

# Conservation News

## Hallman Family 2016 Outstanding Conservationists

Congratulations to the Jon and Erin Hallman family of Chokio, for been chosen as our Stevens SWCD Conservation Cooperators of the year. Jon farms full time along with his father, Howard, on their family farm in Baker Township. They have 980 tillable acres in a spring wheat, corn and soybean rotation.

Jon enjoys the soil health benefits of diversified crops and farming methods. He has been in NRCS programs such as the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), taking advantage of drift reducing nozzles, GPS targeted spraying, and a variety of cover crops which decrease compaction, increase soil health, and scavenge residual nitrogen. He's also done plant tissue testing, and VRT fertilizer application. Jon has 38 acres of CRP filter strips and buffers on all of his drainage ditches. He has recently been involved in pollinator research projects with the USDA's ARS Soils Lab in Morris. Jon has been working to reduce his tillage to retain more crop residue on the soil surface and help preserve soil structure. He recently tried strip tillage on his corn and is considering more reduced tillage strategies as well.

Jon is patient about farming and working hard to improve the land and to leave it even better for the next generation of farmers. Congratulations, Jon Hallman & family. The Hallman's will be honored at the Minnesota Association of Conservation Districts Annual Convention on December 6th in Bloomington.



### STEVENS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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## STEVENS SWCD SERVICES

- Rain Garden Design & Installations
- Tree Planting
- Tree fabric Installation
- Native Grass Planting
- Mowing---for Weed Control
- Spot Spraying Weeds
- CRP Conservation Planning

## CSP—Building Better Outcomes

The Conservation Stewardship Program – CSP- is the largest conservation program in the United States. Since 2010, the program has enrolled more than 70 million acres nationwide. Through CSP, agricultural producers earn payments for actively managing, maintaining, and expanding conservation activities like cover crops, rotational grazing, ecologically-based pest management, buffer strips, pollinator habitat, and nutrient management to name a few, all while maintaining active agricultural production on their land. Crop producers, livestock farmers, organic farmers and specialty crop farmers can all participate in the program.

For 2017, the CSP tools NRCS has used in the past to evaluate applications have been redesigned to create a clearer and more logical process, from initial program eligibility stewardship assessment to application ranking and payments. Applicants and NRCS work together to identify resource concerns that are not currently being addressed and discuss alternative conservation activities that can be implemented to address those resource issues. Ultimately, this helps the producer make decisions that best fit their conservation goals while addressing resource concerns. CSP has been better integrated with other NRCS programs and will focus on addressing state specific resource concerns. The new CSP is now linked closely to conservation practices, providing more opportunities for conservation, with nearly twice as many enhancements and practices available.

NRCS is accepting applications for operators interested in applying for CSP. Stop by the Morris office to sign up!



## Cover Crops Successful in Stevens County

A growing number of Stevens County farmers are striving to look at their soil's health and implement practices that improve soil health. Farmers are reducing tillage passes, switching from conventional tillage to no-till or strip till, reducing over-application of fertilizer, and implementing cover crops into their rotation.

NRCS staff have many great resources available to help you design a cover crop mix that meets your goals. We have seen increased use of cover crops in the county following edible bean harvest. After edible bean harvest, farmers have had success with mixing a small grain such as oats, barley, wheat or rye with fertilizer for next year's crops and having the co-ops spread it on with their larger spreaders. A lot of acres can be spread quickly. Bin run cover crops are acceptable and work well. Some producers then go and make a tillage pass to incorporate their residue, fertilizer and seed. This fall we have seen excellent results using this method. These fields have a nice cover on them that is about 6" tall and the field should not blow this winter, if we have an open winter. These cover crops are showing to be extremely important in an open winter and will be important in the spring to keep topsoil from blowing and filling in the ditches. Cover crops were very successful and established well following small grain harvest, silage corn or on prevent planted land. Some early sugar beet harvested ground was also seeded to cover crops. Cover crops in corn can be challenging. Some have tried flying on a cover crop in late August or broadcasting a cover crop when corn is still short enough to drive a high-boy spreader across. Our recommendation is that if you have growing season left on your farm, plant a cover crop and keep a living root in your soil as long as you can.

