

NORTHLAND CONSERVATION NEWS

WINTER 2010 NEWSLETTER

SWCD SUPERVISORS: CHAIRMAN SCOTT KLEIN, VICE CHAIRMAN GREG PETERSON, SECRETARY JUSTIN DAGEN, TREASURER JOE WILEBSKI, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS RON ANDERSON

SWCD STAFF: DARREN CARLSON - DISTRICT MANAGER; JOANNE QUINER - DISTRICT COORDINATOR; AND SHANE E. OLSON - PROGRAM COORDINATOR

NRCS STAFF: JAMES SCHWAB - DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST AND MARK LARSON - TECHNICIAN

TWO RIVERS WATERSHED DISTRICT: DAN MONEY, ADMINISTRATOR

TWO RIVERS WATERSHED DIST. MGRS. PRESIDENT - ROGER ANDERSON; VICE PRESIDENT - JON VOLD; SEC. - JIM KUKOWSKI; TREASURER - VACANT; MIKE RATZLAFF, RICHARD NOVACEK AND O'NEIL LARSON

A Publication of the Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District, 410 S. 5th St., Suite 106, Hallock, MN 56728-4140, Phone 218-843-2619 or 2692 and the Two Rivers Watershed District, 410 S. 5th St., Suite 112, Hallock, MN 56728-4140, Phone 218-843-3333

AgBMP Loan Program

by Shane Olson

The Agricultural Best Management Practice (AgBMP) loans are available from the Kittson SWCD. The interest rate for AgBMP loans is 3%. The money is available for the purchase of Ag waste management equipment, conservation tillage equipment, septic systems, and a few other conservation related items.

Landowners in Kittson County can apply for loans by initially visiting the Kittson SWCD office to fill out an application. The application will then be reviewed by the SWCD Board of Supervisors during its monthly board meeting. Upon approval the application is delivered to Farm Credit Services or American Federal Bank in Hallock, who is also a qualified lender.

2010 Tree Planting Season

by Shane Olson

Look for the 2010 Tree order form in this newsletter. Interested landowners should stop by the office to let us know where you would like to plant trees so that certain issues can be dealt with such as highway and township roadway setbacks. There is no set deadline for ordering; however I cannot cancel orders after March 1st.

Spring tree planting takes place from the first week of May through May 31, weather permitting. Due to this fact and the short time frame, the SWCD refuses to plant trees on sites not prepared to be planted. Landowners had plenty of time last fall to finish preparing their sites through tillage to be ready for this spring. If you did not prepare your planting site, you might consider holding it off until 2011. So stop by the office or call us at 843-2619 with any questions.

Funding Available through the State Cost Share Program for various projects with emphasis on abandoned/unused well sealing

by Shane Olson

Cost-share money is available through the Kittson Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) for various water related projects.

The Kittson SWCD reimburses landowners up to 75 percent of the cost of projects through the Kittson County Comprehensive Local Water Plan and state cost-share funds. Cost-share is available on a first-come-first-served basis.

Erosion control projects, side water inlets and sealing of aban-

doned or unused wells are just a few of the eligible projects that can be taken care of using state cost share funds.

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 eligible cost share projects, stop by our office in the Kittson County Courthouse or call 218-843-2619, ext. 3.

Septic System Compliance Forms Are Due

**Low Interest Loans Are Available
For New Systems or Upgrades**

by Darren Carlson

If you recently built a home or added living space to your home, it is time to get your Individual Sewage Treatment System (ISTS) compliance inspection forms into the Kittson Zoning Office located at the Kittson SWCD office.

Inspection forms are given out with building permit applications. It is the homeowner's responsibility to get the necessary inspection completed and form signed by a licensed inspector and returned to the zoning office. Building permits are not complete until ISTS compliance forms are returned.

"Kittson County ISTS Permit by Rule Certificates" are given to homeowners with new septic systems. The form must be signed by a licensed inspector stating that the work has been done in compliance with the Kittson County Sewage and Wastewater Treatment Ordinance.

Homeowners who have added living space to their home must turn in the "Compliance Inspection Form for Existing Individual Sewage Treatment Systems". A licensed inspector also must sign this form before the homeowner returns it to the zoning office.

If you did not receive one of the two ISTS forms with your building permit and you fall into one of the abovementioned categories, please contact our office at 843-2619, ext. 3.

It is very important to have new and existing systems running in compliance for everyone's safety.

If you are in need of a new system or need to bring an old system into compliance, AgBMP loans are available from the Kittson SWCD. The interest rate for AgBMP loans is 3.5 percent. Landowners in Kittson County can apply for loans by initially visiting the Kittson SWCD office to fill out an application.

