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



SWCD Annual Report & Newsletter

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” in our office, we are not a regulatory agency— instead, we model and

firmly believe in accomplishing conservation 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 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 organizations, associations, and state 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



2021 Todd Soil & Water Conservation District Staff, from left:

Program Coordinator, Sarah Katterhagen

Well Sealing, AgBMP Loan Program, Farm Registration, & Administrative Office

Wetlands Specialist, Lew Noska

WCA, Drainage, Driveway/trail access, Buffers, & Ob Well Monitoring

District Manager, Deja Anton

Riparian/Shoreline Protection, Water Planning, AIS, Cost–share, Livestock Mgt. Planning, Feedlot Coordinator

Division Director, Adam Ossefoort– Planning and Zoning/ SWCD

Farm Technician, Kevin Brown

Field Erosion, Feedlots, Livestock Pipeline, Grazing Plans/Fencing

Regional Nutrient Mgmt .Specialist, Tim Ebnet

Nutrient Management Planning, Manure Record Keeping & Analysis, Cover Crops, Irrigation Cost-share

Farm Technician, Dylan Pratt

Feedlots, Soil Health, Pit Closure, Ag Water Quality

ON THE COVER:

Remnants of 2021. An Echinacea seed pod stands tall through a New Years’ snowfall marking the location of a pollinator planting in Ward Township.

For information on CREP/ RIM and perennial covers, contact Todd SWCD at:

320-732-2644

Partner Highlights:

Looking back on



Throughout the first half of 2021, liaison partners from the SWCD Board of Supervisors and County Commissioners met to review and update the terms of the local SWCD/Todd County Agreement. Todd County, one of the few counties in the state to do so, voted to absorb Soil and Water Conservation into county government in 2012. More counties in Minnesota may follow suit as conservation moves to the forefront of federal, state, and local citizen concerns.



2021 Todd SWCD Board of Supervisors (L-R): **Wayne Wendell, Tom Williamson, Dan Whitney, Lee Buchholz, & Dale Katterhagen**



Todd County Commissioners: sitting: **Barb Becker and Dave Kircher**, standing (L-R): **Rod Erickson, Gary Kniesl, and Randy Neumann**



**New Role In
Planning & Zoning**

My name is Jacob Nosbush. I am a Land Use Planner, originally from Buffalo, MN. I became a Land Use Planner for Todd County in 2021. I'm a fan of sports, camping, traveling, exploring new places, and especially board games (My favorite board games include 7 Wonders, Ticket to Ride, and Sorry). My favorite part of working here is the great group of people I get to work with each day and the fact that no two days are alike.



**New Partner in
Planning & Zoning**

My name is Jamie Christenson. I started as the Planning & Zoning Specialist in August 2021. I have a degree in Environmental Studies from Bemidji State University and grew up outside of Grey Eagle. In my free time, I like boating, playing games, card making, snowboarding, traveling... you name it! In the office, I enjoy helping land owners with their wide variety of projects and needs from the County.

Partner Highlights, Continued



Todd SWCD/NRCS changes format of Local Work Group Meeting to Tour

“It just makes more sense to have local planners and decision makers on the ground seeing the work we do or what needs to get done”, says **SWCD** District Manager, Deja Anton. The change will provide the Local Work Group Committee made up of farmers, landowners, Commissioners, city and township officials, and agencies the opportunity to see projects in person and make decisions on local priorities while on tour in one of the six watersheds in Todd County, annually. It also allows for open air meetings to reduce concerns of in-person meetings while Covid continues to challenge the area. This year’s tour concluded at **Central Lakes College (CLC)** where lunch was served by **Tower’s Pizza** of Staples. These meetings are open to the public free of charge.

“We are still working on making improvements to the concept of Work Group planning and effective use of local voice”, said Russell Kleinschmidt, **NRCS** District Conservationist, “it is bound to improve every year as we engage more group and citizen interest.” This tour also emphasized the funding sources used to complete the tour projects: **MPCA 319** and other grants acquired through Todd SWCD, a **Veteran Administration** grant, and **Villard Township** match. The tour showcased the Motley Cemetery/Long Prairie River erosion fix, a riverside erosion repair along Spruce Rd in Villard Township, and conservation pilot projects at CLC.

Partner Highlights, Continued

The Waldorfs

Each Year Todd SWCD recognizes local landowners for excellence in conservation. Todd SWCD does no conservation on its own. We simply assist those landowners who choose to make improvements to their land. We now present the Todd SWCD Conservation Farmer of the Year:

2021 CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR



Jim and Lynette Waldorf at the State MASWCD Convention on December 14, 2021 in Bloomington, MN

Jim Waldorf is a resident farmer in Todd County, Minnesota. This year the Todd County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors awarded Jim the title of Conservation Farmer of the Year. Jim enrolled two parcels of land into the Minnesota Conservation Reserve Enhancement program (MNCREP). The two parcels total 74 acres of land. The land will be permanently protected through a perpetual easement with the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) easement program. The program will restore up to five wetland basins that were previously drained and farmed. The remaining land will be returned back to native grasses and wildflowers. Aside from enrolling the parcels into MNCREP, Jim manages a rotational cropping system with minimum tillage.



Lynette and Jim stand in front of their easement property located in Todd County, MN

Jim grew up on a small dairy operation in Gordon Township, just a few miles down the road from where he currently lives and farms. He is a father of 2 and is married to Lynette. Jim is an active member in the local communities. He has been an auctioneer for 25+ years and his wife Lynette is a paraprofessional with the Osakis school district. Jim is a strong supporter of the local FFA chapter. He was a member and both of his children were members while growing up. Jim stated “I want to keep them (FFA) going. If we don’t keep the children involved in



farming, who’s going to do it?”

Jim also participates in tractor rides for local benefit events whenever he can.

Jim got started on his own farm back in the late 70’s. He had just purchased a farm and 50 acres when he got laid off from his construction job. He started milking 11 head of dairy and farming 40

Left, Jim’s first tractor

Partner Highlights, Continued

The Waldorfs

acres of grain to use as feed. He worked his way up to milking 20 head of cattle and got to the point where it was time to either expand the dairy operation or adapt to a new farming style.

He bought an additional 110 acres, started renting land and transitioning into a beef and cash crop operation. Through the years he was able to purchase additional land and build the operation. At the peak, Jim was farming approximately 1,000 acres of cash crop and hay ground while managing a 30 head herd of beef.

Jim and his children managed the farm along with some assistance from his brother.



Jim with daughter and son



*Above: Early Years of Planting/ Minimum Tillage;
Below: Narrow row planter*



Jim has since downsized his operation. He currently farms 140 acres of cash crop and hay ground. He no longer manages any cattle. His vision for the future of the farm is to continue maintaining his hay and cash crop land. His son is interested in purchasing the farm and working into his own operation. When asked why he enrolled the two parcels of land into the program, Jim said, "I believed it was a good program. The payments were good and the land was marginal. I want to give the wildlife a place too. It may not fit for everything [every situation], but it was a fit for these acres and where I'm at with my operation."

*Right, Lynette, Jim,
and SWCD Supervisor,
Dale Katterhagen at
the local SWCD Annual
Awards Banquet
held in Staples, MN in
October of 2021*

Article Written by:

*Luke Thoma, SWCD
Farm Biologist/NRCS*



Partner Highlights, Continued



Soil & Water Conservation Districts in Region 5
EXCEPTIONAL REGIONAL PARTNER
bwsr.state.mn.us/soil-water-conservation-districts



Motley Cemetery MPCA Award: Greg Frisk, Motley Cemetery; Kathy Marshik & Pete Berscheit, Veterans Admin.; Ross Reiffenberger WCTSA P.E., Sourcewell, Mid-Minn Excavating, & Todd SWCD



Partner Highlights, Continued

Partnering in Education—SWCD Farm-Fest!



Partner: Clarissa Pro-Ag, Agronomy

Partner: Todd County 4-H



Partner: MN Dept. of AG



Partner: UMN Extension



Partner: MN Draft Horse Assoc.

From teaching youth, above, to teaching each other, below, Todd SWCD is on top of the latest science, technology, & local conservation. Each November, the Annual SWCD Work Session is held. Supervisors work alongside technicians to learn, evaluate yearly progress, & set the following year's Plan of Action. We take pride in sourcing local partners for meetings & education!!

Partner : Stone Hill Farm, Kalie and Jeremiah Korfe, Eagle Bend



Meal by Granny's , Eagle Bend



Partner: Don McIntire, Hewitt



Partner: Venis' Menagerie Greens, Eagle Bend





Todd SWCD Plan of Action

2021 Objective: Improving & Protecting Water Quality Through Soil Health

Scope of Duties

Targeted Initiative #:

– Maintain Partnerships in Water Quality Protection for Surface/Groundwater (Goal 1-4)

How will the objective be achieved throughout 2021? (Goals)

(Assigned to.....?)

