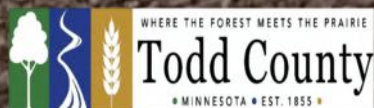


Lasso in the New Year!

Inside this Report:

Save The Date! 2020 Feedlot Meeting; Pasture Rule Update	Pgs. 3 & 23
WHY We Fund Pits	4-5
Award Winners!	7-8
NEW!– Nutrient MGT. Report & Shoreland Report	14
Annual Precipitation	15
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Above: Todd SWCD Technician, Kevin Brown, "Cowboys Up!" while on leave serving our country. We are humbled & honored to have Kevin on our SWCD team. See you in Fall of 2020, stateside!



Todd SWCD Annual Report

Conservation, Protection & Enhancement of Todd County's Natural Resources

Our Commitment

As your local Soil and Water Resource Conservation District (SWCD), we are committed to you, the citizens of Todd County, in the “conservation, protection, and enhancement of Todd County’s natural resources”.

Founded in 1965, Todd SWCD provides conservation leadership and educational, technical, and financial assistance to landowners, businesses, and local governments to proactively encourage a steady improvement in the use of natural resources. While housing what have been typically called “regulatory programs” under our roof, we are not a regulatory agency— instead,

we model and fully believe in accomplishment through voluntary collaboration with you, the citizens of Todd County.

Todd SWCD provides ongoing staff and supervisor training to maintain technical skills and the most up to date science based knowledge. This provides and maximizes trust and credibility with landowners and agencies, alike, ensuring the continued success of our collective on-the-ground efforts. At the same time, we listen to and highly regard your knowledge, skills, and input as owners and descendants of the land. We understand that all which is accomplished is because of you, the landowner,

and your willingness to install, implement, and experiment with best management practices on your property.

Along with our commitment to property owners, we continue to seek strategic partnerships with local committees, associations, and agencies to develop conservation on a broader scale.

Through grant applications, state cost-share, and other funding initiatives, we can achieve affordable conservation. Contact us today with your plans for a stronger Todd County.

320-732-2644

Todd Co. Historic Courthouse

1st Ave. S. Long Prairie, MN

2020 Todd SWCD Board of Supervisors -

L to R: Tom Williamson, Dale Katterhagen, Kenny Pesta, Dan Whitney, and Lee Buchholz



Tom Williamson (far right) SWCD Board Chair, and Deja Anton, District Manager honor Norm Krause, former SWCD Board Supervisor, for over 20 years of service at the SWCD Awards Luncheon on October 10, 2019. Also pictured is Norm's wife, Julie (far left).



Introducing our new Division Director, Adam Ossefoort. As Division Director, Adam oversees the operation of both the Planning and Zoning Office and the Soil and Water Conservation District. Adam moved to Central Minnesota from Southwest Minnesota where he previously worked for Pipestone Soil and Water Conservation District. During his time with Pipe-

stone SWCD, Adam worked as the county feedlot officer, septic inspector, and district technician surveying and designing projects to address resource concerns on the landscape.

Adam isn't totally foreign to Central Minnesota. Prior to heading out into the workforce he attended St. Cloud State University where he earned his Bachelors of Science in Environmental Studies. Adam and his wife, Racheal, have settled in Little Falls with their two dogs, Briar and Tillie. Adam enjoys hunting and fishing and is excited to explore all that Central Minnesota has to offer.

As Division Director, Adam hopes to explore new, innovative approaches for conservation delivery in Todd County. Todd County has vast and diverse resources across the county. Adam hopes to encourage public participation in protecting, enhancing, and enriching our natural resources, making them available for generations to come.

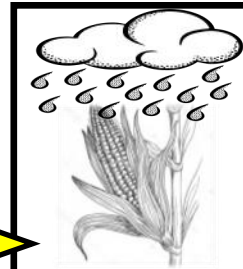
Initiative 1: Leadership:

Public Involvement; Outreach; Planning;
Partnership; Customer Service & Funding



SAVE THE DATE- 2020 ANNUAL FEEDLOT MEETING!

Public Involvement & Outreach: Every year Todd County SWCD, in collaboration with Minnesota Credit Union, Unity Bank, First International Bank, Central Minnesota Credit Union, Compeer Financial, American Heritage Bank, Todd Livestock Advisory Council, Advantage One Insurance, Big Iron and other local sponsors and businesses host what has come to be known as the Annual Feedlot Meeting and Producer Appreciation. This event has drawn crowds numbering up to 180 in attendance and is found to be both informational and fun. The 2019 meeting, titled "Milk Fever!" was held in Long Prairie. 130+ attendees came to learn about the "Fever" in Dairy Volatility; Legal Hire & Immigration; Land Management, Premise ID, and a Farm Tour. This is Todd SWCD's top, most attended event in the



area of public involvement / adult outreach. We look forward to the 2020 Feedlot Meeting, entitled:

"Too Wet Behind the Ears!"

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

Central Lakes College in Staples



UPDATE! 2019 New Exemption to pasture definition!

MN Statute 116.06 Sect. 16 Subd16a. (4) A cover of vegetation or crop residue is not required 4) in sacrificial areas: (i) that are part of a larger pasture system; (ii) are used to temporarily accommodate livestock due to an extraordinary situation for as short a time period as possible not to exceed 90 days during the growing season; (iii) are used to protect other pasture areas when adverse soil or weather conditions pose a risk of damaging the pastures; and (iv) on which the vegetation is naturally restored or replanted after the adverse soil or weather conditions are removed and the livestock are moved to other areas of the pasture.

Call 320-732-3481 for clarifications.

Milk Fever! 2019 -Ag Waste System Tour



Initiative 1 (Continued): Leadership—Outreach

BARN TALK:



QUESTION: Why Provide Cost-Share for One Farmer to Build a Manure Pit and Another Farmer to Close?

“THIS DOES NOT  MAKE SENSE!!!”

The Beginning. The first known installation of manure pits in Todd County came in the late 1960s. Between 1968 and 1996, approximately 200 manure pits of various sizes and styles were constructed within Todd County boundaries. These manure pits were the first attempt at meeting federal water quality restrictions at the time and better manure management. Farmers knew the value of manure in terms of soil health, organic matter, and fertility for hundreds of years. They also understood the necessity in removing manure out of the livestock barns and yards for animal health and comfort, thus relying on year round field applications of manure.

A Little Fun History. Manure handling prior to World War II was laborious with smaller and slower equipment. The earliest method of applying manure in the 1800’s was to simply fork it from the wagon in various areas around the field. In 1875, Joseph Kemp invented the first automated manure spreader. This involved an “unloader” mechanism with a chain that shuttled manure through a set of beaters and out the rear of the wagon in piles. The next step was to drag the field to level the piles. In 1906, he sold an upgraded design to International Harvester. Meanwhile, Joseph Oppenheim of Ohio invented the first wide spreading manure spreader. A school teacher, Joseph tired of his older male students missing school to spread manure. He invented a paddled mechanism that attached to a rotating shaft. The spinning shaft and paddles launched manure out and away from the wagon leaving a wide thin layer of manure in its wake- no dragging needed. His machine was dubbed “Oppenheim’s new idea” by his neighbors, and caught on quickly.