Many farmers are trying cover crops on their own and some are utilizing the USDA's EQIP program, which provides producers with a good opportunity to try cover crops on their land. Through EQIP in Stevens County, approximately 800 acres was seeded to a mix of cover crops that were to be left un-tilled over winter. Producers must have an approved EQIP contract to receive payment. Payments in EQIP range from \$30-60 per acre, depending on your scenario.

Be sure to check with your crop insurance agent to make sure the cover crop will not interfere with your crop insurance program. Stop by the NRCS office in Morris for more information on cover crops!

## Buffers: Improving Minnesota Waters

The Minnesota Buffer Law also known as the “Water Quality Law” was initiated by Governor Mark Dayton and signed into law in 2015 to protect Minnesota’s most valuable resource “Water”. The Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR) since then has been working hard to develop the necessary policy and guidance for implementation and management of the law.

Under this law landowners are required to establish vegetated riparian buffers (perennially rooted vegetation) along DNR public waters and public drainage ditch systems. The Buffer Law states that DNR public waters require a buffer with an average width of 50 feet and a minimum width of 30 feet, and on public drainage ditch systems a buffer width of 16.5 feet is required. Water features identified on the existing County Shoreline Ordinance would require a 50 foot minimum buffer.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) was tasked with the Buffer Mapping Project to produce and maintain a map of public waters and public ditch systems that would require a permanent vegetation buffer. Throughout this process the MN DNR has been accepting public comment on the proposed areas requiring a buffer, buffer map comments can be made through the SWCD office.

The first map version was released on July 12, 2016, the second update will be published in mid November and a third in January. You can view the buffer map and commonly asked questions on the MN DNR Buffer website at: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/buffers/index.html> (or search “MN DNR Buffers”) additional information can be found on the BWSR Buffer website at: <http://bwsr.state.mn.us/buffers/> (or search “BWSR Buffers”). Installation deadlines for the law will be November 1st 2017 for DNR Public Waters (50 foot requirement) and November 1st 2018 for Public Drainage Ditch Systems (16.5 foot requirement).

The Stevens County Highway Department hosted an informational public meeting on June 1, 2016 to discuss the MN Buffer Law and to answer any questions. Stevens SWCD plans to host a second public meeting early this winter to provide updates and a further overview of landowner obligations. We will be sending out a letter to notify landowners potentially affected by the law within the next couple months.

Stop in to the Stevens SWCD office at any time with questions about the MN Buffer Law, to review your property for potential buffer requirements and to discuss implementation strategies. It will be a busy time for all so please don’t hesitate to stop into the office or call @ 320-589-4886 ext. 3. We look forward to your visit!



### WALK-IN-ACCESS

Walk-In-Access (WIA) provides public hunting opportunities on private land that is already enrolled in existing conservation programs or lands with high quality natural cover.

WIA program is voluntary for landowners. Most landowners chose to enroll their property for two or three years. Enrolled lands are covered under the Minnesota recreational use laws that limit landowners’ liability. DNR conservation officers handle trespass and hunting violations.

The program provides public hunting access to private lands and pays landowners to allow that access. Landowners are paid \$10 per acre to enroll their lands in the program. Bonuses are added if more than 140 contiguous acres are enrolled, if the land is within one-half mile of existing state or federal hunting land, or if a multi-year agreement is signed. WIA sites are open to public hunting from Sept. 1 to May 31, with no additional landowner contact needed. Hunters must have a \$3 WIA validation on their hunting license to legally access WIA lands.

**PROGRAM FUNDING:** This program started in 2011 when the state received a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture’s Voluntary Public Access Program. Another grant of 1.67 million was awarded to help fund the program from 2015 to 2018, by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under number

For more information about the WIA program feel free to call or stop into the office or visit the website [www.mndnr.gov/walkin](http://www.mndnr.gov/walkin). If you have any interest in enrolling some land into WIA contact Stevens SWCD at (320) 589-4886 Ext 3.



