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Rolling in the New Year!

Supervisor Dan Whitney rolls in the next generation of conservationists, the children of Jake and Megan May of Browerville, to the 2022 SWCD State Awards Ceremony in Bloomington, MN. Thanks for 4 yrs. of great service, Dan!



**Attention Farmers
in the SE Quarter of
Todd County!**

**Farm, Ranch, Feedlot
Registrations are Due in 2023**

Per Requirement of the State and
Todd County Ordinance, all farms
with 10 or more Animal Units are
required to register.

Check your Mailboxes starting in
February.

Call for help filling out your form:
320-732-2644

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



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. Todd SWCD is unique because it is merged with the County and houses what have been typically called “regulatory programs” such as the Feedlot Program and WCA. However, the SWCD is not, in fact, a regulatory agency.

Instead, we accomplish conservation through voluntary collaboration with you, the individual citizens of Todd County.

Todd SWCD provides ongoing staff and supervisor training to maintain technical skills and 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 accomplishable in the realm of conservation is because of you, the landowner, and your willingness to implement best management practices on your property.

Along with our commitment to property owners, we continue to seek strategic partnerships with businesses, 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 and healthier Todd County.

320-732-2644

Todd Co. Historic Courthouse

215 1st Ave. S. Long Prairie, MN



New District 1 Supervisor: Barb James

Please welcome Barb James to the 2023 SWCD Board of Supervisors. Barb was elected in 2022 by the people of Todd County, and will replace Dan Whitney. Barb lives on a multi-generation cattle farm in Moran Township on the banks of both the Long Prairie River and Moran Creek. Barb and her husband Mike certified their farm in the Minnesota Ag Water Quality Program in 2020. They do rotational grazing, livestock exclusion- fencing off cattle from the river and creek, nutrient management, and are in the planning process for a new shed for storing manure and housing cattle, eliminating the need for winter application.



2022 Todd County Board of Supervisors— *left to right, below:*

Wayne Wendell, Tom Williamson, Dan Whitney, Lee Buchholz, & Dale Katterhagen



Todd Soil & Water Conservation District Staff:

Division Director, Adam Ossefoort, Planning & Zoning/ SWCD Oversight

District Manager, Deja Anton-

Water Planning, Aquatic Invasive Species Program, Cost— Share Opportunities & Grants, Livestock Mgt. Planning, Teams Supervisor

Program Coordinator, Sarah Katterhagen-

Well Sealing, AgBMP Loan Program, Farm Registrations, Front Desk/Administration, Education

Riparian Team: Josh Votruba & Kasen Christiansen

Shoreland, streambank, wetland restorations, WCA, Drainage, Native Plantings, Filling Driveway/Trail Access, Buffers, Ob Well Monitoring, Livestock Crossings, Tree Plantings

Farm Conservation Team: Tim Ebnet & Dylan Pratt

Cover Crops, Nutrient Mgmt, Field Erosion, Farm, Ranch & Feedlot Improvements, Livestock Pipeline/ Grazing/Fencing, Pit Closures, Irrigation Mgmt, Windbreaks, Ag Water Quality Certification



Pictured from left to right are Kasen Christensen and Deja Anton from Todd SWCD, followed by three of the four May children and their mother and father, Megan and Jake May, winners of the 2022 Outstanding Conservationist Award. Next is Dale Katterhagen, Lee Buchholz (both SWCD Supervisors), Josh Votruba, SWCD, and Supervisor Tom Williamson. This picture was taken immediately after the Minnesota Association of SWCDs State Awards Ceremony held at the Double-Tree in Bloomington, December 14, 2022.

The Todd County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors awarded the Jake & Megan May family the title of Outstanding Conservation Farmers of the Year. The Jake & Megan May family are residents of Browerville.

The May family operates a cow/calf beef operation along with finishing a few grass-fed steers. Their beef cows have room to roam and stretch their legs on 95 acres of rotationally grazed pastures. Those 95 acres are broken down into 20 different paddocks that supply a sea of green grass all summer long. When late summer and fall set in, you can find Jake operating his loader tractor in a



Jake and Megan May: Giving Back to their Community, the Environment, & the Next Generation

(continued from previous page)



...paddock preparing for the winter ahead. Round bales of hay are placed in precise locations on a grid pattern and will supply the cattle with feed for the winter. With a little luck, and some help from mother nature, the loader tractor will not need to be started all winter. Jake and his family will move temporary fence throughout the winter allowing the cattle to move to a new bale as needed. The practice is called bale grazing, and while not considered a “new, ground breaking practice,” it just plain works.

Jake grew up on a hog and beef operation in Iona Township, just a few miles the way the crow flies from where he currently lives and farms. He is a father of 4 and is married to Megan. Jake and Megan both are active in their local community. While the business has since been sold, Jake owned Deer Stands Direct, LLC. When the company was under his ownership, Jake was credited for the design of new shooting platforms made especially for disabled hunters. Jake is also a member of the Sustainable Farmer’s Association and the Land Stewardship Project. Megan owns a flower shop and boutique in Browerville and Sauk Centre which help bring economic strength to our smaller communities. Both Megan and Jake are involved in their local church and are also part of the planning and promotion of Browerville Days.

Jake and his family got started with their farm when they moved there in 2010. Megan’s aunt and uncle owned the house and additional acres around the house. At the time of purchase, the land was enrolled in CRP and also a tree planting project. After the contract expired, the May’s were busy fencing, creating an extensive pasture system. They chose to keep the native grasses and inter-seeded some clover and brome into the existing stand. They also left the tree plantings because of their positive im-



pacts; the trees serve as a windbreak for the cattle, a privacy screen, and offer habitat for wildlife. Aware of the positive impacts, years later more trees were planted for the same benefits. In 2013, an opportunity for an additional 37 acres abutting their current property came along, and the land was purchased. This makes up the current 125-acre farm. Working with the Todd County Soil and Water, the new 37 acres was eventually converted from row crop to perennial pasture. The Mays planted a five-way grass mix which, more or less, eliminated wind and water erosion of the soil to a nearby wetland. More currently, Jake is working with the US Fish and Wildlife Services and Todd County Soil and Water to install a livestock crossing adjacent to a restored wetland on the property. Years of cattle and equipment traffic has caused a dike to slowly erode. Plans have been drawn up to rebuild the dike to previous elevations, ensuring proper function of the restored wetland, prevent flooding down stream, and providing a solid foundation for cattle and equipment traffic.

It was clear the day we sat down with Jake, Megan and family. These folks are passionate about the things they are involved in. From running a successful farm and business to raising a family and being involved in their community, they are all-in. They care about the environment, that is why they choose to farm the way they do. Jake is not afraid to be different, and that has played an important role in his farming practices. “Get in touch with other farmers doing what you’re interested in, pick up a book, or search YouTube. There are plenty of resources out there,” says Jake after he was asked what advice he has for other farmers. The May family feels blessed they are able to raise a family on a farm in a community they love. “The aroma of grass-fed ground beef has filled the house,” said Megan as we were wrapping up our conversation. She was starting supper and was proud to say the beef they were eating was healthy and home raised in the best environment possible.

Submitted By Tim Ebnet



Linn & Germaine Smith, Awarded Todd SWCD Land Stewards of 2022!

Linn Smith represents generations of farming aptitude. As a seed salesman, he has conducted many seed trials on his farm, testing, analyzing, and improving the selections we have today. Along with raising corn, soybeans, cattle, swine, and dairy over a lifetime, he has contributed significantly to the face of agriculture here in Todd County. Linn has planted buffers along water ways to protect ditches and streams from sediment loading and has helped other farmers in the process. He understands what needs to be done and shares his understanding with farmers who may be a little more hesitant or reluctant to accept technical assistance or partake in the cost-share programs offered by Todd SWCD.

Linn has closed three of his manure pits no longer in use, and rallied his neighbors to do the same using the SWCD Partridge River 75% cost-share grants awarded by the MPCA and the Board of Soil & Water Resources. He shared how closing unused pits protects groundwater and improves farm safety. His efforts inadvertently led to the closing of ten other manure pits.



Filling in an old dairy pit on one of Smith's farms.

Continued from previous page...

Long time Local Farmer Wins SWCD Stewardship Award



Lynn Smith is an information gatherer. He attended the Pots to Pits Kick-off meeting at Granny's Café in Eagle Bend when the Partridge River Grant first became available. He wanted to learn more about cost-share opportunities for farmers and the importance of pit closure. He is also a consistent attendee of the Todd SWCD Annual Feedlot and Farmer Appreciation Meetings. Linn understands the importance of wise nutrient management, land application, and caring for the soil for the next generations to come.

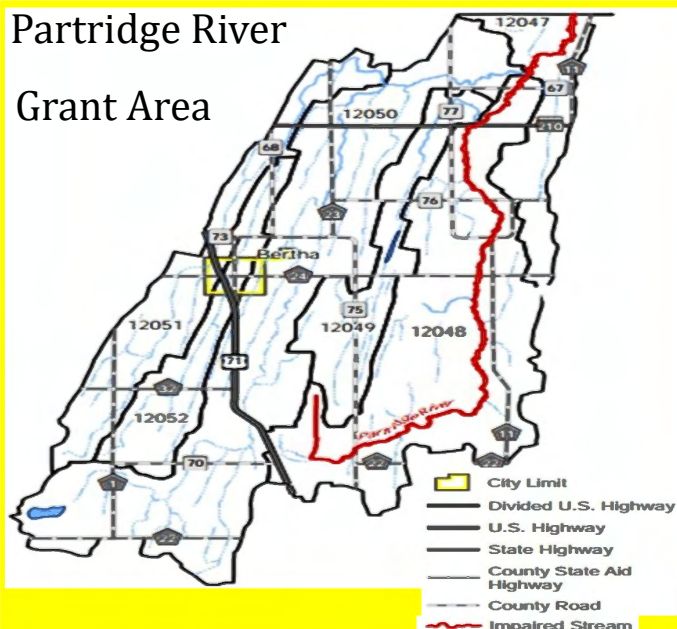
In talking with Linn, District Manager Deja Anton, has appreciated his nostalgia for the farms no longer in existence. Over many decades, Linn has witnessed an era of farms and farmers pass on, and said, "We lose a part of ourselves, our identity, and our history with every barn that is torn down or left empty."

