

NORTHLAND CONSERVATION NEWS

FALL 2015 NEWSLETTER

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NRCS STAFF: JAMES SCHWAB - DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

TWO RIVERS WATERSHED DISTRICT: DAN MONEY, ADMINISTRATOR AND MATT THOMPSON, DISTRICT TECHNICIAN

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A Publication of the Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District, 410 S. 5th St., Suite 106, Hallock, MN 56728-4140, Phone 218-843-2619 and the Two Rivers Watershed District, 410 S. 5th St., Suite 112, Hallock, MN 56728-4140, Phone 218-843-3333

Kris & Bethany Folland To Be Honored As Finalists At State SWCD Convention

The Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) has named Kris and Bethany Folland as one of eight area finalists in the 2015 Outstanding Conservationist Award Program. The Follands will be recognized at a December 8th luncheon at MASWCD's 79th annual convention in Bloomington. The awards program recognizes farm families, individuals, conservation organizations, and other groups for their accomplishments in implementing conservation practices and improving Minnesota's natural resources.

Of the eight finalists, one will be announced as the State's Outstanding Conservationist of the Year at the December 8th luncheon. MASWCD sponsors the Outstanding Conservationist Award Program with support from *The Farmer* magazine.

The Kittson SWCD selected The Folland's for the Outstanding Conservationist for their dedication to conservation in Kittson County. On their farm in Norway Township, Section 25, Kris and Bethany have applied many conservation programs to their land. Kris has 2 Environmental Quality Incentives program (EQIP) contracts for Rotational Grazing which includes an installed exterior and interior fences, complete watering system which includes new well, pumping plant, underground pipeline and watering tanks. Kris also broke up 360 acres into 6 different paddocks where his livestock is rotated throughout. Kris also has an EQIP Cover crop contract where he has currently planted Rye and prescribed burning practice. An EQIP No-Till practice where Kris has planted Soybeans into Corn and Rye stubble, EQIP Mulch Tillage, and 2 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) contracts for grazing and cropland. Kris also has a Highly Erodible Cropland (HEL) Conservation crop rotation and Residue Management practice. Trees are another important part of the Folland Ranch, Kris has voluntarily left tree rows and pollinators established for wildlife on his farmland.

Alongside farming and applying conservation practices to his farm, Kris is also a Certified Crop Advisor and is also a Field Supervisor for the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association where he covers the areas of Kittson County to Norman County and over to Koochiching County in Northern Minnesota.

When the Kittson County Fair is in town, Kris and Bethany's children Jazlyn, Issac, McKinley, and Track are busy working on their 4-H Fair Projects and preparing their animals for Open Class Show at the Fairgrounds. Kris and Bethany are 4-H Club Leaders for the Halma Ideal Club.

Along with the many conservation practices The Folland's participate in, they are also very involved in Kittson County. Kris is a member of the Kittson County Farm Service Agency (FSA) Committee, Kittson County Extension Committee, Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council, Minnesota Turfseed Council, and is a Board Director for the Lake Bronson Farmers Union Oil Coop. Bethany is also a member of the Hallock Figure Skating Club Board. Together, Kris and Bethany have dedicated hours to the Farm Rescue Program, which is a nonprofit organization that provides planting, harvesting and haying assistance free of charge to family farmers who have suffered a major injury, illness or natural disaster.

In 2013, Kris and Bethany were Kittson Counties Emerging



Kris & Bethany Folland family – Outstanding Conservationists

Leaders. The Emerging Leader Program exists to sustain and create a network of community leaders in northwest and west central Minnesota. The goal of the Emerging Leader program is to provide opportunities for individuals to develop their leadership potential and a structure to bring together leaders of the region to address rural issues, especially focusing on agriculture and natural resources.

Thank you Kris and Bethany for your dedication to Conservation in Kittson County!

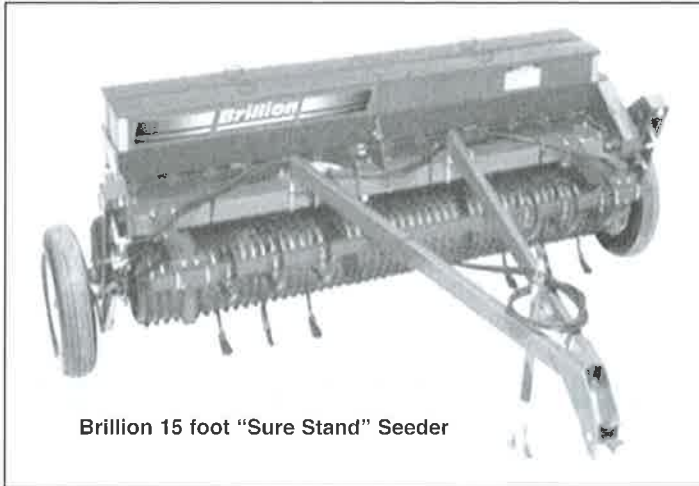
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a voluntary conservation program that encourages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by undertaking additional conservation activities; and improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities. CSP is available on all private agricultural lands and non-industrial private forest land. The program provides equitable access to all producers, regardless of operation size, crops produced, or geographic location.

Through CSP, NRCS will provide financial and technical assistance to eligible producers to conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. Eligible lands include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pastureland, rangeland, nonindustrial private forest lands, agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe, and other private agricultural land (including cropped woodland, marshes, and agricultural land used for the production of livestock) on which resource concerns related to agricultural production could be addressed. Participation in the program is voluntary.

CSP encourages land stewards to improve their conservation performance by installing and adopting additional activities, and improving, maintaining, and managing existing activities on agricultural land and nonindustrial private forest land. The NRCS will make CSP available nationwide on a continuous application basis. Please contact the NRCS office at 218-843-2619 ext. 3

Kittson SWCD Equipment Rental Program



Brillion 15 foot "Sure Stand" Seeder



The Kittson Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) will have a 12 foot Brillion "Sure Stand" Seeder available to rent for crop year 2016.