- 1. Grow our partnerships through the implementation of the Redeye, Sauk, and the development of the Long Prairie One Watershed, One Plans (1W1P) with emphasis on soil health goals (*Division Director, Water Planner, Coordinator, Technical Staff and SWCD Policy Committee*)
- 2. Play a leadership role in the development of the Partners for Fish & Wildlife wetland soil & habitat restoration project(s) with landowners, US Fish & Wildlife, and the Conservation Reserve Program. (*Riparian Technician, Wetland Specialist, Farm Bill Biologist*).
- 3. Participate with partners in the RCPP Irrigation Grant, when awarded, through dedicated in-kind outreach and on-site landowner assistance in sensitive soil areas. (*Technical Staff*)
- 4. Partner with lake associations and other riparian landowners in trials of the EARTH Program and design plans to prevent soil erosion, limit hydrology changes, and reduce excess nutrient loading to surface waters. (*Technical Staff*)
- 1. Maintain sound management of technical workload components to maximize efficiency in natural resource protection as measured through grant reporting and by project growth tracked within the GIS Project Layer. (*Management and Coordinator*)
- 2. Work with the Soil Health Coalition and farmers in SW Todd and Eastern Douglas County who request cost-share and agronomic support to install cover crops using CWF Grow As You Know Grant funding. Lay the foundation for Phase 2 of the grant with a nutrient management component. (*Manager, Farm Conservation Technical Staff & Nutrient Management Planner*)
- 3. Partner with landowners in Todd and Eastern Douglas counties who want or are required to close manure pits or upgrade their livestock or manure storage facilities, particularly in the Partridge River, Red Eye and Lake Osakis Watershed regions using available cost-share dollars. (*Farm Conservation Technical Staff*)
- 1. Work with SWCDs in developing Land Scenarios that visualize common sense opportunities for improved soils management and resource utilization across all landowner acreage (*Tech. Staff*)
- 2. Revamp the project prioritization sheet to assign higher scores to practices that improve or promote soil health and/or better management of excess nutrients on the landscape. (*Management*)
- 3. Engage in nutrient management discussions with landowners, farmers and shoreland property owners alike, who intend to utilize cost-share funds for practices. (*Nutrient Management Planner*)
- 4. Obtain training and job approval authority (JAA) with a focus in Soil Health, Cover Crops, and Critical Area Planting and in other pertinent practices. (*Technical Staff*)
- 1. Partner with the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape RCPP Phase II Grant boundary to maintain sustainable forests and soils in the area. (*Riparian and Farm Conservation Technical Staff*)

Protect Surface Waters Through Cost-shared Practices (Goal 1-3)

- Protect Land Productivity with Effective Soil & Nutrient Mgt. (Goal 1-4)

- Support Landowners Interested in Forest Stewardship (Goal 1)

For reference, remember this article from our January 2021 publication?

A group of related Major Watersheds merging to the same region of the country or state is often referred to as a basin. Similar to the nesting or stacking toys from Russia called Matryoshka dolls, a sub-watershed fits inside a major watershed which fits inside a basin. As you might imagine, hydrologists who study water and water patterns in depth, have a classification system breaking land areas into even smaller units called **HUCs**- an acronym that stands for Hydrologic Unit Code.



So what watershed are you? WHAT 1W1P FUNDING IS AVAILABLE IN YOUR AREA?

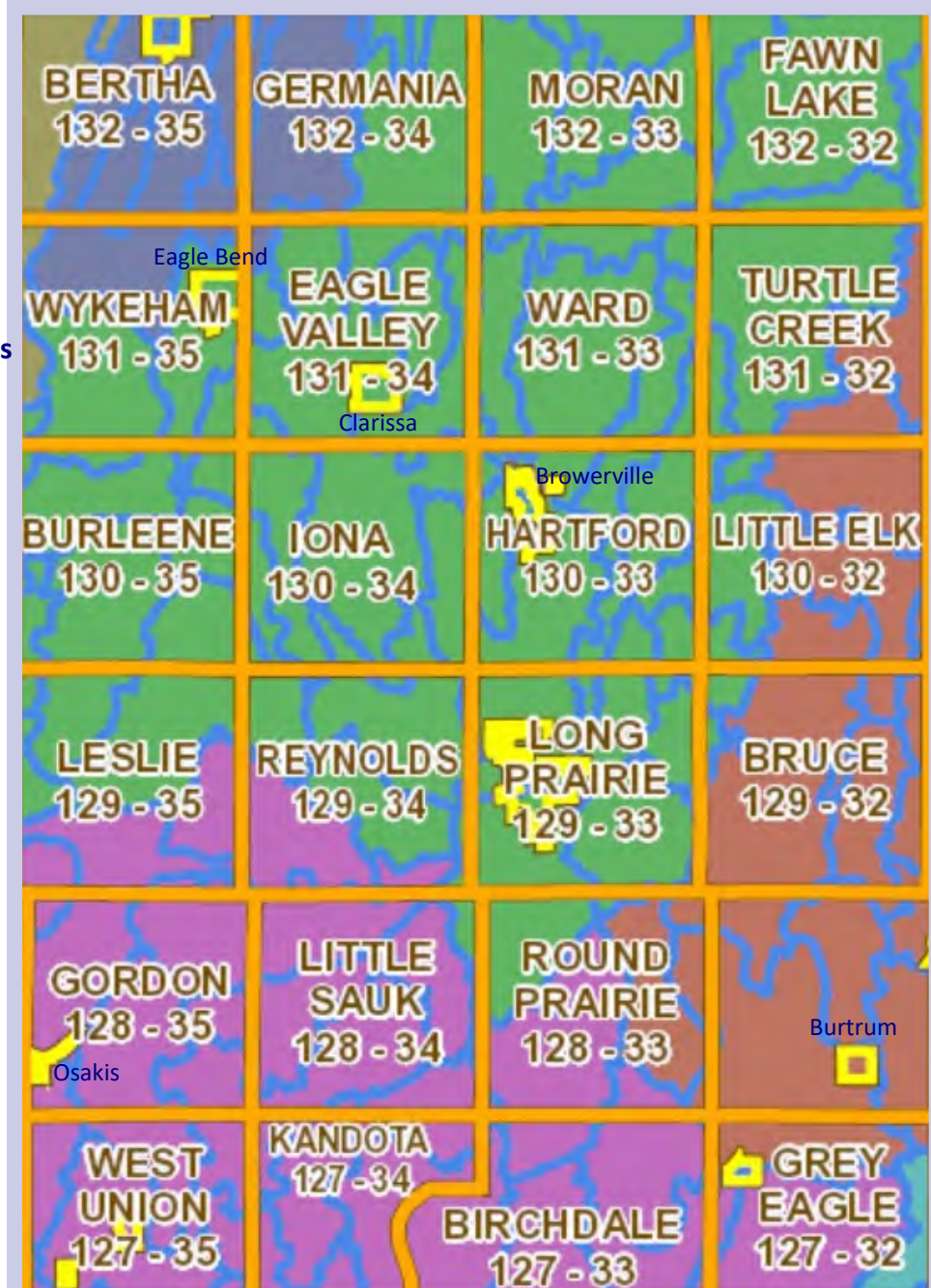
See next page>

Can you pinpoint your home watershed on the map? The blue boundaries show the smaller HUCs.

Todd County Major* Watersheds

	Red Eye
	Long Prairie
	Crow Wing
	Sauk
	Brainerd - Mississippi

*The Mississippi River-Sartell Watershed just sneaks over the border into Todd County in SE Grey Eagle. Members are working towards developing that plan as well with the support of Todd County and Todd SWCD. For the purpose of this newsletter, it is considered a lesser watershed due to its area within Todd County. Land-owner opportunities will be added to our future newsletters as they develop.



– Maintain Partnerships in
Water Quality Protection for
Surface/Groundwater
(Goal 1-4)

Goal #1: How'd Todd SWCD & Partners do on One Watershed, One Plans (1W1P)?



Watershed Name (and geographic partners):	Was the partnership goal met?	What are we currently working on?	Is funding available to owners in 2022?
<u>Long Prairie River</u> Todd, Douglas, Morrison, Wadena, & Otter Tail counties		We are currently working with the Technical Committee to prioritize projects based on scientific data of need. The Long Prairie River has good water quality and projects moving forward for funding need to be ones that will keep it that way. We will be meeting with the Citizen Committee In February of 2022. (See accomplishment report on the next page)	~\$ 714,000 will be provided every two years, in priority areas, for landowner cost-share and capital improvements involving water quality, SWCD technical assistance, & related administration, in that order, possibly as early as the last quarter of 2022, and definitely in 2023.
<u>Sauk River</u> Todd, Stearns, Douglas, Pope & Meeker counties		Partners are currently working on the implementation list of projects and the priority areas we will be working in the Sauk River watershed for 2023 and 2024.	~ \$832,550 will be provided every two years, in priority areas, for landowner cost-share and capital improvements involving water quality, SWCD technical assistance, & related administration possibly as early as the last quarter of 2022, and definitely in 2023.
<u>Mississippi River- (Brainerd)</u> Todd, Morrison, Aitkin, Cass, & Crow Wing counties		The Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR) awarded partners a planning grant for this watershed in late summer of 2021. The partners have signed into Agreement to begin work. Planning will begin for this region in 2022 starting with a Public Informational Kick-off!	To be determined... no plan as of yet
<u>Crow Wing River</u> <u>PARTRIDGE RIVER</u>	N/A	Partners have agreed to wait until 2022 or 2023 to apply for the planning grant for this region .	Todd SWCD currently has ~\$225,030 in cost-share grant dollars available to landowners for ag waste, feedlot improvements, pit closures, livestock fencing, stream crossings, etc. until 2023. Contact Todd SWCD at 320-732-2644 right away.
<u>Red Eye River</u> Todd, Wadena, Becker & Otter Tail counties		Partners are in the Implementation phase of this grant and cost-share dollars are available. Todd SWCD has one feedlot project in development in this watershed.	There is ~ \$16,965 available to Todd County landowners for cover crops, fencing, pasture systems, and other non structural and groundwater related projects. Please call our office today at 320-732-2644 today.