Yet, Linn knows all too well, time moves on with or without our consent. He rides the ebb with the tide always looking to the future with a smile, a wink, and a caring sense of humor.



Todd County SWCD is extremely proud to honor the contributions of Linn Smith along with his wife, Germaine, as partners in the community, as a long time, dedicated farm family, good neighbors, and true stewards of the land. Thank you for recognizing the important tie between conservation and good farm practices.

Partridge River Grant Area



This Grant Ends in 2023!

Last chance for farmers wishing to install livestock crossings, alternative waterers, feedlot fixes and manure storage projects. This grant provides up to 75% cost-share, meaning the landowner portion is 25% of the cost to install a project. You choose the contractor or do the work yourself. No cost engineering assistance provided.

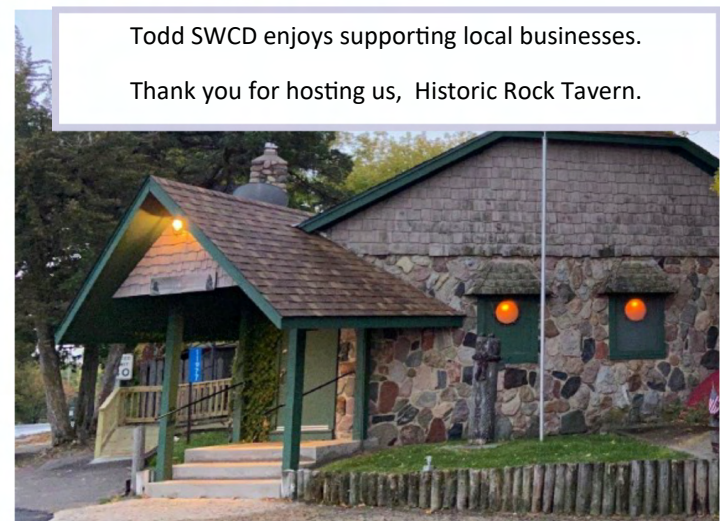
All projects must be pre-approved by the Todd SWCD Board.

Each year in November, the Todd SWCD Board of Supervisors, SWCD Staff, NRCS staff, two County Commissioners, and the Board of Soil and Water Resources State Conservationist, Chris Pence, meet to set goals and plan for the year ahead. This year's meeting was hosted on the shores of Big Birch Lake at the Historic Rock Tavern. You can find last year's goals developed for 2022 aligned with the initiative from within the SWCD Scope of Duties which serves as the foundation of the SWCD Mission. This publication is a summary of our progress towards these goals. Please finger through the following pages to see the success stories we chose to high light in this year's annual report.



View of Big Birch Lake from the Historic Rock Tavern in Grey Eagle, MN

Todd SWCD enjoys supporting local businesses.
Thank you for hosting us, Historic Rock Tavern.



SWCD Mission Statement: *Conservation, Protection, and Enhancement of Todd County's Natural Resources*



Todd SWCD Plan of Action

2022 Objective: Improving & Protecting Water Quality Through Partnerships

Scope of Duties

Targeted Initiative:

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

Through what means will the initiative be achieved throughout 2022?

(Assigned to.....)

- Work with our partners: volunteer farmers and the Red Eye 1W1P implementation team to install conservation practices within the Wing River/Red Eye Watershed for the Todd County portion of the watershed (*SWCD Technical Staff, Board of Supervisors, Program Coordinator, Water Planner, Red Eye Policy & Technical Committees, NRCS, WCTSA*)
- Engage Ag partners who farm sensitive soils within the RCPP Irrigation Grant boundary through two dedicated in-kind outreach events and on-site landowner assistance (*SWCD Technical Staff*)
- Reach successful completion and positive public reception of the Long Prairie Collaborative partners' 1W1P Planning Grant and Implementation Work Plan by year end, 2022. (*Long Prairie Citizens, Policy, and Technical Committees*)
- Complete shoreline, upland erosion projects, and livestock related conservation measures in Sauk Lake, Guernsey, Jergens, Little Sauk and Sauk River watersheds matching the priorities of the Sauk River 1W1P Implementation Team. (*SWCD Riparian Technician, Sauk River 1W1P Implementation Team & Policy Committee, WCTSA, and SWCD Board of Supervisors*)
- Create annual public engagement and partnering opportunities with landowners in the Mississippi River-Brainerd 1W1P and Sauk River 1W1P planning boundaries while developing the SWCD Riparian Program and Hand Guide for shoreland owners. (*Mississippi-Brainerd Steering Committee, SWCD Riparian & Wetland Techs*)

Protect Surface Waters Through Cost-shared Practices (Goal 2-6)

- Work with our Soil Health Coalition partners 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 cost-share dollars. (*SWCD Technical Staff, Douglas SWCD, Osakis Creamery, MN Soil Health Coalition*)
- Complete three Ag related cost-share projects in the Partridge River sub-watershed of the Crow Wing Watershed boundary with our Ag partners (*SWCD Technical Staff*)
- Recruit, train, and retain high caliber technicians who gain job approval authority (JAA) and place customer service first to ensure the successful completion of the cost-shared conservation measures, above. (*Todd SWCD/County Liaison*)
- Seek additional funding sources tying directly with 1W1P targeted initiatives (*SWCD Management*)

– Protect Land Productivity with Effective Soil & Nutrient Mgt. (Goal 4-3)

- Partner our Nutrient Management Technician with landowners interested in enhancing soil health and have other technical staff obtain training and job approval authority (JAA) with a focus in Nutrient Management, Soil Health, Cover Crops, Critical Area Planting, Access Control, Fencing, Grazing Systems, Riparian Conservation Covers and Tree Windbreaks to assist (*SWCD Technical Staff*)

– Support Landowners Interested in Forest Stewardship (Goal 5-1)

- Conduct outreach and offer landowner technical assistance within the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape RCPP Phase II Grant partners and the Crow Wing SWCD partners to introduce sustainable practices for forests and forest soils Eastern Todd County (*SWCD Riparian & Wetland Technicians*)

– Strengthen Partnerships in Water Quality Protection for Surface/Groundwater

New, Stronger Relationships formed between SWCDs in the Red Eye Watershed

Two rye seedlings pulled after two weeks growth in October are laid on an old aspen limb to demonstrate root growth. →



Once quarterly, Todd SWCD, District Manager Deja Anton, makes the drive to Perham to meet with partnering SWCDs and agencies to discuss watershed priorities in the Red Eye Watershed. The Red Eye Watershed dips down into Todd County in parts of Stowe Prairie, Bertha, and the eastern section of Wykeham Townships. Needless to say, a lot of good has come from the SWCD being an active participant in the watershed. Through this partnership and what are called watershed-based implementation funds from the Clean Water Legacy, Todd SWCD is able to fund cover crops (see pics below), pit closures, and a manure storage structure with plans in the development along the Wing River impaired for E. coli. Todd SWCD technicians, Dylan Pratt and Tim Ebnet have also taken over the Irrigation Scheduling Program that Nathan Wiese of Otter Tail SWCD had been doing for years. Farmers interested in the SWCD helping to analyze when and where to turn your irrigators on backed by local weather and soil data can contact Todd SWCD at 320-732-2644. This is a weekly service provided by Todd SWCD throughout the growing season.

Todd SWCD had five farmers sign up through the RCPP Irrigation Grant in 2022 for irrigation upgrades and soil water sensors. This grant helps irrigators upgrade their existing irrigation systems with the latest technologies. These technologies can test when the soil needs water, which sections of the field require the most water, and can also aid in reducing potential soil nutrient losses with surface runoff. Variable rate irrigation is also a component of this grant.

Most recently, Todd SWCD and neighbors have worked together with the DNR and BWSR to receive a forestry grant beginning in 2023. This grant will provide tree planters to all partnering SWCDs, encourages landowners to work with professional foresters to develop forest management plans, but also is conducive to the small landowner who wants to pursue practices that increase the amounts of trees and prairie grasses on the landscape, help soils store water, stabilize hillside and Creekside soils, control land-based invasives, and management for wildlife habitat and succession of healthy forests and grasslands. Landowners with interest in long term easements can also get assistance through this grant.

These are just a few of the positive results that working with our neighboring SWCDs through watershed planning and implementation have brought to our County in 2023. Todd SWCD



Many farm fields were converted to Aspen Plantations in past decades. Due to current low market values, these trees are commonly cleared exposing soils. Cover crop cost-share projects, like the 2023 crop shown here in Stowe Prairie, can be planted by farmers to prevent erosion, nutrient loss and to restore soil health and economic prospect to new fields.

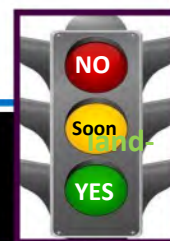
Soil probes and precipitation monitoring on site help technicians Tim Ebnet and Dylan Pratt gather necessary data to assist farmers with their irrigation scheduling, below.



