of 5 farmer supervisors (or was... no requirement of being a farmer anymore!) Over the course of the years, there have been many staff, positions, and supervisors to accommodate the “new” conservation efforts that are trending or in some cases have support from legislatures, farm bill or cost share attached.

Over time, the various conservation practices have changed from Contour Strip Cropping, Open Ditch/Open Drains, form drainage, closed draining (tile), land clearing, and soil surveys. Today’s practices are a little more complex including: no-till, strip-till, water and sediment control basins, shelter belts, living snow fence, native plantings of flowers, grasses and trees, reduced/no tillage, and cover cropping,.

The important (conservation wise) has been pretty impactful over the years in the county. Especially when there are still plenty of people that have never heard of the SWCD before, conservation technology and knowledge is ever changing. What practices were done yesterday will be outdated tomorrow with how fast technology is changing, but either way, any effort will make a lasting impact!

## Deep Roots and Dirty Boots!

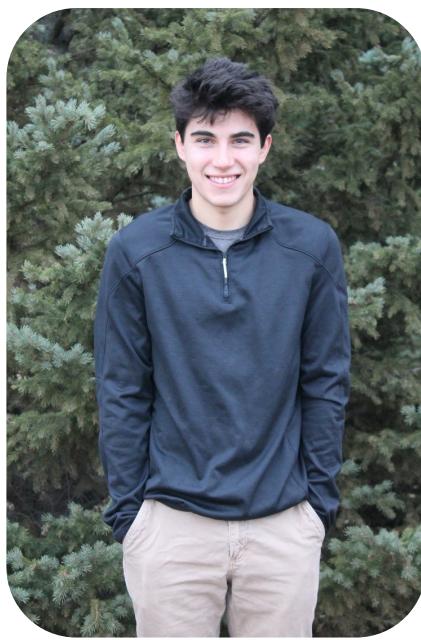
A couple years ago funding became available for forestry practices in the Long Prairie Watershed through a Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) grant. The grant can be used to help pay for trees/planting, forest stewards plans and easements. Some of the main goals of this grant 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 grant.

This year, Douglas SWCD staff were able to implement some of the funding from the grant with the Carlos Elementary school and Discovery Middle School. Both groups have big visions and plans to get school forest programs up and going. The elementary school is putting these in their outdoor classroom, while the middle school was working on enhancing their biomes and school forest program with walking trails. Having the students involved with the planting of the trees was a great opportunity and way to get the youth reconnected with nature, especially when wood ticks counting was involved!



## New Faces around the office

In March of 2024, Cole Montgomery officially joined the Douglas Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) crew as the District Conservationist here in Alexandria. He is originally from Northern Illinois but has visited Douglas County since he was a kid and feels lucky to have family in the area. Outside of work he enjoys fishing and time out on the lakes with family. Prior to this position he graduated from the U of M with a degree in soil science in 2022 and began working with NRCS as a Soil Conservationist in the Glenwood and Wheaton NRCS Field Offices shortly after. Overall, he now enjoys working with local producers in the Douglas County area to implement conservation practices and projects that align with their future goals for the land.



## Happy Birthday!

On August 10, 2024 the Douglas SWCD officially turned 70 years old. Douglas SWCD was created to operate as a Local Government Unit (LGU), under the authority of Minn.Stat.103C. We are the boots on the ground, and a friendly face for conservation!



## 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.

## 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 1-2-3. 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.



## 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.

## 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).



## SWCD and NRCS Highlights

We are very proud to have boots on the ground to make a lasting impression on the land while helping with conservation efforts in the community. Some highlights we accomplished this year are:

- 2 MN Ag. Water Quality Certified Landowners
- 2 Low-income septic upgrades
- Over 36,000 trees sold; 16,511 trees planted by district
- 40 Tree plantings
- 6 Shoreland improvement projects
- 1,107.5 Acres planted with the district no-till drills on 82 different sites
- 557 Acres of cover crops planted, 103 Acres planted by District
- 3 Ag. Waste Pit Closure
- 29,570 Feet of fabric mulch installed
- 1,101 Tree tubes installed
- 6 Water and Sediment Control Basins
- 1 Lined Waterway
- 1 Stormwater Management Project
- Ag. BMP Loans: 3 Septic update, 1 - Ag. Waste System, for a total of \$251,185
- Met with hundreds of landowners on site

## Farm Service Agency (FSA)

### **Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation Compliance**



Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan. Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to breaking sod, clearing land (tree removal), and of any drainage projects (tiling, ditching, etc.) to ensure compliance. Failure to update certification of compliance, with form AD-1026, triggering applicable HEL and/or wetland determinations, for any of these situations, can result in the loss of FSA farm program payments, FSA farm loans, NRCS program payments, and premium subsidy to Federal Crop Insurance administered by RMA.

### **Report Banking Changes to FSA and NRCS**

Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) program payments are issued electronically into your bank account. In order to receive timely payments, you need to notify your FSA or NRCS servicing office if you close your account or if your bank information is changed for any reason (such as your financial institution merging or being purchased). Payments can be delayed if FSA or NRCS is not notified of changes to account and bank routing numbers.

