

# NORTHLAND CONSERVATION NEWS

## WINTER 2012 NEWSLETTER

**SWCD SUPERVISORS:** CHAIRMAN - VACANT, VICE CHAIRMAN - RON ANDERSON, SECRETARY - JUSTIN DAGEN, TREASURER - JOE WILEBSKI, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS - HEATHER PETERSON

**SWCD STAFF:** DARREN CARLSON - DIST. MGR., BRIAN KRIPPNER, DIST. TECHNICIAN, JAMIE INGEMAN, DIST. COORD.  
**NRCS STAFF:** JAMES SCHWAB - DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST AND MARK LARSON - TECHNICIAN

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

**TWO RIVERS WATERSHED DIST. MGRS.** PRESIDENT - ROGER ANDERSON; VICE PRESIDENT - JIM KUKOWSKI; SEC. - JON VOLD; TREASURER - DARRELL JOHNSON; O'NEIL LARSON, ALLEN BRAZIER AND PAUL OLSONAWSKI

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

## Ratzlaff is the 2012 Kittson SWCD Outstanding Conservationist of the Year!



**Mike Ratzlaff, Outstanding Conservationist Nominee, with his wife Tara and daughter Serena.**

Mike Ratzlaff, of Lake Bronson MN, has been named the 2012 Kittson SWCD Outstanding Conservationist of the year. He has been chosen by the SWCD board members due to his application of many conservation practices through the SWCD and NRCS. His nomination for the area wide and state Outstanding Conservationist will be recognized this December at the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Convention down in Bloomington Minnesota.

The Ratzlaff farm is located just south of Lake Bronson in Jupiter Township where Mike lives with his wife Tara and his daughter Serena. As with many farms on the prairie, Mike is surrounded by a Farmstead Shelterbelt; a tree row comprised mostly of mature Elm trees. Ratzlaff has already planned for the future by planting multiple rows of trees outside of his shelterbelt to replace the aging Dropmore Siberian Elms in the coming years.

A former Soil Conservation Service (SCS)/Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) employee, Mike has long been an advocate for conservation methods in Kittson County. Many producers use conservation practices within their normal operation. Mike uses conservation practices as his profession. Ratzlaff owns and operates Carlson Prairie Seed Farms Inc, one of the premier native seed vendors in the state. His operation grows and harvests "source identified" grasses and forbs that are used nation-wide for native seed mixtures.

The nature of Mike's operation does not lend itself to conventional conservation practices. His perennial field crops already all but eliminate any erosion through runoff. He is running 80% of his fields as minimum or no till which drastically reduces wind erosion. Ratzlaff also plants on a site specific basis, placing more flood tolerant crops in wetter areas and more drought resistant plants on the

higher, well drained soils.

Aside from his business, Mike practices what he preaches. He has planted CRP farmstead shelter belts and windbreaks throughout his operation to protect the soil on his highly erodible property. He also has a prescribed burning regiment on over 800 acres to improve cover quality and manage weeds. On his crop fields, Mike utilizes low pressure nozzles and irrigation water management practices. The installation of these nozzles cut his water pressure in half, limiting the "misting" effect of high pressure systems. This in turn means more water to the plant roots, and a more efficient system.

Mike also employs practices from the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) through NRCS on his entire operation. These include drift reducing and low pressure nozzles for pesticide applications as well as others. He also harvests crops in a manner that allows wildlife to flush from the field to reduce the chance of injury. Ratzlaff splits his nitrogen applications, applying 50% of the required nitrogen after the field has had a chance to emerge or "green up" in an effort to reduce nitrogen loss through leaching during rain events.

Aside from government programs and his business, Mike has voluntarily participated in conservation practices. He has planted a 1.5 Acre prairie restoration on his own property as well as a .1 acre pollinator. Ratzlaff won't spray insecticides on fields until around dusk to allow pollinator bees to return to their hives. Mike also scouts his fields for problem insects and weeds. He also assists the Plant Materials Center of Bismarck, ND in species development, field evaluation and seed increase by using his property to test plants for the area.

Mike Ratzlaff with his wife Tara and daughter Serena are an example of what conservation can provide. Mike says "The things I do have always been second nature, I never considered them conservation". Ratzlaff has been a true steward of the land and in return, the land has provided him with a thriving business and a loving family.

## Kittson SWCD Tree Program

*By Darren Carlson*

The Kittson Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) annually make available thousands of trees to county landowners at a reduced cost for conservation. These trees are inexpensive and are from wholesale nurseries here in our state.

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. The Kittson SWCD encourages all residents to utilize the tree program and purchase stock to start or add to their own beautification plans. Technical advice on tree plantings for windbreaks and shelterbelts is also available upon request.

A tree order form is located on pages 5 and 6 of this newsletter. Fill it out, clip it from the newsletter and mail it to the address indicated on the order form.

## Winter Feeding Areas

by Mark Larson, NRCS Technician

This winter livestock producers should consider feeding out on pasture or cropland. Winter feed yards are common on almost every beef operation in Kittson County and are often concentrated with manure. When located along sensitive areas such as rivers and streams, there is a potential that manure contaminated run-off can discharge into our local waters. The goal for producers is to feed the animals in a manner that allows the cattle to distribute the manure outside of these concentrated areas. There are many benefits to utilizing surrounding pasture and cropland for winter feeding; less manure build-up, distribution of manure across the pasture/cropland, recycling of nutrients, and health problems are minimized, which are all opportunities for reducing production costs. In Northern Minnesota it is understandable that producers confine animals for a portion of the winter, but please take some time to think about how you can utilize areas around your farm to help reduce the time spent in feed yards. If you would like more information about winter feeding out on pasture and cropland, please stop in the office and we can go over some techniques that may be right for your operation.

## Breaking of Land for Annual Crop Production

Kelly Turgeon, FSA Administrator

Strong commodity markets have landowners and farm operators considering breaking land that has never been farmed or not produced an annual crop for many years. In such cases where land is being brought into production it is recommended prior to taking any activity to first contact FSA or NRCS to determine if there has been a highly erodible/wetland determination on the acreage. USDA farm program participants are recommended to file an AD-1026 requesting the conservation compliance determinations to minimize the risk of loss benefits.

## 2011 SURE Sign-up Announced

Kelly Turgeon, FSA Administrator

Sign-up for the 2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) started October 22, 2011 and will continue through June 7, 2013. SURE is available to Kittson County farms that have incurred at least a 10% crop production or quality loss, or both for at least one crop of economic significance, except for grazed crops. SURE is a whole farm crop disaster program and takes into consideration all crops on the farm when calculating eligibility. Producers who would like to have their farm reviewed for 2011 SURE eligibility should contact the Kittson County FSA office.

## Feedlot Update

By: Brian Krippner

Since 2002, the Minnesota Legislature has required that all feedlots be registered within their delegated counties at least once within a four-year registration update interval. This means that many feedlots in Kittson County will need to have their registration updated by December 31st 2013. As described, a feedlot is "a lot or building or combination of lots and building intended for the confined feeding, breeding, raising, or holding of animals and specifically designed as a confinement area in which manure may accumulate, or where the concentration of animals is such that a vegetative cover cannot be maintained within the enclosure.... Pastures shall not be considered animal feedlots under these parts." 7020.0300 Subp. 3

Of these animal feedlots, those required to register are owners of "an animal feedlot capable of holding 50 or more animal units, or a manure storage area capable of holding the manure produced by 50 or more animal units; and an animal feedlot capable of holding ten or more and fewer than 50 animal units, or a manure storage area capable of holding the manure produced by such numbers, that is within a shoreland." Which means that if you have 50 or more animal units in a feedlot operation or are within a shoreland area and

have 10 or more animal units contained within the an area defined as a feedlot, you will need to be registered.

If you have already registered your feedlot in the past, look for a notice in the mail this winter with instructions on how to re-register. If you have a new feedlot, stop in some time after January 1st and see me about registering your feedlot. Also, I will be hosting a registration/informative feedlot meeting for Kittson County Producers sometime this winter. More information will be posted as that date approaches. If you have any questions, feel free to call me, Brian Krippner (County Feedlot Officer), at 218-843-2619 ext 3. Or, stop in the office in the basement of the courthouse in Hallock.

## Highly Erodible Land (HEL) Compliance and Conservation Plans

Jim Schwab, District Conservationist

Anyone wishing to participate in any USDA programs must meet Conservation Compliance provisions. Agricultural commodities cannot be produced on highly erodible land (HEL) unless soil erosion prevention measures are initiated or installed that maintain soil loss to USDA acceptable standards. Which means an ag producer must have a HEL conservation plan written and approved by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Soil and Water District. Any producer who purchases new land or plans on operating new land should check with NRCS to find out if the land is HEL. If so we will work with you on your crop rotations and residue management to ensure we keep erosion down to acceptable levels. Therefore keeping you in Compliance with USDA's Conservation Provisions.

## Kittson County Requires Septic Permits and the AgBMP Loan Program

By Darren Carlson

Septic systems in all areas of Kittson County require permits. A permit is required prior to installation and must be obtained from the Kittson Soil and Water Conservation District Office. All septic systems shall be designed, installed, inspected, altered and repaired by a MN licensed professional except as provided under MN Rules 7080 through 7083. A properly installed, used, and maintained septic system poses no threat to water quality. However, any malfunction that could occur to your septic system can result in damage to your home, your health, or cause significant groundwater or surface water contamination. 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 (Agricultural Best Management Practices) loans are available from the Kittson SWCD for farmers and rural landowners. The interest rate for AgBMP loans is 3% and maximum loan amounts up to \$100,000. Besides septic systems AgBMP money is available for the purchase of conservation tillage equipment, feedlot improvements, manure management, chemical management and any other practices that improves water quality. Interested applicants may apply throughout the year; however, there may be a waiting list, so inquire soon. All applications will be reviewed by the Kittson SWCD Board of Supervisors during their monthly board meetings.

## Kittson Co. CRP Enrollment Acreage Drops

Kelly Turgeon, FSA Administrator

High commodity prices and a strong outlook for production agriculture have resulted in a nationwide reduction in the number of acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). That trend is also occurring here in Kittson County, this past year the county has 38,891 acres expire from CRP on September 30, 2012. During the past year landowners re-enrolled 27,130 acres through both a general sign-up and continuous sign-up. The 11,761 acre shift to production agriculture is the first of this magnitude in the county since CRP originated back in 1985.



# Two Rivers Watershed District News

In Roseau, Kittson & Marshall Counties

Winter 2012



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## Construction To Begin On Springbrook PL-566 Project #10

By Dan Money

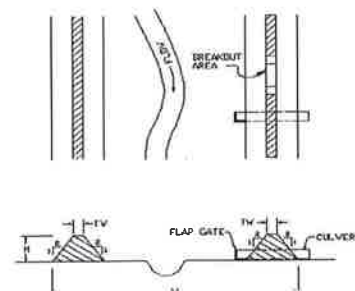


Springbrook PL 566 Project #10  
NRCS - Two Rivers Watershed District - Kittson NWCD - Springbrook Township - City of Karlstad

The Two Rivers Watershed District's latest flood control project is moving forward with plans for construction in 2013. 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 1/2 way 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 over-



land through ag fields often cutting new gullies 3 feet deep and over 10 feet wide. 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 approvals by February 2013, let bids for the project in February / March of 2013, and begin construction as soon as conditions permit in spring 2013. It is anticipated that the entire project can be substantially completed in 2013.

## Two Rivers Watershed District Receives Grant to Aid Landowners with Tile Drainage Water Management

By Dan Money

Landowners within the Two Rivers Watershed District who have already installed tile drainage or are looking to install new tile drainage systems now have an opportunity enhance these tile systems with what is known as "Conservation Drainage / Drainage Water Management". The Two Rivers Watershed District has received a grant from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources in the amount of \$30,000 to plan and install conservation practices and strategies that have been developed to reduce the potential water quantity and quality impacts of subsurface tile drainage. This grant will be matched between 25% and 50% by the Two Rivers Watershed District making a maximum of \$60,000 available for this program. The grant portion of these funds comes from the Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment.

Subsurface tile drainage is increasingly being installed in the area to improve field access for planting and harvesting and to increase crop productivity. At the field scale, tile drainage typically reduces surface runoff by increasing subsurface runoff, and increases total annual runoff volume by reducing water availability for evaporation, primarily during the spring and fall when crops are not growing. Conventional tile drainage can increase the loss of soluble crop nutrients from fields, such as nitrate nitrogen and soluble phosphorus, as well as increase the transport of herbicides, pesticides, and pathogens. Increased runoff volume can in turn increase downstream flooding and sediment transport.

Conservation practices and strategies have been developed and made available through the Natural Resources Conservation Service,

Continued on next page

## Two Rivers Watershed District News

*In Roseau, Kittson & Marshall Counties*



MN Board of Water and Soil Resources, and the Two Rivers Watershed District to reduce water quantity and quality impacts of subsurface tile drainage, as well as surface drainage. This water management grant involves a suite of practices, including the following:

- Drainage Water Management Plan (NRCS CAP 130)
- Structure for Water Control (Practice 587)
- Drainage Water Management Operation (Practice 554)
- Denitrifying Bioreactor (Practice 747)
- Conservation Activity Plan (CAP 104 Nutrient Management Plan)
- Nutrient Management (Practice 590)
- Subsurface Drain Alternative Tile Inlet (Practice 606)

The intent of this funding is to assist with managing the water coming out of the tile systems by implementing the above named practices to reduce the potential water quality and quantity impacts to downstream areas. It is not intended to help with the installation of the tile itself. These practices will enhance tile systems and assist landowners by giving the operators an option to control and manage the outflows from these systems, which will provide for better crop productivity.

To learn more about this cost sharing program, contact the TRWD at 218-843-3333 or email Daniel.money@mn.nacdn.net

## Considering Tiling, New Drainage, or Drainage Expansion

*Kelly Turgeon, FSA Administrator*

Farm program participants and landowners considering tiling, new drainage, or drainage system expansion should indicate their intentions to perform any drainage activities by completing an AD-1026 with the Farm Service Agency. When filing a AD-1026 you are asked to indicate your drainage intentions that have not previously been evaluated by NRCS. The AD-1026 can help minimize the risk of a drainage violation. Requesting a certified wetland determination will result in NRCS providing a location of areas subject to protection through USDA wetland compliance provisions. The original "official" wetland determinations issued may not have identified all wetlands. A "certified" wetland determination will provide the most accurate information on protected wetlands.

While USDA does not issue drainage permits. As such, participants may proceed at any time with drainage activities with or without a certified wetland determination. However, participants are responsible to know where wetlands are in relation to their project on their own land and adjacent land. All participants are responsible to maintain their eligibility by avoiding impacts to these wetlands. Some wetlands are obvious and some may not always look "wet" and may be capable of cropping.

Anyone considering tiling, new drainage, expansion of existing drainage systems is encourage to file an AD-1026 requesting a "certified" wetland determination prior to starting the project to reduce the potential for a wetland violation and loss of farm program benefits.

## Kittson County Benefits from Clean Water Funds

*By Darren Carlson*

The Kittson SWCD was fortunate to receive three grants totaling \$275,000 (one in 2011 and two in 2012) from the State of Minnesota's Clean Water Funds. These funds originated from the 3/8 percent sales tax increase voted into effect in 2008 called the "Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment". The Kittson SWCD is

## Al Brazier Appointed to Watershed District Board of Managers

Al Brazier of Greenbush, MN has been appointed to the Board of Managers of the Two Rivers Watershed District. Brazier is from rural Greenbush, MN and he is one of two Managers on the Board from Roseau County. He will represent an area located within the District north of MN Highway 11 from the City of Badger to Greenbush to the Roseau and Kittson County line. This area consists of the upstream drainage areas of the North and Middle Branches of the Two Rivers and the State Ditch 72 and 95 systems. Brazier replaces Dick Novacek on the Board of Managers, who had served on the Board for the past nine years.

The Two Rivers Watershed District encompasses approximately 1,450 square miles in parts of Roseau, Kittson, and Marshall Counties. The Board is made up of 5 members appointed by the Kittson County Commission and 2 members appointed by the Roseau County Commission. The main focus of the TRWD is drainage, flood control, and water quality within the drainage area of the Two Rivers. The District has constructed 3 flood control impoundments, over 22 farmstead ring dikes, and manages over 92 miles of ditch systems. In addition, the district monitors snow fall and snow water content, measures stream flows, and measures numerous water quality parameters.

excited to implement the following projects in the next couple of years.

Lake Bronson Watershed Runoff Reduction Project Phases I & II: Both phases will use the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) soil rental rates and these Clean Water Funds to provide incentive payments for landowners to seed 100 to 120 foot wide buffer strips and install Side Water Inlets (SWI) that enter the numerous ditches that eventual drain into Lake Bronson. These practices would stabilize soil near the flow of water and the buffers would also increase infiltration. The result will be a reduction in sediment and phosphorus entering the waterways. If you have land upstream of Lake Bronson and have questions with this project please call our office.

Red River of the North Watershed Runoff Reduction: This project mimics the Lake Bronson Watershed Runoff Reduction project. Kittson County Drainage Authority/Engineer asked the Kittson SWCD for assistance in getting landowners to establish grass filter strips and Side Water Inlets (SWI) along county ditches in the Northwest portion of the county. The Kittson County Engineer indicated that Kittson County each spring spends on the average \$10,000 to clean out ditches from sediments that have deposited within the last year in the bottom of these ditches. Emphasis will also be placed on County Ditches 12 and 26 in the Two Rivers Watershed District and County Ditches 12, 28 and 29 in the Joe River Watershed District. Interested landowners should contact the Kittson SWCD for more information.

## Expired CRP Returning to Crop Production May Require Conservation Plan

*Kelly Turgeon, FSA Administrator*

Landowners and farm operators should be aware that expired CRP which is returning to production agriculture which has highly erodible land (HEL) is required to have a Conservation Plan of Operations prior to seeding to avoid loss of USDA farm program benefits. Planting of annual crops on expired CRP which is HEL without first obtaining a Conservation Plan could result in loss of program benefits. Anyone who will be farming expired CRP or new acreage which contains highly erodible lands is encourage to contact the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) for further information on development of a Conservation Plan.

# Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District

410 South 5th Street Suite 106

Hallock, MN 56728

[www.nwmnswcd.org](http://www.nwmnswcd.org)

## Kittson SWCD Tree Order Form 2013

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Home Phone:

Cell Phone:

County:

E-Mail Address:

All 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
<b>POTTED CONIFERS</b>				
White Spruce	15" - 18"	\$8.00		
Black Hills Spruce	15" - 18"	\$8.00		
Colorado Blue Spruce	15" - 18"	\$8.00		
Scotch Pine	15" - 18"	\$8.00		
<b>CONIFERS</b>	<b>TREES</b>	<b>Price Per 25 Trees</b>	<b>Number Needed ex. 25, 50, etc.</b>	
Black Hills Spruce	8" - 15"	\$35.00		
Colorado Blue Spruce	8" - 15"	\$35.00		
Scotch Pine	8" - 15"	\$35.00		
White Spruce	8" - 15"	\$35.00		
<b>DECIDUOUS TREES</b>	<b>AND SHRUBS</b>	<b>Price Per 25 Trees</b>	<b>Number Needed ex. 25, 50, etc.</b>	
Apricot (Hardy)	18" - 24"	\$28.00		
Ash, Green	18" - 24"	\$28.00		
Aspen, Quacking	2' - 3'	\$47.00		
Buffaloberry, Silver	18" - 24"	\$28.00		
Cherry, Nanking	18" - 24"	\$28.00		
Cherry, Pin	18" - 24"	\$28.00		
Chokeberry, Black	18" - 24"	\$28.00		
Cotoneaster	18" - 24"	\$28.00		
Cottonwood, Common	12" - 24"	\$28.00		
Cottonwood, Siouxland	12" - 24"	\$28.00		
Crabapple, Red Splendor	18" - 24"	\$28.00		
Cranberry, Highbush	18" - 24"	\$28.00		
Currant, Golden	18" - 24"	\$28.00		
dogwood, Redosier	12" - 24"	\$28.00		



Species	Approximate Size of tree stock	Price Per 25 Trees	Number Needed ex. 25, 50, etc.	Total Amount
<b>DECIDUOUS</b>	<b>TREES</b>	<b>AND</b>	<b>SHRUBS</b>	<b>CONTINUED</b>
Juneberry (Serviceberry)	12" - 24"	\$28.00		
Lilac, Common Purple	12" - 24"	\$28.00		
Maple, Amur	18" - 24"	\$28.00		
Maple, Silver	12" - 24"	\$28.00		
Nannyberry	18" - 24"	\$28.00		
Oak, Bur	12" - 24"	\$28.00		
Paper Birch	18" - 24"	\$28.00		
Plum, American	12" - 24"	\$28.00		
Poplar, Norway	12" - 24"	\$28.00		
Willow, Flame	18" - 24"	\$28.00		
<b>Tree Protection</b>				
4 foot Tree Pro Protector	Individual	\$3.25		
3 foot Tree Pro Protector	Individual	\$2.25		
3 X 3 Fabric Tree Mats	Individual	\$2.00		
<b>Tree Marking Materials</b>				
2 1/2 Feet Flags	Bundle of 100	\$14.00		
4 Feet Wooden Lath	Bundle of 50	\$23.00		
	<b>Make Checks Payable to Kittson SWCD</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$</b>

The Kittson SWCD has a tree planter (for trees under 2 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 \$100.00 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 Darren Carlson at the Kittson SWCD. Phone number is 218-843-2619 Ext. 3. Orders cannot be cancelled after March 1, 2013. The Kittson SWCD accepts NO responsibility with regard to survival of planting stock and makes NO provisions for replacements.

Ask us about other programs the Kittson SWCD offers!



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

**Tree orders will be available for pickup beginning of May 2013.**

**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**



## 2012 Rain Monitoring Program

By Jamie Ingeman

The Kittson SWCD continues to operate a rain gauge monitoring system throughout various locations in Kittson County. Currently 16 locations are monitored in different townships in the county. Rain amounts are recorded daily and reported to the SWCD at the end of the month. The SWCD then submits the reports to the Minnesota State Climatology Office. You can visit their website at <http://climate.umn.edu/> for history and other information about climate in Minnesota.

The average rainfall for Kittson County is between 19 and 20 inches. So far in 2012, the county has received below average rain

fall. The months of April and September saw average rainfall of less than 1 inch. The chart below shows the rainfall totals submitted by volunteer recorders.

Kittson SWCD would like to say "Thank You" to the rain gauge monitors for their work in 2012. Our goal is to have one monitor for each township in Kittson County. We are looking for volunteers from South Red River, Seva, Clow, Davis, Hazelton, McKinley, Cannon, Percy, Caribou, and Pelan townships. We provide you with a rain gauge and forms. If you are interested in monitoring, please stop in the office or call 843-2619 ext 3 for further information.

TOWNSHIP & SECTION	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	TOTAL
SpringBrook 25- J.D.	1.63	NR	2.63	2.78	1.66	0.15	4.34	13.19
Teien 12- C.M.	1.24	1.57	1.95	3.23	1.06	0.10	4.30	13.45
Teien 28- T.D.	1.23	2.10	2.39	0.70	1.23	0.08	3.52	11.25
Pelan 34- D.J.	1.35	1.80	1.23	2.26	1.46	0.22	NR	8.32
Jupiter 18- R.P.	1.73	2.23	3.04	2.79	2.29	0.28	4.82	17.18
Tegner 31- G.M.	1.59	1.48	1.94	3.06	1.69	0.18	3.89	13.83
Skane 5- M.S.	1.18	1.88	1.53	3.59	2.66	0.09	4.05	14.98
Percy 14- A.J.	1.35	2.04	1.83	2.12	2.64	NR	NR	9.98
Thompson 12- Markit	1.04	1.83	1.72	2.26	1.69	0.12	3.42	12.08
Thompson 35- P.G.	1.09	1.69	1.82	2.95	1.69	0.00	3.99	13.23
Hallock 13- TRW	0.85	1.61	1.57	2.40	1.84	0.06	4.35	12.68
North Red River- B.L.	0.83	1.76	1.55	4.24	2.32	0.19	4.30	15.19
Poppleton 9- M.L.	0.48	1.74	1.58	2.31	NR	NR	NR	6.11
Granville 13- B.L.	0.97	2.59	1.94	2.98	2.03	0.09	4.87	15.47
Hampden 13 CW.N.	0.94	1.75	1.99	3.26	1.97	0.05	3.61	13.57
Hill 5- B.D.	0.99	1.99	2.08	3.31	2.65	0.05	4.20	15.27
Richardville 10- J.P.	0.78	2.38	2.39	2.54	2.15	0.19	4.26	14.69
St. Vincent 24- N.W.	0.26	2.11	0.87	3.08	1.51	NR	NR	7.83
St. Vincent 2- A.H.	0.78	2.50	2.08	3.11	1.48	0.10	4.19	14.24
Average Rainfall	1.07	1.84	1.90	2.79	1.79	0.10	3.27	12.77

## Attention Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers

Kelly Turgeon, FSA Administrator

If you, or someone you know, believe the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has improperly denied you farm loan benefits between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic or female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation. Claims MUST be filed between September 24, 2012 and March 25, 2013 to be considered for cash payment or loan forgiveness. If you think you might be eligible to file a claim, please access the Farmer and Rancher Call Center or Website: 1-888-508-4429 [www.farmer-claims.gov](http://www.farmer-claims.gov). For guidance, you may contact an attorney or other legal service provider in your community. If you are currently represented by an attorney regarding allegations of discrimination or in a lawsuit claiming discrimination, you should contact your attorney regarding this claims process.

USDA cannot provide legal advice.

## Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District Board Announces Vacancy

The Kittson Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has an immediate vacancy on its Board of Supervisors. The existing Kittson SWCD Board Members will appoint an individual to serve through 2016. If you are concerned about our natural resources, maintaining and improving water quality and protecting our soil, consider becoming a Board Member of the Kittson Soil and Water Conservation District.

Board Members must live within the area they represent. The area currently vacant is District 1 which includes the Townships of Hill, St. Vincent, Richardville, Granville, Clow and Hampden

Townships.

Board Members are responsible for setting policy and program direction for the Kittson Soil and Water Conservation District. Specific responsibilities include attending one monthly Board meeting, plus additional committee meetings and regional conservation events. Supervisors do not receive a salary; however, they are paid per diem plus expenses.

Interested individuals are requested to send a letter of interest to the attention of Darren Carlson, District Manager; Kittson Soil and Water Conservation District: 410 South 5th Street, Suite 106; Hallock, MN 56728. For more information about the Kittson Soil and Water Conservation District and the role of Board Members contact Darren Carlson (218) 843-2619 Ext. 3. You can also visit the Kittson SWCD web site at [www.nwmnswcd.org](http://www.nwmnswcd.org) or for more information about becoming a Board Member visits the Minnesota Association Soil and Water Conservation Districts at [www.maswcd.org](http://www.maswcd.org).

## Drainage Activity on Expired CRP Remember Wetland Compliance Provisions

Kelly Turgeon, FSA Administrator

Landowners and farm operators are remind when returning expired CRP to production agriculture to be aware of wetland compliance provisions to ensure program benefits are not jeopardized. USDA recommends the landowner/farm operator prior to doing any new or maintenance drainage activities to first visit with NRCS or FSA to review CPA-026 wetland determinations on that specific tract of land. The CPA-026 documents the prior issued wetland determinations completed by NRCS. Producers are reminded that a majority of the wetland determinations in Kittson County are considered "official" "determinations and not a final "certified" wetland determination. To receive a certified wetland determination a producer must file an AD-1026 with the Farm Service Agency.

**Kittson County  
SWCD**

410 So. 5th St., Suite 106  
Hallock, Minnesota 56728-4140  
218-843-2619, ext. 3

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