

NORTHLAND CONSERVATION NEWS

SUMMER 2012 NEWSLETTER

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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

Meet Jamie Ingeman



Jamie joined our staff on May 14th as our District Coordinator. Jamie is familiar with the county as she was born and raised in Kennedy. She graduated college in 2007 at the University of Minnesota Crookston with a degree in Agriculture Business. Jamie is engaged to Justin Osowski, who farms with his Dad and Uncle West of Hallock. Their wedding is set for March 2013. Jamie previously worked in Grand Forks for Crop Production Services and RDO Truck Center before coming back. "I always wanted to be back in Kittson County, I was worried I wouldn't find a job that pertained to my degree" says Jamie.

Jamie enjoys being outdoors; planting flowers, going to the lake and snowcatting. She also enjoys running and is currently participating in numerous runs this summer and fall in the area. Jamie is also active in Justin's passion of racing, most summer weekends you will find her getting her hands greasy in the pits.

Stop in and welcome Jamie back to the area.

CCRP CP-23A Wetland Restoration Acres Allocated

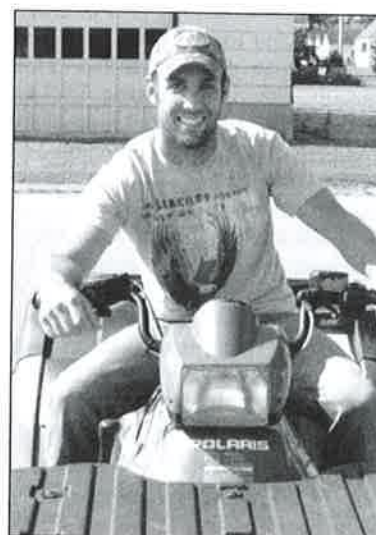
by Kelly Turgeon - FSA Administrator

The national USDA FSA office recently allocated Minnesota an additional 42,094 acres for the CP-23A Wetland Restoration practice under the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP). To qualify for enrollment the acreage offered must meet CRP crop history and hydric soil eligibility criteria. The prior allocation of CP-23A acres had expired this past December. Acreage enrolled qualifies for a 20% soil rental incentive and a \$150/acres signing incentive (new land) payment. Cost-share for the practice establishment is 50% with a 40% practice incentive payment bringing the cost share level to approximately 90%.

From The Desk Of Brian Krippner

District Technician

Greetings Kittson County! As many of you may already know my name is Brian Krippner and I am the new District Technician. A few of the programs I will be working with include the Wetland Conservation Act, County Feedlot Officer, County Agriculture Inspector and others. I will also be assisting Darren in his many programs when possible.



Some history about me

I was born and raised in central Minnesota in the small town of St. Joseph. I went to high school at St. Cloud Apollo and I graduated in December 2011 from St. Cloud State University with a degree in Environmental Studies. I began work in April 2012 at Kittson County and currently reside in Hallock. Back home I enjoyed a list of hobbies including hunting waterfowl, deer, and small game, fishing, working on classic cars and occasionally volunteering with the Boy Scouts. I also make annual trips to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area.

Controlling Volunteer Woody Vegetation On Re-Enrolled CRP/CCRP

by Kelly Turgeon - FSA Administrator

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 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.

Kittson SWCD Tree Program For 2013

By Darren Carlson



Kittson SWCD Tree Planter at work

If you are looking at planting trees for 2013, now is the time to plan it. The Kittson SWCD can assist landowners in mapping out an area for your tree planting. Also the Kittson SWCD will advise on certain types of trees, number of trees and spacing needed for your specific site. The Kittson SWCD will sit down with interested landowners and an aerial map of their intended areas to plant trees and help create a plan for them. Remember the Kittson SWCD is here to give technical advice on tree plantings for windbreaks and shelterbelts upon request.

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 and wildlife habitat plantings have been started as a result of this program. The Kittson SWCD purchases conservation grade trees which are 18" – 24" (potential bigger trees can be ordered) in height and bare root. Shrub and tree species are sold in bundles of 25. Potted evergreens are sold individually. Also the Kittson SWCD sells tree mats and tree protectors.

In the spring 2012 the Kittson SWCD distributed over 17,000 trees to area landowners. 20 landowners used the Kittson SWCD Tree Planter to help plant their Farmstead Shelterbelts and Field Windbreaks. The Kittson SWCD Tree Planter only works in clean tilled fields so it is advised for landowners to work up their ground in the fall prior to spring planting.