What is a Brillion Seeder? The Brillion seeder is a broadcast seeder with a front roller and a rear roller. Front rollers crush lumps, press down small stones and form a firm seedbed. Precision seeding devices meter out the seed onto the well prepared seedbed. The rear rollers split the shallow ridges formed by the front rollers and gently firm the soil around the tiny seeds. The S-tine track removal kit minimizes compaction from the tractor tires before the rollers prepare a uniform seedbed. All seed are planted at fingernail depth for maximum germination potential and fast emergence, which is ideal for native grasses establishment.

Why use the Brillion Seeder? This seeder was purchased in

December 2010 and will be available for the 2016 spring planting season. This Brillion seeder will plant CRP seed plans such as native grasses and cool season grasses or plant commodity crops such as canola and hay crops into a clean tilled seed bed. The drill has two separate seed boxes that allow multiple seed types at varying rates. The front box is legume box used for smaller heavy seeds (switchgrass, alfalfa, canola, etc.). The rear box has a cage agitator that rotates when seeding and is used for fluffy seeds such as Big Bluestem, Indiangrass, Little Bluestem and oats.

What is the rental rate? Rent is \$10 per acre, plus a \$75 setup fee, which includes delivery and pickup. The planting width of the drill is 12 feet and the overall width of the drill is 15 feet. A tractor with at least 40 horsepower and two hydraulic rear-couplers is required to pull the drill. Since 2011, the Brillion Seeder has seeded over 2,975 acres for area residents. Stop by the Kittson SWCD to fill out a rental agreement or call (218) 843-2619 Ext. 3 for more details.

Conservation Tour 2015

Tour attendee's visit an EQIP Prescribed Grazing system on the Kittson SWCD Conservation Tour



On June 16th 2015 the Kittson SWCD held a conservation tour to show local officials a few of the projects that the SWCD/NRCS have accomplished. In attendance for the tour was: Commissioner's Olson and Younggren, Representative Dan Fabian, County Engineer Kelly Bengston, Board Conservationist Matt Fischer, NRCS Grazing Specialist, Mark Hayek, NRCS Soil Scientist, Laura Shipley, Kittson SWCD Board members Wilebski, H. Peterson, C.J. Peterson, and

SWCD/NRCS Staff. Tour stops included; a farmstead shelterbelt, Grass filter strips and Side water inlets paid for using Clean Water Funds, a potato warehouse that required a zoning variance, Well sealing, Prescribed Grazing System, and a Streambank Stabilization Project. These projects highlighted various funds that the SWCD/NRCS has to help producers. The Kittson SWCD is looking forward to having another tour in the coming year.

Ag BMP Loan Program

The Agriculture Best Management Practices Loan Program (Ag BMP Loan) provides low interest loans to farmers and rural landowners. The purpose is to encourage Best Management Practices that prevent or reduce water quality water quality problems. Loans can be provided up to \$200,000 and interest rate of 3%. Money is available for the purchase of Ag waste management equipment, conservation tillage equipment, septic system upgrades, pre-

scribed grazing and other conservation related practices.

Projects must be located in the rural areas of Kittson County to be eligible. Landowners can contact the Kittson SWCD for more information and to receive an application package. Applications will need to provide information about the proposed project to be funded and the desired loan amount. For more information, stop at our office at the Kittson County Courthouse or call (218) 843-2619 Ext 3.

2015 Kittson County SWCD Rural Beautification Award Winners Merle & Marlys Nelson

The Kittson County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors are pleased to announce the First recipients of the Rural Beautification Award Winners as Merle and Marlys Nelson of Rural Robbin MN.

The Nelson's farm is located north of Robbin MN in Teien Township Section 9. The Nelson's farmstead is a beautiful eye catching sight as you drive on Kittson County Highway 7. Merle and Marlys built their home on this farmstead in 1973 and it wasn't until 1994 when their youngest child graduated from High School when Marlys began growing her beautiful flower beds. In 1997, Merle and Marlys added a greenhouse addition onto the South side of their garage, before the addition Marlys kept seeds from 20 varieties of flowers in 1 stall of their garage, the basement and laundry room. In the greenhouse addition, they set up germination racks 6 levels high with 75 florescent shop lights starting in the middle of March. In the Spring and Summer months, they have the greenhouse set up with tables and chairs to host visitors enjoying the sites of their beautiful landscaping.

With a walk around the Nelson's farmstead, you will find continuous flowers outlining the whole yard. Marlys stated that her flower gardens started out as a hobby and grew into wanting more. She loves being outside and states this keeps her active. She has over 100 pots and over 5,000 annuals planted around her yard. She keeps most of her flowers watered with an underground sprinkler system, but for her birthday this year she received a Polaris Ranger with a water tank in the back end, she says this has been a great addition to her hobby.

Some of the flowers you will see in The Nelson's flower beds and pots are; Wave Petunias, Supertunias, Total Madness Petunia, Red Celosia, Hollyhocks, Russian Sage, Coral Bells, Lulu and Vanilla Marigold, Impatiens, Zinnia, Autumn Joy Sedum, Roses, and Only the Lonely, which is the largest of all the Nicotiana varieties. Marlys enjoys planting Annuals because you can try them out and if you don't like where you planted them one year, you can try a different place the next year. In their front yard, you will find a Petunia tree where Marlys has 26 pots with 2 Petunias per pot to make a beautiful front yard decoration. Around the yard you will also see a



Merle & Marlys Nelson

variety of Spruce trees and shrubs including Cotoneaster and Dogwood.

Marlys has many of her flower beds in memory or honor of family or friends. She has a Grandchildren flowerbed, where she has footstones with each of their Grandchildren's names engraved in. A Hosta Memorial Flower bed in Memory of a friend Erlyce Larson. She also has a Scandinavian bed where you will find Scandinavian sculptures and a Peace pole in honor of her heritage. Along the highway you will see among all the beautiful flowers many farm implements and Home appliances. Although not all the pieces are originally from her parents, they are exact replicas of what her parents had. You will find the last mailbox at her parent's farm, an outhouse, a corn planter, dumprake, and a digger and planter used to plant Sugarbeets in the 1940's. Marlys also has a wagon that she bought from Charles Anderson of Hallock. Charles had originally bought this wagon from a Teien Township Sale.

Thank you Merle and Marlys for allowing us to visit your beautiful farm. The Kittson SWCD is proud to acknowledge your hard work on your Rural Farmstead.

Water Festival

On September 22nd, area fourth graders attended the Northwest Minnesota Water Festival at the Marshall County Fairgrounds in Warren Minnesota. Students take part in interactive learning stations



Tri- County and Lancaster Students listen to a demonstration on Groundwater by Kittson SWCD Technician Justin Muller and Pennington SWCD staff Peter Nelson.

all about our water resources. The stations include water quality, ground water and spring water, flooding, wetlands and watersheds. Students also participated in a casting and fishing painting station.

The event is hosted by area Soil and Water Conservation Districts and is held every September in Warren and Fertile.

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Projects must be located in the rural areas of Kittson County to be eligible. Landowners can contact the Kittson SWCD for more information and to receive an application package. Applications will need to provide information about the proposed project to be funded and the desired loan amount. For more information, stop at our office at the Kittson County Courthouse or call (218) 843-2619 Ext 3.

Manure Application For Farmers Big & Small

Cattle and other feedlot animals produce manure and this animal waste must be properly managed. Some farmers choose the manure on their own fields, while others get paid to spread it on another landowners' field. Where feasible, storing the manure to spread in fields at a later time is another option. However you choose to manage your manure situation, here are some guidelines to help you along the way.

Manure Testing: All storage areas holding manure from more than 100 animal units (Au) must be tested for nitrogen and phosphorus at least once every four years, or more frequently if management changes could lead to varying nutrient content. Individual stockpiles and manure packs generated by fewer than 100 Au are not required to be tested.

Soil Testing: Soil testing is not generally required for feedlots with less than 300 Au. If you have over 300 Au, testing for soil phosphorus levels every four years is required.

Manure Management Plans: Manure management plans are not required for feedlots with less than 300 Au unless you are required to obtain a feedlot operation or construction permit. If you are over 300 Au then you are required to complete a manure management plan. There may be programs available through the NRCS to provide technical assistance and financial assistance during management planning.

Record Keeping: Manure application record keeping is required for all feedlots that have more than 100 Au. More detailed records are required for feedlots with more than 300 Au's or for feedlots with more than 100 Au's when applying manure in drinking-water supply management areas where the aquifer is designated vulnerable. Record keeping is also required for feedlots with more than 300 Au's that transfer their manure for application to fields not owned or leased by the owner of the feedlot where the manure is produced.

Special Protection Areas: Additional protective measures are required for application of manure in special protection areas, including land within 300 feet of lakes, streams, intermittent streams (excluding grassed waterways), public waters wetlands (e.g. over 10 acres) and drainage ditches without protective berms. Winter application is prohibited in these areas. If a vegetated buffer is present in these specialty areas, there are no other land application restrictions. A permanent vegetated buffer is a buffer of vegetation that extends 100 feet from lakes and streams and 50 feet from all other waters. If there is no vegetative buffer, you are required to maintain at least a 25 foot setback and inject or incorporate the manure within 24 hours. It is also a requirement to apply the manure in a way that does not result in the accumulation of phosphorus in areas that already have sufficient crop growth. Manure must also be injected or incorporated within 24 hours if you are within 300 feet of an open tile intake. This also applies if the area is within 300 feet of the upslope side of a sinkhole.

What To Know Before You Work

Minnesota's landscape includes roughly 10.6 million acres of wetlands. While many people think of wetlands as swampy, marshy areas with standing water and cattails, the reality is wetlands take on many forms. In addition to swampy, marshy areas, wetlands can vary from grassy meadows, to forested wetlands covered in trees and shrubs, to wet areas of cultivated farm fields. Many wetlands are actually dry for most of the year, with no standing water.

Why Wetlands Matter

Before European settlement, studies estimate Minnesota had over 20 million acres of wetland. Today that number has been cut in half. Wetlands are important ecosystems. They hold water, providing for natural water quality improvements by filtering nutrients and sediment that might otherwise pollute and clog waterways. They provide flood protection and shoreline erosion control. Wetlands are also

home to many species of fish and wildlife.

Wetlands Regulation

Most wetlands in Minnesota are protected by State and/or Federal law, and in some cases by local ordinances. Minnesota's primary wetland protection law is the Wetland Conservation Act. The law is implemented by local governments, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources provides assistance and oversight, and the Department of Natural Resources provides enforcement.

- The State law applies to all wetlands, including those on private property, to achieve "no net loss" of wetlands.
- In general, wetland protection laws regulate activities in or near wetlands that can negatively affect the wetland through draining, filling, or excavating.
- There are some exemptions contained within State law for certain activities.

What You Should Know

It can be very difficult to identify wetlands and wetland regulations can be quite complex. Some examples of projects that could potentially affect wetlands include:

- Filling a low area of a residential lot for a building or lawn
- Tiling wet areas of cultivated fields
- Digging a pond in a low area
- Cleaning out an old ditch or improving an existing ditch
- Adding fill for a crossing of a stream or wet swale

Requirements

If there is the potential for your project to impact a wetland, before you start it is important to contact your local WCA regulatory authority to:

- Find out if the land you intend to alter is a wetland. Remember, an area can be a wetland even if it does not appear wet on the surface.
- Determine if the proposed activity has impacts to a wetland area.
- Assure that any impact to wetlands can be avoided if possible, and properly replaced if not.

If you don't know where to start, Please contact the Kittson Soil and Water Conservation District

Cooperation is a key component of successful conservation. Local, state, and federal wetland regulatory agencies work in partnership with landowners to help them achieve the best possible results on their private land.

Trees Available For Spring 2016

Spring is near and it is time to get your trees ordered!! The Kittson Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) offer a full service tree program including planning (location, design and species type), ordering, and planting.

The tree program was started to promote conservation and help residents create a more beautiful, healthy and ecologically balanced environment. Many of the county's farmstead and field windbreaks, wildlife habitat plantings and reforestation efforts have been started as a result of this program.

Our tree and shrub stock is typically 2 - 3 feet (with some varying sizes) in height, bare root and grown in Minnesota and North Dakota. Shrub and tree species are sold in bundles of 25 and the Kittson SWCD has potted evergreens (1 and 2 gallons) that are sold individually.

If you are interested at looking at a tree order form, placing an order or planting trees this spring, please give Justin Muller a call at 218-843-2619 Ext. 3. Tree order forms are available on the front page of our website at www.kittsonswcd.org, can be mailed out or stop by at the Courthouse basement in Hallock to pick one up or order your trees. Limited amount of tree varieties and numbers remain.

For your convenience, clip and mail the tree order form printed on the following two pages, and mail to:

Tree Program – Kittson SWCD
410 South 5th Street, Suite 106, Hallock, MN 56728

Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District

410 South 5th Street Suite 106
Hallowell, MN 56728

www.kittsonswcd.org

Kittson SWCD Tree Order Form 2016

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Home Phone:

Cell Phone:

County:

E-Mail Address:

Majority of bundles contain 25 bareroot trees or shrubs except where noted! Prices and sizes subject to change due to Nursery availability.

Species	Approximate Size of tree stock	Price Per Pot	Number Needed (Sold Individually)	Total Amount
POTTED	CONIFERS			
Scotch Pine	1 Gallon	\$8.25		
Black Hills Spruce	1 Gallon	\$8.25		
Black Hills Spruce	2 Gallon	\$13.00		
Colorado Blue Spruce	1 Gallon	\$8.25		
White Spruce	1 Gallon	\$8.25		
CONIFERS	TREES	Price Per 25 Trees	Number Needed ex. 25, 50, etc.	
Black Hills Spruce	8" - 15"	\$37.00		
Colorado Blue Spruce	8" - 15"	\$37.00		
Scotch Pine	8" - 15"	\$37.00		
White Spruce	8" - 15"	\$37.00		
DECIDUOUS TREES	AND SHRUBS	Price Per 25 Trees	Number Needed ex. 25, 50, etc.	
Apricot (Hardy)	2'-3'	\$32.00		
Ash, Green	2'-3'	\$32.00		
Aspen, Quaking	2'-3'	\$45.00		
Cherry, Nanking	2'-3'	\$32.00		
Cherry, Pin	2'-3'	\$32.00		
Chokeberry, Black	2'-3'	\$32.00		
Cotoneaster	18" - 24"	\$28.00		
Cottonwood, Common	2'-3'	\$32.00		
Cottonwood, Siouxland	2'-3'	\$32.00		
Crabapple, Red Splendor	2'-3'	\$32.00		
Cranberry, Highbush	18" - 24"	\$32.00		
Currant, Golden	2' -3'	\$32.00		

Species	Approximate Size of tree stock	Price Per 25 Trees	Number Needed ex. 25, 50, etc.	Total Amount
DECIDUOUS	TREES	AND	SHRUBS	CONTINUED
Dogwood, Redosier	2'-3'	\$32.00		
Juneberry (Serviceberry)	2'-3'	\$32.00		
Lilac, Common Purple	18" - 24"	\$32.00		
Lilac, Villosa	18" - 24"	\$32.00		
Maple, Silver	2'-3'	\$32.00		
Nannyberry	2'-3'	\$32.00		
Oak, Bur	2'-3'	\$32.00		
Paper Birch	2'-3'	\$32.00		
Plum, American	2'-3'	\$32.00		
Willow, Flame	2'-3'	\$32.00		
TREE	PROTECTION	AND	MARKING	MATERIALS
4 foot Tree Pro Protector	Individual	\$3.25		
2 foot Tree Growth Cone	Individual	\$4.00		
3 X 3 Fabric Tree Mats	Individual	\$2.00		
Tree Guard/Plantskydd	1 pound (\$25.00) or 2 pound (\$45.00) Soluble Powder Concentrate			
2 1/2 Feet Tall Flags	Bundle of 100	\$15.00		
4 Feet Tall Wooden Lath	Bundle of 50	\$25.00		
Make Checks Payable to Kittson SWCD		TOTAL		\$

The Kittson SWCD has a tree planter (for trees under 3 feet in height) to rent for the upcoming tree planting season. Cost is \$0.35 per tree planted if the driver of the tractor is provided or \$1.00 per tree if the SWCD staff has to drive. A minimum fee of \$150.00 for all tree plantings. The Kittson SWCD will only plant properly prepared sites that are ready the first week of May. If you have questions regarding the preparation of your site or about the tree program, please contact Justin Muller at the Kittson SWCD. Phone number is 218-843-2619 Ext. 3. Orders cannot be cancelled after March 1, 2016. **The Kittson SWCD accepts NO responsibility with regard to survival of planting stock and makes NO provisions for re-placements.**

Orders are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Tree orders will be available for pickup sometime in May 2016.



Letters/phone calls will be made as soon as we know when the trees will be here.

**PLEASE RETURN ORDER FORM
AND FULL
PAYMENT TO:**

**Tree Program-Kittson SWCD
410 South 5th Street
Suite 106
Hallock MN 56728**

Increased Interest In Marketing Assistance Loans

Stressed markets have generated an increased producer interest in farmed stored commodity loans available through the Farm Service Agency and Commodity Credit Corporation. Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL's) are a marketing tool available to producers beginning with the harvest season and extending through a specific commodity's final loan availability date. The MAL provides interim financing at harvest time for producers to meet cash flow needs without having to sell the commodities when markets are typically at harvest lows. The MAL term is up to nine months and allows producers to delay the sale of the commodity until more favorable market conditions emerge.

It is important that producers planning to file an application for a Marketing Assistance Loan on farm stored commodities plan ahead as loan dispersal may take a few days to process and disburse. To initiate a loan application, producers must certify with FSA stored quantities of commodities for which MAL are being requested (storage location, bin number, bin circumference, height of grain). Once the application has started, FSA is required to file a UCC-1 to mortgage crops produced by the applicant and conduct a lien search with the Minnesota Secretary of State. If crop liens are identified, lien waivers are required prior to disbursement. Entities (Partnerships, Corporations, LLC's, and LLP's) which have not loaned for the past few years should be aware of the requirement to register with the Minnesota Secretary of State; the filing must be done prior to loan application. The entity registration can be done on-line which expedites the process.

The FSA County Office is now accepting requests for marketing assistance loans (MAL's) for eligible 2015 commodities. MAL's for the 2015 crop year become available to eligible producers once the crop has been harvested. The marketing loans provide financing and marketing assistance for Wheat, Barley, Corn, Oats, Soybeans, Sunflowers, and Canola. The Kittson County loan rates for 2015 are as follows: Wheat (HRS) \$3.02, Wheat (HRW) \$2.69, Soybeans \$4.62, Corn \$1.82, Barley \$1.78, Canola \$10.01, and Sunflowers \$10.19. The interest rate for marketing assistance loans disbursed in October 2015 is 1.375%.

FSA MAL's are available to producers who share in the risk of producing a crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or FSA takes title to the commodity.

Commodity loan eligibility requires compliance with the conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, submitting acreage report with FSA to account for all cropland on all farm(s) where the commodity was produced, and ensuring that the commodity meets the minimum grade and quality standards. Producers do not have to participate in either the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) Programs to be eligible for MAL commodity loans.

For commodities to be eligible, they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan. Producers are responsible for both the quantity and quality of the loan collateral while it is under loan.

Marketing Assistance Loans mature on demand, but no later than the last day of the ninth month after the month in which the loan is approved.

Producers with grain under loan that will be sold can request a Marketing Authorization from FSA which gives them approval to deliver the mortgaged collateral to a designated buyer before the loan is repaid. Mortgaged grain is not to be moved without prior

approval from the county office. Marketing authorizations are buyer specific, so if producers are hauling to different buyers they will need to request an authorization for each buyer to whom they are going to deliver the commodity. If a marketing authorization is issued and grain is delivered to market under the authorization, repayment is required from the warehouse/elevator.

For more information on MAL's, producers should contact the Kittson County FSA Office at 218-843-2692 ext.2.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Grant

Kittson County received funds to administer the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Program. Kittson County has appropriated these funds to the Kittson SWCD.

What is it? Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are threatening Minnesota waters. These nonnative species harm fish populations, water quality, and water recreation. You can help prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species by following both the required and recommended actions listed below.

REQUIRED ACTIONS:

- **CLEAN** all visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other prohibited invasive species from watercraft, trailers, and water-related equipment before leaving any water access or shoreland.
- **DRAIN** water-related equipment (boat, ballast tanks, portable bait container, motor) and drain bilge, livewell, and baitwell by removing drain plugs before leaving a water access or shoreland property. Keep drain plugs out and water draining devices open while transporting watercraft.
- **DISPOSE** of unwanted bait, including minnows, leeches, and worms, in the trash. It is illegal to release live bait into a waterbody or release aquatic animals from one waterbody to another. If you want to keep your live bait, you must refill the bait container with bottled or tap water.

Violating these regulations may result in fines up to \$1,000. To report a violation, contact a DNR Conservation Officer. You can locate officers at mndnr.gov/officerpatrolareas

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **SPRAY, RINSE, DRY** - Some invasive species are small and difficult to see at the access. To remove or kill them, take one or more of the following precautions before moving to another waterbody, especially after leaving zebra mussel and spiny waterflea infested waters:
- Spray with high-pressure water
- Rinse with very hot water
- Dry for at least 5 days
- Run motor and personal watercraft for a few seconds to discharge water before leaving a water access.
- Transport fish on ice - be prepared, bring a cooler.

KNOW THE LAW, YOU MAY NOT:

- Transport watercraft without drain plug removed.
- Arrive at lake access with drain plug in place.
- Transport aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or other prohibited species whether dead or alive.
- Launch a watercraft with prohibited species attached. Transport water from Minnesota lakes or rivers.
- Release live bait into the water.

This grant/program is new and there will be more details to follow in upcoming newsletters or follow us at www.kittsonswcd.org

Kittson County SWCD Rainfall Data

The Kittson Soil and Water Conservation District works with the Minnesota State Climatology Network in St. Paul to gather rainfall data around Kittson County. The data is used to show long term trends in weather patterns and record baseline rain amounts for the entire state. Below is a table showing the township and section of the current rainfall monitors (23 in all) and the rainfall that was collected at that site. The rainfall is recorded in inches. Thanks to the current and past rain gauge monitors, your time and effort is greatly appreciated.

Township & Section	April	May	June	July	Aug.
Davis 3- J. Dziengel	0.73	5.70	2.93	3.88	6.88
Spring Brook 25 - J.Dagen	NR	5.88	3.41	5.92	4.63
Norway 21- D. Olson	1.00	5.24	2.58	6.45	3.88
Teien 12 - C. Mortenson	0.66	5.09	2.22	5.08	3.07
Teien 28 - T. Dahl	0.64	4.53	2.79	5.21	2.13
Pelan 34 - D. Johnson	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Jupiter 18 - R. Peterson	NR	4.77	NR	NR	NR
Tegner 31- M.C.	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Skane 5 - M. Such	0.80	5.12	2.31	4.19	2.66
Svea 23- K.Kraulik	0.89	5.17	3.13	6.16	4.62
Percy 14 - A. Johnson	NR	4.68	2.74	4.91	5.62
Thompson 12 - Markit	0.78	3.99	3.26	4.85	4.08
Hallock 13 - TRW	0.70	4.66	4.66		2.56
North Red River 9 - B. Lindegard	0.92	5.20	3.80	3.46	2.25
Caribou 30 - B. Weleski	0.53	4.28	3.72	5.48	4.70
Granville 13 - B. Laude	0.88	3.59	3.71	5.41	4.67
Hampden 13 - CW. Nyegaard	1.37	3.62	2.93	4.31	3.02
Poppleton 9 - M.L.	NR	NR	4.43	NR	NR
Hill 5 - B. Dykhuis	1.13	5.28	4.18	3.51	2.28
St. Joseph 4 - J. Wilebski	0.57	3.24	3.61	5.63	5.05
Richardville 10 - J.Peterson	1.00	3.51	3.59	6.65	3.51
St. Vincent 24 - N.Wiese	0.90	4.52	3.27	NR	NR
St Vincent 2 - A. Hughes	0.80	4.65	4.09	4.40	2.86
Avg Rainfall Monitors	0.84	4.64	3.37	5.03	3.80

Thoughts From The Pasture

Mark Hayek

MN NRCS NW Regional Grazing Specialist

Do you own livestock? If so, chances are you have livestock for enjoyment as well as for profit. The amount of profit that one can make in the livestock business will ebb and flow as with other commodities, however to improve in the livestock business one must enjoy caring for the critters. The focus here is to turn those things that make owning livestock less enjoyable into an enjoyable endeavor all over again.

For example, has calving turned into an event that you dread? Many folks have pushed calving season back into May and June and have found this to be a positive and enjoyable switch they have made because of the shear climate of these two months. Yes, this is easier said than done, but how much is enjoying what you do for a living worth?

Another example: do you dread having to work your animals, does this turn into a shouting match with your family members? Consider attending low stress handling methods seminars and or workshops, or reading books on this subject. Adopt these techniques so you can once again enjoy the aspects of working livestock. Folks

that have adopted low stress handling techniques will never go back to the old methods of livestock handling.

Are you sick of running out of grass in July or August? Does this cause undo stress and heartache on an annual basis? Have you considered conducting a forage chain throughout the growing season (and beyond), address your grazing management, considered your current stocking rates against available forage resources, or investigated annual forage options? There are methods to extend the grazing season so running out of forage early in the growing season can become a thing of the past.

Take an honest look at the most egregious and non-enjoyable aspects of your livestock operation and initiate steps to make them strengths and enjoyable once again could mean the result of living a positive and happy life. Decisions like these are not easy to make, can take time to plan, and may take a few years to become efficient with change. I go back to my first paragraph again: are you really enjoying all aspects of your livestock operation?

Please consider taking a step out of your normal routine and come listen to Gene Goven and Neil Dennis present ways to improve your grazing operation at the Northwestern Stockmens Association's (NWSA) Winter Workshop Saturday November 21st at the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls, MN. Costs are \$75 pp for non NWSA members and \$50 pp for NWSA members. Interested persons should contact Dana Didrickson at 218-689-1480

USDA Announces Conservation Incentives For Work Grass, Range & Pasture Lands

Beginning Sept. 1, farmers and ranchers can apply for financial assistance to help conserve working grasslands, rangeland and pastureland while maintaining the areas as livestock grazing lands. The initiative is part of the voluntary Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), a federally funded program that for 30 years has assisted agricultural producers with the cost of restoring, enhancing and protecting certain grasses, shrubs and trees to improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and reduce loss of wildlife habitat. In return, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. CRP has helped farmers and ranchers prevent more than 8 billion tons of soil from eroding, reduce nitrogen and phosphorous runoff relative to cropland by 95 and 85 percent respectively, and even sequester 43 million tons of greenhouse gases annually, equal to taking 8 million cars off the road.

The CRP-Grasslands initiative will provide participants who establish long-term, resource-conserving covers with annual rental payments up to 75 percent of the grazing value of the land. Cost-share assistance also is available for up to 50 percent of the covers and other practices, such as cross fencing to support rotational grazing or improving pasture cover to benefit pollinators or other wildlife. Participants may still conduct common grazing practices, produce hay, mow, or harvest for seed production, conduct fire rehabilitation, and construct firebreaks and fences. With the publication of the CRP regulation today, the Farm Service Agency will accept applications on an ongoing basis beginning Sept. 1, 2015, with those applications scored against published ranking criteria, and approved based on the competitiveness of the offer. The ranking period will occur at least once per year and be announced at least 30 days prior to its start. The end of the first ranking period will be Nov. 20, 2015.

Producers Are Reminded To Complete NASS Crop Surveys

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Field Offices are currently completing 2015 small grain yield surveys and will contact growers in December to complete row crop yield surveys. If you are one of the producers contacted to complete a 2015 yield survey, we encourage your participation and cooperation as many USDA agencies use the NASS yield data for their programs. Both FSA and RMA are users of the NASS county yield data for many programs.

