



PIPESTONE CONSERVATION & ZONING OFFICE



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

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2024 CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

Bill Brockberg and his wife, Jody, were our 2024 conservation award winners. They grow corn, soybeans, oats, and alfalfa as well as feed cattle. In 2024 their farm was recognized as a century farm, originally bought by Bill's grandfather in 1924. In their years farming, the Brockberg's have implemented conservation practices such as no-till, cover crops, field borders, tree plantings, and grassed waterways. Seeing the erosion from wind and water was the reason Bill made the change to

no-till and cover crops. Bill also helps neighbors with no-tilling their crops & drilling in cover crops with his equipment. The Brockberg's view themselves as caretakers of the land for future generations and have a goal to leave the land better than when they got it. The Pipestone SWCD wants to thank Bill and Jody for all their conservation efforts!



(507) 825-1185

<https://pipestoneswcd.org>



Minnesota's Buffer Law

MN Statute 103F.48

Are you compliant with Minnesota's Buffer Law? Do you know whether or not you need to install a buffer?

Minnesota's Buffer Law requires perennial vegetative buffers of up to 50 feet along lakes, rivers, and streams and buffers of 16.5 feet along ditches. A buffer, also known as a riparian filter strip, is vegetated land adjacent to a stream, river, lake, or wetland. Buffers help filter out phosphorus, nitrogen, and sediment, and are an important conservation practice for helping keep water clean. Studies by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency show that buffers are critical to protecting and restoring water quality and healthy aquatic life, natural stream functions and aquatic habitat due to their immediate proximity to the water. The law provides flexibility for landowners to install alternative practices with equivalent water quality benefits that are based on the Natural Resources Conservation Service Field Office Technical Guide

We would like to thank all those landowners and producers who have been diligent in implementing their buffer; helping with the efforts to keeping Minnesota's water cleaner!

Thank You!



Curious as to what watercourses require a buffer? Check out the online map by scanning the QR code shown below! Or visit:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/buffers>



Feedlot Registration

Nearly all feedlot owners are required to register with the state. Feedlot registration is necessary to maintain accurate data about the number, location, and size of animal feedlots in Minnesota. Feedlot owners are required to update their registration data every four years.

Who must register? Owners must register feedlots with 50 or more animal units (AU), or 10 or more AUs in a shoreland areas. Animal units are calculated by multiplying the number of animals by the corresponding AU factor. Each animal has a different AU. For example, calves have an AU factor of 0.2, so 50 head of calves x 0.2 = 10 AU.

As a feedlot owner, what does this mean for you? Look for a re-registration letter from us in the mail. Simply fill out the form and mail it back to us!

It's Back!

Nonstructural Conservation Practice Funding

Payment rates are expected to be **\$60/acre** for cover crops practices and **\$35/acre** for no-till practices. Contract lengths can range from 1-4 years. Producers looking to apply must also meet certain eligibility requirements. Funding should be available by spring! Interested producers should contact our office to learn more!





Improving Water Quality & Enhancing Wildlife Habitat

Funding Available for RIM Easement Enhancements

Landowners interested in adding species diversity to existing Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve easements may be eligible to receive up to \$600 an acre to cover site preparation, seed, and planting costs. In July 2024, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) received \$4 million in general funds to enhance existing RIM easements. The Minnesota Legislature's appropriation was meant to bolster climate resiliency, adaptation and carbon sequestration. BWSR dedicated \$2 million of that appropriation to increasing biodiversity (variety of life that includes plants, animals, insects, fungi, and microorganisms), which will mitigate the effects of rainfall and runoff events. Funds will be available until spent. Interested landowners should stop by our office to fill out an application and to determine site enhancement options.

Available Conservation Programs within RIM

There is a wide array of conservation easement programs available to landowners. Some deal specifically with wellhead protection areas while others may focus on restoring and protecting wetlands or protecting riparian and floodplain areas. While most conservation easements are perpetual, some may allow temporary 30-year easements. Payment rates vary by township and are based on average tillable land values. In Pipestone County, the standard payment rates for cropland range from \$7,500 to \$10,700 per acre. Funding for these programs come and go on a regular basis and applicants must meet certain eligibility criteria.

Available Programs:

- RIM Wetlands
- RIM Riparian and Floodplain Restoration
- RIM Integrating Clean Water and Habitat (1W1P)
- RIM Groundwater (Wellhead) Protection Easements
- Minnesota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Stop by our office or check out the Board of Water and Soil Resources website to learn more!

<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/what-are-conservation-easements>

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New SWCD Supervisor

We would like to welcome and introduce our newest SWCD Board member: Mike Fruechte

Mike joins us as our District 2 supervisor, representing the townships of Sweet and Eden. Mike farms alongside his wife, Laurie, and family. He is a diversified crop farmer and livestock producer who started farming in 1992. He has actively worked to integrate various soil health practices into his operation while continually adapting the farm business to be more resilient in their farming operations.



SWCD Supervisor Retires

We would like to recognize and thank our retiring board member, Ian Cunningham, for his 26 years of service on our Soil & Water Conservation District board. Ian also spent time representing the State of MN on the National Association of Conservation Districts board and six years in various leadership roles on the executive national board. Thank you Ian for your passion and many years spent promoting conservation!



NOW ACCEPTING!!!

Now accepting pesticide containers every Wednesday at our Household Hazardous Waste Collection! Containers must be triple rinsed and dry with no visible residue of any kind. Lids and paper labels must be removed.

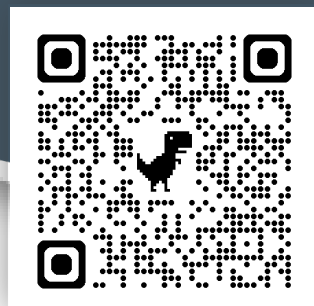
HWY-14 CLASIC TOUR

Soil Health Winter Workshop

LAKE BENTON, MN

February 20, 2025 from 9:00AM-2:30PM

RSVP by calling Noah at 507-694-1644
or by scanning the QR code and to learn
more information!



FREE LUNCH

sponsored by: OCF Seeds



Ryan Gibbs

From Hopkinton, Iowa, Ryan will be sharing his experience with implementing soil health and getting started along with the integration of composting on his farm.



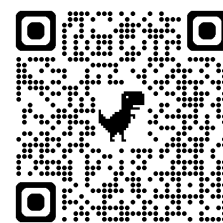
Andy Linder

From Easton, Minnesota, Andy will be presenting his insights on the economics of soil health and discussing how he's successfully implementing soil health practices in a financially sustainable way on his farm.

Feb. 18th @
Owatonna



Feb. 19th @
Lamberton



Can't make this day
work? Don't worry, we
have two more events
with the same speakers
and a similar agenda!

Upcoming Deadlines and Events:

- March 3 - Walk-In Access enrollment begins
- March 31 - Tree Order Deadline
- July 16 - Summer Field Day, featuring Russell Hedrick (Jasper, MN)
- July 22 - Summer Field Day: grazing, cover crops, wildlife habitat (Marshall, MN)

Related Partner Events:

- February 4: I-90 Tour CLASIC Soil Health Winter Workshop (Heron Lake, MN)
- February 5: Cow/Calf Days (Pipestone, MN)
- February 5: I-90 Tour CLASIC Soil Health Winter Workshop (Fairmont, MN)
- February 6: I-90 Tour CLASIC Soil Health Winter Workshop (Stewartville, MN)
- February 7: I-90 Tour CLASIC Soil Health Winter Workshop (Hokah, MN)
- February 19-20: Profit Pro Ag 2025 Winter Conference (Albert Lea, MN)
- February 20: Winter Crops Day and Small Grain Program (Slayton, MN)
- March 19-20: Midwest Grazing & Soil Health Summit (Wilmar, MN)



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Up to 90% Cost Share Available!

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 up to 90% is 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. Stop by or call our office to learn more!



**FIX GULLIES, WASHOUTS,
AND OTHER EROSION
CONCERNS!**