2010 Northwest Area I Envirothon to be held at Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR)

by Shane Olson

The 2009 Northwest Area I Envirothon will be held at the Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge on April 28, 2009. The event is hosted by SWCD's and water planners from several counties around our area that include Kittson, Marshall, Roseau and Pennington. High school students from grades 9-12 can participate in the outdoor event and they answer questions about forestry, soils, wildlife, aquatics and a current events topic. They also have to give a presentation about the current events topic. The overall winners of the event will move on to the state competition at the end of May.

EQIP Funds Available

The Kittson Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) would like to announce the availability of Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds. EQIP is a USDA program to assist agricultural producers with the implementation of a variety of conservation practices.

EQIP may pay up to 75% of the cost to install practices such as fencing and watering facilities for rotational grazing, the planting of field windbreaks, waterways, buffer strips and the installation of erosion control structures.

Incentive payment may be made to encourage producers to adopt land management practices such as nutrient and pest management, prescribed grazing system, conservation crop rotation, residue management and no till seeding.

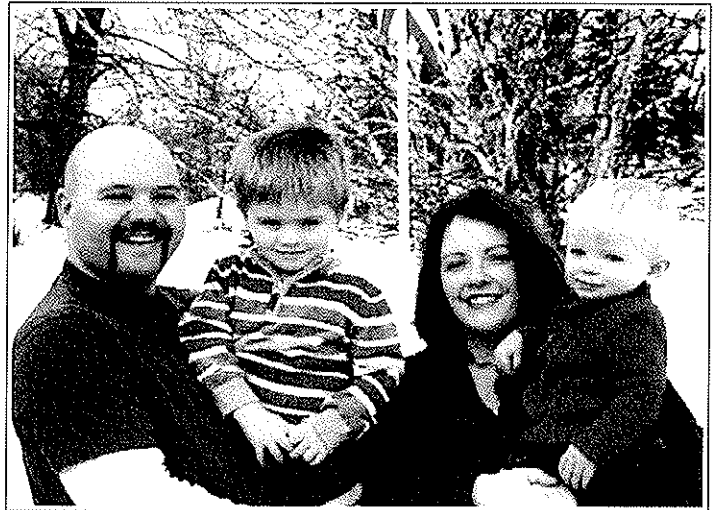
Please contact the Kittson SWCD or the NRCS office at 218-843-2619 ext 3 or stop by the office at 410 5th St. S in Hallock. We are on the lower level in the Kittson County courthouse.

EQIP - Prescribed Grazing Systems

By Mark Larson

Prescribed Grazing has earned popularity amongst livestock producers. To date there has been 15 systems installed and working in Kittson County. Rotational Grazing requires subdividing the land into paddocks, providing access to water, adjusting stocking rates, and monitoring grazing duration. There is no one best plan or system that can be recommended as superior for all pasture situations, that is why each plan takes into consideration such factors as the landowners' objectives, kind of pasture, number, kind, and class of livestock, and the land/forage resource base. The change to controlled grazing will have impacts on the animals, the plant community, and the producer. Rotational Grazing is a big experiment that requires skillful decisions and close monitoring of their consequences. As the new system is fine-tuned, feed quality improves, quantity increases, and management skills also grow. As a result, more animals can be raised on the same acreage, translating into more income for the farm. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program provides an annual incentive payment for producers willing to implement conservation practices on eligible acres. Along with incentive payments producers will receive cost share dollars to help cover expenses incurred to develop a grazing system. If interested in the EQIP Grazing program stop in and visit.

Meet Darren Carlson



Darren Carlson joined the SWCD as our District Manager back in September. Darren grew up on a small grain and dairy farm outside of Angus, MN and graduated from Warren High School in 1995. He attended the University of Minnesota - Crookston and graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Natural Resources in the spring of 1999. From the fall of 1999 to the summer of 2008 he worked with the Dakota and Scott SWCD's as a Resource Conservationist. Darren worked for a local farmer near Warren for a year before applying for the Kittson SWCD District Manager position. Darren and his wife Samantha were married in 2005 and have two boys, Maxwell Mylo (3) and Sidney John (1). Darren and his family currently live just east of Warren.

Kittson USDA Service Center Food Drive Huge Success

By Mark Larson

The Kittson County United States Department of Agriculture, comprised of the Farm Service Agency, National Resource Conservation Service and Soil and Water Conservation District, extends our appreciation to the support of area citizens who participated in the recent food drive.