The 2013 tree order form will be available later this fall for landowners to choose what types of trees they will like to plant next spring. Potential Cost Share assistance is available with a priority on field windbreaks and farmstead shelterbelts through various programs. Call or stop in to find out more about the Kittson SWCD Tree Program.

Kittson County Landowners Successful In 43rd General Sign-Up

by Kelly Turgeon – FSA Administrator

Kittson County landowners submitted 206 general sign-up enrollment offers offering 21,652.8 acres during the 43rd General Sign-up. USDA accepted 199 of those offers which will include re-enrollment and new land offers totaling 20,305.5 acres for a 94% acceptance rate. The accepted CRP offers will have an October 1, 2012 contract start date. NRCS and SWCD are currently conducting field inspections and developing conservation plans for the accepted offers. Participants will be notified by NRCS/SWCD when the conservation plans are ready for signature. Due to budgetary limitations those participants who can visit the service center to sign are encourage to do so. Absentee landowners will be mailed the required conservation plan documents for signature. All conservation plans must be signed and submitted to FSA for contract processing by August 10, 2012.

Emergency Haying And Grazing Of CRP

by Kelly Turgeon – FSA Administrator

The 2012 growing season has provided below normal precipitation. First cutting forage losses have been reported. Livestock producers are concerned with the possibility of a forage shortage for the 2012-2013 feeding period. Producers have contacted the service center to inquire about the possibility of an Emergency Haying/Grazing authorization? Under CRP provisions Emergency Grazing can be authorized with a D2 designation and Emergency Haying with a D3 designation by the National Weather Service. Under an emergency authorization no haying or grazing would be allowed until August 2 when the primary nesting season has ended. As of the week of June 26, 2012 Kittson County had 90.8% ranked at D2. FSA will continue to monitor drought conditions via the U.S. Drought Monitor. As this edition of the newsletter goes to press the county does not meet the provisions to implement Emergency Haying.

Managed Haying And Grazing Of CRP

by Kelly Turgeon – FSA Administrator

Under Managed Haying/Grazing provisions the following practice acreages are eligible: CP1 Introduced Grasses and Legumes, CP2 Native Grasses, CP4D Permanent Wildlife Habitat, CP10 Grass Already Established, and CP18C Permanent Salt Tolerant Vegetative Cover. All other CRP practices are not eligible for Managed Haying and Grazing. Acreage with 120 feet of a stream or permanent water body is also not eligible. CRP cannot be disturbed during the primary nesting season. Managed Haying is allowed to begin August 2 and continues through September 15. Managed Grazing is allowed August 2 through September 15.

Before haying or grazing activity begins, CRP participants must file a request with FSA as the Conservation Plan of Operations must be modified to include haying and grazing. The same acreage cannot be hayed and grazed in the same year. Acreages may only be hayed once during the designated three year time period. Acreage hayed or grazed under Managed or Emergency provisions during 2010 or 2011 are not eligible for 2012 Managed Haying or Grazing. The CRP participants shall be assessed a payment reduction based on the number of acres actually hayed or grazed times the CRP annual rental payments times 25%. FSA will not release any CRP participants contract data related to haying/grazing eligibility without written consent of the CRP participant due to data privacy provisions. Sign-up for 2102 haying/grazing is anticipated to begin July 23, 2012.

AgBMP Loan Program

by Jamie Ingeman

Agriculture Best Management Practices Loan program (Ag BMP) brings low interest loans to farmers and other rural landowners for the prevention of non point source pollution. The program is funded through the state revolving fund, which was a result of the 1987 Federal Clean Water Act. The interest rate for Ag BMP Loans is 3%. Money is available for the purchase of Ag waste management equipment, conservation tillage equipment, septic systems and other conservation related items.

Projects must be located in the rural areas of Kittson County to be eligible. Landowners can contact the Kittson SWCD office for more information and receive a loan application packet. Applicants will need to provide information about the proposed project to be funded and the desired loan amount. For more information, stop by our office in the Kittson County Courthouse or call 218-843-2619 ext 3.