For some programs, payments are not made until the following year. For example, payments for crop year 2019 through the Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage program aren't paid until 2020. If the bank account was closed due to the death of an individual or dissolution of an entity or partnership before the payment was issued, please notify your local FSA office as soon as possible to claim your payment.

**Sign Up for Text Messages:** In addition to email alerts, you can also subscribe to receive text messages on your cell phone from the Douglas County USDA Service Center. To subscribe to text message alerts, **text MNDouglas to 372-669**. Standard text messaging rates apply, and you can unsubscribe at any time. On average, we will send you no more than two text messages each month.

## Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

EQIP 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 2025 EQIP applications will be pre-approved the first part of the new year. The deadline for 2026 EQIP contracts has not been released yet.

To participate in EQIP, applicant must be a farmer, rancher, or forest landowner who owns or rents eligible lands. For more information about the program or how to apply, visit [nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill](http://nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill) or call the office.



## 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](http://www.rd.usda.gov/mn).

## 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. For a complete conservation activities list, and to learn more about CSP, visit the office today or visit [nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill](http://nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill).

## Oh Well... Now what?

Remember that old well on your property, the one that is not sealed and has not been used for years? Well, we have a solution for that! The Long Prairie Watershed has cost-share available to landowners to help.

Wells that are no longer in use must be retired in order to protect the groundwater from surface water contamination and the vertical movement of water between aquifers. The Goal of the Long Prairie



Watershed is to seal 200 wells in the next 5-10 years, which breaks down to about 20 wells a year. Homeowners are urged to contact the Douglas SWCD to help locate and retire their old and unused wells.

## Nitrate Clinic Recap

Douglas SWCD once again held a FREE nitrate water testing clinic in May. Staff offered brochures and information to take home that highlighted other tests that can be ran to ensure safe well water consumption. This one was held out at Brophy Park. Although attendance was not the best, the weather was beautiful!



## Education and Outreach

Staff have been very busy trying to make a positive push for conservation and showing up in the community. We have put on multiple presentations and events such as: 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! 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!

There were a lot of other changes in the building as well such as new aquarium fish tanks, more taxidermized critters to check out, and magnetic fishing for the kids.



## 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. New for 2025, District planting services available, for in county only at a rate of \$30 per acre (\$300 minimum). 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 or inquire about the planting services.



## 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 order. Douglas SWCD staff will work with landowners to determine an appropriate seed mix that will be best suited for the site. 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 have a root system that goes deep into the ground which makes them more effective at controlling erosion.

## MASWCD Leadership Institute

The Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District is proud to congratulate Danielle Anderson, Water Planner and Shoreland Technician, for successfully completing a one-year leadership development program sponsored by the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD).

The 2023-2024 MASWCD Leadership Program brought together 20+ 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 completed the course in 2023-2024 and Ian Olson is currently in the 2024-2025.

This was the 16<sup>th</sup> group to complete the statewide leadership program; more than 300 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](http://www.maswcd.org).



## 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, a lot 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](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 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's project proposal is able to meet the state eligibility requirements and can successfully demonstrate how it addresses local water quality priorities, it is more likely to be approved.

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/agbtplloan](http://mda.state.mn.us/agbtplloan).

## 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](http://mndnr.gov/walkin).



## 2025 Tree Order Form

Douglas Soil & Water Conservation District

900 Robert Street, Suite 102

Alexandria, MN 56308

320-763-3191 Ext 3 [www.douglasswcd.com](http://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
	<b>Small Shrubs (Sold in bundles of 25 trees @ \$53)</b>			
	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'	
<b>SOLD OUT</b>	Juneberry	Moderate	6-15'	<b>SOLD OUT</b>
	Common Lilac	Mod-Rapid	8-12'	
	<b>Large Shrubs/Small Trees (Sold in bundles of 25 trees @ \$53)</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 @ \$53)</b>			
**	Paper Birch	Rapid	50-70'	
**	Black Cherry	Moderate	50-70'	
**	Pin Cherry	Moderate	40-55'	
**	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 @ \$53)</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 - 1 gallon (\$13 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 31</b>			

\*\* 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

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

Fabric/Plastic Mulch:

\_\_\_\_\_ ft @ \$0.40 per foot

\_\_\_\_\_ fabric squares @ \$2.00 each

Tube/Stake Charges:

\_\_\_\_\_ 5' tubes @ \$4.00 each

\_\_\_\_\_ 6' stakes @ \$4.00 each

Fabric Installation:

\$0.60 per foot (\$150 Min)

\$2.00 per fabric square (\$150 Min)

Tube/Stake Installation:

\$2.00 per tube/stake (\$150 Min)

Turf Staples:

\_\_\_\_\_ Turf Staples @ \$0.08 each

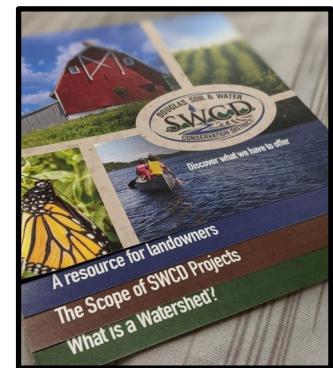
Grand Total

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



## 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

2024 marked the 62nd 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 2025 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.