### Practices Eligible for Continuous CRP Sign up

- Filter Strips or Buffer Strips
- Wetland Restorations
- Shelterbelts
- Field Windbreaks
- Riparian Buffers
- Living Snow Fence
- Duck Nesting Cover
- Pollinator Habitat
- State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)

### Apply now for CRP!!

**If landowners have an interest in CRP for 2017/2018 it would be in their best interest to stop in the office sooner than later** to request a CRP quote or additional information. This would include: re-enrollments and new contracts (including those interested in using CRP to meet the MN Buffer Law requirements). Applications will be accepted on a first come first serve basis, so plan accordingly.



## Conservation Reserve Program Update

Continuous CRP Sign-up 50 is under way, stop in to secure your contract acres!

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) is a voluntary program to give landowners the opportunity to restore and protect environmentally sensitive land. Conservation cover in the form of grass, forbs, shrubs or trees is planted to help reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and enhance wildlife habitat. This program can be beneficial to both the landowner and the environment, especially when it comes to those problem areas.

The CCRP application process is noncompetitive, all eligible applications are accepted (up to and within the nationwide program funding and acreage limits). The 2014 Farm Bill set a national cap of 24 million acres in 2017, as we become closer to reaching this acreage limit it is more difficult to secure CRP contract acres. The earlier you start the CRP application process the better chances you have of getting your contract accepted.

A landowner that signs up for CCRP will receive an annual rental payment from Farm Service Agency (FSA) for 10 to 15 years along with cost-share and other incentives depending on the practice. To be eligible for CRP, a landowner must have crop history in 4 out of 6 years between 2008-2013. The rental payment is determined by using the 3 predominate soil types within the eligible area. Up to fifty percent cost-share is given out to help the landowner pay for the establishment of approved cover. This can include site preparation, trees, tree planting, tree fabric mulch, grass seed, seeding, grass planting maintenance (mowing/spraying) and wetland restorations. Incentives will vary depending on the practice, but can include a signing incentive payment (SIP) of \$100 - \$150 per acre, a practice incentive payment (PIP) which helps pay additional cost-share for the installation cost on certain practices, and a 20% incentive on top of the rental payment for certain practices.



## Construction projects in full swing

Construction season is in full swing this fall and it has been keeping NRCS staff very busy. In Stevens County this year we have 16 water and sediment control basin projects and two grassed waterways to construct. These projects are part of our Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and will help reduce gully erosion in the farmer's fields.

We also have two pipeline projects that will provide water to new grazing systems through EQIP, as well as a wetland restoration for our Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). So far the weather has cooperated and many of these projects are completed or are currently in progress.

We would like to thank all of the contractors that we have worked with this year. They have been doing a great job getting these projects done well and in a timely manner, which makes our job much easier! With the extent of our workload this year, we will most likely work on these projects until weather no longer permits. If you have any future construction projects that you'd like technical and financial help with, please contact our office and we can help get these projects designed for future construction.



## Establishment of Native Grasses

Once native grasses are established there is very little maintenance, and they provide excellent cover for wildlife. Not only do they benefit pheasants, ducks and deer in our area, they also help with the ongoing issue of losing our pollinators. Native plants produce nectar, pollen, and seeds that serve as food for native birds, butterflies, bees, and other wildlife. In contrast, many common horticultural plants do not produce nectar and often require insect pest control to survive.

Native grasses include both cool-season and warm-season grasses. Cool-season grasses grow best in the spring and fall when soil and air temperatures are cooler. Warm-season grasses grow best during the warmest months of the year, typically from June through early September.

Native grass planting does require some maintenance, because most native grass species spend their first year after planting developing a strong root system that will eventually extend 5 to 15 feet into the soil. During the establishment phase (first year after seeding) they will need to be clipped two to three times, about 8-12 inches high, to keep weeds down and provide the sunlight that is required to establish the plants. Deep roots help stabilize the soil, thus reducing erosion, and the large root mass of native grasses contributes to an increase in soil fertility.

