

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

"Helping bring YOU clean water"



YELLOW MEDICINE SWCD NEWSLETTER

Clarkfield, MN 56223

320-669-4442 Ext 3

July 2011

TREE PROJECTS FOR 2012

The Yellow Medicine Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is currently taking tree orders and drawing up tree plans for the 2012 spring planting season. It is possible for landowners to receive cost share for tree plantings. Federal and/or State Cost Share can provide up to 75% cost share. Cost share dollars must be requested and awarded prior to the actual tree planting. Cost Share may be available for field windbreaks, farmstead shelterbelts, shelterbelt renovations, living snowfences, riparian buffers, and wildlife plantings.

Landowners interested in tree planting projects for the spring of 2012 are encouraged to contact Kurt Johnson at the SWCD to begin the planning process. Kurt evaluates each proposed tree planting site to guarantee that the final plan is suitable for the particular landscape and surrounding land uses.

Since funding for some programs are limited, those who make their cost share requests well in advance will have a greater chance to receive funding. In addition to design and cost share, timely project planning helps to ensure availability of the chosen tree species. Give Kurt a call at 320-669-4442 Ext 3 to order your trees for 2012.

EQIP – ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). 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. This assistance is to help landowners install or apply structural, vegetative and management practices. All sign-ups are conducted at USDA Service Centers in Minnesota.

Some common practices in the county are grassed waterways, water and sediment control basins, terraces, nutrient management, pest management, no till, strip till, and mulch tillage, closure of waste impoundments, conservation crop rotation, conversion to low pressure on irrigation systems, tree and shrub establishment, windbreaks, native prairie seeding, prescribed burning, and rotational grazing consisting of fence, pipeline, well, water tanks, and pasture seeding.

If you are thinking about rotationally grazing your existing pastures or looking at seeding some cropland for grazing, now would be the time to contact NRCS to discuss the possibilities of developing a grazing plan on your operation. Planning prior to the EQIP sign up in the fall is crucial with developing a good rotational grazing system.

WHIP – WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM

WHIP is a voluntary program for people who want to develop or improve wildlife habitat on tribal and private lands. It provides both technical assistance and cost sharing up to 75% to help establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat.

If you have any questions about EQIP or WHIP, please contact Cory Walker or Jon Paul Pringle at the NRCS office in Clarkfield at (320) 669-4442 ext 3.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!! DRAINAGE WATER MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP TO BE HELD



The Yellow Medicine and Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) will be hosting two Drainage Water Management Workshops on Wednesday, August 17th, 2011. The first will be at 10:00 a.m. at the Clarkfield City Hall. The second will be at 1:30 p.m. at the Dawson Community Room.

Jeff Stock, from the Southwest Research Outreach Center in Lamberton, will give a presentation on Controlled Drainage for Agronomic and Environmental Benefits. Controlled drainage allows the water table to be controlled and set at any level between the ground surface and the drain depth. This allows producers to hold back the water during dry or drought years, or allows the water to flow during wet years. If you have any questions please call the Yellow Medicine SWCD at (320) 669-4442, ext. 3.



ATTENTION AG PRODUCERS INSTALLING DRAINAGE TILE OR BRINGING LAND INTO PRODUCTION



When planning a project that will include land leveling, tiling, filling, dredging, land clearing, excavation of any tree or stump removal it is recommended that you complete a 1026 form at the Farm Service Agency (FSA) office and a Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) request form at the Yellow Medicine Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) office. It is also recommended that both forms be completed on land for which a highly erodible determination has not been made for acres that you plan to bring into production. The completed forms allow your proposed project to be evaluated and recommendations to be made as to how to best stay in compliance with Farm Program Provisions and WCA. Please allow for sufficient time to respond to your request. Most requests can be serviced in a few days, but depending on the situation it could take up to 30 days to respond.

If you have wooded areas, old pastureland, old windbreaks and farm sites that you would like to tile, level, or clear for agricultural production that does not have a wetland determination completed you will need to complete a CPA-038 form for a Certified Wetland Determination. A certified determination can be requested on a field basis. A certified wetland determination is completed by doing a slide review, looking at only normal rainfall years, not the wet or the dry years. If an area shows up in most normal years, a site visit will also be done to verify it is a wetland. Most non-cropped areas require a certified wetland determination to be completed. Wetlands may be present and that is why it is necessary to complete the certified wetland determination to evaluate the site for wetlands before removing trees and bringing these areas into production. Once a certified wetland determination has been made, then a 1026 form can be completed and then you will get a response from NRCS describing what is allowed to stay in compliance with Farm Program Provisions.

It is important to have your requests evaluated beforehand by filling out both a 1026 form and a WCA form so you know what is considered a wetland and what is allowed. Non-compliance with Farm Bill provisions could result in the suspension of all Farm Program benefits including EQIP, CRP, & CSP payments. You will receive a written response from NRCS indicating whether your request will or will not convert a wetland. In addition to the 1026 form, the WCA form will be evaluated by the WCA representative, Kurt Johnson. Do not start your project until you have received a written response from both agencies.



CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

www.yellowmedicineswcd.org

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

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