A row of seven nesting dolls of various sizes, each decorated with a different floral pattern and a face. The dolls are arranged in a line, decreasing in size from left to right. They are primarily yellow and red, with floral designs in black, green, and red. Each doll has a distinct face with black hair and red lips.

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At What Stage are the SWCD & Partners in the One Watershed, One Plans (1W1P) for Your Watershed?



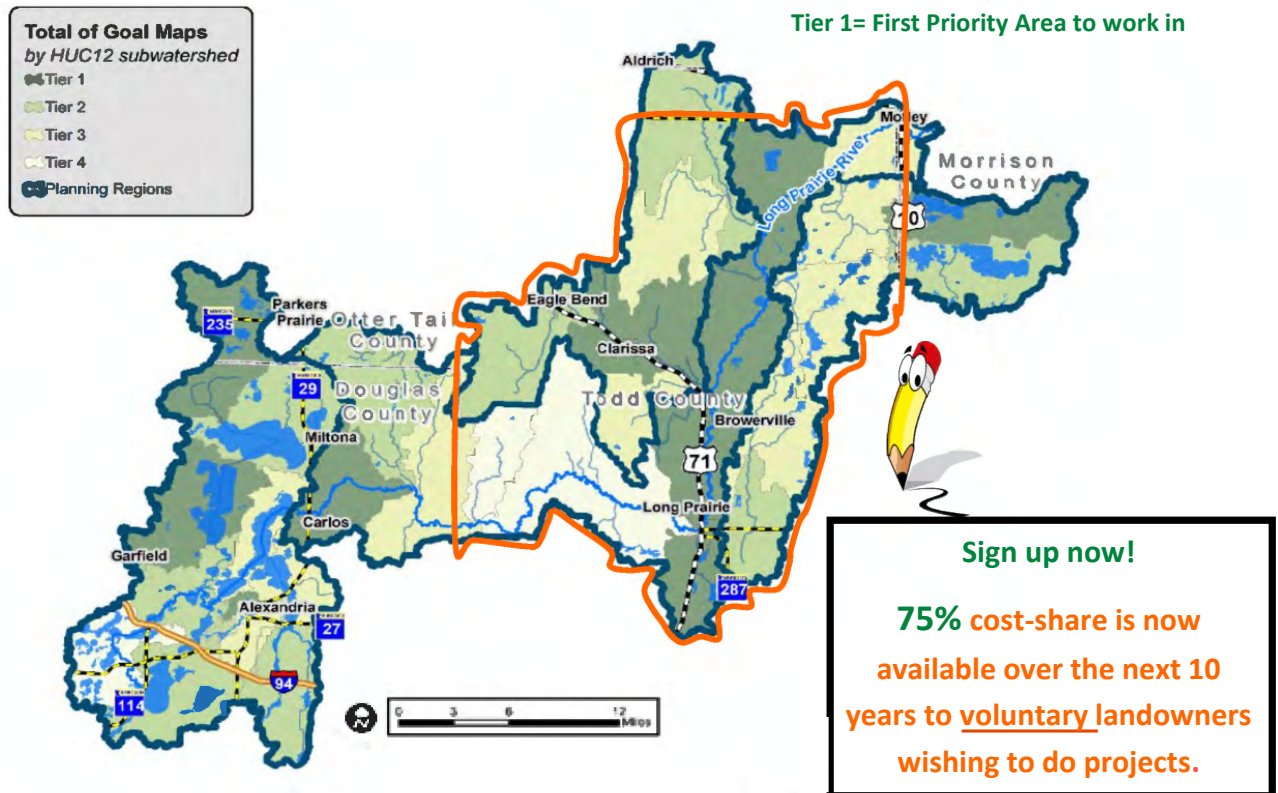
Watershed Name (and geographic partners):	Was the partnership goal met?	What are we currently working on?	Is funding available to owners in 2023?
<u>Long Prairie River</u> Todd, Douglas, Morrison, Wadena, & Otter Tail counties		The plan was approved in 2022 by the Board of Soil & Water Resources (BWSR). The Technical Committee prioritized the current project list based on resource need and proximity to a surface water. For Todd County, projects include pit closures, cover crops, grazing fences and alternative waterers, roofed stacking slabs, and carcass composting facilities. To be considered in the next round of funding, please contact our office today. 320-732-2644.	Beginning in 2023, \$714,000 will be provided every two years, in priority areas (<i>see map on the following page</i>), for landowner cost-share, technical services & coordination. Landowners have submitted project requests over the last two years. The 2023 priority areas have been selected. Awarded landowners will be notified. Those landowners who were not selected for this round of funding will be considered for the next funding round in 2025.
<u>Sauk River</u> Todd, Stearns, Douglas, Pope & Meeker counties		Partners are currently working on reviewing project lists for round two of the grant. Please contact your local SWCD if you have a best management practice you would like to install. In 2022, Todd SWCD installed two bank stabilization projects on Sauk Lake and one wetland restoration/erosion con-	~ \$832,550 is available every two years, in priority areas, for landowner cost-share and capital improvements involving water quality, SWCD technical assistance. The next available funding round begins in 2024. Get your project requests in this year.
<u>Mississippi River- (Brainerd)</u> Todd, Morrison, Aitkin, Cass, & Crow Wing counties		BWSR awarded partners the planning grant for this watershed in late summer of 2021. Priority areas and projects are shaping up. The plan will be submitted to the state for approval by the end of 2023.	Round one funding will be available in 2024 for the Brainerd– Mississippi Watershed. (<i>Refer to map on previous page.</i>)
<u>Crow Wing River</u> <u>PARTRIDGE RIVER</u>		Partners were approved to beginning planning for this watershed in 2022. Currently, we are signing agreements between all the partnering agencies to get started.	Todd SWCD currently has a limited amount of cost-share grant dollars available to landowners for ag waste, feedlot improvements, pit closures, livestock fencing, stream crossings, etc. to the end of 2023. Contact Todd SWCD at 320-732-2644 now.
<u>Red Eye River</u> Todd, Wadena, Becker & Otter Tail counties		Partners are now entering Round 2 of this grant. Todd SWCD has one feedlot project in the works and a pit closure.	There is ~ \$9000 available to Todd County landowners for cover crops, fencing, pasture systems, grassed waterways & groundwater related projects. Please call our office today at 320-732-2644 today.

– Strengthen Partnerships in Water Quality Protection for Surface/Groundwater

Completion of the Long Prairie 1W1P Planning Grant & Work Plan by Todd SWCD & Partners



What's getting cost-shared first? It took many months of research and planning to pinpoint which water quality concerns and projects are most pressing for the future of the Long Prairie River and to select which areas of the watershed where work done would have the biggest impact. The map below shows the areas to focus first in the darkest green.



For Todd County, outlined in red, **HIGH PRIORITY PROJECTS** are those that can help protect drinking and ground-water which include best management practices in **irrigation** and **closing of unused wells and manure pits**.

It also includes projects that can reduce or prevent bacteria and nutrients from entering the rivers and streams, particularly around Eagle Creek and Moran Creek which all ready have bacteria impairments. Projects such as **livestock crossings, fencing, alternative waterers** that reduce the area where livestock access streams and **feedlot run-off control** within 500 feet of surface waters are good example projects. For farmers who find it necessary to winter apply manure, the construction of a **stacking slab** can prevent nutrient loss in spring thaw by having spaces to store manure throughout the frozen winter months.

Field erosion and run-off are another concern in the Tier One areas of the map. Example practices such as **cover crops, grassed waterways, field intakes with sediment control basins, contour farming, nutrient management plans, windbreaks and tree plantings** are all open for cost-share.

Altered hydrology that has occurred in the past such as the building of ditches, placement of road and access culverts, and tiling can sometimes lead to unforeseen problems in water quality and soil stability. Practices that address those impacts qualify under this grant for cost--share.

Last, practices that improve soil health are a focus of this grant. These include **pasture and grassland management, converting row crop fields to permanent cover or pasture, cover crops, reduced tillage, reforestation & more**.

Strengthen Partnerships in Water Quality Protection for Surface & Groundwater (Goal 1-4)

– Strengthen
Partnerships in Water
Quality Protection for
Surface/Groundwater

TODD SWCD FEATURED PROJECT of 2022:

WHEN A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT, and shouldn't!



A Successful Collaboration to Address a Long Term Natural Resource Concern at Fairy Lake

It was 2019. The Ordinary High Water (OHW) elevation on Fairy Lake was once again surpassed. Trees were dying on the shoreline as it eroded. The small wetland to the north that normally *inlets* into the lake was once again receiving backwash from Fairy Lake, thus altering the normal flow and hydrology of the entire area. This little wetland had partially served as flood retention for Fairy Lake in earlier years, but because it's smaller than the original wetland south of it, it could not handle all high water events. Nor, did Mother Nature expect it to. As a relief valve, the water blew through the wetland, as it had in previous years, creating a massive, erosive gully wash through the farm field east of Fairy Lake. (See map on the following page.)

Todd SWCD was alarmed at the volume of sediment leaving the farm field and washing directly into Ashley Creek, a tributary to the Sauk River. Decades earlier the original Fairy Lake outlet, the much larger wetland complex to the south, had been blocked off by a public access road. Though the lake still washed over the area, flooding what is now known as the Lion's Club Park, the little wetland to the north was now at a lower elevation. This meant

it received the majority of the water at high lake levels.