In 1916, his son renamed the business New Idea. Post World War II and the utilization of petroleum in agriculture brought about larger horsepower and diesel tractors that could pull heavy liquid tank applicators. Liquid manure became a thing.



A Century of Land Application

Above, a farmer spreads manure with his team of horses in a 1906. Below, modern liquid manure equipment (1917)



THIS DOES NOT  MAKE SENSE!!!

Continued from Page 4

Rationale. Farmers in the 1970's also knew that surface applying manure year round, including through the winter, cost them much of its value as fertilizer through snow melt losses, runoff, seasonal erosion, and volatilization. What if the manure could be stored someplace in liquid form, someplace out of the way, and later land applied under better conditions?

Starting in the 1970's, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency permitted pits that were designed for each particular farm and its eccentricities by trained individuals who oversaw their construction. Permits for manure storage were a brand new concept. Some farmers and contractors, liking the idea of a manure pit, simply installed the pits on their own, sometimes following another farm's design, sometimes not, without acquiring permits to do so. The permitted pits, in general, were 8-12 feet deep and lined with clay. They were believed to be "self-sealing" over time.

In the 1990s' through 2001, with rising concern for nutrients in water, studies were conducted to test the retention and self-sealing ability of clay lined pits. Test wells were installed around several feedlot and manure storage areas across the state. What resulted was more stringent standards for materials used in lining manure pits and an increased separation distance between the base of the pit and the water table. As not all clay types were found to meet the standard, the development of geotextile, HDPE, and concrete liners were introduced in regulation.

In Todd County, most of the 200 pits installed throughout the latter decades of the 1990's no longer receive manure, but most still have manure or nutrient laden remnants stored within them. Pits not having received manure in 20 plus years have been analyzed for nutrient content. Test results indicate very high nutrients even after **twenty years of non-use**. At every rainfall, the potential

For nutrients from these pits to seep into ground water exists. Previous unpermitted and/or abandoned pits are the larger concerns for obvious reasons. These pits need to be closed and closed properly.

So, WHY again is SWCD cost-sharing the closure of these pits?

While not all pits are a pollution hazard, farm heirs and/or new owners are often caught unaware of the potential threat to water quality. Pit closure is expensive. The pits were installed with good intention: farmers doing "the right thing" to protect the environment. Todd SWCD values the importance of closing these pits for long-term water quality protection. That is the reason cost-share is offered (the very same reason the County provides cost-share to upgrade septic systems). For pits still in use, the SWCD also offers cost-share to determine if the pit meets current standards. Some farmers have saved the expense of pit closure by conducting successful soil borings. However, the news is not always good after a soil boring is conducted, and the pit must be re-designed to current standards or closed permanently.

So WHY cost-share NEW pits? Manure pits still remain the most viable storage solution for dairy and swine manure. New standards have been tested time and again, and the State remains confident that new pits are designed to continually protect water quality. If a farm wants to upgrade a pit or a new farm opens for business in Todd County, the SWCD wants to support both, an environmental best management practice, and the farms who install them.



Please contact Todd SWCD to close, upgrade, test, or install a manure pit.

320-732-2644

Initiative 1: Leadership:

Public Involvement; Outreach; Planning;
Partnership; Continued

25th Anniversary of **ENVIROFEST**



Location of the 2019 Todd SWCD Envirofest: Marie & Dale Katterhagen Farm, Supervisor.

Public Involvement and Outreach: Over **350** students attended the 2019 Todd County Enviro-Fest on September 18. Students learned about farm life, topography, soils, pollinators, erosion, furs, trees, birds, draft horses, fire safety, hydroponics & more. This event was sponsored in part by the Cities of Clarissa, Staples, Browerville, Hewitt, Bertha, Grey Eagle; MN Credit Union, Compeer Financial, Dan's Prize, Pro-Ag, Todd Wadena Electrical Co-op, American Food Group, -Long Prairie, and Todd County Corn and Soybean Growers. It was featured as a 3 minute video segment on Public Radio Lakeland News aired the evening of September 18, 2019 . Envirofest is the only one of its kind held on an active farm in the state of Minnesota.

Planning & Partnerships:

August 2019 –landowners, Todd SWCD, West Central Technical Engineering, Todd Planning and Zoning, NRCS, local well driller, & building designers all converge on a property to assist in the planning process of a new farm facility in Todd County.



As 2019 supporting partners, Todd County selects two Commissioners to attend SWCD Board meetings. Thank you Commissioners Kniesl and Kircher for your service in 2019!

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts & The Farmer Magazine Honor Rinde Farms, LLC of Hartford Township as 2019 Outstanding Conservationists- *Leadership*



Roger and Bonnie Rinde (middle) accepted the award at the December 11, 2019 Award Ceremony in Bloomington, MN



Siblings Justin, Jeff, Kayla and their families operate Rinde Farms, LLC with their parents Bonnie and Roger Rinde. The Rindes' operate an expanding dairy and 2500 acres of alfalfa, wheat, beans, and corn utilizing minimum tillage, cover crops, irrigation and nutrient management, fall no-till and CSP practices. In 2019, finishing touches were added to a new flush flume manure management system and barn addition.

Todd County SWCD Honors Venis Family as Land Stewards

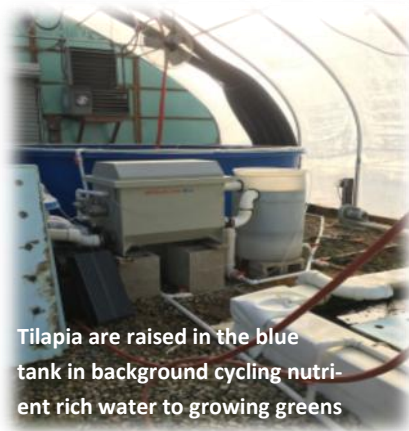
Leadership



On October 10, 2019, the Tim and Caroline Venis, family was awarded the 2019 Todd SWCD Land Stewardship Award at Dragon Willow Winery in Long Prairie. The Venis' have devoted a lifetime to an intensive beekeeping enterprise composed of over 2500 hives, a flock of pasture grazed Cheviot sheep, an aquaponics greenhouse business, tilapia (fish) raised in house to supply nutrient rich water, a geothermal heating system, and microgreens & more sold at local Farmers' Markets.



Tim Venis, owner of Menagerie Greens, accepts payment at the Long Prairie Farmers' Market for produce and eggs grown at his family's Eagle Bend farm.





Initiative 1 (Continued): Partnership & Funding



Partnerships: West Central Technical Service Area (WCTSA)

- 27 Site Visits
- 19 Site Surveys
- 22 Preliminary Projects Designs
- 7 Final Project Designs
- Construction Oversight on 4 Projects

← Ross Reiffenberger, P.E. (center) from WCTSA meets with multiple partners along the shores of Fairy Lake. Right, Todd SWCD Conservation Technician, Lew Noska, looks on.