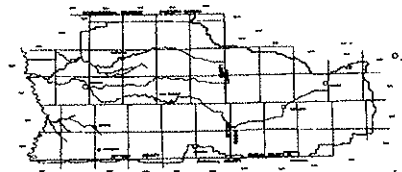
The response was overwhelming as many individuals contributed food or made cash donations which will assist the Kittson County Care and Share Food Pantry of Lake Bronson in their mission of serving those in need. Collectively, the food drive resulted in the Care and Share Pantry receiving 329 pounds of food and cash donations which will enable them to purchase an additional 3,325 pounds of food from the North Country Food Bank located in Crookston, Minnesota.



Two Rivers Watershed District News

In Roseau, Kittson & Marshall Counties

Winter 2010



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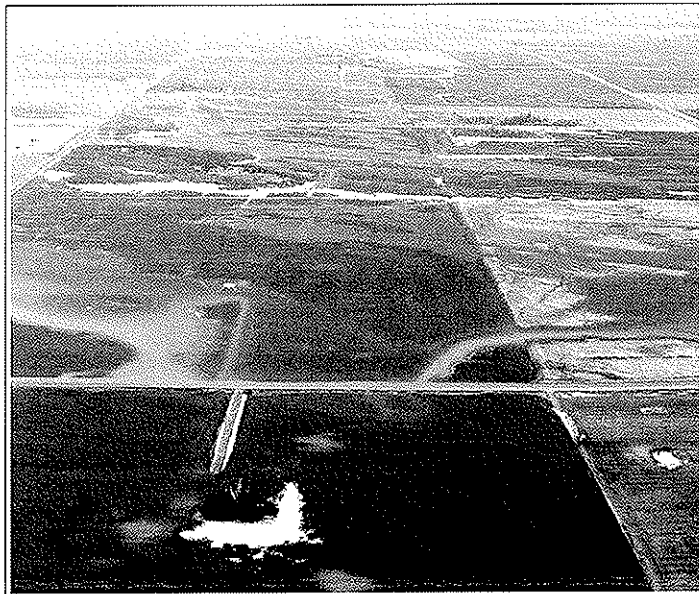
Project Work Team Studying Flooding Issues

The Two Rivers Watershed District has assembled a group representing federal, state, and local agencies, natural resources groups, individual landowners, local organizations, and others interested to study flooding in the "Big Swamp" area. This group has been meeting over the past year, and will continue to meet into the future.

The group is studying flooding and its effects in an area within the Two Rivers Watershed District from Badger, MN straight west to the Roseau and Kittson County line, including the west-north-west 1/3 of Roseau County and the eastern _ of Kittson County. Drainage systems in this area include the State Ditch #50 system, State Ditch #72, and State Ditch #95. The study area includes flood impacts from each of these systems, as well as overflow flooding from the Roseau River, State Ditch #69, and State Ditch #51.

Projects that are being discussed will focus on both flood damage reduction and natural resources enhancement. Types of projects being looked at include upstream impoundments, maintenance and improvement of existing ditches, improvement of outlets, wetland restoration, culvert sizing, and diversion. The project work team is committed to finding projects that will reduce damages to agricultural lands, public infrastructure, and private property and at the same time will be a benefit to natural resources.

Once all project alternatives have been analyzed, the PWT will select a preferred alternative that is considered to have the most flood damage reduction, be the most cost effective, and will be the least environmentally damaging project. It will then be up to the



Two Rivers Watershed District to develop the project, find funding, obtain permits, and do the construction. The process is in the first year of what is expected to be a 3 to 5 year process to accomplish a project. The PWT meets once per month in Badger, MN and reports back to the Two Rivers Watershed District - Board of Managers.

2009 Two Rivers WD Project Update

Now that 2009 is history, the TRWD would like to take the opportunity to look back at what was accomplished in the world of watershed management. The following activities were undertaken by the District in 2009:

- **2009 Flood Fight:** The District was involved in monitoring flood flows, reporting them to the National Weather Service, and assisting in flood crest predictions. In addition, the District provided survey information to local and state agencies and emergency personnel to assist in sandbagging efforts.

The District also operated the Ross #7 Impoundment, located northeast of Badger, MN. This impoundment held the runoff from 18 square miles and provided 3,200 acre feet of water storage, providing significant benefits to downstream lands.

- **Water Quality Monitoring:** 7 sites on the Two Rivers were monitored for pH, dissolved oxygen, nitrogen, phosphorous, turbidity, and other parameters. This information assists local and state agencies in determining the health of the river system.
- **Ditch Maintenance:** Over 82 miles of ditch system were inspected. This resulted in maintenance activities like cattail and brush spraying, removal of beaver dams and the beavers that made them,

sediment removal, and other maintenance activities.