For additional information, please contact Stevens SWCD at 320-589-4886 ext 3

## Plant a rain garden: beauty, habitat, and water quality

A rain garden is a planted depression that allows rainwater runoff from impervious areas, like roofs, driveways, walkways, parking lots, and compacted lawn areas, the opportunity to be absorbed. Rain runoff is reduced by allowing storm water to soak into the ground (as opposed to flowing into storm drains and surface water which cause erosion, water pollution, flooding, and diminished groundwater). Rain gardens can cut down on the amount of pollution reaching creeks and streams by up to 30%. A rain garden is not a wetland and should not hold water for more than a 24-hour period.

Native plants will be planted throughout the garden. The reason that native plants are used is that they are climate tolerant and provide a deep root system. At Stevens SWCD, we typically design the garden with plants that bloom at different times of the year so that the garden can add some beauty to your landscape. The plants in a rain garden are also very attractive to butterflies, bees, birds and other wildlife.

If you are interested in a rain garden, the staff at Stevens SWCD can help with site location, design and plant selection. The SWCD staff are experts in choosing plants that are best suited for this region and climate, and can help choose the right mix of plants for the different areas of the garden. If you don't want to tackle planting the garden yourself, we can take on your garden project from design, to digging, to planting. Stevens SWCD also has cost share programs available, which may help pay for up to 75% of the cost of the garden. For more information about putting a rain garden on your property call (320) 589-4886 and ask for Matt or John.





MAWQCP Certification began in June of 2014 and has since initiated numerous structural conservation practices across Minnesota including: Water Quality Inlet Protection, Water and Sediment Control Basins, Agricultural Waste Facilities, Terrace Projects, Streambank Protection Projects, Conservation Cover/Pollinator Plantings, Grassed Waterways, Filter Strips, Field Borders, Cover Crops and Contour Buffers.

## Water Quality Certification Program

The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) is a voluntary program through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture designed to accelerate adoption of on-farm conservation practices that protect Minnesota's lakes and rivers.

Farm owners and operators who implement and maintain approved farm management practices will be certified and in turn assured that their operation would not be subject to new water quality regulations for a period of ten years. Producers would also receive priority for technical and financial assistance to help implement practices promoting water quality.

Farm operators and owners seeking certification will be evaluated using an on-farm assessment tool. The on-farm

assessment is customized specifically to your operation. It is a great educational opportunity to learn about how to maintain and improve your environmental performance. Stevens SWCD will be involved with the on-farm assessment process as each program applicant works toward this water quality certification.

As of August, this year, Stevens SWCD has certified two farms under this program. SWCD Board Supervisors Greg Fynboh and Jim Krosch now have water quality certified farms, helping to lead the county in conservation.

Please contact Kasey at the Stevens SWCD at (320) 589-4886 ext. 117 for more information about the program and to enroll.

## Conservation Day 2016

Over 300 fifth grade students and teachers enjoyed a fun but windy day in the outdoors on Thursday September 29, 2016. Students came from schools in Pope and Stevens counties to learn about conservation and the environment at SWELL (Scandia Woods Environmental Learning Lab), just east of Morris. This was our 10th year for the event at SWELL.

The hands-on interactive learning sessions included "Raptors," presented by the Audubon Center of the North Woods. The students had a chance to meet live raptors and learn about their characteristics & habitats. The raptors included a red hawk, screech owl, great horned owl, and an American kestrel.

Other sessions included Mammals, Mirrors of Minnesota, Soils, Wetlands, Waterfowl, Geocaching, Deadly Links, Nature's Stock Market, Orienteering and "Reptiles and Amphibians," which was a huge hit with the students.



The program was coordinated by Judy Johnston of Stevens SWCD. Our presenters and volunteers that day were staff from Pope SWCD, Stevens SWCD, ARS Soils Lab, North Fork Crow River Watershed, NRCS, US Fish & Wildlife, Audubon Center of the North Woods and SWELL Coordinator Randee Hokanson.