- 103.6 Acres Honey Bee Habitat
- 18 EQIP Contracts
- 3 Nutrient Management Plans
- 13,610.5 Acres of Nutrient Mgt. Plans
- 10 Acres Tree Plantings 597.5 Cover Crop Acres
- 99.4 Acres Pasture Plantings
- 7,478 feet Windbreaks

**NRCS
2019**

- 624.3 Acres Grazing Incentives
- 34,494 feet Grazing System Fences
- 506.2 Row Crop converted to no/Strip Till
- 328 HEL Plans over 130.4 Acres
- 646.5 Acres Cover Crops
- 70.9 Pasture Plantings

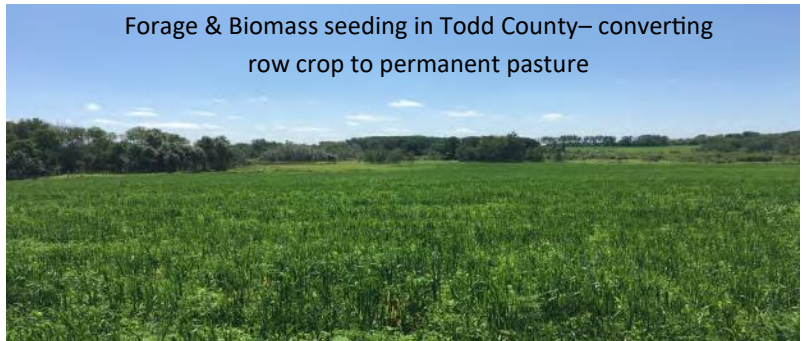
*Data is
unofficial and
has not been
reviewed by
State NRCS*

Todd SWCD Acquires a 2nd Phase of Grants in 2019 for the Partridge River Region

for livestock fencing, livestock crossings, and feedlot fixes . Fencing can be funded along areas bordering wetlands, rivers, ditches, and streams which typically serve as problem areas for livestock in the wetter periods. The grant helps to cover the cost for the fencing, labor, pipeline, and alternative watering devices. Farmers can flash graze any excluded areas in drier periods. Other projects qualify as well. Todd SWCD works hard to obtain grants for Todd County residents. Call **320-732-2644** today .



Forage & Biomass seeding in Todd County— converting row crop to permanent pasture



Public Involvement, Outreach & Partnership:

Breakfast on the Farm (BOTF) 2019. Todd SWCD technician, Reba Van Beusekom discusses the Partridge River Funding opportunity with long time Todd County farmer, Bob Helle, at the SWCD informational booth at the 2019 Breakfast on the Farm hosted by the Lunemann Family at Twin Eagle Dairy, Clarissa, MN. In June. Thanks, Twin Eagle!



Initiative 1: Leadership: Continued

Partners, Customer Service & Funding

Funding provided by:



2019 Project List

Local Capacity Funds	Pit Closure	\$ 12,045.50
State Cost Share Projects	Pit Closure	\$ 137.50
State Cost Share Projects	Pit Closure	\$ 8,817.00
County Riparian AID	Stormwater & WASCOB	\$ 60,591.75
State Cost Share Projects	Well Sealing	\$ 225.00
Local Capacity Funds	Pit Closure	\$ 4,456.82
MPCA Partridge River Phase I	Pit Closure	\$ 17,827.26
State Cost Share Projects	Well Sealing	\$ 612.50
County Riparian AID	Forage & Biomass Planting	\$ 3,768.83
Buffer Cost Share	Buffer Planting	\$ 93.00
Buffer Cost Share	Buffer Planting	\$ 153.00
State Cost Share Projects	Well Sealing	\$ 162.50
Buffer Cost Share	Buffer Planting	\$ 114.00
Local Capacity Funds	Ag Waste Phase II	\$ 8,950.17
Local Capacity Funds	Ag Waste Phase II	\$ 6,539.95
MPCA Lake Osakis Grant	Ag Waste Phase II	\$ 66,932.17
State Cost Share Projects	Ag Waste Phase II	\$ 1,242.93
State Cost Share Projects	Well Sealing	\$ 162.50
State Cost Share Projects	Pit Closure	\$ 7,350.00
Buffer Cost Share	Buffer Planting	\$ 216.00
Local Capacity Funds	Shoreline Protection	\$ 2,730.00

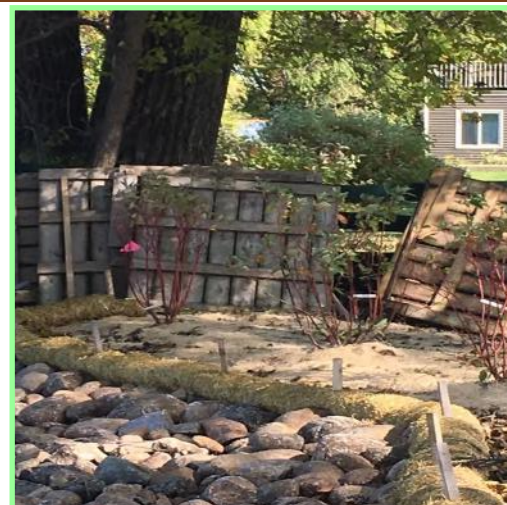
\$ 203,128.38

SWCD Funding Sources Available to Todd County Citizens

For Projects Including Funds Accessed in 2019

Funding Source Summary

Buffer Cost Share	\$ 576.00
County Riparian AID	\$ 64,360.58
Local Capacity Funds	\$ 34,722.44
MPCA Lake Osakis Grant	\$ 66,932.17
MPCA Partridge River Phase I	\$ 17,827.26
State Cost Share Funds	\$ 18,709.93
	\$203,128.38



Above: Redosier dogwoods in a shoreland buffer and coir logs above rip rap to stabilize a severely eroded shore with the threat of increased sediment fill & public safety.

Total Number of Projects Funded by SWCD Cost-Share: 15

One Ag Waste System, three Pit Closures, four Buffer Plantings, one Shoreland Project, four Well Sealings, one Water & Sediment Control System, & one Forage & Biomass Planting (converting tilled land to pasture)

Initiative 1:

Leadership:

Continued

Partners, Customer Service & Funding



Todd County Ag BMP Loan Program

Partnership & Customer Service:

Todd SWCD is proud to partner with the Minnesota Department of Ag to offer low interest (3%) loans for rural landowners and farmers implementing practices that protect water



Clean-water diversion

Water and sediment control

Roof over structure



County Ditch 33 flows through property and land app acreage with eventual drainage to Lake Osakis

Updated pit for constructed during Phase 1

Storage Lane 12"

owner paid for internal cement- all cement drains towards pit

quality. In 2019, a total of **11** application requests were received in Todd County: 1 for conservation tillage practices, 5 for ag waste practices including 2 additional application for ag waste handling equipment, 1 energy conservation practice, and 2 erosion control practices. The purpose of the program is to encourage Best Management Practices that prevent or reduce runoff or groundwater contamination from feedlots, farm fields, septic systems, or other potential pollutions. Private and cluster septic system installations, upgrades, or repairs within Todd County are also eligible for AgBMP funding as are composting structures and much more. Call early before funds run low. **320-732-2644**.

Initiative 2: Conservation, Protection, & Enhancement of Surface Waters

Buffers

****Buffer Cost Share Available for 2020 on DNR Protected Waters and Public Ditches****

Most Todd County landowners know vegetative buffers were required on public waterways by November 1, 2017 and on county ditches by November 1, 2018. This is very important considering Todd County spans out over almost 1,000 square miles, has 123 public lakes, 380 miles of public streams, and 379 miles of county ditches.