Two Rivers Watershed District News

In Roseau, Kittson & Marshall Counties

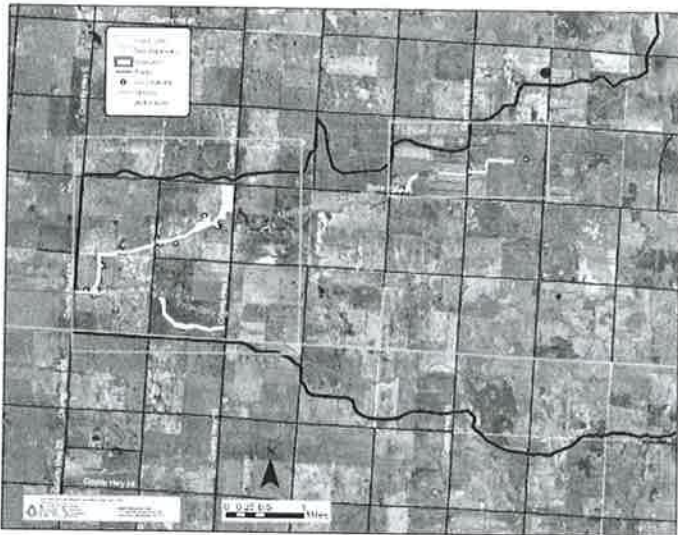
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Construction To Begin On Springbrook PL-566 Project #10

By Dan Money



The Two Rivers Watershed District's latest flood control project is moving forward with construction to begin this summer. The "Springbrook PL 566 Project #10" is being designed by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and consists several project components including the construction of setback levees along approximately 9 miles of an existing natural watercourse, installation of side water inlets for local drainage, establishment of grass buffers, and streambank protection. The project is designed to prevent local flooding for up to what is known as the 10 year flood event. The project is located in Springbrook and Davis Townships in Kittson County, about 11 miles between the Cities of Karlstad and Donaldson.

This project has been in the making dating back to 1998. Severe and repeated flooding began in 1993, and Federal disaster declarations were made in 1993, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2006, 2009, 2011. The Springbrook Coulee has a very large upstream drainage area, and is fed by a legal drainage ditch known as Kittson County Ditch #10. The water that comes to the Coulee is substantial enough that the existing coulee does not have the capacity to be able to carry the water, and consequently the water overtops the coulee banks at several locations and flows overland through ag fields. In addition, the floodwaters overtop several roadways, causing damages to public infrastructure. This project when complete will be a cooperative effort between Federal, State, and Local governments and private landowners to create a project that will solve the primary goal of directly reducing flood damages to ag land and public infrastructure. In addition, the project will improve water quality and habitat by reducing sediment that enters the coulee, planting grass filter strips, protecting streambanks from erosion, and providing systematic ag drainage. The project will also provide wildlife habitat by establishing a large corridor of grass buffer along the waterway. The nearly \$2 million project is being jointly funded by the USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service, State of Minnesota – Board of Water & Soil Resources and Department of Natural

Resources, and the Two Rivers Watershed District.

The project timeline is to secure permit approval during the early summer of 2012, let bids for the project in July / August of 2012, and begin construction in September 2012. It is anticipated that a good start to construction can be done in 2012, and will be completed in 2013.

2012 Projects Underway

By Dan Money

The 2012 construction season has begun, and the Two Rivers Watershed District can report excellent progress on several ditch maintenance projects. The District is the "ditch authority" for 61.7 miles of legal ditch under the Ditch Law – MN Statute 103E, and for another 30.2 miles of legal ditch under the Watershed Law – MN Statute 103D. As the ditch authority, the District is charged with inspecting, maintaining, and repairing any damages to these systems. Each year every mile of ditch is visually inspected for obstructions like beaver dams, sediment plugs, cattail, and brush. In addition, all ditches are on a rotating schedule to be surveyed at a minimum of once every 5 years. The inspections and surveys are used to prepare a maintenance plan for each ditch and to implement cleaning, spraying, or other activities. Below is a listing of the work to be completed in 2012:

- **Kittson County Ditch #10:** A survey of 6.5 miles was completed, and this showed that about 1 to 1.5 miles of ditch needs to be cleaned. This work was recently completed by Anderson Brothers Construction.
- **Judicial Ditch #10, Branch B:** A survey completed in 2010 revealed that most of the ditch has excess sediment. Due to a lack of funding in the ditch fund, the Board of Managers made the determination to complete at least 3 miles per year until the ditch is finished. Therefore, 3.5 miles was done in 2010, and another 3 miles was done in 2011, working from the outlet to the upstream end. Laudal Construction has been hired for 2012, and the work is in progress to complete 1.5 miles.
- **Roseau County Ditch #4:** 7.8 miles of ditch was surveyed in 2011, and the survey shows that a cleanout is needed for 4 miles. Reese Construction has been hired to complete this work later this summer.
- **Soler 4:** Reese Construction will be working to clean out 1 to 2 miles later this summer.
- **Surveys:** Several ditches will be surveyed this year, including the District's North Branch Project, Middle Branch Project, and State Ditch #85 Improvement. In all, 21.5 miles will be surveyed, and the information collected will be used to determine what, if any, maintenance activity will be needed in order to keep the ditch in working order.