Event sponsors include: Pope and Stevens SWCDs, Stevens County Local Water Plan; Pope County Land & Resource Management, North Fork Crow River Watershed District, Hancock Sportsman's Club, Pope County Pheasant Restoration, Gobblers of Glacial Ridge, Glenwood Fire Department, Sauk River Watershed District, Brooten Commercial Club, Glenwood Rotary Club, Stevens County Historical Society, Service, Donnelly Rod & Gun Club, Stevens County Pheasants Forever, and Starbuck JCs.

## County Agricultural Inspector

The duties of the County Agricultural Inspector (CAI) are to inspect all land in the county for the presence of prohibited noxious weeds. This is done with assistance from local weed inspectors (township and city officials or their appointees). If you would like to report noxious weeds, please contact your local township or city official to begin the investigation process.

Another duty of the CAI is to help enforce the seed law. A sufficient amount of seed is collected and tested each year to ensure the protection of the citizens and businesses in the county through truthfully labeled seed and for fair competition.

The CAI also administers the pesticide applicators test for commercial applicators. Study materials can be obtained from the University of Minnesota Extension Service in the Stevens County Courthouse. Pesticide applicators licenses are issued by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA). Any questions regarding certification can be directed to Matt Solemsaas at (320)589-4886 ext 112.

When you are ready to schedule the exam:

- Contact Matt Solemsaas for appointment
- Fill out application and pay licensing fee either online at the Dept of Ag website or in person the day of testing.
- What to bring on test day:
  - Payment or proof of payment if application made ahead of time
  - Number 2 pencils
  - Valid photo ID & calculator



## Water Fest held in Glenwood

What a great year at Water Fest! On September 11, over 300 students and teachers from Pope and Stevens counties attended the 11th annual Pope & Stevens County Water Fest. Sixth grade students from Minnewaska, Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa, Morris Area Elementary, St. Mary's, Hancock, and Glacial Hills joined to attend this year's event, which was held at the Pope County Fairgrounds in Glenwood.



The students were involved in a day of hands-on learning about the water cycle, water treatment plant, soil erosion, macro invertebrates and

exploring underwater. They had fun participating in games and activities at sessions such as Bubbleology, aquatic intruders, and fish journey

Presenters came from various agencies including the Science Museum of Minnesota, Pope & Stevens Soil & Water Conservation Districts, University of Minnesota Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Chippewa River Watershed, Middle Fork and North Fork Cow River Watershed Districts, and Pomme de Terre River Association.



### Order Trees by March 15

It isn't too early to start thinking about trees for the spring of 2017. We are currently taking orders and will be taking orders until March 15, 2017. Availability of some trees is limited so if you know a certain variety of tree that you would like, ordering the sooner the better is best to ensure we can get what you want. We have shrubs, deciduous and coniferous trees available for your conservation needs.

You can purchase trees to plant yourself or Stevens SWCD can help develop a tree plan for your site, advise you on the best tree species suitable for your site based on soils, and also try to find cost-share to help pay for the planting through federal and state funding.

The District also provides services that include site preparation, machine tree planting, laying fabric around the trees for weed control and installation of tree tubes to protect against animal damage.

We will be having a tree open house on December 15 from 1:00-5:00. If you are interested in planting a shelterbelt to protect your building site, a field windbreak to protect against wind erosion, a wildlife planting or any other type of tree planting, stop in to discuss your options. For additional information, please contact John at 320-589-4886 ext 3.



## Change coming for Pomme de Terre River Association

Jared House, who served as the Project Coordinator for the PDTRA, has taken a new position with Grant Soil and Water Conservation District. Jared will, however, be acting as the River Association's Project Coordinator until a new person is hired. The application period recently closed and the expectation is to have a new coordinator on board by the end of the year.

Jared would like to thank all of the Pomme de Terre River Watershed residents for their interest in improving and protecting water quality. He plans to stay involved with the group and hopes to help the new coordinator serve the area well.



MINNESOTA STATE ENVIROTHON

The Area 2 Envirothon will be held April 19, 2017 at Prairie Wood Environmental Learning Center, Spicer, MN. The current issue topic in 2017 is "Agricultural Soil and Water Stewardship." The top three teams will advance to the State Envirothon May 15, 2017 at Iron Springs Ranch in Stewartville.



## New: One Watershed One Plan

The One Watershed, One Plan will be focusing on the Pomme de Terre River watershed portion of Stevens County, partnering with Grant, Swift, Big Stone, Douglas, and West Ottertail counties. Over the next year and a half there will be several public meetings to solicit input from area agency personnel as well as local citizens. The end result will be a comprehensive plan highlighting the local water quality needs of all the counties involved in the Pomme de Terre watershed.

The vision of One Watershed, One Plan is to align local water planning on major watershed boundaries with state strategies towards prioritized,

targeted and measurable implementation plans. This process will help assist planning partners in prioritizing water bodies or natural resources, and the potential risks impacting that water body or natural resource. One Watershed, One Plan will also promote targeting, which takes a closer look at agreed upon priority resources and issues, and identifies specific actions, locations, and management practices for addressing the issues.

If you have further questions about the process or are interested in providing input please call the Stevens SWCD office at (320)589-4886 and ask for Matt.

## Weed Control

Clipping and spot spraying in combination are very effective ways to manage your conservation site. Stevens SWCD is currently set up to do small sprayings, up to 10 acres, on conservation practices such as CRPs, WRPs, and new seedings. Spraying is very beneficial in managing your practice because it keeps noxious weeds from taking over your site. Spot spraying allows the land owner to control weeds without eliminating the forbs (flowers) in your site.

To establish a good stand of grass it is essential to mow new plantings for the first one to three years. Many times, new plantings will need to be mowed two or three times the first year depending on the time of year planted and the amount of weed competition. Mowing can be cut back the next couple years, but keep in mind that you still want to clip weeds if they are predominant. The weeds provide a thick canopy over the grasses that restricts them from needed sunlight and moisture, which is critical in the early stages of building a root base.

Clipping is also done after the grasses are established. Many conservation contracts require some sort of mid-contract maintenance, and on all established seedings, it is important to control invasive weeds and/or voluntary trees. These established sites should be clipped at 8-12 inches high. Probably the biggest problem with invasive weeds in our area is Canada Thistle. Clipping of any invasive weed should be done before the weed goes to seed. If done at the right time, this can be an effective way of controlling these weeds. Also, many of the conservation contracts do not allow the growth of trees on the site. These trees can be clipped when they are small to prevent having to go in later with large machinery to remove them. If the trees are too large, it is very expensive to remove them.

With the combination of mowing and spraying we are hoping to control some of these invasive weeds more effectively, especially Canada Thistle, with minimal or no harm to the native flowers. A good method of controlling thistle is to spot clip the thistle patches, before they go to seed, and then come back in the fall, around the end of September or early October, and spot spray those spots when the plant is trying to absorb nutrients for winter. This is a very effective method on controlling weeds.

Please contact Matt or John at Stevens SWCD, (320)-589-4886 ext. 3, if you have any questions or are interested about weed control on your conservation acres.

## Wetland Conservation Act Rules

### ***Tiling? Mitigating? Wetland Banking? Then you need to know - What is WCA??***

Federal and Minnesota laws were enacted a couple decades ago to address the draining and filling of wetland areas. Both sets of laws rely on the knowledge and actions of landowners to assure compliance with their requirements. It is important for agricultural producers to be aware of these regulations in order to limit their risk. Landowners need to know that just because you're in compliance with one program doesn't always mean that you're in compliance with others.

### ***What is the state law?***

The Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) is a state law that regulates the activities that result in the draining, filling, or excavating of wetlands in Minnesota, including those on agricultural land. It is administered by local government units; in rural areas this is usually the County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). SWCDs also provide technical assistance to landowners.

### ***What should you do before you start a project?***

- Complete your "AD1026" form for you local USDA office.
- Bring a copy to the WCA Administrator and explain what you plan to do.
- If you are interested in tiling, mitigating or putting some previously drained acres into the wetland bank, the WCA Administrator can advise you if your project is allowed under WCA or if you need to submit an application to the local

government. Involving the WCA Administrator from the beginning is the easiest and best way to avoid problems.

- Request a field visit by the WCA administrator. This can help identify regulated wetlands on your property, and regulations that could affect your project. Many wetlands do not contain standing water or are only saturated for part of the year, and can be difficult for landowners to identify.
- If you need a contractor, make sure they submit a "Contractor Liability Form". Contractors who conduct projects that will impact a wetland are required to notify the local government. The Contractor Responsibility and Landowner Statement Form is available at [www.bwsr.state.mn.us/wetlands/forms](http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/wetlands/forms) and must be mailed to the local government prior to starting work.

### ***Communication is the key!***

Compliance with USDA (Swampbuster) does not mean compliance with other wetland laws. A quick call or stop at your SWCD office prior to beginning your project will help you comply with the laws and save a project from potential additional costs and delays.

The WCA contact for Stevens County is Matt Solemsaas, District Administrator at Stevens SWCD. If you have any questions stop by or call (320)589-4886 ext 112.



### **Wiechmann Joins SWCD Staff**

In April of this year, Kasey Wiechmann joined the Stevens SWCD as a full-time Program Technician. She previously worked as both the Pope and Stevens County NRCS Administrative Assistant where she helped with wetland determinations and keeping conservation files up to date. Kasey grew up in the Freeport area and completed a degree in Environmental Studies at the University of Minnesota, Morris. Currently, Kasey helps with enrolling, planning, and management of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts as well as coordinates the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP). She also works on Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) education and helps other staff to plant trees and native grasses. If you are interested in a program or need assistance with a concern on your land, feel free to set up an appointment with her to discuss your options.



**Happy  
Thanksgiving**



For additional information on Aquatic Invasive Species, please visit the Minnesota DNR website at [www.mndnr.gov/ais](http://www.mndnr.gov/ais) or come visit our office staff and pick up informational brochures, factsheets, and other materials.

## Update on Aquatic Invasive Species

As many of you know, Zebra Mussels & Eurasian Watermilfoil have been moving into our neighboring counties at an increasing rate. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) are a continuous threat to our Minnesota waters, including those in Stevens County. Currently, there are no confirmed infestations of AIS in Stevens County waters per the MN DNR Infested Waters list, but it is the responsibility of everyone to help prevent an infestation from occurring.

“Clean, Drain, Dispose” – Current state law requires boaters to clean any plants or aquatic animals from their equipment, remove the drain plug for draining, and dispose of unwanted live bait in the trash each time they leave a body of water. This is applicable during the entire year, from spring fishing to summer recreation to fall waterfowl hunting.

Most local public water accesses feature “Help Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers” signs posted as reminders to keep equipment clean and drained when leaving an access. If you are a boat owner, hunter or make use of public waters for any purpose, please make sure that you take some time to review the necessary information to help prevent further spread of AIS.

As recreational users of the public waters we love, we should take it upon ourselves to be educated on the prevention and potential management of these species. Stevens SWCD will continue to spread this message through local school events, county fairs, fishing leagues and tournaments, radio time, area and state conferences, and more.

## Funding Available for Many Projects

Stevens SWCD will have Cost-Share available to help offset the cost of water quality projects. Cost-Share is available through the Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment, the State Cost-Share program, and District Capacity funds. A list of some of the projects that can be cost shared are: Water and Sediment Control Basins (WASCOB), alternative tile intakes, shoreline bank stabilization, and rain gardens. Landowners can receive up to 75% of the total eligible cost of the project. In order to be eligible for funding the project must be in place and maintained for a minimum 10-year life span.

For more information about Cost-Share please contact Stevens SWCD at (320) 589-4886 ext 3.