Todd County SWCD has completed a county wide buffer inventory on all public waters and public ditches. Many landowners have already contacted the SWCD and have installed compliant buffers.

If buffer compliance is not observed, Todd County has informed Todd SWCD that the County will assess fees to the property owner. Todd County SWCD recognizes that in 2019 above average rainfall and early freeze up are to be considered when requiring buffer compliance. Due to this, the SWCD is offering funding for those who were unable to install required buffers. A payment of \$300 per acre of required buffer installed is available to landowners who are currently non-compliant. The new deadline to sign up for buffer funding is **July 1st, 2020**.

For more information about the Governor's buffer law, please visit: bwsr.state.mn.us/buffers/

2019 Buffer Report

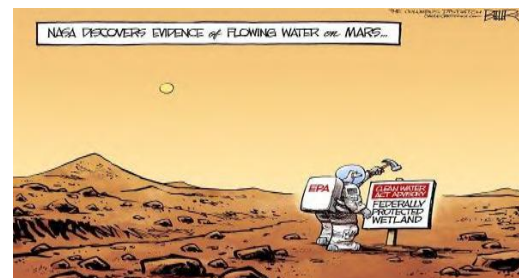
- ⇒ 21 Site Visits
- ⇒ 53 Contacts

Buffer flags in cornfield adjacent to a public ditch note where new buffer establishment is needed to meet the State Buffer Law.



Initiative 2: Conservation, Protection, & Enhancement of Surface Waters

Wetlands; Feedlots & Farm Conservation



Wetlands Conservation Report:

- 25 Exemption Decisions
- 2 No Loss Decisions
- 8 Satisfactory Violation Restorations
- 2 Boundary Decisions
- 3 Local Road Replacement Replacements
- 101 Site Visits
- 272 Wetland Related Questions/Contacts
- Hosted Monthly TEP Meetings

Feedlot and Farm Conservation Program

- 434 Feedlot Registrations Processed
- 1 Construction Short Form (new buildings or expansions)
- 2 Interim Permits
- 160 Site Visits
- 31 In-Office Meetings with Individual Producers
- 649 Feedlot Related Questions
- 4 Pit Closures
- 11 Air Quality Exemptions
- 16 Complaint Responses
- 7 Return to Compliance/Upgrades
- 4 Assists with the Livestock Investment Grant



Feedlot Program Mission Statement:

The Program strives to offer an equitable and consistent, customer-oriented program. Reasonable solutions are found to overcome the economic, seasonal, and operational barriers that impact individual farms in their quest to meet water quality rules and other required measures in protecting Todd County's natural resources.

Shoutout!

LeeAnne Loudon, Sarah Katterhagen & Reba Van Beusekom all, individually, made the State's Top 5 list for processing County feedlot registrations!



Initiative 2: Conservation, Protection, & Enhancement of Surface Waters

Farm Conservation & Riparian Efforts



Nutrient Management Report:

- ◆ Nutrient Management Plans in Development since July 2019:

Morrison County– 5

Todd County – 4

Stearns County – 3

- ◆ **9** site visits
- ◆ **2** spreader calibrations

Have a manure related question? Need help developing a manure or nutrient management plan or a solid record keeping system? Does your spreader need to be calibrated? Is that manure analysis or soil test baffling you? Contact Todd SWCD today, **320-732-2644**. Ask for **Tim**. *Free Service*.



Shoreland/ Riparian Assistance 2019–

Number of Site Visits: **32**

Number of Presentations: **6** (Swan Lake, Long Lake, AIS (2), Lake Beauty, Fairy Lake Lions)

Call 320-732-2644 for waterside assistance

Number of assistant calls: **181**



Initiative 3: Conservation, Protection, & Enhancement of Groundwater

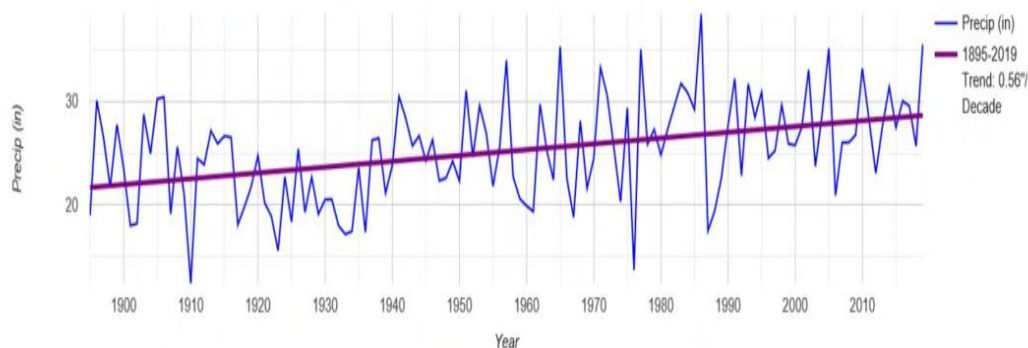
Precipitation Network

Todd SWCD would like to thank our VOLUNTEER precipitation network for their monthly dedication to monitoring and submitting data. This information is sent to the State Climatologists for research in tracking precipitation trends throughout the State of Minnesota. Graphs like the one on the bottom of the page are created through years of precipitation monitoring efforts. Additional graphs can be found at <http://arcgis.dnr.state.mn.us/ewr/climatetrends/#>.

2019 Precipitation Report

Precipitation Reader Twp/Section	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Charles Wegner TWP 132 Range 35 Sec 25	0.3	0.88	1.83	1.77	3.89	1.94	4.04	3.46	6.56	3.75	0.51		28.93
Greg Ostrowski TWP 131 Range 33 Sec 20	0.49	1.77	2.39	2.32	4.17	2.9	2.8	4.78	8.18	4.34	0.77		34.91
Jay Noska TWP 130 Range 34 Sec 14	0.57	0.98	2.31	3.29	4.15	3.28	3.48	4.36	8.3	4.23	1.66		36.61
Meryl Wegner TWP 129 Range 34 Sec 08	0.56	1.33	2.01	2.47	4.9	4.28	3.59	4.01	9.16	3.99	0.55		36.85
Donald Maus TWP 128 Range 35 Sec 25	0.09	0.42	1.82	2.53	4.48	5.68	4.34	2.16	7.07	3.57	0.42		32.58
Scott Becker TWP 133 Range 32 Sec 05	0.34	1.48	1.97	2.64	3.26	4.83	2.65	3.6	3.54	3.7	1.03		29.04
Lawrence Lieder TWP 132 Range 32 Sec 20	0.44	1.96	1.88	2.42	4.17	4.12	5.28	3.68	7.97	4.71	0.7		37.33
Mary Ostrowski TWP 130 Range 32 Sec 03	0.32	1.48	2.08	2.32	4.37	4.06	3.71	4.01	8.08	4.88	1.17		36.48
NRCS Office TWP 129 Range 33 Sec 16	0.36	0.57	missing	2.9	3.38	3.99	4.55	missing	10.1	2.59	0.16		28.6
Ione Krause TWP 128 Range 33 Sec 01	0.54	0.69	1.86	2.72	4.86	4.94	4.7	3.96	7.87	4.21	0.96		37.31
John Stuckel TWP 127 Range 33 Sec 01	0.55	1	1.75	3.66	5.18	4.75	4.68	2.98	8.29	3.58	0.8		37.22
Average Per Month	0.41	1.14	1.99	2.64	4.26	4.07	3.98	3.70	7.74	3.96	0.79	0.00	34.17

Sauk River Watershed received the greatest precipitation in 2019, countywide. The graph below indicates precipitation fluctuations over the past century. The purple line shows the increasing trend to wetter conditions.



