



PIPESTONE CONSERVATION & ZONING OFFICE



"TO PROMOTE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL
RESOURCES THROUGH EDUCATION, TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE, & STEWARDSHIP."



Staff From Left to Right: Lance Wheeler, Laura DeBeer, Nicole Schwebach, Melissa Rosendahl, Danielle Evers, & Kyle Krier

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WHO ARE WE?

The Conservation and Zoning office works jointly with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to install conservation practices and provide technical assistance to producers who are willing to improve their operations and the land by eliminating pollution and runoff concerns.

The Pipestone Conservation and Zoning Office was created by the merger of the Pipestone Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Pipestone County Zoning & Environment office.

The Conservation & Zoning office is overseen by both the SWCD Board of Supervisors and the County Commissioners.

EROSION ISSUES? WE CAN HELP WITH THAT!

We provide free technical assistance to all landowners to address any erosion concern or issue you may have on your farm. This free service includes conducting a site visit and having conversations with you to determine the best management practice for your situation whether it may be constructing a waterway, a sediment control basin, or another conservation practice. Cost-share is usually available for these types of projects. We also provide free survey/design work and a cost-estimate on any project and will work with you and your contractors to ensure your project is completed to its entirety.



Pictured: An example of a field showing a newly constructed waterway.



Pictured: An example of a field with severe erosion and deep gullies.

TREES! TREES! TREES!



There's still some time left to get your tree orders in for the upcoming spring planting season. Tree nursery stock and availability disappear fast especially after the first of the year. Talk to Nicole for order inquiries!



Interested in becoming a Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certified Farm? Contact Danielle Evers in our office to learn more or to fill out an application!



“I FEEL A SENSE OF STEWARDSHIP AND WANT TO CONTINUE TO LEAVE A LEGACY FOR OUR NEXT GENERATIONS”.

- MICHAEL FRUECHTE

Pictured: Michael & Laurie Fruechte

2021 OUTSTANDING CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

Last year's recipient of the Outstanding Conservationist of the Year Award was Michael and Laurie Fruechte and their five sons and their wives: Brian and Kim Fruechte, Justin and Crissa Fruechte, Tyler and Alissa Fruechte, Jacob and Sarah Bierstedt, and Adam Bierstedt.

Michael and Laurie Fruechte family have had a very long history of caring for their land while adding resiliency to their farming operations. They have a diversified crop and livestock operation, raising corn, soybeans, alfalfa-grass mixtures, annual forage crops, cover crops and native pastures. The livestock enterprises are beef, cow/calf, sheep and custom fed hogs.

Michael has been actively farming, (which includes his century family farm) since 1992 and has since added his 5 sons and their wives in various ways to the farm operation, joining them in livestock, crop farming and seed production ventures. Fruechte Farms actively works on implementing soil health practices and partnered with the SWCD to conduct a soil health assessment to evaluate how no till, cover crops, and crop diversity enhances soil health to create resiliency. With introducing no-till practices and cover crops, Fruechte Farms has noticed an increase in organic matter and water infiltration and a decrease of erosion from wind and water. Michael and Laurie Fruechte have become increasingly concerned about soil health and weather changes and have been continually adapting the farm business as well as adopting soil health practices to be more resilient in their farming operations.

WHAT'S NEW?

The **Seasonal Riparian Area Management Program (SRAM)** kicked off this past fall. This new voluntary program brings a different perspective and an innovative way to pasture management; utilizing 6-month deferred grazing methods along riparian sources in order to promote water quality conservation and livestock health. Landowners enrolled into this program will receive \$80 per acre per year for a period of 10 years and are eligible to utilize cost-share dollars to assist in enhancing their pasture. Eligibility for this program is currently limited to landowners with pasture in the Pipestone, Split Rock, or Mound Creek Watersheds. Contact our office to learn more about this new program and to see if you are eligible.



The Minnesota Department of Agriculture is adding a cover crop option to their existing **Nutrient Management Initiative Program (NMI)**. This new program goes beyond regular financial assistance. Cover crop on-farm trials are an opportunity for farmers to work directly with trusted agricultural crop advisers to evaluate how cover crops can fit into their existing operation. The outcomes of these trials can be tailored to each farm and can include yield comparisons of the main crop as well as measurements of cover crop biomass and additional qualitative and quantitative assessments of soil properties. The **Pipestone SWCD** is excited for the opportunity to work with producers and crop advisers assisting in answering questions and reviewing trial activities. Farmers and crop advisers are compensated for each field trial; \$1,000 per year for farmers and \$500 per year for crop advisers for a total of 3 years.

A couple of years ago our office decided to introduce a **"Soil Health Assessment"** for producers interested in soil health. This new free service offers in field testing of common soil health indicators such as infiltration, compaction, soil structure, and signs of biological activity. An optional soil health soil sample is also available for those making changes to soil health practices. If interested, call our office and one of our technicians will line up a time to meet you out in your field.

What will a healthy soil do for you?

- Increase Infiltration
 - Reduce ponding and runoff
 - Less plant stress during dry months
- Improve soil structure
 - Increase water holding capacity
 - Increase trackability
 - Reduce compaction
- Increase microbial activity
 - Increased nutrient cycling & availability



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

As a reminder, the Household Hazardous Waste and Recycling Center located at 718 4th Street NW in Pipestone is open every **Wednesday from 7:00-3:00**. and is free for Pipestone County residents to drop off old appliances, electronics, and other household hazardous waste products. Visit our website to view a list of accepted items we will take.

Pictured: Trevor Erickson,
Solid Waste Technician



SEPTIC SYSTEM GRANT DOLLARS AVAILABLE

Do you have an outdated, failing septic system that could be contaminating your ground water? We have grant funds available, **up to \$10,000.00 per system**, for low income rural landowners in Pipestone county to help with the costs of replacing these failing systems and improving the quality of our water.

To see if you qualify, visit our website to view the applications with the income limits and details of the grant, or call us and we can discuss the guidelines with you.

AVAILABLE TO RENT!

10' GREAT PLAINS NO-TILL DRILL & 10' BRILLION SEEDER

Rental Rate:

- Minimum: \$50
- \$10/acres

Rates to have us do
the work for you:

- Minimum: \$150
- 3-5 acres: \$200
- 6-10 acres: \$300
- 11+ acres: \$30/acre



DON'T MISS OUT!

Stop by our office anytime. We are open every weekday from 8:00-4:30. We'd love to chat with you to discuss your conservation concerns and needs. Have an idea? Tell us, and we may be able to find a way to implement it!

Check out our website, join us for our monthly Board meetings every 2nd Thursday of the month unless otherwise advertised, or find us on social media!

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