Meanwhile, the Fairy Lakes Lion's Club had been working with US Fish and Wildlife Conservationist, John Reins, trying to restore the natural landscapes found within the park. They had successfully controlled buckthorn, and were working up a plan to restore the native Oak Savanna and understory to its forested areas. John Reins noted the ecological changes in the original wetland after decades of receiving less lake water. The original wetland was not as naturally vivacious as it once was. Invasive cattails had taken over and choked out many native species. The plant and animal species that now inhabited the wetland were becoming more aligned to low flow, stagnant water survival, and less of the species that inhabit a rippling type three classified freshwater marsh.

A meeting was held between partners with a vested interest in restoring the original Fairy Lake outlet. This included the Fairy Lakes Lion's Club, the Sauk Center Lion's Club, US Fish and Wildlife, residents who lived on the shores of Fairy Lake, Todd Public Works (due to the Co. Rd.. 11 culvert), *[cont'd next pg.]*

Strengthen Partnerships in Water Quality Protection for Surface & Groundwater (Goal 1-4)

Cont'd from pg. 13. A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT

Fact: Fairy Lake is one of Todd County's healthiest lakes & is classified as a Lake of Biologic Significance by the Department of Natural Resources

...the Sauk River watershed, DNR, Representative Poston, Area 2 West Central Technical Service Area (WCTSA) engineers, and Todd SWCD. A downstream impact study was conducted and engineer design plan were developed by Ross Reiffenberger, P.E., WCTSA. Next in late 2020, a small watershed grant was applied for from the MPCA for this project and several others around Fairy Lake. Though no funds were awarded by the MPCA, the Sauk River 1W1P funded through the Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR) was nearing completion, and the project was written into the 2022 work plan.

In the meantime, the residents of Fairy Lake and the neighboring chain of lakes officially united to become the Fairy-Lily-Long Lake Association. With that, the



Left, Rep. John Poston, is on site at Fairy Lake with Jon Roeschlein, SRWD. Key player, Fairy Lake resident, Jim Benson is in the background.

association was able to acquire an easement from the Fairy Lakes Lions Club to maintain any future project installed. As soon as BWSR and the partners gave their stamp of approval in early fall of 2022, contractor Joe Maciej and welder Brandon Petermeier went to work! The project was done by November of 2022!

Additional funding was provided by Todd SWCD County Riparian Funds and matched by fundraising on the part of the Fairy-Lily-Long Lake Association.



See next Page

Strengthen Partnerships in Water Quality Protection for Surface & Groundwater (Goal 1-4)



Cont'd from pg. 14. **A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT**



Above: Contractor installing 30" ADS Sanitite HP Pipe – Pipe will allow controlled drainage from lake to wetland during high lake levels to restore functionality of wetland. Pipe riser elevation is set lower than the wetland outlet to the north in order to reclaim the southern wetland complex as the designated natural outlet. This will reduce field erosion to Ashley Creek and further flooding at the park and along the shoreline of Fairy Lake.



Above: Concrete riser connecting to 30" pipe below aluminum bar grade lid. The riser is set at 4" above OHW meaning the lake has to be at "flood" stage to find release. The pipe diameter is sized to slow release lake water over time so as not to impact downstream habitats and properties. A second control is the Co. 11 culvert, which is a large diameter culvert, 4-6 feet, and served as the only control until 2022. Note level of lake in background.



Above Left: Members of the Sauk Centre Lion's Club. Above right: Project partners at the original 2019 meeting on Fairy Lake.



Adjacent (l-r): Ross Reiffenberger, P.E. w/ WCTSA; Mark Guinn, Fairy Lake Association (FLA), contractor Joe Maciej, Bob Borgemann, FLA, Ken Meier, Fairy Lake Lions Club, & Josh Votruba, Todd SWCD



This project addresses the following concerns:

- Field erosion, crop loss, sediment and nutrient loss to Ashley Creek & Sauk R.;
- Blocked natural flowage to wetland—altered hydrology;
- Wetland and wildlife habitat impacts;
- High water levels, erosion, sediment loss and dying trees along the shore;
- Undermining of bridges, roads, and culverts due to outlet blockage;
- Not enough septic separation from groundwater along with heightened water tables causing potential groundwater and lake contamination.

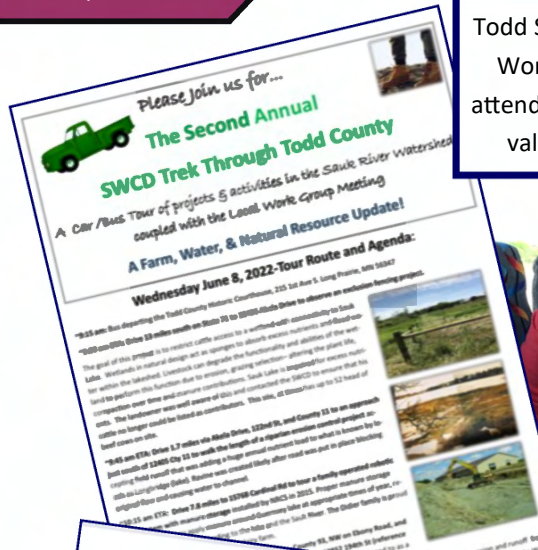
Strengthen Partnerships in Water Quality Protection for Surface & Groundwater (Goal 1-4)

– Strengthen Partnerships in Water Quality Protection for Surface/Groundwater

Public Engagement



Todd SWCD hosted the annual “Trek Through Todd” NRCS Local Work Group Bus Tour which is free to the public. This year, attendees visited projects in the Sauk River Watershed and gave valuable input on concerns most important to its citizens.



Todd SWCD joined partners at the 2022 Mississippi-Brainerd 1W1P Kick-off Event at Camp Ripley. The event gave agencies and local citizens, including Todd County residents, an opportunity to provide input on issues in the Mississippi-Brainerd Watershed.



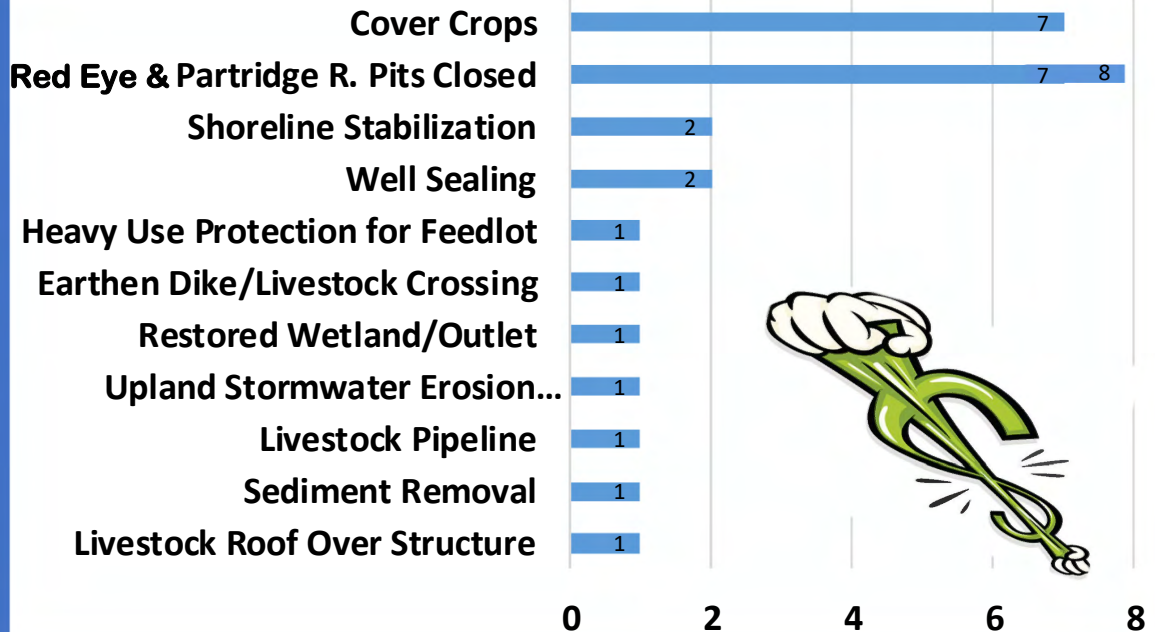
Todd SWCD participated in the Higgins-Long Lake Stakeholders Meeting in August of 2022. The lake has no outlet and is flooding several homes and a DNR access. Rep. Poston developed a bonding request to hopefully go forward at the 2023 legislature session.

Todd SWCD gives farmers a voice in watershed planning. Dain Erickson interviews a local dairy farmer on Mississippi-Brainerd watershed concerns.