Year	Precip (in)	1895-2019 Trend: 0.56"/Decade
2009	26.72	28.05
2010	33.18	28.1
2011	28.18	28.16
2012	23.01	28.22
2013	27.62	28.27
2014	31.37	28.33
2015	27.44	28.38
2016	30.01	28.44
2017	29.52	28.5
2018	25.63	28.55
2019	35.52	28.61

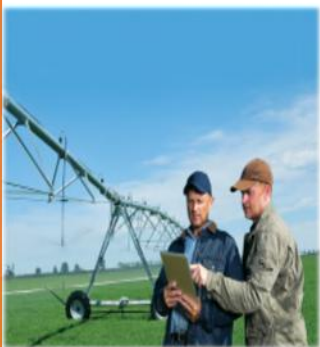
Join us at the 2020 Feedlot Meeting to hear more from State Climatologist, Kenny Blumenfeld!

Initiative 3: Conservation, Protection & Enhancement of Groundwater



Irrigation

Todd SWCD Partners with Central Lakes College, UMN, & 5 Other Counties in a \$1,418,379 Grant Focusing on Precision Irrigation



The grant titled Integrating Precision Irrigation Conservation Technologies in Minnesota Central Sands is a collaboration between farmers, Central Lakes College, UMN, and the SWCDs of Ottertail, Wadena, Becker, Cass, Hubbard & Todd Counties. The initial objective is to work with 50 farmers in the region to install advanced soil moisture sensors in their irrigated fields to enhance irrigation scheduling capabilities. A second aspect of the grant will include four locations around the region to equip center pivot irrigation systems with the individual sprinkler variable rate technology for both precision irrigation and fertilizer applications. The grant will also provide partnerships with select producers and local technicians to fully implement advanced irrigation water management in their operations.

 Irrigation Technicians from the local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) will work closely with the selected farmers to guide the On-Farm Trials process, answer questions regarding new technology and its application to their irrigation program; serving as a key contact for project activities. The University of Minnesota (U of M) Irrigation Specialist will work in conjunction with SWCD staff to help guide selected farmers in the effective use of sensor technology in irrigation scheduling with the transition of management of the new technology to the producer in the final year of the project. Central Lakes College (CLC) Ag and Energy Center staff will manage a fully integrated irrigation system and serve as the key contacts for sharing information with the public and the social aspect of the project. Both the SWCDs and the Ag and Energy Center will host “hands-on” events to educate local producers, technical staff from partnering agencies, and the general public on the value of incorporating precision irrigation conservation technology and nutrient management technology. 

 The truly innovative aspect of this project is the long-term partnership valuing innovative conservation techniques in the area of precision agriculture. Methods enhance successful integration of new technology directly into the producer’s tool box. Farmers will receive access to professional support with an end goal that each producer will have full knowledge and understanding of the irrigation technology added to their irrigated crop production program. 

Call us @ 320-732-2644 for more information. 

Initiative 4: Soil and Farm Sustainability

Minnesota Department of Ag – MN Ag Water Quality Certification Program & Pheasants Forever

Todd County Proudly Recognizes Most Recent Ag Water Quality Recipients for 2019



- ◆ John Bakke
- ◆ Stelling Land & Cattle Company

John Bakke Family



MAWQCP Certified Beef Farm in Moran TWP.

Becoming Ag Water Quality Certified is strictly voluntary. It is open to farms of all sizes and types. Insight is given to crop, field, livestock management and farm sustainability. New ideas are discussed as are methods to improve soil health and stabilization, often with less input costs. Some farmers are pleased to hear they can change little to nothing about their farm operation and still receive certification. It's a nice feeling to hear you are doing a great job! Becoming certified opens your farm to an exclusive pool of funding to make further small improvements to their farms plus a variety of other incentive benefits. Todd SWCD encourages all farms to explore Ag Water Certification. Contact Todd SWCD to join us in this conservation effort.

320-732-2644

**Stelling Land & Cattle– West Union TWP
MAWQCP certified beef & crop farm;
2nd in area in number of certified acres
in Todd County (1,651 ac.)**



2019 SWCD Supervisor Tom Williamson MAWQCP Project



Pictured: Water and sediment control basin to eliminate a field erosion problem within the Sauk River Watershed District. Todd SWCD field technicians and WCTSA engineering supervised the project install.



Initiative 5: Forest and Natural Ecosystems

Pheasants Forever; Todd SWCD Tree Program

Considering CRP in the next 3 or 4 years? We recommend you stop in this winter to learn about timelines and program process.



Todd County Farm Biologist

Report for 2019

108 Site Visits

126 Office Visits

150 Contacts/ Assistance Calls/ Visits

23 CRP Contracts covering 231.16 acres in Todd County

CRP stands for Conservation Reserve Program— a voluntary program setting aside previously farmed acres (marginal, sensitive areas) in exchange for payment to keep the land environmentally protected for a contracted number of years. The program is funded through USDA.



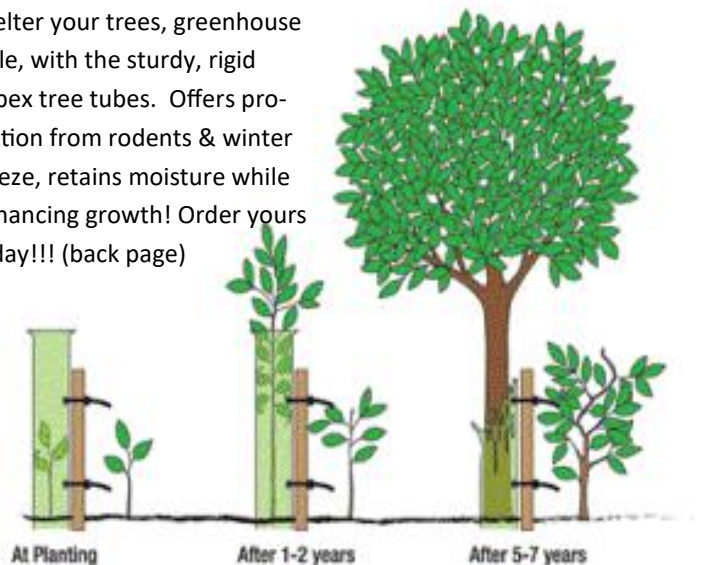
Todd SWCD 2019 Tree Sales

- 14,525 Trees
- 255 One Gallon Potted Stock
- 7 Native Plant Kits

2020 order form on back page



Shelter your trees, greenhouse style, with the sturdy, rigid Tubex tree tubes. Offers protection from rodents & winter freeze, retains moisture while enhancing growth! Order yours today!!! (back page)



Initiative 6: Public Lands and Waters

Aquatic Invasive Species Program

Todd County's AIS Prevention Aid Program: A Snapshot of Accomplishments in 2019

In 2019, Todd County delegated management of the AIS program to the Todd Soil and Water Conservation District under the leadership of the Division Director, the District Manager, and SWCD Program Coordinator. The SWCD District Manager along with Program Coordinator receive guidance twice annually from the Todd County AIS Committee, a 17 member volunteer task force made up of 14 lake association and fishing tournament representatives, one local law enforcement representative, and two County Commissioners. The AIS Committee operates in accordance with five succinct prevention strategies:

- ⇒ AIS Prevention Strategy #1: Manage AIS Program including conducting assessment of AIS risk, maintain partnerships, and evaluate and report progress.
- ⇒ AIS Prevention Strategy #2: Protect County waters through public outreach and informational activities and actions.
- ⇒ AIS Prevention Strategy #3: Protect County Waters through watercraft inspection, decontamination, and enforcement of AIS laws and rules.
- ⇒ AIS Prevention Strategy #4: Protect county waters through monitoring, early detection and rapid response to reports of AIS.
- ⇒ AIS Prevention Strategy #5: Minimize impacts on county waters through AIS management and control projects.

Category	Metrics
 AIS Prevention Aid Used	\$131,133.67 direct impact AIS Prevention Aid utilized 2019 (excluding program management budget remainder of \$15,988.51) An additional \$10,834 is allotted in the form of contingency funds
 People Doing AIS Work	2 part-time staff dedicated to AIS work 2 seasonal staff with AIS duties (other than inspectors) 10 Level 1 Inspectors 3 Level 2 Inspectors 18+ Volunteers conducting AIS work Though officially unreported in 2019, extensive anecdotal volunteer hours are served to prevent the spread of AIS throughout Todd County.
 Partnerships	Organizations engaged and/or actively conducting AIS work using AIS Prevention Aid: ^ Local partners: 10 lake associations: Osakis/Big Birch/Little Birch/Big Swan/Mound/Beauty/Latimer/Maple/Big Sauk/Long ^ Government partners: Todd County /Todd SWCD/ Todd County Sheriff's Office/MN Extension/ DNR ^ Todd County does have a volunteer AIS Task Force Committee
 Funds Distributed and Leveraged	\$ 14,897.51 of grant dollars awarded in the form of 50 %cost-share (AIS Prevention Aid to other organizations) 7 organizations awarded grants
 Communities Engaged	7 events held about AIS or that included AIS topics 10,000 residents and visitors reached during AIS events including radio shows, movie theatre advertising, educational meetings and newsletters mail-outs
 Watercraft Inspected	9317 inspections performed 6417 hours of inspections performed 32 accesses covered by inspectors 30 water bodies covered by inspectors 99 % of watercraft recorded as arriving with drain plugs out
 Monitoring Conducted	4 lakes surveyed for AIS 1 water body where veliger tows were taken 1 aquatic plant surveys conducted 2+ volunteers trained and/or active as AIS Detectors 3 lake associations participated in the University of Minnesota Extension and AIS Research Center's "Starry Trek" event



Townships and private property owners willingly post signs on non-public land and privately owned property drawing attention to the importance of double checking watercraft and accessories when utilizing lakes in Todd County. Creative outreach such as the sign above are encouraged by the Todd County AIS program as educational outreach aimed at those citizens who own or visit private accesses on lakes not subject to inspection. AIS is not solely a public access problem. Photo Credit: Kathy Boeckmann, Lake Beauty. Below: Starry Stonewort, invasive.



Looking Ahead...

Todd SWCD Plan of Action

2020 Objective: Improving & Protecting Water Quality Through Soil Health

Targeted Initiatives:

Through what means will the objective be achieved throughout 2020?

#1- Leadership in

- Incorporate at least one soil health topic into the 2020 Feedlot Meeting
- Explore partnering with the Soil Health Coalition– a farmer led organization promoting soil health
- Obtain Technical Staff Job Approval Authority in Cover Crops
- Focus media coverage on soil health principles in articles, newsletters, radio ads & talk shows
- Apply for One Watershed One Plan for the Long Prairie River Watershed including ways in which surface waters, wells, and drinking water can be protected with soil health management practices

#1- Funding Concerns

- Apply for a 2020 Cover Crop grant
- Revamp the 2020 project assessment sheet to assign higher points to cost share practices that improve, promote or integrate soil health

#2- Soil Health & Surface Waters

- Develop the Environmental Assessment of Riparian Terrestrial Health– a.k.a. The EARTH Program– aligning with soil health principles for shoreland & residential areas. Goal : 2021 Implementation.
- Create a holistic farm framework for site visits to be implemented in 2020.

#3- Soil Health & Ground water

- Participate in outreach efforts for the CLC Demonstration Irrigation Grant.
- Participate in the RCPP Irrigation Grant through dedicated in kind match obligations.

#4- Soil Health & Livestock

- Create a holistic farm framework for site visits that includes discussions on the conversion or adaptation of agricultural land to productive pasture and the value of adding covers to row crops for late and early season grazing

Todd SWCD Mission Statement

Conservation, Protection, and Enhancement of Todd County's Natural Resources.



Soil Health 101

Soil Health.

The capacity of the soil to function as an ecosystem that sustains plants, animals, single cell organisms, fungi, and bacteria.

In Todd County, the health of our soil as a resource over the last century has been able to sustain the needs of its diverse populations. But, this resource will only be sustainable for future generations if we begin to change management practices now. There lies a fine common sense balance in protecting our landscapes' resources while gaining economic & recreational benefits.

13 Indicators of Decreasing Soil Health in Todd County

1. Clouds of silty particulates darkening the skies on an otherwise bright windy day.
2. Culvert and ditch blockages from sediment.
3. Very few grassed waterways.
4. Sheet and Gully erosion across exposed soils.
5. Pooling of water in the fields and at field edges.
6. Equipment unable to travel across fields even a week after the last rain.
7. Murky, sediment filled streams and ditches.
8. Increased algal blooms in lakes and other bodies of water due to increased sediment loading.
9. Overgrazed pastures and over manicured single species lawns.
10. Increase in prevent plant acres.
11. Increased shoreland and impervious surface development.
12. Increased need for fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides.
13. Less snakes and spiders—great indicators of soil health.
14. More brown: brown grasses in late summer, mud in spring, brown satellite imagery.

Healthy soils retain water. Healthy soils have deep rooted vegetation to eliminate movement of soil particulates. Healthy soils have structure to keep equipment and animals on the surface even in wet seasons. Healthy soils have diverse crops and grasses growing on their surface. Healthy soils have a predator/prey balance challenging pests and weeds in their quest to dominate.

Feeding the active organisms in your soil with organic material produces a nutrient rich growing medium. The animal activity helps form air tunnels, water pockets for increased holding capacity, and deep pathways for root penetration. This process actually erects scaffolds for soil structure and integrity. The less disturbance a soil gets, the better it is able to retain its structure. Creating a diversity of plant species creates balance in the soil ecosystem where mono crops or lawns with short rooted Kentucky Blue grass allows only certain microorganisms to proliferate— and often times they're the creatures we don't want (corn nematodes— the bad ones, for example). Rotational grazing and taller lawn heights allow for roots to grow deep as the portion of the plant that absorbs energy is higher up on the stem/leaf shaft. Last, when we cover the soil with gravel, buildings, and pavement, we kill the ecosystem below.