- **Repair of Flood Damages:** The District repaired 2 side water inlets, installed 3 rock rip rap repairs of side sloughing on ditches, and repaired over 1,500 feet of erosion along a watercourse and various ditches.
- **Kennedy #6 Project:** The District completed work on the Kennedy flood control project, which created a legal ditch out of the watercourse through the City. Channel maintenance and repair of sloughing was done. The project will provide flood control for the City.
- **Permits:** Over 70 permits were received for various projects of improvement within the District. These ranged from road building to culvert installations to diking to ditching.
- **Ring Dikes:** The district began working on 5 farmstead ring dikes, with construction slated for 2010. Survey work, plan, and design is in progress on all 5 dikes.

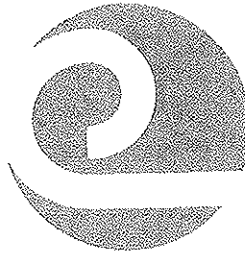
The District will continue to strive to provide assistance with flood control, water quality, water quantity, and providing benefits to natural resources.

Kittson County SWCD

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Rain Gauge Monitoring by Joanne Quiner

The Kittson SWCD continues to operate its rain gauge monitoring network throughout various locations in Kittson County. Currently 23 locations are monitored in the County. Rain amounts are recorded daily and reported to the SWCD at the end of each month. The chart below shows the location of each gauge, the name of the reporter, and the amounts for each month. These rain amounts are forwarded to the Minnesota State Climatology Office where the data is used to show long-term trends in weather patterns and record baseline rain amounts for the entire state. Currently Kittson SWCD is looking for interested persons to add to our rain network. We

would especially like someone from the following townships: Arveson, Davis, McKinley and South Red River. If interested, stop by the office to get your name on the list. We will get you a rain gauge and the proper forms for recording the rainfall, along with self addressed envelopes to send each month's report in. For those folks who currently are rain gauge monitors and need envelopes please drop a note in with the rain report and they will be sent to you. Thanks to everyone currently involved with this program and we urge others to take part also.

2009 KITTSOON COUNTY RAINFALL AMOUNTS / NR = No report (Some possibly no rain)

NAME	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPT.	OCT.
ROLLAND BENSON - PERCY 31	NR	6.16	4.65	1.19	2.26	2.66	NR
JUSTIN DAGEN - SPRINGBROOK 25	1.39	NR	5.18	1.69	2.53	2.76	NR
BILL DYKHUIS - HILL 5	1.07	3.40	5.18	2.02	1.40	3.36	0.80
KRIS FOLLAND - NORWAY 25	1.27	3.52	4.84	NR	NR	NR	NR
PAUL GILLE - THOMPSON 35	1.83	3.77	4.31	1.68	2.03	2.66	1.67
GARY GRUNDSTROM - SVEA 25	2.15	3.15	4.20	0.95	1.90	1.45	NR
AARON HUGHES - ST. VINCENT 2	0.84	3.86	4.43	2.08	2.23	3.21	1.35
AL JOHNSON - PERCY 14	NR	4.93	4.56	0.06	3.33	2.16	NR
David Johnson - Pelan 34	1.00	1.95	3.40	1.58	3.17	3.26	NR
BOB LAUDE - GRANVILLE 13	2.20	3.61	4.62	1.57	1.61	1.99	1.74
BOBBY LINDEGARD - N RED RIVER 9	0.95	3.31	3.97	1.66	2.03	1.81	1.58
MARKIT LANDFILL - THOMPSON 12	1.88	3.32	4.57	1.23	1.71	2.43	1.58
GREG MITZIGA - TEGNER 31	1.92	4.07	3.64	1.46	1.96	2.33	1.69
CAREY MORTENSON - TEIEN 12	NR	2.50	3.30	1.55	2.33	NR	0.99
CW NYEGAARD - HAMPDEN 13	1.84	3.04	4.40	NR	1.53	1.98	1.44
DARLEEN OLSON - NORWAY 21	1.72	4.07	4.78	1.21	2.49	2.99	1.41
RON PETERSEN - JUPITER 18	NR	4.79	4.90	1.60	2.12	1.53	1.40
JERROLL PETERSON - RICHARDVILLE 10	1.73	3.84	4.98	1.39	2.41	1.59	1.63
MELVIN SUCH - SKANE 5	1.32	1.05	4.85	0.40	2.02	2.34	1.60
WAYNE VOTH - DEERWOOD 3	1.97	3.50	5.16	1.42	2.69	2.79	0.94
NEIL WIESE - ST. VINCENT 24	1.33	3.65	4.87	1.88	1.40	3.21	1.94
JOE WILEBSKI - ST. JOSEPH 4	1.90	3.82	5.73	1.79	2.19	2.06	1.30
TERRY DAHL - TEIEN	0.45	3.21	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR