

NORTHLAND CONSERVATION NEWS

SPRING 2015 NEWSLETTER

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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

2015 Envirothon To Be Held April 22nd At Lake Bronson State Park

It's that time of the year again for area high school students. Envirothon will be held on April 22nd, 2015 at Lake Bronson State Park.

In 2014 competition, Tri-County of Karlstad took first place at the Northwest Area 1 Envirothon at Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge near Holt MN on April 23rd, 2014. Grygla took second honors and Greenbush took 3rd place along with first in the Oral Presentation section. Twenty-three teams from Tri-County, Kittson Central, Badger, Grygla, Greenbush, Marshall County Central, Goodridge, and Stephen Argyle High Schools participated in the event. Envirothon is an outdoor learning event for high school students grades 9-12, is one of the state's largest environmental education competitions. Teams consisting of 5 students visit 6 different learning stations covering forestry, aquatics, wildlife, soils, and a current event topic which was Sustainable Local Agriculture, locally grown in Minnesota. Students are given a 25 point exam relating to the station's topics. At the sixth station, the students give a brief oral presentation to a panel of judges.



L-R: Devon Binstock, Steele Spilde, Laura Anderson, Michael Thompson, Morgan Koland and Advisor Gary Taylor.

The top three teams from each area in Minnesota advanced to a state event which is held at St. John's University in Collegeville, MN on May 19th, 2014. Tri-County, Grygla, and Greenbush teams competed in the state event.

Andersons Are The 2014 Outstanding Conservationists



The Kittson Soil and Water Conservation District named Darwyn and Rory Anderson of Karlstad the 2014 Outstanding Conservationist of the year. They operate a grain farm raising wheat, sunflowers, corn, soybeans and rye grass. In recent years, they have planted several windbreaks and participated in the Federally Funded Environmental Quality Incentives Program where they implemented

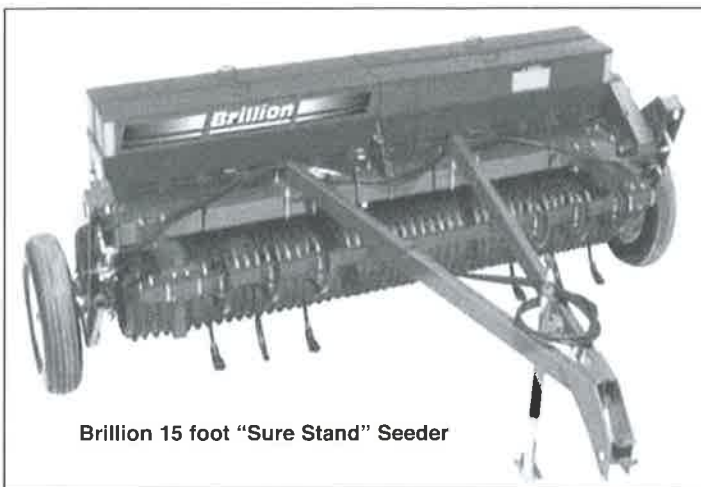
conservation practices such as No-Till Residue Management, Crop Nutrient Management and Field Borders. These windbreaks and conservation practices help keep Anderson's Sandy and Highly Erodible Land on their fields for future generations to farm. The Andersons are good stewards of the land and believe if you take care of the land, it will take care of you.

Welcome Jacob Swaney To NRCS

Hello, My name is Jacob Swaney and I am the new Soil Conservation Technician for Kittson County. I am originally from the state of Michigan where I began my fulltime career with the NRCS as a Soil Conservationist. I also served as a student trainee for the NRCS in Montana serving in the Deer Lodge and Helena Field Offices. I received my bachelors of science degree from Michigan Technological University in Wildlife Ecology and Management. I'm an avid outdoorsman who enjoys hunting, fishing and plant identification.

My job duties will include: developing conservation plans, surveying, sampling and consultation. I will be serving directly under Jim Schwab. I hope that I am able to serve Kittson County well as the Soil Conservationist and I look forward to meeting and working with people.

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 2015. **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



Brillion 15 foot "Sure Stand" Seeder

December 2010 and will be available for the 2015 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 2,343 acres for area residents. Stop by the Kittson SWCD to fill out rental agreement or call (218) 843-2619 Ext. 3 for more details.

PLOTMASTER For Rent



The Kittson SWCD has a PLOTMASTER™ HUNTER 400 for rent. It is a multi-use implement some of the uses are:

- Everything you need to make a complete wildlife food plot for hunting, or wildlife viewing areas
- Planting NWSGs for wildlife
- Planting for erosion control projects
- Perfect size for preparing trails and planting along fences and field edges
- Fits great between narrow tree rows to clear out unwanted weeds/trees and maintain plots without damaging trees
- Prepare firebreaks for controlled burns
- And many more . . .

Rental charges for use as follows: \$100 daily rental fee. The weekend rental rate is \$250 from 10 AM on Friday to 9:30 AM on Monday.

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 \$100,000 and interest rate of 3%. Money is available for the purchase of Ag waste management equipment, conservation tillage equipment, septic system upgrades, prescribed 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.

Wetland Conservation Act

The purpose of the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) is: To maintain and protect Minnesota's wetlands and the benefits they provide. Through a "No Net Loss" process. In this process WCA requires any action(s) that include draining, filling, and/or excavate a wetland follow a few steps. These steps include avoiding the action that is going to impact the wetland if that is impractical, then try to minimize the impact, if there is any wetland acres they must be replaced with like type. There are some actions that are exempt from WCA regulations. If you have any questions about wetlands or thinking about doing work near wetlands, Please call the office at (218) 843-2619 Ext. 3 or stop in and we will help you with your questions.

Building & Septic Permits Required In Kittson County

By Darren Carlson

In the spring of 2014, the Kittson County Commissioners approved the Kittson SWCD to work in conjunction with Kittson County to administer the Zoning Program. This will help Kittson County Residents with a "one place stop" for their building and septic system needs. Also in the spring of 2014, a new and revised zoning ordinance was approved by Kittson County. Below are a few of the most commonly asked questions about zoning regulations in Kittson County.

How do I know if I need a Land Use/Building Permit?

Kittson County enforces countywide zoning. This means permits are required for the following situations:

1. When any structure is built or moved into a lot.
2. When a structure's footprint is changed - this includes the addition of decks or steps.
3. When the layout of a residence is changed to add living or bedroom space.
4. When dealing with demolition sites.

What is the process for obtaining a permit?

The process of obtaining a building permit is very easy. After the application is completed, the zoning office will check FEMA floodplain maps for Kittson County to determine if the land is in the floodplain. Special building requirements do apply when building in floodplain areas. Special requirements also apply when activity is planned in a shoreland area. Shoreland is defined as land within 1,000 feet of the ordinary high water level of a lake and 300 feet from a river or stream.

After floodplain and shoreland determinations are completed, setback rules will be addressed. The Kittson County Zoning Ordinance states that all buildings must have at least 130 foot setback from the centerline of any township, county or state road. Other setback requirements may also apply, depending on the situation in question.

Are there rules that apply to my septic system?

Yes. When building a home, adding on living space or changing the use of a room to a bedroom, septic system compliance comes into play. A licensed inspector must inspect all existing septic systems. New systems must also be inspected after installation. Inspection paperwork will be given to building permit applicants at the start of any project. After the inspections have been completed, the paperwork must be returned to the zoning office. The zoning office can supply you with contact information for licensed inspectors in the area.

I live in City Limits. Is a building permit required?

Yes. Permits need to be obtained from the zoning office for Home Occupations inside city limits; this does not include the Cities of Hallock, Lake Bronson, Kennedy or Karlstad. For these cities, please contact your local city clerk's office.

I am a contractor; do I need to worry about getting permits for my customer?

Yes. The Zoning Ordinance applies equally to all persons, including

but not limited to, property owners, renters and builders or contractors. The Zoning Ordinance specifically states that prior to any work, any builder or contractor must verify the existence of a permit obtained by an owner or renter, and that likewise, owners or renters will verify that existence of a permit if the same has been obtained by a builder or contractor.

What is the cost of a land use/building and septic permit?

The cost for a general land use permit is \$50. Permits for projects in shoreland or floodplain cost \$100. Septic permits are \$20. If you do not know if you are in the floodplain or shoreland, the zoning office can tell you.

What if I don't get a permit?

While the cost of a building permit is minimal at only \$50 to \$100, the cost of fines for building without a permit can be very high. Depending on the size of your structure, After-The-Fact Permit fines can range from \$250.00 to \$1,000.00. As stated in the Zoning Ordinance, the county attorney will prosecute all violations. Violations shall be punishable as a misdemeanor.

How do I apply for a permit?

The Kittson SWCD can help you get started at (218) 843-2619 Ext. 3 or visit our office in the basement of the Courthouse in Hallock.

County Ag Inspector

Soon, another spring will upon us. With all the beautiful things that come with spring so do the bad things like noxious weeds. Here is a reminder of how to control the two most common noxious weeds in Kittson County. For **Canada Thistle** 1) Using herbicides that are labeled for the noxious weeds listed and labeled for the crop being treated, after consulting your local Agronomist for correct label information; 2) Mowing to maintain a plant height of 3 inches or less (only recommended if plants have not flowered and produced seeds) 3) Prescribed fires can be used to encourage stands of native grasses that will outcompete thistle but monitoring is needed to control any germination of thistle on bare ground. For **Leafy Spurge** 1) Using herbicides that are labeled for the noxious weeds listed and labeled for the crop being treated, after consulting your local Agronomist for correct label information; 2) Mowing or hand pulling plants in the infested area (only recommended if plants have not flowered and produced seeds) 3) Biological control beetles (often less effective). If you have any questions please call the office at (218) 843-2619 Ext. 3 or stop in and we will help you with your questions.

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. Please contact the NRCS office at 218-843-2619 ext. 3

USDA Provides One-Time Extension Of Deadline To Update Base Acres or Yield History For ARC/PLC Programs

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that a one-time extension will be provided to producers for the new safety-net programs established by the 2014 Farm Bill, known as Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC). The final day to update yield history or reallocate base acres has been extended one additional month, from Feb. 27, 2015 until March 31, 2015. The final day for farm owners and producers to choose ARC or PLC coverage also remains March 31, 2015.

If no changes are made to yield history or base acres by March 31, 2015, the farm's current yield and base will be used. A program choice of ARC or PLC coverage also must be made by March 31, 2015, or there will be no 2014 payments for the farm and the farm will default to PLC coverage through the 2018 crop year.

Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice (which includes short grain rice), safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.

Key Dates for New 2014 Farm Bill - ARC and PLC Programs

FSA announced key dates for farm owners and producers to keep in mind regarding the new 2014 Farm Bill established programs, Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC). The new programs are designed to help producers better manage risk for price losses or revenue losses.

Dates associated with ARC and PLC that farm owners and producers need to know:

- Now through March 31, 2015: Current land owners must complete their farm's base reallocation and yield update decision.
- Now through March 31, 2015: Current producers with risk in cropland acres on the farm make a one-time election of either ARC-CO or PLC on a crop by crop basis or elect ARC-IC for the farm, for the 2014 through 2018 crop years.
- Spring 2015 through Summer 2015: Producers sign contracts for 2014 and 2015 crop years.
- October 2015: ARC or PLC payments for the 2014 crop year are issued, if triggered.

Livestock Indemnity Program

Producers who suffer livestock deaths due to adverse weather events from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 may submit a notice of loss and application for payment with their local FSA

County Office by the January 31, 2016 deadline.

Eligible livestock producers MUST file a notice of loss within 30 calendar days from when the loss was apparent. Livestock producers suffering livestock losses may submit the notice of loss by phone, fax, email, or in person. After the notice of loss has been filed, the producer must also submit an application for payment. This can be done any time prior to the January 31, 2016 deadline.

Producers need to maintain inventory records, such as calving/lambing books, record sales and purchases of livestock, veterinary records, etc. to document the number of livestock. In addition to the inventory records, producers also need to compile records documenting livestock losses due to eligible adverse weather events.

Eligible adverse weather events include, but are not limited to; earthquakes; hail; lightning; tornado; winter storm if the winter storm lasts for 3 consecutive days and is accompanied by high winds, freezing rain or sleet, heavy snowfall and extremely cold weather; floods; blizzards; wild fires; extreme heat; extreme cold; anthrax; straight-line winds; and disease if exacerbated by another adverse weather event. Livestock losses due to pneumonia are NOT an eligible adverse cause of loss.

Controlling Volunteer Wood on CRP

Early spring can provide an excellent opportunity to control volunteer woody vegetation on acreage enrolled in CRP. Effective with the 41st General Sign-up and the 40th Continuous Sign-up, new and re-enrolled CRP or CCRP acreages must be free of volunteer woody vegetation. Acreages which are re-enrolled are required to have volunteer woody vegetation removed within 12 months of enrollment and maintained for the life of the contract. New enrollments are also required to maintain CRP from volunteer woody vegetation for the enrollment duration. The woody vegetation policy is the result of clarification of requirements to comply with national program provisions related to establishment and maintenance of grass/forb CRP practices. Failure to remove or control volunteer woody vegetation could result in either contract termination or assessment of a payment reduction. Participants need to implement a CRP cover management plan that addresses both weeds and wood encroachment to maintain the desired cover as required in their conservation plan of operations. All new enrollments are inspected for compliance with volunteer woody vegetation control. Additionally, annual inspections are completed on a random selection on a number of CRP contracts. Should participants have questions regarding CRP cover maintenance contact NRCS for management options.

Comprehensive Local Water Management

Kittson County actively participates in the management of local water resources through a Comprehensive Local Water Plan (CLWP). The first Kittson County Water Plan was established and completed in 1990 and has been updated three times since then; 1995, 2003 and most recently in 2010. Usually it is updated every 5 - 7 years so the plan is up for revision in 2015. Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 110B allows counties to identify water related issues through the working relationship with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). The County receives state funding through a Natural Resource Block Grant (NRBG) provided by BWSR to implement strategies and work items identified in the Water Plan.

Purpose

The purpose of this program is to protect water resources through the adoption and implementation of local water management plans that are based on local priorities. The following are local priorities and objectives for Kittson County:

- Land Use - Reduce erosion and sedimentation in Kittson County through enforcement of existing regulations, use of existing programs and development of new programs.
- Surface Water - Provide for protection of all surface waters in Kittson County.
- Groundwater - Provide for protection of ground waters in Kittson County.

To achieve the above objectives, the following are just a few of the many goals the CLWP has in place:

- Install grass filter strips adjacent to eligible surface waters.
- Install field windbreaks, living snow fences, and farmstead shelterbelts.
- Locate erosion problems, inventory and promote best management practices (BMP) such as side inlets, streambank stabilizations and grade stabilization structures.
- Continue with the Kittson SWCD abandoned well sealing program.

These are just a few of the goals stated in the CLWP. In most cases, there is potential funding/cost share for the above and other practices. Contact the Kittson SWCD to see if the CLWP can work for you.

Two Rivers Watershed District News

In Roseau, Kittson & Marshall Counties

Spring 2015



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TRWD Gearing Up For 2015 Programs and Projects

The Two Rivers Watershed District will be working on several flood control, drainage, water quality, and other water management initiatives this coming year. Some of these programs and projects are listed below.

Clondike Clean Water Retention Project #11:

This project was initiated in the fall of 2014, and is in the planning and development stage. The project will potentially store 30,500 acre feet of water (1 acre foot = 325,829 gallons) and control the runoff from 143 square miles including Badger Creek and Lateral 1 of State Ditch #95. It will be located on the Kittson and Roseau County line on a 12 square mile area. The project will have major flood control benefits, and will also provide water quality benefits for Lake Bronson, protect rare plant communities, provide waterfowl habitat, and provide recreational opportunities.

Watershed Restoration And Protection Strategies:

The District is working with the MN Pollution Control Agency and other partners to collect water quality data, analyze the rivers, streams, and ditches to determine if they meet water quality standards, and identify sources of pollution. These "WRAPS" are required by the Federal Clean Water Act for every water body in the U.S. This is a 4 year process, and will provide several products that should be useful for Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Watershed Districts, Counties, and others to use to help protect and improve our water natural resources.

Drainage Ditch Maintenance:

There are over 90 miles of legal ditches under the authority of the District. An inspection and maintenance plan has been put together for all of them. Under this plan every mile of ditch is visually inspected each year, and a detailed gps survey is done once every 5 years. If there is debris, beaver activity, or dense vegetation present

measures are taken to remove blockages. The survey's are done to determine if there is excessive sediment deposition or erosion problems. Culverts and bridges are also inspected. Once the data is collected maintenance activities are conducted when necessary.

Permits:

The Rules of the Two Rivers Watershed District require that prior to doing certain activities, a permit must be approved. These activities in general include installation of culverts and bridges, field crossings, dike construction, diversions, new ditching or alterations of existing ditches, road building, utilities, and certain works in wetlands. A permit application can be obtained at the District office. Anyone contemplating these or other activities that affect the flow of water should consult with the District before undertaking the activity. Most permit applications can be acted within 1 to 2 months, and in many cases 2 to 3 weeks.

Monitoring Activities:

Beginning in March, the District will begin monitoring. The District monitors snow depths and water content in order to help predict spring snowmelt runoff and flooding. Once the snow melts the District monitors stream flows in order to determine how much water is moving through the various systems, which in turn helps agencies like the National Weather Service provide warnings and watches relative to flooding. The District also does a fair amount of water quality monitoring, rainfall monitoring, and other data collection relative to the water cycle. All of the data collected is available to the public.

Many other miscellaneous activities are done on a yearly basis within the District. If you are interested in any of these or would like further information, please contact the District at 218-843-3333. Have a great spring and summer season!

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

Cash Incentives For Lake Bronson Watershed & Red River of the North Watershed Runoff Reduction Projects

By Darren Carlson



CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT

Lake Bronson, Red River of the North and their tributaries have been found to have numerous water quality impairments such as turbidity impairments (sedimentation/siltation). Sedimentation is a problem throughout the Lake Bronson and Red River of the North watersheds which results in the loss of soil from area fields and siltation of the rivers and ditches. A Clean Water Funding grant was written by the Kittson SWCD and the Two Rivers Watershed District to help reduce soil loss and sedimentation within Lake Bronson and Red River of the North Watersheds throughout the establishment of grass filter strips and side water inlets.

In 2012 the Kittson SWCD was notified that these grants would be funded. Funds are still available out of the original \$300,000 for the Lake Bronson Watershed (mainly State Ditches 90, 91, 95 and their tributaries on the Western half of Roseau County) and \$75,000 (mainly Kittson County Ditches 12, 26, 28 and 29 in Hill and St. Vincent Townships) to install grass filter strips (on current cropped ground) adjacent to these ditches and side water inlets where needed. These funds will be used with the federally funded Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) to offer landowners \$150 per acre per year for a 15 year contract to establish these highly effective grass filter strips. Grass filter strips will be 100 to 120 feet wide and must be seeded to a minimum of 5 native grass seed mix. Areas will need to be seeded by spring 2016 or even this upcoming spring. Interested participants should call or stop in to one: see if they are eligible and two: to sign up for the CCRP. Contracts could have a start date ASAP or 10/01/2015.

A prior Clean Water Fund grant was received for the Lake Bronson Watershed in spring 2011 for \$100,000. Over 104 acres of new grass filter strips were installed in the spring of 2012 and 2013 with these funds. These grass filter strips will reduce runoff and decrease movement of sediment, nutrients and bacteria, which in return will help clean these precious waterways and Lake Bronson. These established grass filter strips reduces sedimentation of 3,077 tons/year and phosphorous 3,021 lbs. /year from entering the waterways and improves wildlife habitat.



Trees Available For Spring 2015

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 and available.

If you are interested at looking at a tree order form, placing an order or planting trees this spring, please give Darren Carlson 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.

ROTATIONAL GRAZING TIPS: Feeding on Pasture to Improve Plant Health, Vigor, and Productivity

Mark Hayek NRCS Grazing Specialist

Feeding your herd on pasture if done correctly can improve plant health, vigor, and productivity of the forages in the years to follow. Simply feeding on pasture without a plan can yield sporadic results and is often time inefficient. NRCS terms feeding out on pasture as outwinter feeding or outwintering. Please consider the following tips for your outwintering plan:

- Identify pasture areas where plant health, vigor, and productivity are low. Pull soil tests and begin to obtain benchmark fertility levels so you can begin to make informed decisions and concentrate those efforts to improve pasture fertility where it is needed most.
- Avoid feeding within sensitive areas such as wetlands and riparian areas and follow local or state set-back rules.
- If using woodlands for shelter, place the feed out on open ground. Take any steps within these shelter areas to avoid excessive nutrient build-up or soil compaction that may cause tree mortality.
- To improve fertility of a site the outwintering location should be in a defined area, and disturbance levels may become aggressive. If ground cover is lost, rest the site in the early spring and early summer. A broadcasting of oats and red clover may help to suppress weeds.
- Have a transition plan to move livestock if the weather makes a turn for the worst.
- Be sure to feed clean hay on pasture to minimize establishing unwanted weeds.
- Do not outwinter on prairie or native grasses as this is too much disturbance and will cause unwanted shifts within the plant community.

If you have never tried outwintering, keep in mind this does not mean you have to feed animals out on pasture the entire winter. Take advantage of milder weather, and outwinter feed as the opportunity presents. Use that valuable manure to your best advantage. Pasture is the cheapest way to raise livestock, and the health and condition of your pastures contribute greatly to your profitability. By doing some of these methods the health and condition of your pasture can improve.

Note: If you wish to learn more about rotational grazing please contact your local NRCS office.

Mark Hayek
MN NRCS NW Regional Grazing Specialist
2038 State Hwy #1 NW
Thief River Falls, MN 56701 218-681-6600

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Grant

By: Darren Carlson

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**

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