It's only common sense. *Protect the soils you borrow from future generations.*

Look for more SWCD soil health briefs throughout 2020 in our newsletters and news releases in your local newspapers.



**“Wet Behind the Ears”:
Check It Out and SEE!**

**When:
Wednesday, March 18, 2020**

10:00am to ~2:30pm

***Coffee & Bakery Social
starting at 9:30 AM***

**Where:
Central Lakes College – Door 3
1830 Airport Rd.
Staples, MN**

SPACE IS LIMITED

**RSVP by
March 11, 2020
320.732.2644 for your
FREE Buffet Meal**



Mo-o-ve on in for Great Door Prizes & Fodder

Catered by ➡ **TED & GEN'S BAR-BQ**

FEATURING...

Kenny Blumenfeld, Senior Climatologist, DNR–
What's Trending for 2020 Weather Patterns– Soak it
up: “What's “Going Down”; What's HOT!”

MinnFARMS– How are Farms Assessed for Feedlot
Compliance using Local Climate Trends as a Variable
Live Farmer Action by Ole'

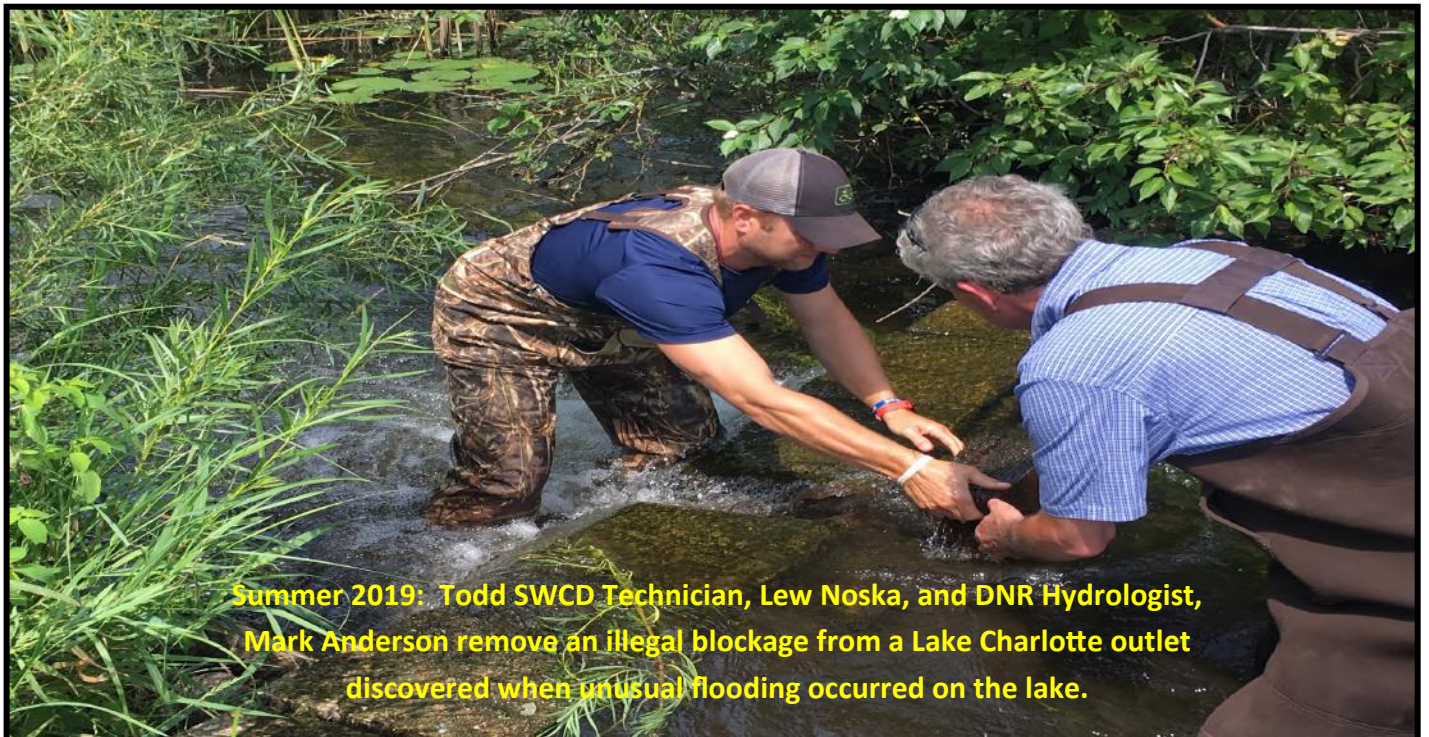
Kent Solberg– SFA; Beef Focus: Transitioning from
Dairy to Beef Successfully– What's Good for Beef is
Good for Soil; Economic and Common Sense Solutions
to Raising Beef in Todd County

CLC Farm Management Updates

Mike Starkey, Department of Ag: It's Not If, It's
When– Foot and Mouth & the Asian Swine Flu

The Secure Supply– UMN/ Todd County Extension

RSVP RSVP RSVP 320-732-2644 RSVP RSVP RSVP



**Summer 2019: Todd SWCD Technician, Lew Noska, and DNR Hydrologist,
Mark Anderson remove an illegal blockage from a Lake Charlotte outlet
discovered when unusual flooding occurred on the lake.**

Todd County Livestock Registrations Due for 2020 Cycle!!!!

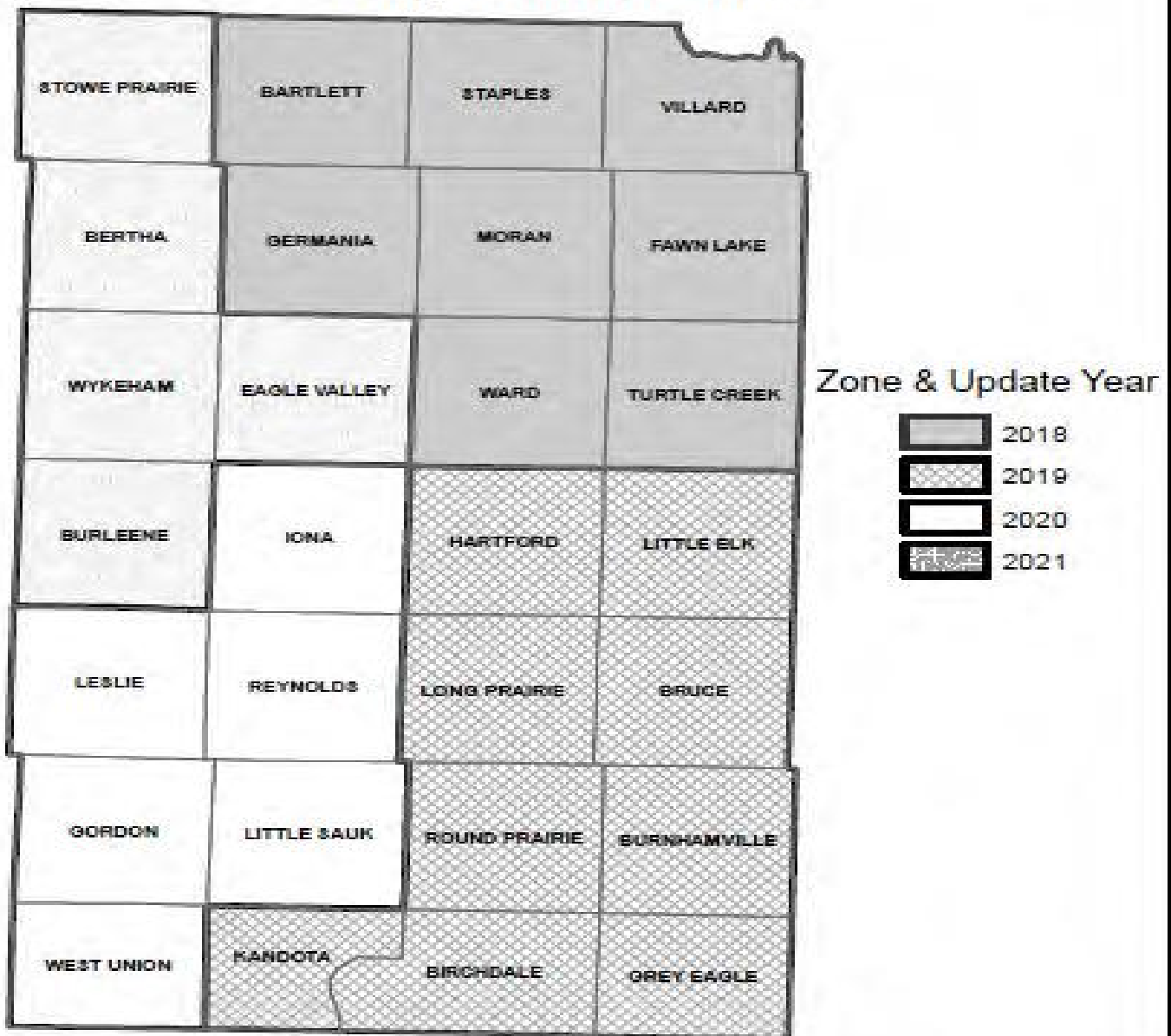
Who? All landowners within Iona, Leslie, Gordon, Little Sauk, and West Union townships are required to update registrations in 2020. This references parcels with a barn, a livestock feeding lot, and/or a manure storage area with 10 or more animal units. Landowners, no longer having livestock on premise, with outbuildings and/or fences who wish to remain registered for resale or zoning purposes will need to respond to maintain registration. Any landowner who has a liquid manure pit (in use, not in use, full, or empty) on his/her property is required to remain registered.

Call **320-732-2644** for registration assistance.

Newsletter partially funded by



Todd County Farm / Ranch / Feedlot Registration Zones



Zones Subject to Minor Change if Site #'s Increase

 Todd County • MINNESOTA • EST. 1855 •		SWCD 2020 Tree Order Form				
Name		Phone:				
Street Address:		E-mail				
City:		State		ZIP		
**** Bare Root Nursery Stock: 18-24 inches **** 25 TREES IN A BUNDLE ****						
	Species	Drought Tolerance	Mature Height	Growth Rate	# of Bundles	Price/Bundle
Conifers	Balsam Fir	Fair	40-60'	Moderate/Rapid		\$ 37.50
	Black Spruce	Fair	30-60'	Slow/Moderate		\$ 37.50
	Tamarack	Poor	40-70'	Slow/Moderate		\$ 37.50 Sold Out
	Norway Pine	Good	60-80'	Moderate/Rapid		\$ 37.50
	Norway Spruce	Fair	40-60'	Rapid		\$ 37.50
	White Cedar	Good	50-60'	Slow/Moderate	N/A	\$ 37.50 Not Available
	White Spruce	Fair	40-60'	Moderate/Rapid		\$ 37.50
Tall Trees	American Linden (Basswood)	Poor	50-70'	Moderate	N/A	\$ 37.50 Not Available
	Paper Birch	Fair	50-70'	Moderate/Rapid		\$ 37.50
	Red Maple	Good	40-60'	Rapid		\$ 37.50
	Red Oak	Poor	40-60'	Rapid		\$ 37.50
	Silver Maple	Fair	100' +	Rapid		\$ 37.50
	Sugar Maple	Poor	80' +	Slow/Moderate		\$ 37.50
Short Trees / Shrubs	American Plum	Fair	20-30'	Rapid		\$ 37.50
	Chokecherry	Good	10-15'	Moderate/Rapid		\$ 37.50
	Common Lilac	Good	8-15'	Moderate		\$ 37.50
	American Hazelnut	Fair/Good	up to 12'	Moderate		\$ 37.50
	Elderberry	Poor	6-8'	Moderate		\$ 37.50 Sold Out
	High Bush Cranberry	Fair	10-15'	Moderate	N/A	\$ 37.50 Not Available
	Juneberry (serviceberry)	Good	6-15'	Moderate		\$ 37.50
	Nanking Cherry	Fair/Good	6-10'	Moderate		\$ 37.50
	Red Splendor Flowering Crab	Fair	15-20'	Moderate/Rapid		\$ 37.50
Redosier Dogwood	Poor	7-10'	Moderate		\$ 37.50	
**** PACKETS 15 TREES/PACKET ****						
Packets	Shoreland Packet (15 trees): 5 Paper Birch, 5 Redosier Dogwood, 5 White Spruce					\$ 26.25
	Wildlife Packet (15 trees): 5 Red Oak, 5 Juneberry, 5 White Spruce					\$ 26.25
	Pollinator Packet (15 trees): 5 American Plum, 5 Chokecherry, 5 Nanking Cherry					\$ 26.25
**** ONE GALLON POTTED STOCK ****						
Potted	15-18" 1 Gallon Potted White Spruce					\$9.00/Tree
	15-18" 1 Gallon Potted Norway Pine					\$9.00/Tree
	15-18" 1 Gallon Potted Norway Spruce					\$9.00/Tree
****Kits include 36 plant plugs--6 of each species. Each kit covers 50-80 square feet (1.5 foot spacing)****						
*****Kits will be comprised of 6 of the following 8 species*****						
KITS	Pollinator Kit	Wild Bergamot, Showy Milkweed, Blanket Flower, Smooth Penstemon, Golden Alexanders, Narrow Leaved Coneflower, Meadow Blazingstar, Showy Goldenrod				\$50.00/Kit
	Lakeshore/Rain Garden Kit	Swamp Milkweed, Obedient Plant, New England Aster, Culvers root, Sweet Eyed Susans, Great Blue Lobelia, Brown Fox Sedge, Pointed Broom Sedge				\$50.00/Kit
NEW in 2020 Tree Tubes						
Tubes	4 Feet Regular	Perfect tree tube for trees protected by shelter				\$3.50/tube
	4 Feet Vented	The Tubex Combitube is designed for more exposed/windy sites where there is a greater contrast between growing conditions within the shelter and those without.				\$4.05/tube
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ORDER! Tree Pick up will be end of April or beginning of May in Long Prairie at the fairgrounds. We will notify you by postcard the date of pick up					Subtotal	
					Sales Tax: 7.375 %	
Quantities are limited in some species and are sold on a first come basis					Grand Total w/ Tax	

Mail to: 221 1st Ave, S Long Prairie, MN 56347