For example, FSA uses the NASS county yield data for farm credit, conservation, disaster program, loan and commodity programs. Specifically, under the 2014 Farm Bill, FSA uses the NASS county yield data to calculate Agriculture Risk Coverage - County (ARC-CO) benchmark revenues and current year county revenues. For example, the 2014 NASS county yield, along with the crop's marketing year average price (MYA), are used to determine the county's current year revenue to determine if the county will trigger an ARC-CO payment. An ARC-CO payment is triggered for a county when the current year revenue falls below the guarantee revenue for the crop and crop year. In cases where NASS county yield data is not available, the State Committee must determine a county yield

using RMA yield data or the best available yield data available, including assigning a county yield using neighboring county yields from NASS or RMA.

Any information that producers provide to NASS is kept confidential and protected by federal law. NASS publishes only aggregate-level data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified. All reports will be available on the internet at www.nass.usda.gov.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. It supports production agriculture and environmental quality as compatible goals. Through EQIP, land owners/operators may receive financial and technical help with structural and management conservation practices on agricultural land. EQIP provides technical assistance, cost share payments, and incentive payments to assist crop, livestock, and other agricultural producers with environmental and conservation improvements to their operations. Sign up runs through November 20th. Please contact the NRCS office at 218-843-2619 ext. 3

Two Rivers Watershed District News

In Roseau, Kittson & Marshall Counties

Fall 2015



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TRWD Raises Beaver Bounty

In response to rising costs of transportation, trapping costs, and other factors, the Two Rivers Watershed District Board of Managers recently raised its beaver bounty from \$40 per beaver to \$75 per beaver. The old rate had not been adjusted since 2001.

The TRWD has had a long standing policy regarding problem beaver removal on legal ditch systems and water control projects that are under the District's jurisdiction, dating back to 1994. This policy states that the District will remove any beaver dams from Watershed District ditches and any other dams will be evaluated on a dam by dam basis with the approval of the District. The District Administrator shall make decisions on beaver dam removal pertaining to the District's beaver dam policy. Beaver bounty for any beavers harvested on District ditches will be paid with prior approval from the District Administrator and/or at least one District Manager.

The beaver bounty has historically been a good management tool when it comes to maintaining a functioning ditch system. Obstructions in a ditch tend to slow water down and reduce the capacity of the ditch to move water. For agricultural fields that depend on these ditches for drainage, an obstruction can result in flooding and loss of cropped acres, which will hurt a farm operator's bottom line. Therefore it is essential that beaver dams, trees, sediment, cattails, and other obstructions be removed periodically. It is the duty of the Two Rivers Watershed District, as the drainage authority for certain ditch systems, to be vigilant in maintaining these systems in following Minnesota Statute 103E.

Persons interested in trapping and removing beavers from ditch systems must be registered with the District, and must show proof that they have obtained a permit from the MN Department of Natural

Resources. The TRWD must give prior authorization before a trapper can turn in bills for removing problem beavers.

Construction On "Springbrook #10 PL566" Phase 2 Commences

Construction of Phase 2 of the Springbrook #10 - PL566 project is underway. This project is a flood control and drainage project located in Springbrook and Davis Townships of Kittson County. Phase 1 of the project was completed in 2013. The main project consisted of constructing levees parallel to an existing coulee, designed to prevent water from breaking out of the channel and flooding farmland. In addition the project provides protection of public infrastructure (roads, culverts) and provides an adequate outlet for upstream systems. The project was funded largely by the Natural Resources Conservation Service and local funds.

Phase 2 of the project was delayed due to wetland permit concerns, but has now been cleared for construction. The current construction activity consists of excavating 6,200 cubic yards of earth from an area of 2.5 acres in size. This work is located alongside the watercourse in an area known for flooding and overtopping a township road. The removal of the material located in the floodplain will allow water to better flow through this area which will reduce the threat of backing up water in upstream areas and of flooding a township road.

Kraulik Excavating has been hired to do the work, it is scheduled to be completed by October 31, 2015. Once the excavation is completed, the area will be seeded and mulched. The project also consists of erosion control measures during construction, specifically the installation of 1,200 feet of silt fence to control sediment.

TRWD Certifies 2016 Budget & Tax Levies

The Two Rivers Watershed District held its annual Budget Hearing on September 2, 2015 in the District office in Hallock, MN. The Board of Managers discussed the various budget items for 2016, and certified the budget in the amount of \$213,000.

Discussion was held regarding the District 2016 general levy, the Red River Watershed Management Board 2016 levy, and the various 2016 levies on ditch systems the District is in charge of. The general levy was certified at \$212,500, the RRWMB levy was certified at \$479,141, and the ditch levies were certified at \$141,500. The District's 2016 administrative budget is as follows:

Administrative Budget	2016 Proposed
Administrative	75,000
Auto Expense	3,000
Capital Outlay	8,000
Conferences & Meetings	12,000
Dues & Subscriptions	2,500
Engineering	20,000
Information & Education	1,100
Insurance	4,500
Manager's Per Diem & Expense	16,000
Office Supplies & Miscellaneous	3,000
Payroll Expense	32,000
Postage & Delivery	1,000
Printing & Advertising	1,000
Professional & Legal1	5,000
Rent	11,500
Stream Gage	3,000
Telephone	1,400
Water Quality	3,000
Totals	213,000

TRWD Receives Grant To Study The Klondike Clean Water Retention Project

The Two Rivers Watershed District has received grant funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service in the amount of \$500,000. The grant is a Federal 70% to local 30% cost share and will be matched from local funding in the amount of \$214,286. The funding will be used to do planning, preliminary engineering, permitting, economic review, and to prepare an Environmental Assessment for the District's proposed "Klondike Clean Water Retention Project". This will specifically include an alternatives analysis, cost - benefit analysis, review of permits needed, analysis of environmental effects and consequences, and identification of a preferred alternative.