Two Rivers Watershed District News

In Roseau, Kittson & Marshall Counties



Total Maximum Daily Load Watershed Study Kicks Off

By Dan Money

The Two Rivers Watershed District will be working with the Joe River Watershed District and the Middle, Snake, Tamarac Rivers Watershed District to undertake a watershed study over the next 4 years. A grant in the amount of \$180,000 has been received from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to study the Joe River, Tamarac River, and an unnamed coulee system that is located in southern Kittson County. The "Lower Red Watershed Restoration and Protection Project" will kickoff this summer.

This project is a requirement of the Federal Clean Water Act, and will be done in 2 phases. The first phase is to identify all of the water quality data that is available for the area and put together a 'watershed conditions report'. In addition, phase 1 objectives include 1) develop a description of existing watershed conditions, 2)

develop and implement the watershed based water quality management plan and the watershed district's TMDL planning process, 3) perform additional monitoring that is needed to adequately assess the waterbody, 4) consult on additional monitoring within the watershed and incorporate results into the study. Progress reports on the study will be compiled twice per year. In addition, at least 3 public informational meetings will be held.

The assessment of the three streams will help to identify if any of them will be considered impaired according to Environmental Protection Agency and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency standards. If they are considered impaired, the study will take the next step in identifying why they are impaired and then identify strategies to fix the impairment. Significant federal funding is available along the way in order to complete the study and implement the strategies necessary to improve the water quality.

As this process moves forward, the Two Rivers, Joe River, and Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed Districts will be working to collect the data, compile the reports, and get the information out to anyone who is interested in the water quality of these streams. The first public meeting will be held either in the fall of 2012 or the spring of 2013. Additional information can be obtained from the Two Rivers Watershed District, located in the Kittson County Courthouse, Hallock, MN.

From The Desk Of Brian Krippner

District Technician

Do you have an area that you'd like to plant for wildlife but you just don't have access to with a tractor? Consider renting our Plotmaster for all of your food plot needs. If you can access the area with a four wheeler you can plant it with the plot master. The Plotmaster covers almost all of your seed preparation and planting functions. It can disc, cultipack (with adjustable down pressure system) drag and seed. With its patented electric "Versa Seeder" you have the ability to plant any size seed from as small as clover to the largest corn and soy bean seeds, and anything in-between including grasses. The Plotmaster is available for rent at \$100 and day and \$250 for the weekend (sorry no daily rates on weekends). It can be your food plot solution for wildlife management on your property. Stop in the office or call for more information.

Dalmatian Toadflax

by Brian Krippner

Dalmatian toadflax, also known as broad-leaf toadflax, is a new invasive weed for Kittson county and the state of Minnesota. It was discovered north of Halma a few years ago and has spread significantly. Though the area of infestation is small in comparison to other noxious weeds, toadflax is a concern for many residents and officials. This new weed is known as an aggressive perennial that invades disturbed soil and pasture lands. It is dangerous to cattle if consumed in large quantities as it contains glucoside which can poison them. It can also outcompete native or desirable range grasses diminishing the quality of pasture land.

Dalmatian toadflax shoots begin to grow in April and May. Its rhizome like roots grow horizontally and produce buds which become new plants. It will flower from May through August and produce seed from July to October. The stems woody at the base becoming smooth and waxy towards the top, are typically about 3

feet tall with around 25 individual stems protruding from the base. Leaves are also smooth and waxy with a bluish-green color when mature. The flowers are similar to a snap dragon and are two-lipped, yellow and orange with a bearded throat and along spur.

Dalmatian toadflax is difficult to control as it is genetically diverse and resistant to many conventional control methods. Pulling small infestations is effective in sandy or soft soils. Mowing and burning have proven ineffective as the roots of toadflax run very deep. Cultivation has been known to help control large tracts of toadflax however it is very expensive and must continue for many years as toadflax seeds can last up to 10 years. Seeding of competitive species that have varying root structures paired with herbicidal spot treatment can be the most effective control method known to date.