2021 Featured Project:

PARTNERS FOR PROTECTION

WETLAND HABITAT RESTORATION

FOR LAKE LATIMER (GOAL #2)



An early 2020 visit with Todd SWCD District Manager, Deja Anton, from landowner, **Dave Tomsche**, revitalized a wetland restoration concept that **US Fish and Wildlife (USFW)**, **John Riens** had been kicking around for several years. The concept goal was to restore the partially drained wetlands northeast of Latimer Lake back to their native condition. This would benefit the lake by filtering out excess nutrients before they reach Latimer Lake. Tomsche's goal was to provide habitat for waterfowl, deer, pheasants, and other native animal and plant species while protecting the lake. Todd SWCD Technical staff, Lew Noska and Anton, were appreciative of the project's ability to increase water storage capacity during high precipitation and snowmelt events, remembering record breaking rainfalls in 2019. Luke Thoma, Farm Biologist specializing in RIM and CREP easements, recognized many benefits to the environment when previously cropped acres gain perennial cover and create more native habitats.



Red circle: Location of wetlands west of HWY 287 in relation to Latimer Lake. **Yellow line** indicates the drainage flow in place for many decades prior to the project.

In May of 2021, Tomsche, USFW, and Todd SWCD went into Agreement to accomplish project objectives by year end 2022. An excerpt of the Agreement, includes the following:

Description of Habitat Improvement Project:

This project will restore approximately 45 acres of wetland habitat across 5 basins and 64 acres of surrounding prairie located on private land in Todd County, Minnesota. The project will provide wetland habitat for "Federal Trust" resources and native fauna (animals). The project will contribute towards the restoration goals of Minnesota's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy Action Plan and Todd County's Comprehensive Water management Plan. Additionally, this project will provide improved water quality, floodwater retention, groundwater recharge, carbon sequestration, and other biological services important to the public and USFW's mission. This is a collaborative project between the landowner, Todd County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), Pheasants Forever (PF), and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).



Objectives:

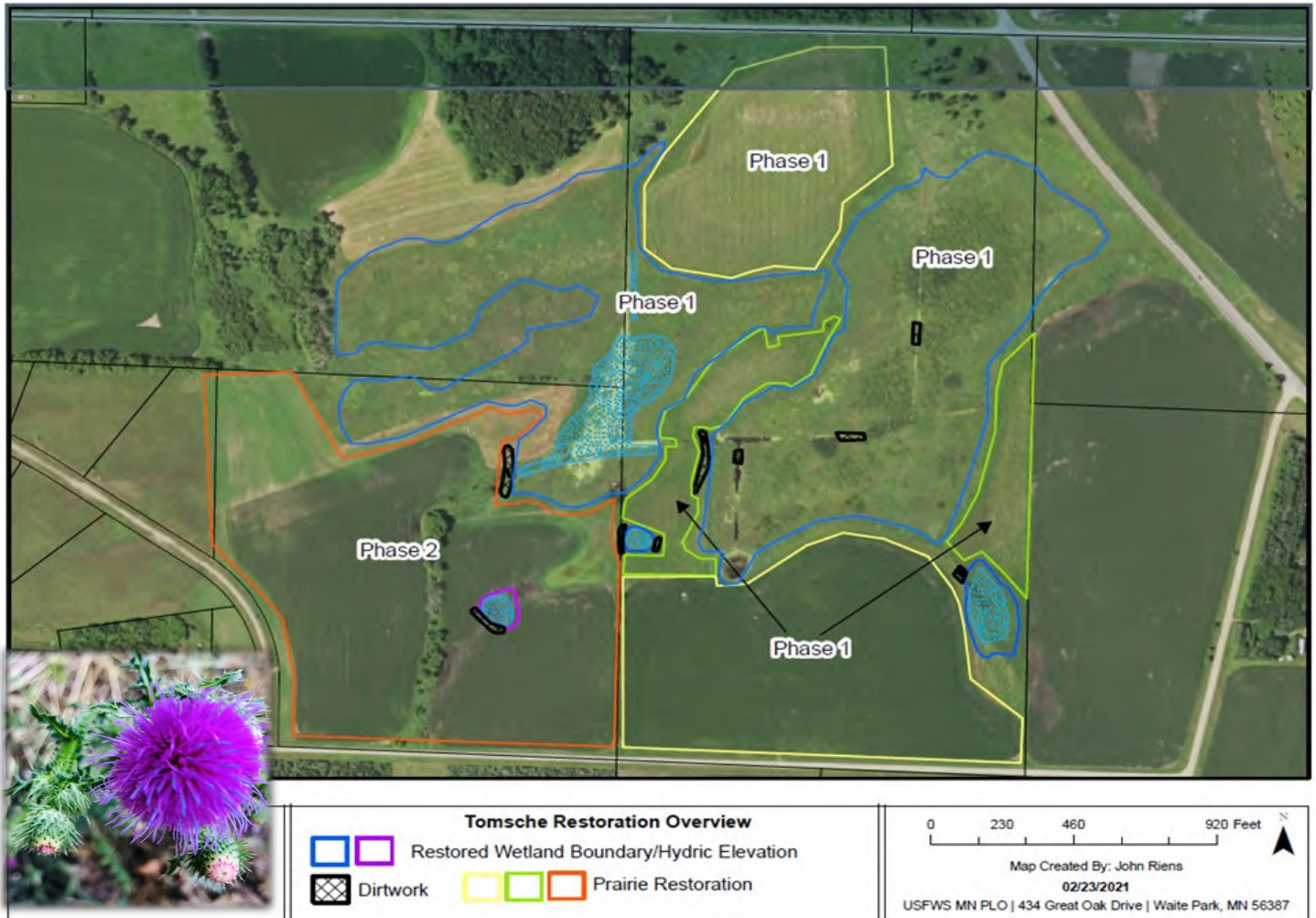
- Utilize SWCD and USFW funds to install ten earthen ditch plugs/berms to back up and slow water as designated on Overview Map;
- To remove all non-original, non-native plant species and soils to restore the original wetland function; (When wetlands are altered through drainage, the environment is changed from very hydric (wet) to less hydric which results in different plants eventually taking over. With that, of course, comes a change in the animal life that feeds off of these plants, thus impacting the food chain and habitat niche. The goal is to restore the function of the wetlands by encouraging original soil biology and native plants and organisms to thrive in exchange.
- Utilize NRCS CRP Program and the local PF Chapter to fund the install of mesic (wet) prairie plants.
- Utilize SWCD funds to establish wet buffer plants around restored wetland habitats; and
- Manage wetlands and uplands appropriately following completion of project into the future.



– Maintain Partnerships in
Water Quality Protection for
Surface/Groundwater
(Goal 1-4)

WILLING PARTNERS PROTECT WETLAND HABITAT & LAKE LATIMER, CONTINUED— US FISH & WILDLIFE Goal #2: How'd We Do?

Potentially impacted, adjacent landowners were contacted ahead by John Riens to obtain permissions for the project to move forward. Support was received. In August and September of 2021, contractor Scott Marcyes, was able to enter the property to scrape and remove the vegetation that had taken over. Ditch plugs and berms were installed to slow down the water flow. A precise native wetland seeding mix was sown. In 2022, the upland buffer seeding will occur.



In 2021, the first three objectives, as outlined on the map above, were completed.



John Riens, USFW & Marcyes
Excavating discuss project details.



Rock ditch plug to retain water

– Maintain Partnerships in
Water Quality Protection for
Surface/Groundwater

(Goal 1-4)

WILLING PARTNERS PROTECT WETLAND HABITAT

&

LAKE LATIMER, CONTINUED— US FISH & WILDLIFE

Goal #2: How'd We Do?



No Words Needed





The Groundwater and Agriculture Report that was done by the East Otter Tail SWCD and the Freshwater Society found that agricultural producers are more willing to adopt practices that address groundwater issues if education and financial assistance are available.

www.eotswcd.org/grant-reports

So this happened:

A grant has been awarded that focuses on conservation irrigation practices utilizing a flexible, tiered approach where irrigators can participate at the level that is relevant for their operation and attitude towards technology adoption and risk. Which tier do you fit into?

Tier One: Willingness to implement the relatively inexpensive practice of installing advanced soil moisture sensors in irrigated fields to enhance water management through irrigation scheduling.

Tier Two: Willingness to install precision irrigation packages, including updates to panel, nozzles and variable frequency drive pumps.

Tier Three: Includes an advanced irrigation package along with the newest technology for irrigation water and nutrient management. This will include recent, proven systems using remote operation technology, crop status sensors and variable rate fertigation systems.

Project region includes the counties of Todd, Becker, Benton, Cass, Dakota, Douglas, Otter Tail, Grant, Hubbard, , Kandiyohi, Meeker, Morrison, Pope, Sherburne, Stearns, Stevens, Swift, Wadena, and Washington. This is a multi-million dollar grant. Contact your local SWCD for more information. Todd SWCD can be reached at **320-732-2644**. Ask for Tim.

– Maintain Partnerships in
Water Quality Protection for
Surface/Groundwater

(Goal 1-4)



How'd Todd SWCD & Partners Do in Irrigation &

PARTNERS

- Soil and Water Conservation Districts (20): Becker, Benton, Cass, Dakota, Douglas, East Otter Tail, Grant, Hubbard, Kandiyohi, Meeker, Morrison, Pope, Sherburne, Stearns, Stevens, Swift, Todd, Wadena, Washington and West Otter Tail.
- Central Lakes College Ag and Energy Center,
- AgCentric, Northern Center of Agricultural Excellence,
- Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe,
- Irrigators Association of Minnesota,
- Central Minnesota Irrigators,
- Todd-Wadena Electric Coop,
- Reinke Manufacturing,
- RD Offutt Farms,
- RESPEC Consulting,
- University of Minnesota,
- Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, and
- Minnesota Department of Health.

– Maintain Partnerships in
Water Quality Protection for
Surface/Groundwater
(Goal 1-4)

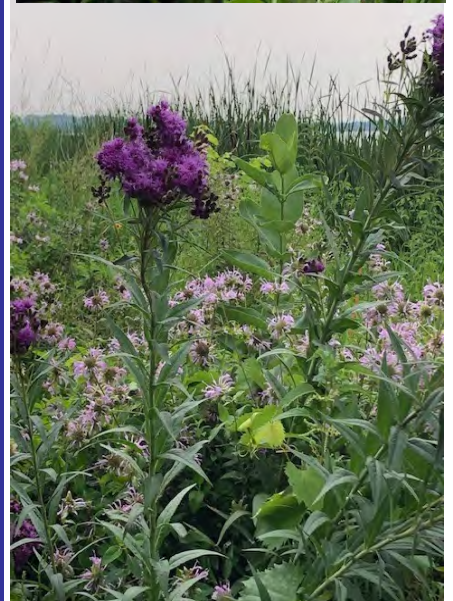
Goal #4: How'd Todd SWCD do in Shoreline and Riparian Protection?



Mid-construction native buffer



Native seed mix in buffer after growth



Native Bee Balm



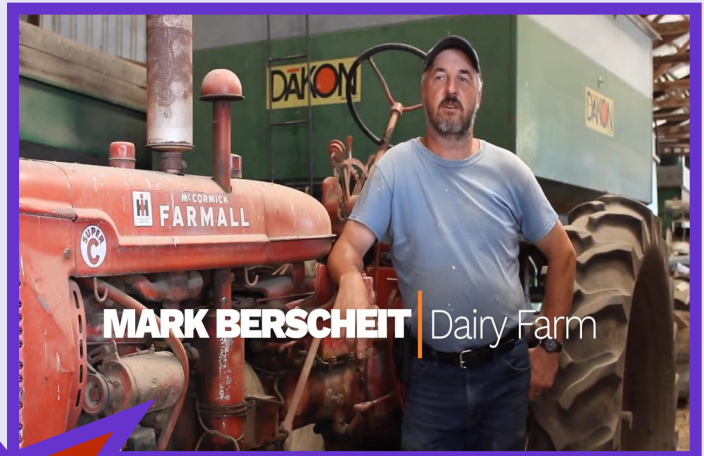
Partnerships in Riparian Protection

In 2021, Todd SWCD completed a total of:

- ◆ 5 riparian projects
(2 access control, native shoreline buffer, upland erosion diversion, 2 shoreline erosion control)
- ◆ 145 assistance calls answered.
- ◆ 5 In-office landowner meetings
- ◆ 60 shoreline site visits
- ◆ 5 Info. Sessions/Presentations
(Fairy Lake (2); Miller Bay, Lake Osakis, Lake Beauty, Wing River)

Above, **Dain Erickson, Red Canoe Cre8tive videographer**, meets with **Lee Daly** and **Chuck Macy** of Big Swan for an interview on rain gardens and other citizen conservation measures in the Mississippi River– Brainerd Watershed. This day culminated in a wonderful story told by stunning videography of the people, surface waters, and land within this watershed. **John Kunsleben** and **Lois Theilen** and **Mark Berscheit**, Todd County dairy farmers, also contributed to this video describing their efforts and collaboration with Big Swan Lake Association, NRCS, and Todd SWCD to protect the watershed. This video was sponsored by the Minnesota Pollution Control Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy outreach funds. The video will be available in near future. [See pictures on following page.](#)





Above, Todd County landowners featured in a soon to be released video on the Mississippi– Brainerd watershed.

Meet the NEW 2022 SWCD Riparian Conservationist for Todd County!!!



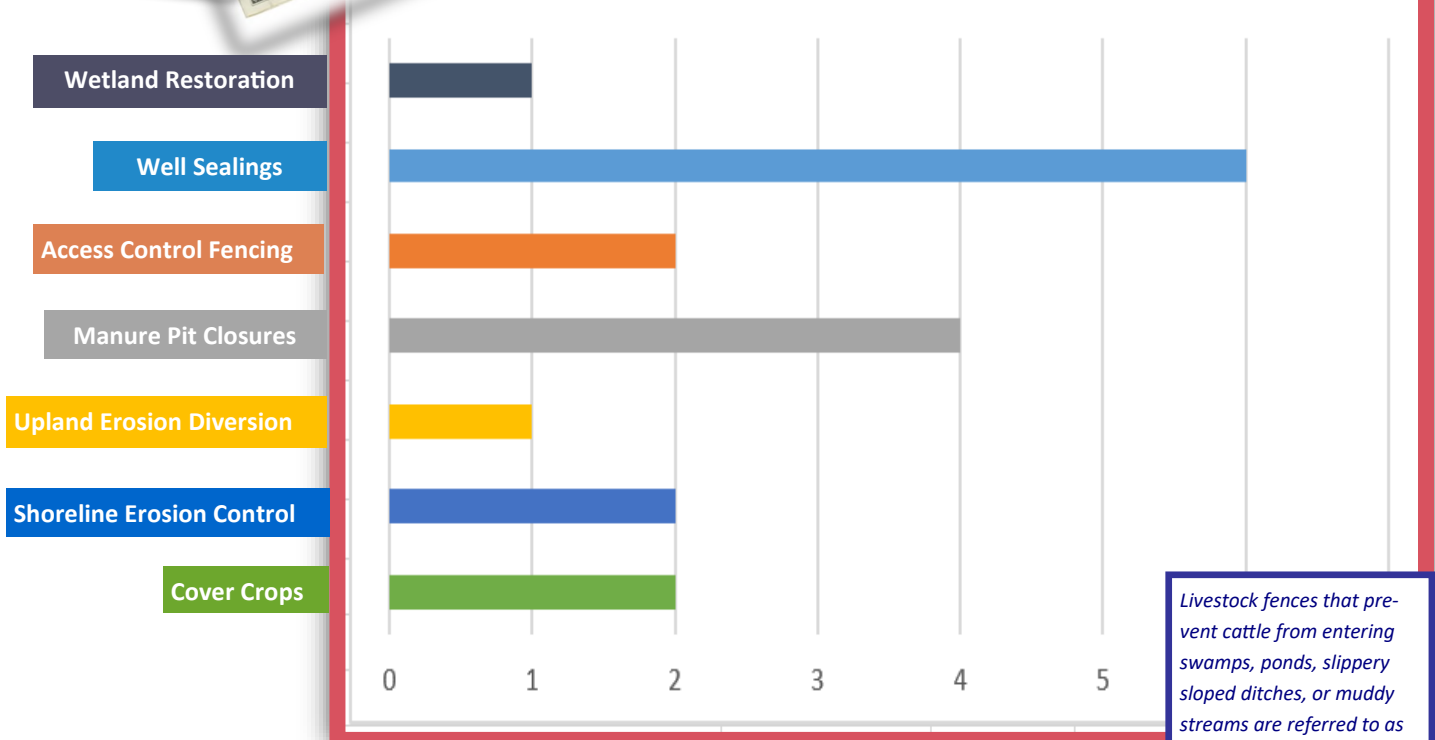
Hello Todd County citizens! My name is Josh Votruba and I soon will be the newest staff member at the Todd County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)! A little background on myself, I grew up in Bemidji Minnesota and my family and I moved to Brainerd Minnesota in 2007, where I attended Brainerd High School. Upon finishing high school, I went to college at Bemidji State University where I graduated with a bachelor's degree in biology and aquatic biology (double major). My education included interning at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in Brainerd for 2 summers where I served on a crew conducting biological monitoring throughout the northern half of the state. In addition, upon college graduation, I had the rewarding experience of working with the Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa where I participated in the implementation of numerous conservation and community service projects in Minnesota and beyond. For the past 3.5 years I have worked and gained valuable experience at the Kanabec and Cottonwood SWCDs. My favorite hobbies include fishing, biking, hiking, and playing disc golf. For my new position with the Todd County SWCD I greatly look forward to working with the Todd SWCD staff and the landowners of Todd County with natural resource conservation efforts.

Protect Surface Waters
Through Cost-share
Practices (Goal 1-3)

Goal #1: How'd Todd SWCD do in
Cost-share? Here's the Data:



2021 Todd SWCD Cost-Shared Projects by Type



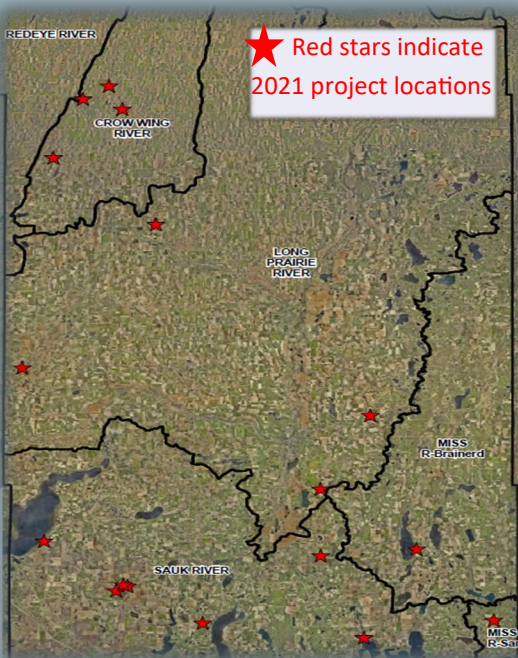
Livestock fences that prevent cattle from entering swamps, ponds, slippery sloped ditches, or muddy streams are referred to as access controls. While preventing erosion in surface waters, they also prevent livestock losses caused by broken legs from hummocks, drownings by ice cracking or mired cattle. Farmers can match the style of fencing to the many options offered through our program standards. This is a pipe corner brace with high tensile wire.



Number of Projects

A total of **\$115,013.45** in cost-share was paid out this year on 18 projects with other projects having encumbered cost-share that were yet to be completed by year end 2021. These dollars come from state grants which include the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Clean Water funds, MPCA 319 dollars, state cost share dollars, and County Riparian dollars awarded by the state. Projects are cost-shared at 50-75% of the cost to landowners. Structural projects took a downturn this year due to high material prices. Cost-share is one way to install good conservation practices on the ground while bringing income to local contractors and suppliers. The fence on the right was built by Minnesota Pro-Fence based out of Browerville.

★ Red stars indicate
2021 project locations



How does Cost-Share Work? A Step by Step Cost-Share Guide for Landowners:

- 1) The SWCD will provide you bid packets once you have agreed upon the plan. The packet includes an aerial photo of the project site, a cost estimate, in-kind landowner template (where the landowner tracks his/her labor & inputs), contractor invoice template, the SWCD practice standards & engineer specs, any operation & maintenance agreements if needed), Gopher One information, storm water controls, permitting information, if necessary, and a contractor list.

Upon Receipt of the bid packets, it is advised that you start seeking contractors for bids.

- 2) The SWCD requires a minimum of two bids for every contract request. Once you have the bids in hand, please call our office for a contract application.
- 3) Submit the contract application by the first of the month. The SWCD Board meets the second Thursday of every month to consider contract applications.

- 4) The SWCD will notify you in writing if your application was approved following application approval.

It is now a good time to seek permits. Permits may be needed from one and/or other of the following:

- ◆ Todd County Planning and Zoning, if building a structure, or altering shoreland topography or vegetation (320-732-4325),
- ◆ Todd County Feedlot Program, if work pertains to a livestock related project (320-732-2644)
- ◆ Department of natural Resources (DNR), if working in public waters (320-232-1078),
- ◆ Todd County/DNR, if work is associated with or impacts wetlands (320-732-2644),
- ◆ Sauk River Watershed District, if project is in the Sauk River Watershed (320-352-2231),
- ◆ Bruce, Stowe Prairie, Bertha, or West Union Townships if the project site is in these Twps.
- ◆ City of residence, if the property is located within City Limits.

- 5) Upon receiving an approval letter from the SWCD, the landowner must arrange a meeting between the SWCD, the contractor, and the landowner at the project site BEFORE the project begins. This is usually done by first finding out which dates work for your contractor, and then calling the SWCD to confirm those dates. The design plan and Operation & Maintenance plan, if needed, are signed at the pre-construction meeting. **Contractor must provide the Gopher One Ticket Number.**
- 6) **Work begins.** Landowner must keep receipts and material delivery/seed tags. Project is subject to intermittent inspection by the SWCD.
- 7) Project is completed by contractor and certified as complete by the SWCD or engineer. Landowner submits all invoices and material and/or seed tags to the SWCD.
- 8) SWCD creates and reviews the final voucher with the landowner and gets SWCD administrative sign off. Landowner then signs the Voucher. The signed voucher and Pay-out is presented to Board.
- 9) The SWCD sends the payment check to the landowner at the voucher amount agreed upon the week following the SWCD Board meeting. Landowner is responsible for paying contractor.

Protect Surface Waters
Through Cost-share
Practices (Goal
1-3)



Goal #2: How'd Todd SWCD do in partnering with the MN Soil Health Coalition & area farmers to get cover crops on the ground?

GROW AS You Know Cover Crop Grant off to a Good Start! Don't Miss Out! Sign Up Now!



In Early 2021, Todd SWCD was awarded a grant to assist Todd and Douglas County farmers located in the Sauk River Watershed in trying out cover crops on their fields. While this grant was designed to assist farmers in planting covers after a cereal grain harvest, it is not strictly limited to that option. Any new trial of cover crops is cost-shareable through this super simple grant that literally covers 75% of farmer costs related to cover crops. It's the simplest grant we could design. We were told too many hoops along with the angst of trying something new can deter farmers from trying covers. Farmers spoke, we listened.

To date, Todd SWCD technicians have worked with five farmers. Already, three have installed cover crops with absolute success, even in a drought year! Round Prairie farmer, Jeff Koehn, was so pleased by his cover crop, he invited SWCD to host a "Look/See Event" on his farm this past fall. (Pics on following page.) Koehn plans to install covers in 2022 as well.

Right-Koehn Farm— 2021 Cover Crop after silage in Todd County MN can provide forage for cattle while improving soil health.

Osakis Creamery hosted a planning meeting in February of 2021 with Todd SWCD to discuss the best ways to assist local farmers with their cover crop planning. Farmers can contact Osakis Creamery Agronomy Department for free assistance or Tim Ebnet and Dylan Pratt at Todd SWCD, 320-732-2644, for planning help or to simply ask questions. At Douglas SWCD, Andy Rice, can also be contacted at 320-763-3191.

Mark Gutierrez from the MN Soil Health Coalition did much of the work organizing the event on Jeff Koehn's Farm. Grant Breitreutz, third generation Redwood Falls farmer, presented on the "Do's and Don'ts" of successful cover crop management on his cow/calf and 3 crop rotation farm. Osakis Creamery Agronomists, Emily Middendorf and RJ Dykema along with reps from Agassiz Seed also presented. More events will be scheduled for the summer of 2022. Watch for the invite!



Protect Surface Waters
Through Cost-shared
Practices (Goal 1-3)

Goal #2: How'd Todd SWCD do in partnering
with the MN Soil Health Coalition & area
farmers to get cover crops on the ground?

2021 Cover Crops in Todd County



New Farm Conservationist Joins Todd SWCD in 2021!



Hello, my name is Dylan Pratt and I was new to Todd SWCD starting on April 26th, 2021 as a Farm Conservation Technician. I grew up on a farm a few miles north of Clarissa where my family raised beef cattle, sheep, hogs and horses. Growing up on a farm, I learned at a young age the

important values of hard work, honesty, and determination. I believe that learning these lessons at a young age have helped me to get where I am today. I graduated from Eagle Valley High School in 2011.

From there, I was off to college, first at MSCTC in Fergus Falls and later transferring to the University of Minnesota-Crookston where I earned a Bachelor's Degree in Animal Science. After college, I spent a year working on a ranch in North Dakota and then moved back home to be closer to family and friends.

Today, I live on a 20 acre farm 5 miles south of Eagle Bend. My girlfriend and I have big plans for this property including converting the dairy barn into a horse barn. We hope that with a little hard work, this will be the home we've always dreamed about. Between the two of us, we have 9 horses and 4 dogs. In my spare time I enjoy hunting, fishing, horseback riding, traveling to new places and any other outdoor activity. I'm excited about the opportunity to work for the people of Todd County as it has been my home for a very long time. I look forward to being a productive member of Todd SWCD.



2021 Farm and Feedlot Program Statistics

334 Feedlot Registrations

2 Interim Permits

199 Site Visits

8 In-Office Meetings with Individual Producers

293 Feedlot Related Questions

4 Pit Closures

6 Air Quality Exemptions

5 Complaint Responses

7 Return to Compliance/Upgrades

3 Assists with the Livestock Investment Grant

In early fall 2021, Farm Conservationist, Kevin Brown, took a new job. Todd SWCD salutes Kevin for his time serving Todd County. Above statistics do not capture his contributions to the program.



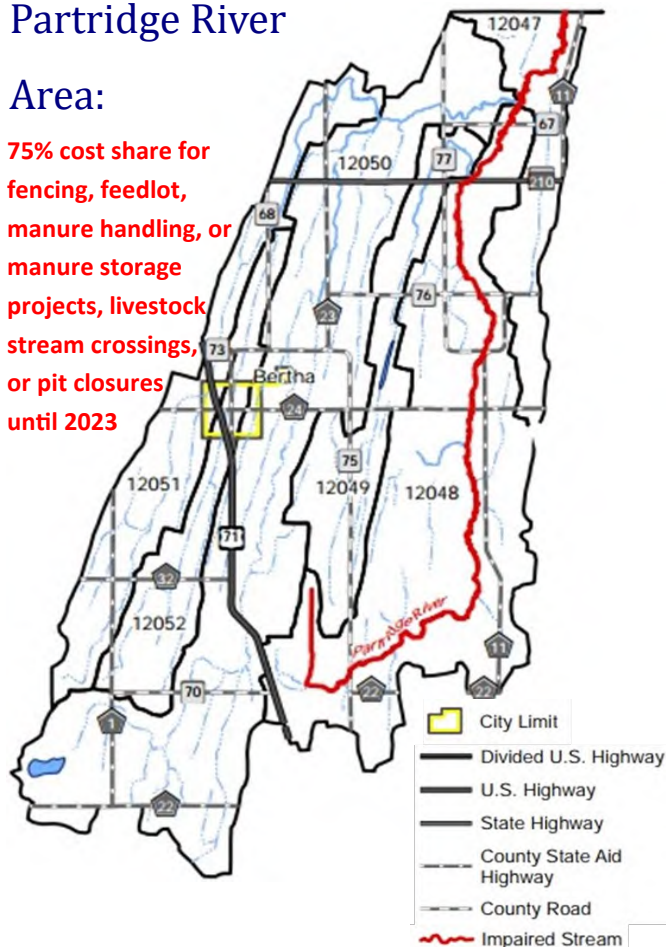
Protect Surface Waters
Through Cost-shared
Practices (Goal 1-3)

Goal #3: How'd Todd SWCD do in assisting farmers with manure pit closures in 2021?

Partridge River

Area:

75% cost share for fencing, feedlot, manure handling, or manure storage projects, livestock stream crossings, or pit closures until 2023



Todd County landowners have closed 4 manure pits in 2021, having another 3 who have started the process in 2021, and many more requests coming in monthly. Todd SWCD wants to give a “shout out” to landowner, **Linn Smith**, and contractors **Nick Harren** and **Korblick Excavation** for actively engaging landowners in discussions on the importance of pit closure: physical safety, resale values, and drinking and groundwater protection. A question they heard often was, *“Ain’t it cheaper to just push the pit in myself?”*

The **ANSWER**: *“Nope! Think; what’s it take to close a pit? Remove the manure and push it in, right? That is all SWCD asks you to do, but they offer guidance & to pay 75% of the costs whether you do it yourself or hire me! You put 2 + 2 together.”*

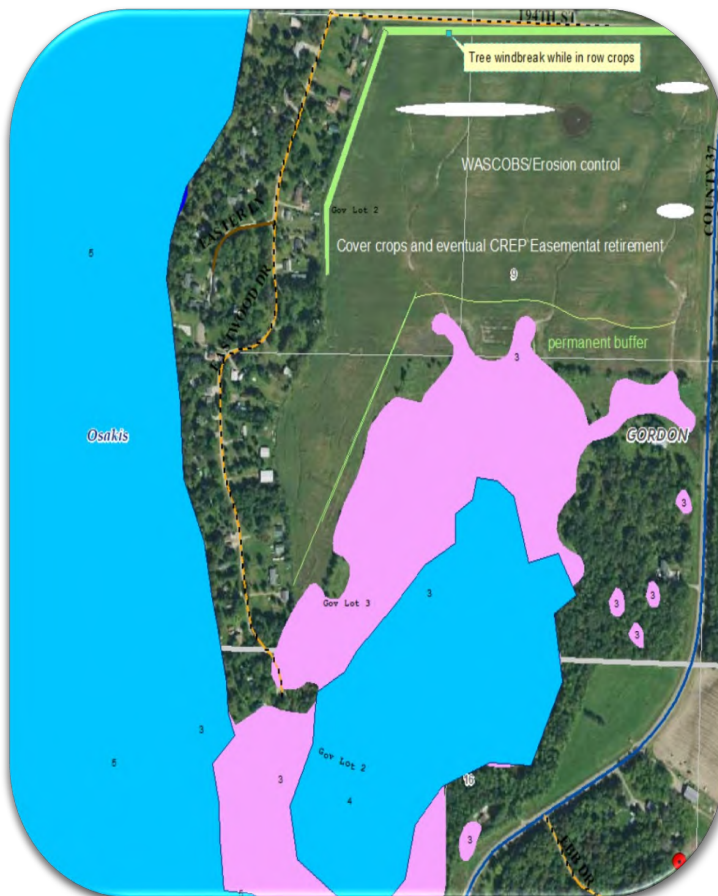
Folks, you can get assistance to go through the process of cost-share to close your pit. Your options range from a complete closure, to creating a pond under the right conditions, or perhaps you want to get a soil boring to see if you can recertify it. All of these are covered by 75% cost-share to landowners in the following areas: the Partridge River Area, the Red Eye Watershed, or near Lake Osakis in Todd or Douglas Counties. Call [today. 320-732-2644](tel:320-732-2644). **Cost-share offers do expire over time. The Partridge River offer expires in 2023!**



- Protect Land Productivity with Effective Soil & Nutrient Mgt. (Goal 1-4)

Goal #1: How'd Todd SWCD do in partnering with SWCDs to create Land Scenarios with common sense conservation options to help landowners plan for the future?

To help interested landowners understand land use conservation options, Todd SWCD partnered with Stearns SWCD and others to imagine possible “Land Use Scenarios”, on actual land parcels within our perspective counties. Five Todd County landowners gave permission to Todd SWCD technicians to access aerial photographs of their properties to be used as examples. Keep in mind, while the land is real, the scenarios are simply *examples* of practices that *could* be installed. The land image below was offered up by Todd SWCD Board Supervisor, Tom Williamson. Tom has already installed permanent buffers and erosion control practices on this property, thus protecting the wetland and adjacent Lake Osakis from excess nutrients and sediment. Tom is also Ag Water Quality Certified. Thank you Tom for your dedication to conservation education.



CONSERVATION OPTIONS:

- ◆ Tree windbreak while in row crops
- ◆ WASCOBS/erosion control basins
- ◆ Cover crops and eventual CREP easement
- ◆ Permanent vegetation strip (buffer)

Tom row crops corn and soybeans. A few years ago, he noticed field erosion to the local wetland area. A permanent vegetation strip along the wetland was installed to trap silt and sediment between the agricultural fields and waterways. As runoff drains into the strip after rain or in spring snow melt, the living roots of the perennial vegetation absorb water and nutrients as well.

The topography around the acreage creates some challenges as Lake Osakis is nearby with residential homes adjacent. Once the crops are removed from the fields, the soil is sometimes unprotected for several months in the fall and spring, leaving the soil susceptible to wind erosion. A winter hardy cover crop can help armor the soil from wind and rain events. A tree windbreak on the outer edges of the row crop field could reduce wind speed and provide wildlife habitat. Tom chose to install water and sediment control basins in the fields to assist with reducing erosion.

Another example of land conservation is that Tom could opt to preserve this property for wildlife. To accomplish this goal, he could enroll the property into an easement program called CREP. This easement could keep the land in perennial vegetation to benefit wildlife and prevent development.



- Protect Land Productivity
with Effective Soil & Nutrient
Mgt. (Goals 1-4)

Goal #2: How'd we do in Project Prioritization for Cost-Share?



How Todd SWCD Prioritized Landowner Project Applications for Funding

Ranking Category	What this Means:
Landowner Motivation	The more passionate a landowner is to install a project, the higher the points (up to 15 points)
Water Quality Benefits	Highest points are scored to projects that protect drinking water, groundwater or surface water from excess nutrients and to those projects that promote soil health (up to 55 points)
Proximity to Surface Waters	Those within 300 feet of a Public Water such as lake or river get the most points (up to 15 points)
Groundwater Impacts	Those projects located on sensitive soils, those that incorporate irrigation technologies with an intent to protect water quality, and those located in a Drinking Water Supply Management Area or a township with wells showing some high nitrates receive the highest points (up to 15 points)
Soil Health components & Excess Nutrient Reductions	Up to 40 points are assigned to nutrient management projects, Ag Water Quality certification projects, permanent vegetation cover on land that was previously disturbed, (i.e. native shoreland buffer that was previously lawn or forage and biomass on a previously cropped field), or easements to name a few.
1W1P Funding Priority	Up to 20 additional points are awarded dependent upon whether or not the project
Planning Stage	Highest points go to projects with a completed plans and designs (15 points)

Projects that rank over a 100 points typically get funded when cost-share dollars are available.

Partner Report

• 19 EQIP Contracts

Projects: 1 irrigation sprinkler conversion, 8 Honey Bee Habitats, 2 High Tunnel, 2 Grazing, 1 Ag Waste, 1 Windbreak, 1 Forestry

- 534 Cover Crop Acres
- 343 Acres Grazing Incentives
- 141 Acres Of Irrigation Sprinkler Conversion
- 330 Acres Conservation Crop Rotation/HEL Plans
- No Till 501 acres
- 3 Acres Brush Management
- 3 new Conservation Steward (CSP) and 2 renewed CSP Contracts
- 57 Conservation Reserve (CRP) contracts covering 953 Acres



Accomplishments



2021 Data is
unofficial and has
not been reviewed
by State NRCS

- Protect Land Productivity with Effective Soil & Nutrient Mgt. (Goals 1-4)

Goal #3: How'd we do in engaging landowners in Nutrient Management?



2021 Nutrient Management Report:

25 Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans in progress – 6 completed in full.

1 Manure Management Plan

17 Site Visits

3 Newspaper articles

6 manure spreader calibrations

1 Manure application setback map

2 Annual Nutrient Management Plans

2021 EQIP Update from Tim Ebnet

Three projects were funded this year. All were open lots and two of them were in close proximity to rivers. The fix to these sites were to construct a roofed structure with solid manure storage. The roofed structure with concrete walls will exclude all clean water from entering the building and mixing with manure. The manure storage part of the project will allow for manure to be stored in the summer and winter months resulting in application to be spread closer to crop uptake to help reduce any runoff or leaching concerns.

Goal #4: How'd our technicians do in training for new Job Approval Authority (expertise) for conservation practices?



Congratulations to Technician Tim Ebnet. Tim Ebnet has permanently joined the Todd SWCD Farm Conservation Team now expanding his job duties to assist with Cover Crops, Feedlots, Grazing, and Farm Field Related Practices. Tim joins Dylan Pratt in the Feedlot Program and earned JAA in Cover Crops in 2021. Additional JAA earned by SWCD technicians in 2021 include Exclusion Fencing, Pipeline, Heavy Use Protection & Tree Windbreaks. Tim also serves as our Regional Nutrient Management Specialist.

Support Landowners Interested in Forest Stewardship (Goal 1)



Todd SWCD is proud to announce that former technician Lew Noska's new role is that of Forester for the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape RCPP Phase II Grant. Lew is now based in Morrison County but can offer Todd landowners forestry assistance. While not the way we intended to support this grant, we are happy that Lew is the one in the position! Todd SWCD trains the Best of the Best! 😊

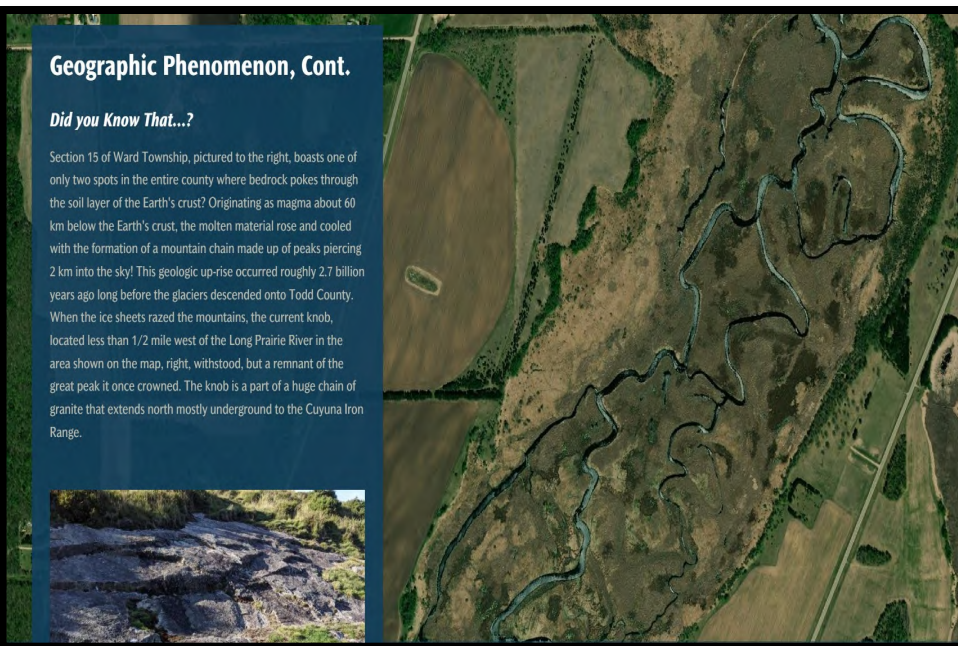
ATTENTION Area Educators:



Are you looking for local, interactive, online content for your students to explore on the history and ecological aspects of the Long Prairie River?

Google: [The Long Prairie River– ARCGIS StoryMaps](#).

Todd SWCD District Manager, Deja Anton, created several hours of interactive learning experiences through videos, imagery, true or false quizzes, and more for students and adults. Deja has a 15 year background in K-8 classroom teaching before joining the conservation world. Samples of online pages are below. Check it out. It is free and applies to Todd, Douglas, Morrison, Wadena and Otter Tail Counties. This is Deja's first ever ARCGIS StoryMAP.

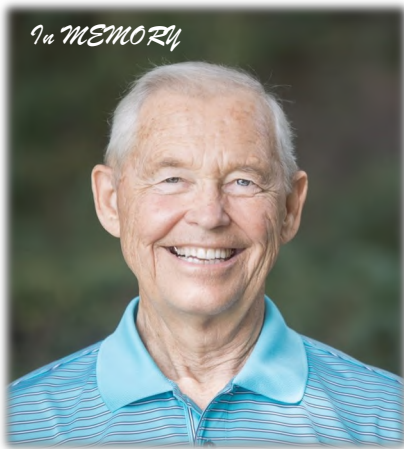


ATTENTION 4-H LEADERS and KIDS! Are you looking for a NEW & FUN Outdoor Community Service Project?

Todd SWCD is actively seeking volunteers for a three hour Aquatic Weed ID Event held in August of each year in Todd County. All materials are supplied by the University of MN. Students would be engaged in tossing rakes, as you see pictured below, at various lake landings in the County and using guide books to identify good weeds from "bad" weeds. Training is provided at the event. Transportation and supervision would be required. Please contact Deja Anton at **320-732-2644** for more information.

Example pages from SWCD Story Map. Google: [The Long Prairie River– ARCGIS StoryMaps](#).





Lynn Ersland, 1942-1921,
Big Birch Lake Association,
Board Member

It is life, I think, to watch water.
A man can learn so many things.
~Nicholas Sparks

Todd County and Big Birch Lake Association Loses Long Time Ally in the Fight Against AIS

In March of 2021, Lynn Ersland past away taking with him a wealth of knowledge, commitment, and dedicated advocacy for the lake stewardship of Big Birch Lake. We had last spoke with him at our End of Year AIS Committee Meeting via Zoom and had last seen him at our Starry Trek Event in August of 2020. Lynn was one of a handful of volunteers who checked the six lake accesses annually for signs of Starry Stonewort, an aquatic invasive that has not yet made its way into Todd County due to the diligence of Ersland and others. Lynn wrote volumes of wonderful articles about AIS control and lake stewardship for the Big Birch Lake Association newsletters. He attended several trainings at the University of Minnesota AIS Research Center. As written in the Big Birch Lake Association newsletter, *Lynn cherished the lake and made a commitment to preserve and protect the lake through his work as a member of the lake association. Lynn served on the Lake Association AIS Committee for many years and was co-chair from 2019 to early 2021. He could be found sampling plants at Hunter's Bay many times throughout the summer months. Lynn was also active in working with farmers to install vegetative strips called buffers at the edge of their fields that lie adjacent to streams or tributaries to Big Birch Lake.* Lynn was a patient and passionate advocate for water quality. Todd Soil & Water (SWCD) remains eternally grateful for his enormous contributions to the AIS effort here in the county.

Snapshots of Accomplishments...The Todd Aquatic Invasive Species 2021 Program

The Todd County AIS Program develops state and local partnerships and community cohesiveness in slowing the spread of AIS. With an aim to protect native lake biology and our citizens' rights to recreate, we reduce the likelihood of infesting our waters with invasive organisms that inhibit future use. We strive to make annual improvements to our local program in an effort to find ways to best inform, educate and engage our citizens and lake visitors in this challenging endeavor.

Category	Metrics
 AIS Prevention Aid Used	\$ <u>146,740</u> AIS Prevention Aid used in calendar year 2021 \$ <u>5,361</u> saved in a contingency fund
 People Doing AIS Work	<u>2</u> full-time administrative staff with <u>1</u> % of their time dedicated to AIS work <u>13</u> Level 1 Watercraft Inspectors <u>1</u> Level 2 Watercraft Inspectors <u>5</u> % of aid used in 2021 for staff wages <u>40</u> volunteers conducting AIS work <u>Many</u> volunteer hours served in sampling, checking boat accesses, outreach media, and partaking on the Starry Trek.
 Partnerships	Local organizations engaged and/or actively conducting aid-funded AIS work: <u>8</u> lake associations <u>1</u> angling group <u>3</u> businesses <u>2</u> local governments Our county has an AIS Task Force or Committee: Yes
 Funds Distributed, Contributed and Leveraged	\$ <u>23,213</u> in grants awarded (aid to other organizations) 5 organizations awarded grants \$ <u>24,000</u> in funds contributed by lake associations to directly support aid-funded work in the form of match dollars for AIS controls, outreach, and inspector safety and comfort. \$ <u>15,200</u> in other funds leveraged by local riparian funds for outreach ads and media, and by the DNR access control grant opportunity.
 Communities Engaged	<u>2</u> events held about AIS or that included AIS topics <u>91,402</u> AIS post engagements on Facebook as seen by <u>45,206</u> followers through the MN Traditions AIS campaign. (10,510 Followers on Twitter) \$ <u>7,700</u> spent on social media advertisements which equates to 18 cents/follower to encourage the prevention of AIS spread.
 Watercraft Inspected	\$ <u>109,532</u> spent on watercraft inspection <u>10,556</u> inspections performed <u>5539</u> hours of inspections performed <u>27</u> accesses covered by inspectors <u>24</u> water bodies covered by inspectors



Found at lake accesses in 2021

Todd County Lake Success Stories:

Making a difference through united efforts

Todd County has high community engagement in preventing the spread of AIS. Along with its vigorous inspection program, our most frequently visited lakes, led by their active lake associations, are making the biggest dent on AIS in 2021. Examples are below:

- ⇒ 2021 marks the 5th year of the **Big Birch Lake** Access Check program. Over 22 members of this lake association check five accesses (three DNR accesses and two township accesses) two times a month for unusual vegetation or organisms that may have been carried to the lake by visiting watercraft. They conduct a training every June for old and new members who carry a vested interest in preventing further invasives from entering the lake.
- ⇒ **Sauk Lake** has finally been delisted for Eurasian Milfoil for 2021. Sauk Lake is focusing efforts on reducing the invasive carp population in the lake. Typically a lake is sustainable at about 80-90 lbs. of carp per acre. However, the population of invasive carp in Sauk Lake equates to 800 to 900 lbs. per acre!!! The Sauk Lake Association now has a two year contract with WSB. WSB has fit about 200 carp with an electro-transmitting fin tag to learn where the carp tend to migrate, their rate of growth and repopulation, as well as other bio-physical patterns. This data will determine which locations on the lake and which time periods are best suited for scheduling carp removal and harvest events to effectively reduce the biomass in the lake.
- ⇒ The **Big Swan Lake** Improvement District (LID) hired LIMNO- Pro Lake Diagnostics to conduct an overall lake health assessment. A plant survey helped determine native vegetation, and the LID will be reviewing a nutrient budget for phosphorous. Nutrients can dictate survival of different organisms in the lake, including AIS. The LID will install 12 point monitor and flow gauges at various inlets and outlets around the lake beginning in 2022 to record nutrient data for improved lake management.
- ⇒ **Maple Lake** holds an annual garage sale for lake improvement projects and have raised enough funds to conduct a plant survey on their lake.
- ⇒ **Lake Osakis** successfully treated its lake for a massive infestation of Curly Pondweed and is working on a large scale grant with the DNR and the Sauk River Watershed District for the overall control of AIS vegetation.
- ⇒ The invasive Eurasian Milfoil in **Little Birch Lake** has been deemed “under control” due to successful treatments. The Lake Association was advised for the first time in many years that there was no need to spray for milfoil in 2021. Zebra mussels are also on the decline in Little Birch Lake.
- ⇒ **Lake Beauty** Association takes the lead in outreach and education creativity: they have been permitted by landowners to station AIS control and education signs on private lands around the lake, have created an annual calendar with a monthly AIS message, and are planning to publish a cookbook with AIS information and other lake information distributed throughout its pages. The lake association has abandoned its paper forms of outreach and disburses newsletters and AIS education electronically to its members with great success!
- ⇒ **Mound Lake** conducts AIS outreach for people of all ages at its annual picnic! They have analyzed the inspection data over the past years to develop the most effective inspection schedule for their lake based on a lake use survey and contractor data. Mound Lake has a volunteer five member team who rake accesses, monitor, and conduct other forms of sampling throughout the summer months on its lake accesses.



2021 Trainings attended by volunteer citizens concerned with AIS in Todd County include:

AIS Detectors Program- February 2021

North Central Region Water Network; Algal Bloom Action Team, Stop Spiny Water Flea Campaign; & Ambassador Training- both March 2021

Session on Nearshore Attached Filamentous Algal Blooms , North Central Water.org- August 2021

MAISRC Showcase – September 2021

Session on Understanding Starry Stonewort Invasions in a Changing Climate, and U of M AIS Detector Program- both November 2021

Session on Curly Leaf Pondweed Management in Lake Ida, and U of M AIS Detector Program- both December 2021



Increasing Property Values with Natives



2021 Todd SWCD

Tree Sale Results

- ◆ 19,975 Transplants Sold
- ◆ 362 potted Stock
- ◆ 13 Native Plant Kits-
(486 individual plants)

Real Estate Tip: *Does your lakeshore property need a makeover? Envious of the gorgeously landscaped properties in the magazines on your coffee table? It's time to make a change!*

What many do not consider are the "after effects" of a highly landscaped yard on spousal relationships, on the pocket book, on the clock, on water quality, and impacts to soil health that burden you and future buyers of your property. Introducing non-natives can alter and negatively impact the flora and fauna on your property over time. There is a price tag attached to each of the above.

Luckily, one value added option that combines both aesthetic beauty and simplicity in maintenance is the native landscape. Here are some benefits of placing native landscapes on your parcel of real estate from LandHUB.com:

They easily thrive in the climate they belong. They've adapted to harsh winters and the dry /wet variations in our Minnesota seasons. They have evolved mechanisms to protect themselves from local pests and disease. No year after year chemical treatments, dusting, or mulching required .

Habitat and environmental benefits: Native plants produce flowers, fruit, nuts, or seeds necessary to regenerate and act as food sources to birds, butterflies, and other small animals. They are deeper rooted, stabilize lakeside soils, and increase organic matter adding pore space for better water and nutrient storage and infiltration off up upland impervious surfaces.

Look honey, no mowing! Once native plants are established, upkeep requirements diminish. You can return to your lakeshore property after a long term absence without dismay.

Tree Seedling Survivability– by Lew Noska

As the Todd SWCD tree sale delivery and spring tree planting season approaches, there are many things to consider when striving for optimal survival rates of your seedlings.

First we need to take into consideration that these seedlings have been harvested and transported to the location where they are bundled and packaged. It is very difficult to harvest 100% of the seedlings roots and the handling and transportation of the seedlings over rough terrain can cause trauma to the fragile root systems. Care when transporting and gentle handling must be followed for ensured survival.

The seedlings are watered before final packaging and transport. This will keep the roots moist, although the absence of soil makes for less than optimal conditions for mineral and water uptake. The roots should be kept damp and the seedlings should be transplanted to their final homes as soon as possible. The soil at the location where the seedlings are transplanted should also be moist but not saturated as this could cause the seedling to die.

Proper care is also necessary when planting the seedlings. Roots should not be exposed to direct sunlight if possible. Trees should be planted so the root collar is just below the ground surface, making sure the hole is deep enough and wide enough to accommodate the entire root system when spread out completely. The roots should not be folded upward or laid in the bottom of the hole. Some light compaction of the soil should be done to remove air pockets from the soil around the roots.

Maintenance is also an integral part of seedling survivability. One of the biggest challenges to seedling is the competition of adjacent vegetation. Seedlings are usually 1-2' tall when transplanted which makes it very easy for other grasses and shrubs to outcompete them for sunlight. Mowing or vegetation management around seedlings is recommended for highest survival rate. Although mowing can be a useful tool for adjacent vegetation management, it is very important that great care is taken when doing so. One of the largest contributors to seedling mortality is trauma from mowers.

Gentle handling, precise care, proper planting and caution during maintenance are just a few things you can do to give your seedlings the best chance at survival. Happy planting!



Todd SWCD 2021 Tree Order Form

Mail with payment to: 215 1st Ave S Long Prairie, MN 56438 or
Call 320-732-2644 for further assistance. We are selling out fast!

Name:		Phone:	
Street Address:		E-mail:	
City:		State:	ZIP:

****** Bare Root Nursery Stock: 12-24 inches (average) **** 25 TREES IN A BUNDLE ******

	Species	Drought Tolerance	Mature Height	Growth Rate	# of Bundles	Price/Bundle	Cost
Conifers	Balsam Fir	Fair	40-60'	Moderate/Rapid		\$ 43.75	
	Black Spruce	Fair	30-60'	Slow/Moderate		\$ 43.75	SOLD OUT
	Tamarack	Poor	40-70'	Slow/Moderate	n/a	\$ 43.75	SOLD OUT
	Norway Pine	Good	60-80'	Moderate/Rapid		\$ 43.75	
	Norway Spruce	Fair	40-60'	Rapid		\$ 43.75	
	White Cedar	Good	50-60'	Slow/Moderate		\$ 43.75	
	White Spruce	Fair	40-60'	Moderate/Rapid	n/a	\$ 43.75	SOLD OUT
Tall Trees	American Linden (Basswood)	Poor	50-70'	Moderate		\$ 43.75	
	Paper Birch	Fair	50-70'	Moderate/Rapid		\$ 43.75	
	Red Maple	Good	40-60'	Rapid	n/a	\$ 43.75	SOLD OUT
	Red Oak	Poor	40-60'	Rapid	n/a	\$ 43.75	SOLD OUT
	Silver Maple	Fair	100' +	Rapid		\$ 43.75	
	Sugar Maple	Poor	80' +	Slow/Moderate	n/a	\$ 43.75	SOLD OUT
Short Trees / Shrubs	American Plum	Fair	20-30'	Rapid		\$ 43.75	
	Chokeberry	Good	10-15'	Moderate/Rapid	n/a	\$ 43.75	SOLD OUT
	Common Lilac	Good	8-15'	Moderate	n/a	\$ 43.75	SOLD OUT
	American Hazelnut	Fair/Good	up to 12'	Moderate		\$ 43.75	
	Elderberry	Poor	6-8'	Moderate		\$ 43.75	SOLD OUT
	High Bush Cranberry	Fair	10-15'	Moderate		\$ 43.75	
	Juneberry (serviceberry)	Good	6-15'	Moderate		\$ 43.75	
	Nanking Cherry	Fair/Good	6-10'	Moderate	n/a	\$ 43.75	SOLD OUT
	Red Splendor Flowering Crab	Fair	15-20'	Moderate/Rapid		\$ 43.75	
	Redstart Dogwood	Poor	7-10'	Moderate		\$ 43.75	SOLD OUT

****** ONE GALLON POTTED STOCK ******

Potted	15-18" 1 Gallon Potted White Spruce	\$ 10.00
	15-18" 1 Gallon Potted Norway Pine	\$ 10.00
	15-18" 1 Gallon Potted Norway Spruce	\$ 10.00

****** Kits include 36 plant plugs--6 of each species. Each kit covers 50-80 square feet (15 foot spacing)******
 be comprised of 6 of the following 8 species:****You will be notified if plant selection is changed due to what is available in th

KITS	Pollinator Kit	Wild Bergamot, Showy Milkweed, Black-eyed Susan, Smooth Penstemon, Golden Alexanders, Narrow Leaved Coneflower, Meadow Blazingstar, Showy Goldenrod	\$ 60.00
	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	\$ 60.00

Tree Tubes - Sold in Packs of 5

Tubes	4 Feet Regular	Perfect tree tube for trees protected by shelter	\$17.50 for 5
	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.	\$20.25 for 5

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ORDER!		Subtotal
Tree Pick up will be end of April or beginning of May in Long Prairie at the fairgrounds. We will notify you by postcard of the date for pick up.		Sales Tax: 7.375 %
Quantities are limited in some species and are sold on a first come basis. After planting stock is picked up by the customer, the SWCD is no longer responsible for its condition. SWCD does not guarantee survival, or replace any plant stock for free. SWCD does not provide tree delivery services.		Grand Total w/ Tax

SAVE THE DATE!

Back for 2022:

The Annual Feedlot & Producer Appreciation Meeting!

Call 320-732-2644 to RESERVE a meal ticket TODAY!

Carbon, Cowboys, and Cowpies!

WHEN: MARCH 17, 2022

10:00AM-2:00PM

BAKERY & COFFEE SOCIAL BEGINNING AT 9:30AM

FREE FULL PLATED MEAL TO HONOR OUR FARMERS



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