The purpose of the KCWRP is to prevent flooding, provide an adequate outlet for various laterals of State Ditch 95, provide an outlet for water that overflows from State Ditch 72 and from the Roseau River, and provide water quality and environmental benefits. This will reduce flooding on lateral 1 of State Ditch 95, reduce flooding on Red River, and reduce flooding on the North Branch, Middle Branch, and South Branches of the Two Rivers. Environmental benefits will be to protect and enhance a naturally occurring rich fen, provide feeding and resting areas for migratory waterfowl, reduce nutrient loading to Lake Bronson and downstream areas, and reduce sediment entering Lake Bronson.

The project will consist of impounding floodwater within a 12 square mile area. This will be accomplished by constructing a perimeter dike, inlet ditches and diversions, three gated outlet structures, an emergency spillway, and various other associated structures. The project will be located in Klondike Township in Kittson County and Polonia and Juneberry Townships in Roseau County. It is projected to store up to 37,000 acre feet of water and will cost approximately \$35 million to build. The Two Rivers Watershed District has acquired most of the land within the footprint of the project, and will be working on the rest of the needed right of way.

Project design is being done by HDR Engineering.

This funding will go a long way in doing the preliminary work that is needed to be able to make educated decisions in order to proceed with a project that will address the flooding that comes from a 143 square mile upstream drainage area. The project will solve flooding and drainage problems that have persisted in that area since the mid 1940's. By completing this study, the TRWD will have collected the engineering, environmental, cultural, and economic information that is necessary to begin acquiring permits and designing the various project features. The planning phase should hopefully be completed within the next 2-3 years and after that project design will be finalized. Public information and participation will be solicited at various times during the project design in the form of news releases, newsletters, public meetings, and citizen advisory committee meetings.

Don't Forget Your Permit!

The Two Rivers Watershed District adopted the Rules of the Two Rivers Watershed District in 1981, amended them in 1997, and recently made further amendments in 2015. These Rules govern projects which have a potential effect on the water resources of the District and specifically relate to drainage, flood control, water use, and water quality.

Projects of this type require a permit from the Two Rivers Watershed District before any work is done. There is no charge for the permit, however projects which are commenced or completed without a permit will require a \$500 fee, plus field inspection fees. Some specific works that require permits are listed below. A complete set of Rules and a permit application form can be obtained at the District office in the Kittson County Courthouse in Hallock, MN.

As fall gets into full swing, there typically is an increase in projects and permit applications prior to freeze up and the end of the construction season. The TRWD has set up a permit committee that can screen and act on permit applications usually within about 2 weeks. Under Minnesota law, however, the District does have up to 60 days to review and act on a permit. Therefore, anyone contemplating a project that would be governed by the criteria below is encouraged to apply for a permit in a timely manner.

- (a) Any sanitary sewer system which discharges to surface water, storm sewer, or other major utility project which affects surface water within the district.
- (b) Any street, road, or highway construction project which by means of its construction has any effect on the quality or quantity of water runoff.
- (c) Any construction or alteration of any drain tile or drainage ditch that drains an area in excess of 20 acres.
- (d) (1) Any works which include draining, filling, excavating, or dredging of any type 3, 4, 5, or 8 wetland as defined by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Circular 39.
- (e) Any construction or alteration of any bridge, dike, culvert, or drain across any drainageway, lake, wetland, or other water body.
- (f) Any artificial or mechanical transfer of water from a water source including but not limited to gravel pits, ponds, rivers, wetlands, and other reservoirs consistent with the general purposes of the District.
- (g) Any artificial drainageway cut across a subwatershed to thereby deliver water into another subwatershed.
- (h) Any drainage of water by any artificial means into any legal drainage system from any land not assessed to that drainage system.
- (i) Construction, alteration, or removal of any dike or reservoir.
- (j) Any other acts that, in the opinion of the Watershed District, may tend to alter the quantity of runoff, affect the public health, or have any impact, whether adverse or not, upon the surface water or ground water resources of the district.

Two Rivers Watershed District Permit Application

Office Use Only		Recommended Action:	
Application Number _____		Approval _____	Denial _____
Date Received _____		Table _____	Date _____

Name _____ Email _____

Phone Number _____ Cell Phone _____

Address _____
Box _____ Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Location of Project:

☐ Section ☐ Section Section Township Range Township Name County

Body of Water (river, ditch, coulee, etc.) _____

Are You: ☐ Landowner ☐ Renter ☐ Other (describe) _____

Description of Work & Objectives: *Attach Map or Diagram Showing Project Location. Fill in all applicable blanks below.*

What's the upstream drainage area of the project? _____ Acres

Are there any upstream structures (culverts, bridges, etc.)? ☐ Yes ☐ No _____ Size

What kind of structure is upstream (box culvert, round pipe, bridge, etc.)? _____

Are there any downstream structures? ☐ Yes ☐ No _____ Size _____ type

For Culvert Projects: Size to be Installed _____ Type of Culvert _____
Purpose: Center line culvert thru road _____ New crossing _____ Other _____

For Ditch Projects: Length _____ Bottom Width _____ Depth _____ Side Slopes _____
Percent Grade _____ *Attach Profile and Cross Section Information*

For Diking Projects: Length _____ Top Width _____ Height _____ Side Slopes _____

For Road Building: Length: _____ Width _____ Height _____ Side Slopes _____
Submit grading plans, survey data, cross sections, culvert plans, ditch plans, etc.

Are Wetlands Affected? Yes ☐ No ☐ Size (acres) _____

Approximate Project Start Date _____ End Date _____

Describe below the purpose of the project and how it will be completed (attach sheet if necessary).

Signed: _____
Project Proposer

Date: _____

Landowner – If Other Than Above

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