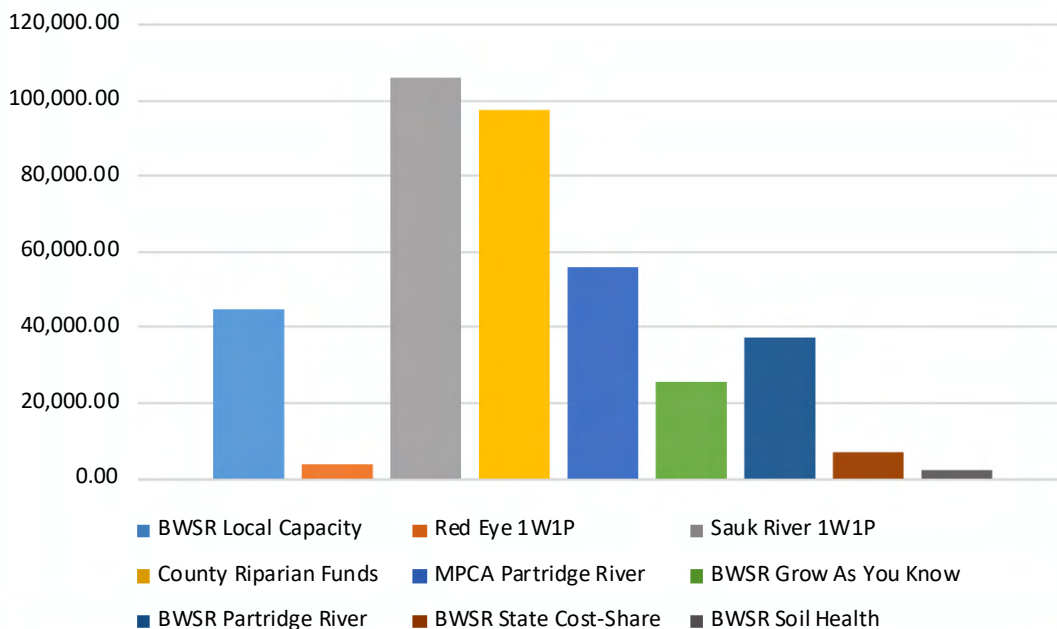
-Protect Surface Waters Through Cost-shared Practices (Goal 2-6)

Stretching \$\$\$ Through SWCD Cost-Share

Types & Numbers of Projects Installed by Todd SWCD in 2022



Where do cost-share funds come from?



Total cost-share awarded to Todd County Landowners in 2022 = \$ 379,716.80



Decoder:

BWSR= Board of Soil & Water Resources

MPCA= Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

1W1P= One Watershed, One Plan

Riparian= near water

Protect Surface Waters Through Cost-Shared Practices (Goal 2-6)



Can you identify the cost-share projects on these pages? Match the descriptors below with the letter on an image.

1. _____ Controlled outlet within an earthen dike to restore a swamp
2. _____ Drive over diversion curb to keep clean water out of an area, in this case a feedlot
3. _____ Manure pit closure with all contaminated soils excavated out
4. _____ Cover crop building soil structure and organic matter in a field
5. _____ Heavy use protection area where livestock or equipment normally would beat up the soil causing erosion
6. _____ Shoreline bank stabilization with staked erosion control blankets, bio-logs, and rock armor shelf
7. _____ Well sealing 8. _____ Upland erosion control with a settling basin & controlled- release intake
9. _____ roof over-stacking slab for manure storage 10. _____ pipeline to water cattle away from a wetland





Protect Surface Waters Through Cost-shared Practices (Goal 2-6)

Cover crops are becoming a standard practice for many Todd County farmers as they learn which species match up with the crops they are growing and are suitable and effective north of Interstate 94.

In 2019, Todd SWCD sat down with Todd County farmers and the MN Soil Health Coalition. “Keep it simple,” the farmers said, “If you want us to try cover crops, don’t complicate it. We have enough to manage on a day to day basis. Many of us want to give cover crops and other soil health practices a try. Cost-share helps, but complicated paperwork and requirements are a turn off.” That stemmed a grant application for Clean Water Funds that coupled technical and agronomy assistance with simple to obtain 75% cost-share for the installation of cover crops.

The goal was to install **600 acres** of cover crops on open soils in the Lake Osakis, Sauk Lake, and Adley Creek regions of the Sauk River watershed from 2020 to 2023. At the end of 2022, Todd SWCD has assisted farmers with planting a total of **529 acres** of cover crops. One more year of this grant remains. Benefits of cover crops include retaining organic matter, micro-organisms, and biology in the soil, keeping nutrients and top soil in the crop grow zone, and improving crop and long-term soil resiliency. The deep root systems of cover crop species aid in building soil structure and enable the soil to hold water without becoming overly muddy and compacted. Several farmers reported in early 2022 that the only fields they could get on to plant were the ones on which cover crops had been established the fall before. Of course, water quality is benefitted when sediment is not blown or washed into streams and lakes with wind and field run off.

Farmers can work with their own agronomist, a local Soil Health Coalition farmer, or reach out to Todd SWCD technical staff for planting, species selection, and cost-share assistance. Todd SWCD sponsors local learning opportunities and “share” events as a part of this grant. (See *Breakfast in the Field*, next page.)

Todd SWCD “Grow As You Know” Cover Crop Grant



The sorghum seed, above, was planted after a cereal crop harvest through the Todd SWCD Grow As You Know Grant.



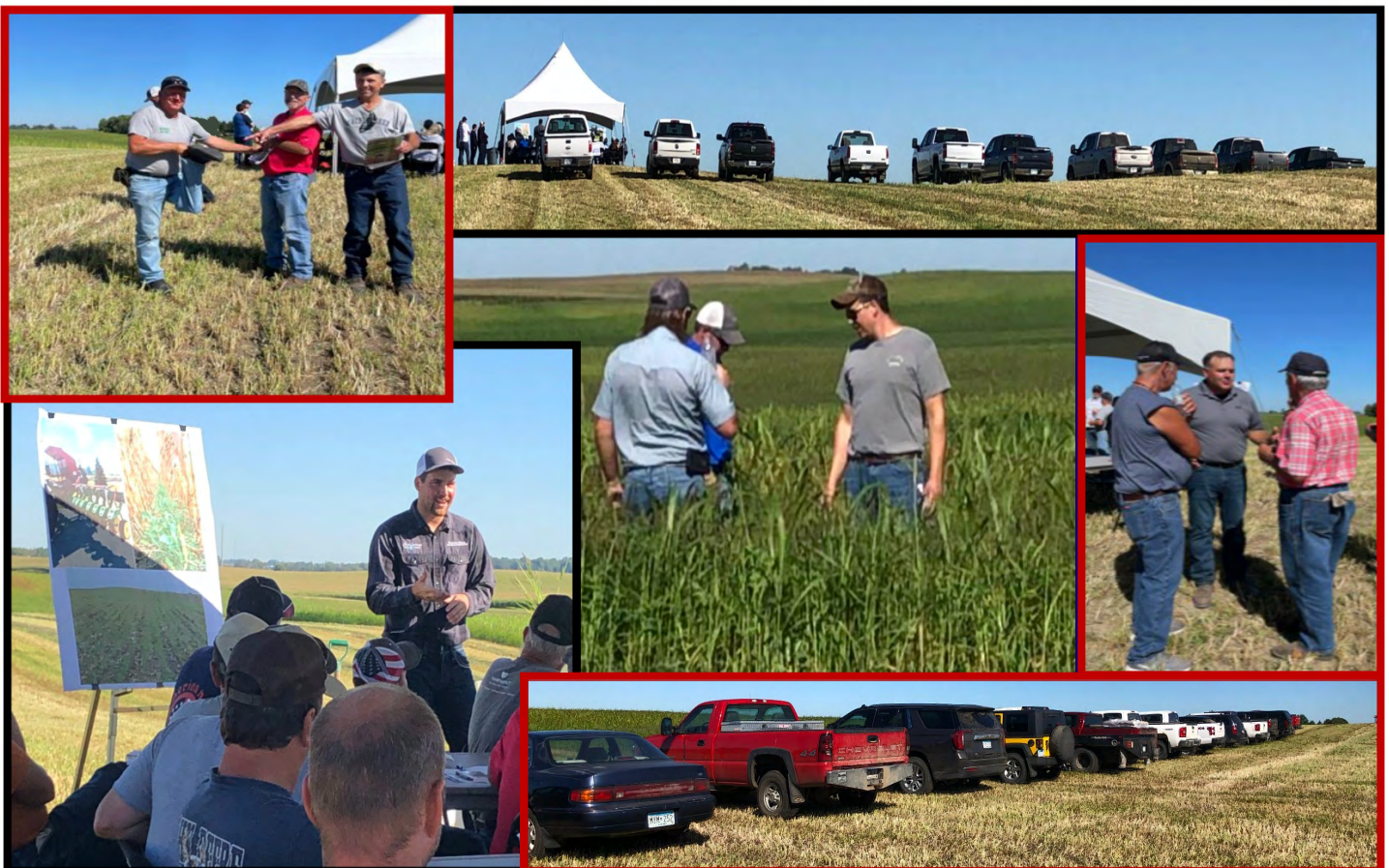
From Seed to Forage in West Union

Breakfast in the Field- Cover Crop Event



**Local Farmers Partner with Todd SWCD,
Osakis Creamery, MN Soil Health Coalition & NRCS**

"First field day I have been to where the agency didn't talk. The farmers did all the talking and asking of questions," said one attendee. Over 45 local farmers attended an event hosted by Ken Kraemer, West Union crop and beef farmer. Kraemer grew 300 acres of cover crops working with Todd SWCD technician Tim Ebnet & the Grow As You Know Cover Crop Grant.



Protect Surface Waters Through Cost-Share Practices (Goal 2-6)



Stages of cover crops in Todd County. Left: calculating seed planting density using the ring method; Middle: emerging rye cover that was aerial seeded into corn in Bartlett TWP; Right: a forage and biomass mix in Bartlett TWP. The Board of Soil & Water Resources recently awarded Todd SWCD a Soil Health Grant that applies to all locations in Todd County. Contact Todd SWCD at 320-732-2644 to discuss your 2023 cover crop and soil management plans.

Todd SWCD 2022 Farm Conservation & Feedlot Report

- ⇒ **425 Feedlot Registrations Updated in 2022**
- ⇒ **222 Assistance Visits**
- ⇒ **60 Inspections**
- ⇒ **3 Interim Permits and 2 Construction Short Form Permits Issued**
- ⇒ **6 In-Office Meetings with Producers**
- ⇒ **251 Farm, Ranch, Feedlot, Conservation Assistance Questions/Calls**
- ⇒ **10 Manure Pits Closed**
- ⇒ **7 Air Quality Exemptions**
- ⇒ **6 Farm Related Complaints**
- ⇒ **7 Feedlot Related Fixes After a Non- Compliant Status**
- ⇒ **163 Farmer Attendees at the Annual Feedlot Meeting & Farmer Appreciation & 45 at Breakfast in the Field, Cover Crop Day in West Union**
- ⇒ **17 Farm Cost-shared Practices Completed**

3 New Ag Water Quality Farm Certifications



Todd SWCD Farm Conservation Team: Tim Ebnet, Dylan Pratt, Sarah Katterhagen, & Deja Anton

Protect Surface Waters Through Cost-Share Practices (Goal 2-G)

Kreemer Farms - Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certified in 2022



Ag Water Quality Updates and Statistics

Jason and Danielle Kreemer and children of Leslie Township added their farm to the list of **29 Todd County farms** and **1,287 farms from across the state of Minnesota** that are Ag Water Quality certified. The Kreemers raise beef feeders, graze cow/calf pairs on pasture, and row crop. The Kreemers, like many others across central Minnesota, take pride in telling the story of agriculture in a positive light. Farmers do care about the environment and are intentional with their management decisions. They strive to care for the land and water for future use in hopes of passing it on to the next generation of farmers. Jason's grandfather operated the farm for 50 years before Jason took over. The Kreemers have installed many practices to protect surface waters including livestock exclusion fencing, a cattle walk way, heavy use protection areas, a stacking slab for manure storage, curbing and diversions, scrape lanes, and alternative livestock waterers. While not necessary to become Ag Water Quality certified, these practices made certifying Kreemer Farms an easy task. Farms of all sizes and types can become Ag Water Quality certified from vineyards to tree farms, small vegetable production to large livestock facilities and crop farmers.



Management goals are focused on the land, not on the care or health of livestock, but as an end result, the animals do benefit from improvements made in land use proficiency and good management of crop and soil resources.

The central section of Minnesota falls regionally into what is known as the Area Two boundary for SWCD technical services and programming. Area Two, composed of farmers from Benton, Big Stone, Chippewa, Douglas, Kandiyohi, Meeker, Morrison, Pope, Stearns, Stevens, Swift, and Todd counties, now boasts **291 certified farms** encompassing **161,529 acres**. These numbers represent 29% of all state certified farms. Getting certified simply requires an application and a meeting with your trusted Ag Water Quality farm technician. At this meeting, farmers discuss, review, and evaluate land management options, and then act on their decisions as a result of this meeting. Some farms can become certified without making any management changes. The program and certification is free throughout the duration of the process. In return for becoming Ag Water Quality Certified, farmers become a statistic of positive agriculture, can opt to use the certification logo for marketing, are waived for ten years from any new environmental state implemented rule changes, and are eligible, annually, for MDA Financial Cost-share unique to farms that are Ag Water Quality certified. In 2022, \$142,015 in cost-share was awarded in Area Two alone.

Step up and certify your farm today. Call Todd SWCD: **320-732-2644** to make an appointment. "The 99% need to see... we are the 1% who farm the land, and we farm it right."

Congratulations and thank you to the Kreemer Family for joining the ranks of Minnesota Ag Water Quality certified farms.

Protect Surface Waters Through Cost-Share Practices (Goal2-6)



Partner Reports

NRCS Accomplishments in 2022

9 contracts in 2022 for:

- ◆ grazing system 1,
- ◆ pollinators 2,
- ◆ high tunnels 2,
- ◆ cover crops/tree/windbreak plantings 2,
- ◆ forest stand improvement 1,
- ◆ organic transition 1

EQIP -RCPP: 1 new contract for:

- ◆ pasture planting, cover crops and no till

CSP: 4 new contracts and 1 renewal contract

CRP: 20 contracts

- ◆ continuous 13 contracts on a total of 87 ac,
- ◆ general sign up 7 contracts on 264 acres

Installed practices include:

- ◆ 1 Sprinkler system conversion on 76.3 ac
- ◆ Irrigation water management on 141 ac
- ◆ 2 High tunnel systems
- ◆ Pollinator/monarch plantings on 139 ac
- ◆ Cover crops on 338 ac through EQIP; and 27 ac through CSP
- ◆ Windbreak: 2968 feet (site prep on 4 ac)
- ◆ Tree plantings on 1.0 ac
- ◆ Pasture planting on 12 ac
- ◆ No till on 45 ac
- ◆ Grazing incentives on 99.5 ac through EQIP; + 227 ac through CSP
- ◆ Livestock watering system: 9740 ft. pipeline, 3 tanks, (1 HUAP under tank)
- ◆ Fence: 3614 ft.
- ◆ 1 Ag waste system.



Congratulations to Luke Thoma, the new District Conservationist at NRCS in Long Prairie.

Russ Kleinschmidt, far right, now works at the NRCS Regional level.



Area Two– West Central Technical Services provides engineering services without cost to landowners wishing to do conservation projects with Todd SWCD. Ross Reiffenberger, P.E., pictured 2nd from left, is the engineer. WCTSA develops design plans for streambank, shoreline, up-land erosion, and livestock and manure runoff and storage projects.

A summary of 2022 Engineering Services in Todd County:

- ◆ Worked with 13 landowners
- ◆ Lead the installation of 8 engineered SWCD projects: 3 shoreline, 3 livestock related, and 2 erosion control

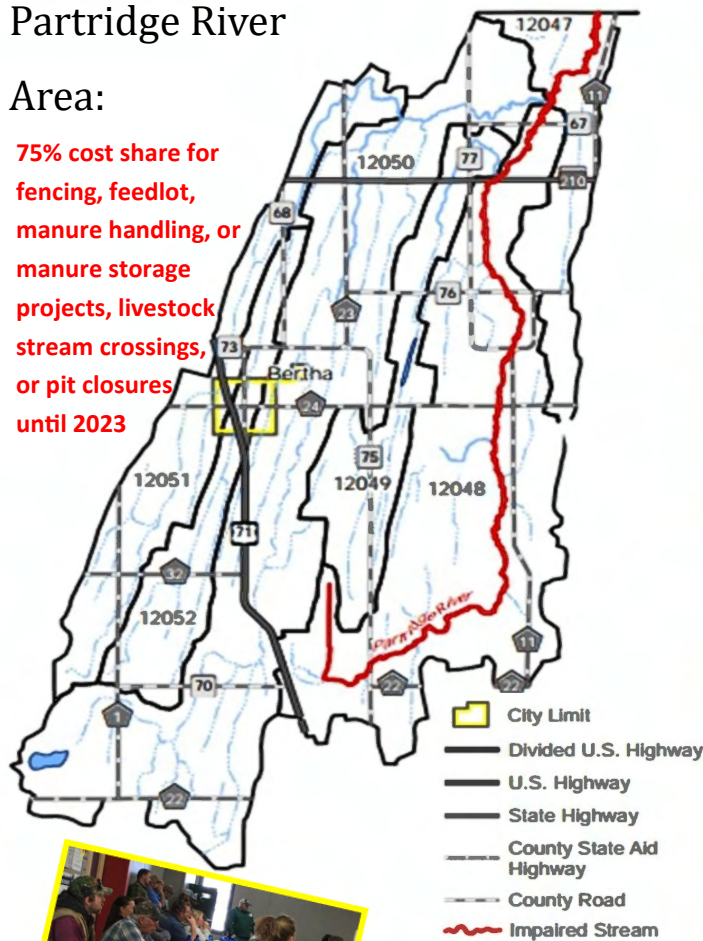
Protect Surface
Waters Through
Cost-shared Practices
(Goal 2-6)

Todd SWCD completes 4 Ag related projects in the Partridge River Watershed in 2022

Partridge River

Area:

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



Todd SWCD Farm Conservation Technician, Dylan Pratt, left, stand on the banks of a pit discussing closure procedures with the landowner, Lon Jasmer, and contractor, Nick Harren, far right.

Todd SWCD will be closing this grant out in 2023. Apply now to see if you qualify for this grant or future grants for livestock crossings, fencing projects, and feedlot corrections.

320-732-2644

Farmers learned about types of cost-share funds available for a variety of best management practices at the 2022 Feedlot Meeting & Farmer Appreciation, **Carbon, Cowboys, and Cow Pies!** **163 Farmers were present.** Todd SWCD would like to thank these area businesses for their donation of farm related tools in appreciation of our hardworking farmers:



AREA BUSINESS:

Ace Hardware, Long Prairie
Long Prairie Fleet Supply
NAPA
The Trailer Center, Long Prairie
Shirley's Gas, Eagle Bend
Pro AG-Clarissa
Pro AG-Browerville
Olson's Farm Service, Staples
Ace Hardware, Staples
Tri-County Stockyards, Motley
Pro AG- Eagle Bend
Pro AG-Eagle Bend
Pro AG- Eagle Bend
Todd County Veterinary Clinic
Long Prairie Oil
Long Prairie Oil

DONATED ITEM

Scoop Shovel
Pitch Fork
100 PC screw driver set
2 Ratchet Straps
\$50 gift certificate
\$25 gift certificate & hats
\$30 gift certificate
Rust Buster Softener Salt
Yeti Rambler Mug
(8) Complimentary Meal Tickets
(2) Calf Electrolyte Packets
Tri-Bander, Calf Balling Gun
Calf Colostrum
\$50 Gift Certificate
Jumper Cables
4 Hitch Pins



Protect Surface Waters Through Cost-Share Practices (Goal 2-6)

Protect Surface
Waters Through
Cost-shared Practices
(Goal 2-6)



Todd SWCD Continues to Recruit High Caliber Technicians; Introducing our newest Riparian Technician, Kasen Christiansen



Kasen Christiansen

In early 2022, Todd SWCD hired Kasen Christiansen to join technician Josh Votruba and manager Deja Anton to expand the Riparian Team expertise. Kasen joins us after managing a Soil Conservation District in North

Dakota. Kasen came to us with a common sense approach to conservation, excellent people skills, knowledge of crop and farm best management practices, and a passion for a balanced approach to conservation. Kasen has taken over the former position held by Lewis Noska, now a 2023 County Commissioner. Kasen works closely with Nancy Uhlenkamp, the County Ag and Ditch inspector, as well. Kasen is well trained in wetland conservation and received wetland identification delineation training and is certified as are all SWCD technicians in Erosion and Stormwater Management.

Together Kasen and Josh Votruba work in the field on wetland, buffer and shoreland protection, livestock crossings, surface water monitoring, support the AIS program, record data from 13 DNR observation wells around the County and have taken RIM program inspections. Landowners with projects involving ponds, wetland restoration, and excavation near or potentially in wetlands, wetland grasses/meadows, or surface waters can reach out to Kasen at 320-732-2644. Kasen is currently working on job approval authority for field windbreaks.



Todd SWCD Riparian Team, Josh Votruba and Kasen Christiansen, right, record a DNR well aquifer depth.



Beautiful R.I.M. easement property in Osakis



The Riparian team samples 8 outlets to the Long Prairie R.



Protect Surface Waters Through Cost-Share Practices (Goal 2-6)

Riparian Team Reports



2022 Riparian Report

Site Visits

Wetlands 109 Buffers 13

Riparian 122 RIM 10

Phone Calls/Assistance

Wetlands 359 Riparian 266

In-office Meetings 4

Surveys 14

Installed Cost-share Projects 6

Lake Association Presentations/Events 4

Buffer Return to Compliance 3

Applications	6
Boundary Type	2
Replacement	1
No Loss	3
Decisions/ Notices	95
Boundary Type	8
Sequencing	1
Replacements	4
No Loss	52
Exemptions	38
Agricultural Activities	12
Drainage	14
De-minimus	9
Wildlife Habitat	3
New Violations	2
Violations Fixed	3

2022 Wetland Staff Report

2022 AIS Highlight Reports– AIS Cost-Share Program

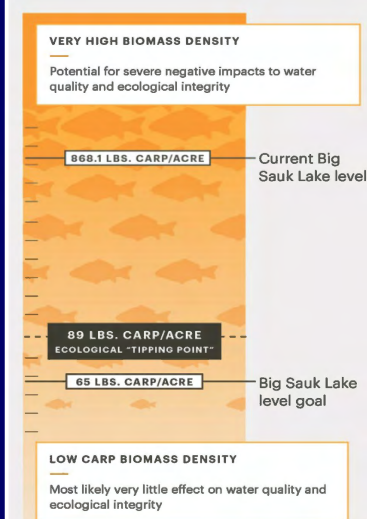
#1 Success Story- Big Sauk Lake Hatches a Plan to More Efficiently Control Carp*

Carp can be ecologically damaging to aquatic ecosystems; especially when they are overabundant. Impacts to water clarity, increased phosphorous loading within the lake and a reduction in aquatic plant diversity and habitat are just a few negatives that accompany heavy carp populations. To address the concerns and improve the ecological integrity of Big Sauk Lake and the waterbodies to which it connects, the Big Sauk Lake Association has developed a plan to sustainably manage the common carp over-population.

Goal #1. Reduce carp biomass density to near or below 89 pounds/acre by 2026.

Goal #2. Improve water quality by reducing total internal phosphorus created by the overabundance of carp by 1,075,158 pounds. This will meet the requirements outlined in the MPCA water quality reports and the Sauk River Clean Water Management Plan CWMP (1W1P).

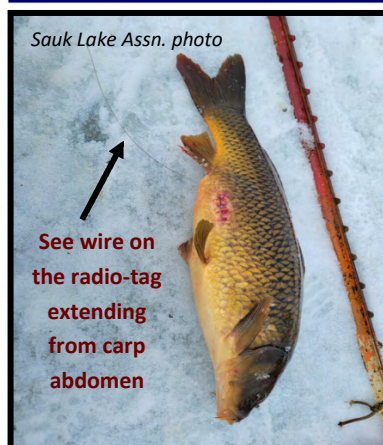
Goal #3. Re-establish wild rice in Big Sauk Lake to a level that is self-propagating, harvestable, and provides significant water quality and ecological benefits.



To achieve these goals, the Big Sauk Lake Association first used high frequency radio telemetry to track carp movement in Sauk Lake and its tributaries. Twelve radio tags were implanted on September 28th, 2021, and were first surveyed on October 26, 2021, through August 2022. Carp were also tracked to identify migrations routes and nursery sites.

Winter-time telemetry data was used to track carp aggregations that could be targeted for removal via netting. Two areas of the lake were identified; one being in the southeast corner of the North Bay and the other in the northwest quadrant of the South Bay. (Below)

The fish were netted and placed live into semi trucks to deliver east in the Spring of 2022.



See wire on the radio-tag extending from carp abdomen

*Information collected from WSB report for Sauk Lake Project 018540-000 submitted by Sauk Lake Association



Sauk Lake Assn. photo



Left, truckloads of carp hauled away 50,000 lbs. of the invasive fish from Sauk

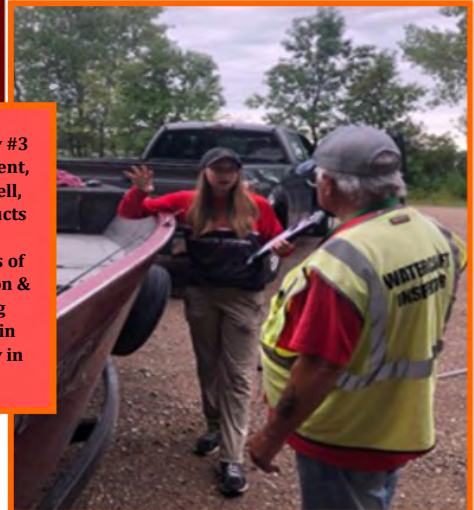
AIS Success Stories continued from page 27



*A seine netting of Invasive carp pulled from Big Sauk Lake in early 2022. Photo provided by Big Sauk Lake
Information from WSB report for Sauk Lake; Project 018540-000



AIS Success Story #2 Dan Ziegler, Mound Lake, graduated from the AIS Detector program in 2022, and is one of three Todd County citizens that have gone through the course. Mike Disher of Sauk Lake, and Deb Johnson of Big Birch Lake, also serve as local AIS Detectors. Mound Lake has a volunteer staff of 6 and Big Birch has 22 volunteers who monitor the lake annually for AIS.



Success Story #3 MAISRC Student, Nichole Angell, facing, conducts study of effectiveness of AIS prevention & cost saving techniques in Todd County in 2022

Todd AIS Volunteer Planning Committee

A big THANK YOU for your time and dedication to the control of AIS!

Maple Lake: Pete Klick

Big Birch Lake: Deb Johnson & Craig Tweedale

Big Sauk Lake: Jeff Mayer & Mike Disher

Swan Lake: Chuck Macy

Little Birch Lake: Larry Bebus & Todd Bussmann;

Mound Lake: Dan Ziegler

Lake Beauty:

Lake Osakis: Bruce Magnus

Latimer Lake: Jason Sellnow

Kathy Beockmann

Protect Land Productivity
with Effective Soil and
Nutrient Management
(Goal 4-3)

Todd SWCD Techs Further Technical Knowledge-base through Training!

Congratulations to the Todd SWCD Farm Conservation Team now with Job Approval Authority in Nutrient Management, Ag Waste Abandonment, Cover Crops, Pasture/Hay, & Erosion and Stormwater Management Certification!!!!



2022 Nutrient Management Report— Tim Ebnet, Todd SWCD

- 22 Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans in development
- 6 Plans completed in full
- 2 Manure Management Plans developed
- 5 Nutrient management assistance site visits
- 2 newspaper articles
- 1 manure spreader calibration
- 3 Annual Nutrient Management Plans Updates.



The Power of Rye. This cover crop was planted into dry ground in September 2022. Two weeks later, here was the root pull. Just as much plant below the ground as above!

Protect Land Productivity with Effective Soil & Nutrient Management (Goal 4-3)

- Support

Landowners Interested
in Forest Stewardship- Support Landown-
ers Interested in
Forest Stewardship
(Goal 5-1)"We Get by with a Little Help from Our
Friends!"Rejuvenating Forest & Grassland
Priorities in our Watersheds

Below: Todd SWCD partners with Crow Wing SWCD's Andrew Seagren to Promote Farm Forestry Opportunities at the Todd SWCD Annual Feedlot Meeting in March of 2022



PRESENTER CONTACT INFO:



Andrew Seagren
Forester/Easement Technician
322 Laurel St #22
Brainerd, MN 56401
Phone: (218) 828-6197
Email: andrew@cwsxcd.org

Have you hiked the Superior forest north of Duluth or the White Mountains' hardwood forests in New England or even the super tall coniferous forests of the Olympic National Forest in Washington? If you have, you will have noted a common characteristic, the abundance and fresh appeal of this favorite compound, H₂O.

It's a fact that clean water is the byproduct of a healthy forest. Similar to our wetland purifiers, trees act as cleansing sponges for ecosystems by retaining water, preventing erosion and filtering contaminants. Diverse tree and understory vegetation have root systems that penetrate the ground in a variety of ways; for example, some have fibrous surface roots while others are deep rooted. All weave a mat of protection and resiliency for water, sediment, and nutrient migration. The more the ground is disturbed by a variety of land use practices, the more suscepti-

ble it is to runoff. Like Grandma's pocketbook, runoff carries a seemingly endless volume of "baggage" in the form of debris, sediment, nitrates, phosphorus, and contaminates like oils, salts, and detergents. Disturbed soils eventually compact, crushing the natural water storage capacity that is a benefit of healthy soil structure. Many lakes that have lost their forested buffers due to recreational and shoreline development are now impaired by phosphorous, while farm fields left exposed lose topsoil, organic matter, and the very nutrients needed to grow future crops.

Humans need space to live and recreate and to grow food. That is never going away. But, we can keep or expand the woodlands we do have in tact, especially in areas closest to surface waters. It may be good idea in the short term to clear out trees to square off a field, have a better view of the lake, or make a bigger

turn around, but in terms of sustainability and resiliency of the land for the long term, there lies a hidden price to pay.

The Crow Wing Watershed, the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape boundary in eastern Todd County, the Red Eye and Long Prairie Watersheds now have cost-share opportunities available for forestry *related* practices which include:

- Tree/shrub site preparation
- Stormwater runoff controls
- Hedgerows and field windbreaks
- Brush and buckthorn management
- Forest thinning & succession planting
- Stream crossings, stream bank and shoreline stabilization
- Sediment basins & grade stabilization
- Forest Stewardship Plans, and more!

Call for info. **Todd SWCD 320-732-2644**

Support Landowners Interested in Forest Stewardship (Goal 5-1)

RIM Working Lands Easements



Ready to transition your grazing or haying operation to Junior?
This may be an affordable way to do so!

READ BELOW

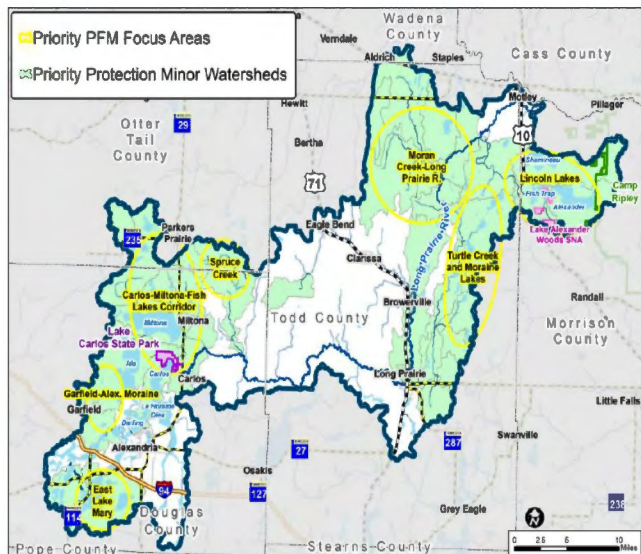


Forestry Stewardship continued from previous page:

Where in the Long Prairie watershed will planting trees make the biggest difference?

The green on the map below indicates areas of the watershed where planting trees or prairie and native vegetation can make a noticeable difference in water quality. In northern Todd, soils are highly erodible, and the majority of stream impairments are in this area. Along with a good number of beef farms, there is Residential development in Sylvan Shores. Any remaining historic forests have been fragmented due to parcelization of the land into smaller acreage.

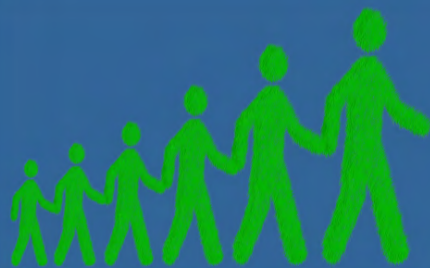
Source: Land Stewardship Plan—Long Prairie River 1W1P



You been farming long?

If your answer is “too long” and you have off-spring comin’ of age, here is a tickler. It may seem like the wrong thing to do, to sell off development or row crop rights. BUT if you know your land is good for nothing but “rocks and cows”, and you plan to keep it that way, this may be a great way to transition operation to kin next in line. Farmers get paid 50% of the land value they put under a working land easement in return for keeping the land in hay and pasture—also known as green cover. Yes, these are permanent easements. If you are up there in age, it is likely you haven’t been much into rotational grazing or some of the other highly touted grazing practices; “I’m too old for the farmers version of the Jane Fonda Workout”, but your son or daughter may still be spritely agile and enthusiastic a new grazing approach, especially if they want to farm with conservation in mind. Allow them the opportunity to take over the grazing management with a more affordable payment and get cost-share for installing best management practices all while keeping the livestock on the land. Think on it a while, and give us a call. Currently, this grant is available to farmers in the Red Eye, Crow Wing and the Long Prairie watersheds. **Call Todd SWCD at 320-732-2644 for more information.**

Support Landowners Interested in Forest Stewardship (Goal 5-1)



All in the Family-

Report accomplishments are not achieved without the help of many partners dedicated to the Soil & Water mission.
Presenting: Our 2022 "Conservation Family"

Thank you to the following businesses, organizations and individuals for your dedication, work, input, & support for:

Citizen review and input of the Long Prairie River (LP) Watershed Plan (1W1P):

Tim and John Kroll

Linn Porter

LP 1W1P Citizens & Technical Committee Members:

Fran Breiter

Roger Dukowitz

David Tomsche

Bruce Curley

Dean Schultz

Ed Uhlenkamp

Technical: Ted Gray & Ken Hovet

Reta Dahlen (proof reading LP ARCGIS StoryMap)

Mississippi- Brainerd 1W1P Citizen & Technical Committee Members:

Rick Baum, Jr.

Dr. Van Gorp

Kathy Beockman

Rick Jones

Lee Daly

Steve Brown

Greg Friedrich

Senator Howe

Technical: Rick Johnson & Bruce Johnson

Todd SWCD Work Session Farm Site Host:

Eugene Hallermann

Local Business Support:

Historic Rock Tavern, Grey Eagle

Griff's Pizza, Long Prairie

Countryside, Long Prairie

Clarissa Ballroom

Osakis Creamery

Tutti Fruitti Catering, Sauk Centre

Staples Party Bus

Milborn Seeds

Aggasiz

Central Lakes College, Staples

Todd Wadena Electric

Charles Lindberg State Park

Farm Bureau

Pro Ag. Clarissa

Cities of Browerville, Bertha, & Hewitt

Compeer Financial

Dan Prize's

The Lions Clubs of Eagle Bend, Grey Eagle/Burtrum, Sauk Centre, & Browerville

Long Prairie Packing

Magnifi Financial

American Heritage National Bank

Central Minnesota Credit Union

Minnesota National Bank

Unity Bank

First International Bank

Todd County Corn & Soybean Growers

Tri County Livestock Barn

Party World, Brainerd

NRCS, Long Prairie, Little Falls, & State Level

Centre Rental, Sauk Centre

Coburn's Deli & Bakery

Breakfast in the Field Host Farmers:

Ken Kraemer & Brady Wulf

Envirofest:

Adam Hjelm, SRWD

Doug Veeder

Doug Thom & Kathryn Schatz

Hannah Swartzentruber & Noah Boelter

Bruce Curley

Grant Pearson, Luke Thoma & Darlene Drayna

Brenda Miller

Mel Klein & Bob Johnson

Deb & Delvin Durheim

Chad Anderson, MDH

Tim & Caroline Venis

Mike North, Eric Altena, Andrew Butler, DNR

Jessica Holm, Science Museum

Lonnie Marcyes & John Decock, Sheriffs Dept.

Marcus Meiners & Kyle VonWahlde, Pro Ag

Todd County Fair:

CLC College

Local Work Group Hosts:

Jeff Weldon

Didier Dairy, LLC

Feedlot Meeting:

Nathan Wiese

Grant & Dawn Breikreutz

Tyler Carlson

David Endicott, Cory Detloff & Keith Olander

Don Reciosky & Mark Guttierrez

Special Agency Recognition:

USFWS, John Riens

MPCA SWAG, Kelly O'Hara

BWSR, Lindberg Ekola & Chris Pence

Sauk River Watershed District, Jon Roschlein

Crow Wing SWCD, Andrew Seagren

MDA, Courtney VanderMey



Todd Co. Planning & Zoning & BOA

And Todd County 2022 Commissioners

A fare-well "Thank you" to Dave Kircher & Gary Kneisl for many years of service.

Happy Retirement!



2023

TREE SALE

The Todd SWCD Tree Sale is on!!!!
Order Form enclosed in this report!

Feedlot Meeting and Farmer Appreciation 2023



Save the Date! **March 15** beginning at 9:30 am
Location: **Clarissa Ballroom** RSVP Today 320-732-2644



2022 DNR Annual Rain Report

Thanks to our local volunteers: Don Maus, Meryl Wegner, John Stuckel, Jay Noska, Lawrence Lieder, Ione Krause, Charles Wegner, Mary Ostrowski, Greg Ostrowski, & Scott Becker

LONG PRAIRIE (MN)