The Kittson Soil and Water Conservation District Staff are working in cooperation with The Nature Conservancy, Department of Natural Resources, MNDOT and private land owners to control and contain the infestation of dalmatian toadflax. If you have any questions or have noticed a plant that you feel may be toadflax please call Brian Krippner at the SWCD office at 218-843-2619



Address Corrections

If you have a new address, would like to receive this newsletter or other mailings by email please contact: Darren.Carlson@mn.nacdnet.net. We will share it with the Farm Service Agency office, if you request to do so.

Lake Bronson Watershed & Red River Of The North Watershed Runoff Reduction Projects

By Darren Carlson



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 and siltation of the rivers and ditches. A Clean Water Funding grant was written by the Kittson SWCD 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 spring of 2012 the Kittson SWCD was notified that the grant would be funded. \$100,000 for the Lake Bronson Watershed (mainly State Ditches 90, 91, 95 and their tributaries) and \$75,000 (mainly Kittson County Ditches 12, 26, 28 and 29) to install grass filter strips (on current cropped ground) and side water inlets where needed. These funds will be used with the federally funded Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) to offer landowners potentially \$150 per acre 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 in spring 2013. Interested participants should call or stop in to one: see if they are eligible and two: to sign up for the CCRP. Contracts would have a start date of 10/01/2012 and an end date of 9/30/2027.

A prior Clean Water Fund grant was received for the Lake Bronson Watershed in spring 2011 for \$100,000. Over 100 acres of new grass filter strips were installed in the spring of 2012 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.



Spot Treatment Of Noxious Weeds On CRP

by Kelly Turgeon – FSA Administrator

CRP participants are reminded that spot treatment of CRP for noxious weed control is allowed during the primary nesting season. Producers should not be mowing entire field acreages for weed control measures! Cosmetic mowing is not allowed and treatment should be limited to those acres with noxious weeds. CRP participants who wish to conduct weed control activity during the nesting season are required to notify the FSA office prior to doing so for authorization. The primary nesting season begins June 1 and continues through August 1.

Abandoned or Unused Well Sealing Funding

By: Darren Carlson

Cost-share money is available through the Kittson Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) for the sealing of abandoned or unused wells.

The Kittson SWCD reimburses landowners up to 75 percent of the cost of sealing abandoned or unused wells. This cost-share program is offered through the Kittson County Comprehensive Local Water Plan and state cost-share funds. Cost-share is available on a first-come-first-served basis.

Unused, abandoned or improperly sealed wells are potential sources of contamination to ground water, and can consequently affect nearby drinking water wells. Abandoned wells can act as channels for surface pollutants to enter ground water. Many abandoned wells also go uncovered, posing a physical threat to humans – mainly small children who could potentially fall into the open wells.

For more information on well sealing, stop by our office in the Kittson County Courthouse or call 218-843-2619, ext. 3.

New Continuous CRP Practice Announced

by Kelly Turgeon – FSA Administrator

The USDA FSA recently announced the availability of the CP-42 Pollinator Habitat as a new continuous CCRP practice. The purpose of the practice is to establish habitat to support a diversity of pollinator species. The seeding mixture would include 9 species of pollinator-friendly wildflowers, legumes, and/or shrubs. The CP-42 seedings are planned so that there will be blooming occurring throughout the growing season. Acreage enrolled qualifies for a 20% soil rental incentive and a \$150/acre signing incentive (new land) payment. Cost-share for the practice establishment is 50% with a 40% practice incentive payment bringing the cost share level to approximately 90%. Landowners with an interest in wildlife may want to consider this habitat enhancement practice!

Kittson County SWCD

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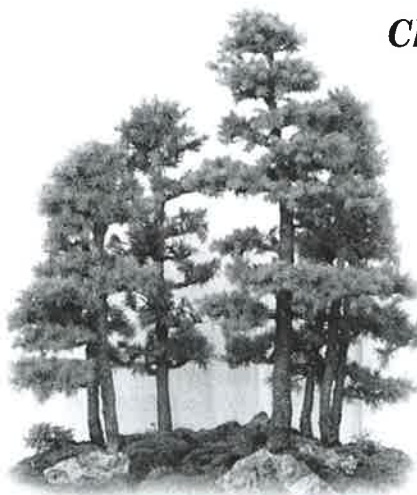


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Kittson SWCD Website

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Check us out! We are on the Web!



The Kittson Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has created a website in cooperation with fifteen other northwest Minnesota Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The website is regularly updated with new information and photos added monthly.



Check it out!

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