12 Hwy 28 E Ste 2  
 Morris MN 56267  
 (320) 589-4886 ext. 3  
 www.stevensswcd.org

# 2017 Order Form

Prices subject to change. Order by March 15 to ensure availability.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ TWP: \_\_\_\_\_ Sec: \_\_\_\_\_

## Tree Species

	Unit Cost	Quantity	Total Price		Unit Cost	Quantity	Total Price
<b>Shrubs</b>				<b>Potted Trees</b>			
American Cranberry	\$ 1.50			Black Hills Spruce	1 gallon \$ 10.00		
American Hazelnut	\$ 1.50			Colorado Blue Spruce	1 gallon \$ 10.00		
Buffaloberry	\$ 1.50			Ponderosa Pine	1 gallon \$ 10.00		
Chokeberry	\$ 1.50			Techny Arborvitae	1 gallon \$ 10.00		
Common Lilac	\$ 1.50			<b>Bare Root Evergreens</b>			
Cotoneaster	\$ 1.50			Black Hills Spruce	\$ 1.50		
Nanking Cherry	\$ 1.50			Colorado Blue Spruce	\$ 1.50		
Redosier Dogwood	\$ 1.50			Ponderosa Pine	\$ 1.50		
Silky Dogwood	\$ 1.50			Techny Arborvitae	\$ 1.50		
Villosa Lilac	\$ 1.50						

<b>Small Trees</b>			
American Plum	\$ 1.50		
Chokecherry	\$ 1.50		
Juneberry	\$ 1.50		
Midwest Crab	\$ 1.50		
Nannyberry	\$ 1.50		
Red Splendor Crab	\$ 1.50		

<b>Large Trees</b>			
American Linden	\$ 1.50		
Bur Oak	\$ 1.50		
Cottonwood Male	\$ 1.50		
Golden Willow	\$ 1.50		
Hackberry	\$ 1.50		
Hybrid Poplar cutting	\$ 0.50		
Hybrid Willow cuttings	\$ 0.50		
Laurel Willow	\$ 1.50		
Paper Birch	\$ 1.50		
Silver Maple	\$ 1.50		

*Other species and sizes may be available upon request.  
 Bare root trees should be ordered in multiples of 25 trees per variety.*

## Related Products & Services

	Unit Cost	Quantity	
4 foot tree tube	\$ 3.00		
5 foot tree tube	\$ 3.25		
Tree stake (min. 4')	\$ 1.25		
3x3 Fabric mat & 8 staples	\$ 2.00		
Tree fabric roll (500'x6')	\$ 185.00		
Custom cut fabric, per foot	\$ 0.50		
Metal staples for tree mats	\$ 0.10		
Plantskydd Repellent, 1 qt. spray	\$ 21.95		
Plantskydd Repellent, 1.32 gal. spray	\$ 54.95		

*We can design & plant your trees &/or install fabric mulch for you.  
 We also perform site prep/tillage, mowing/weed control between tree rows,  
 and native grass planting including rain gardens.  
 Just give us a call!*

**Thank you  
 for your order!**

SUB TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sales Tax 6.875% if applicable \_\_\_\_\_  
 Grand Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

All tree orders & pricing are subject to species availability. Trees must be used for conservation purposes only.  
 Due to numerous factors beyond our control, the Stevens SWCD is unable to provide a guarantee on the trees we sell.  
 Payment due when ordering. We will notify you when trees are available for pick-up (late April).



12 Hwy 28 E Ste 2, Morris MN 56267

Putting conservation on the land

PRSRT STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
56248  
Permit No. 25

## Tree Sales Open House

Thursday  
December 15  
1-5 p.m.

*Free conservation  
design and planning*

*Order trees for 2017  
planting*

*Ask your questions  
about shelterbelt care  
and maintenance.*

Stevens SWCD Office,  
Next to Subway in  
Morris



***Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!***

***Stevens SWCD***

***www.stevensswcd.org  
320-589-4886 ext. 3***