

# Conservation News



October 2013, Issue 4

www.popeswcd.org

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## Pope SWCD Board

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*District Conservationist*

Melissa Behrens

*Soil Conservation Technician*

Mary Beth Walker

*Office Assistant*

## DU Contract Biologist

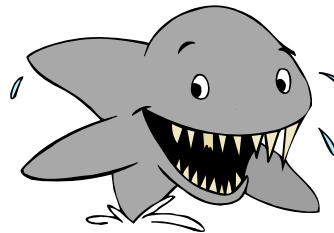
Dave Jungst

## Pope County Ag Inspector

Barry Bouwman

*(320) 634-5020 Office*

*(320) 424-0194 Cell*



## EDUCATION EVENTS HELD

Pope Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is always excited to teach our local students about the environment. September is a big month for education we hold our education events! We all look forward to getting out of the office for the day and teaching our local students about our natural resources. Pope

SWCD along with Stevens SWCD hold two educational events.

The first event is Waterfest held at the Pope County Fairgrounds. Waterfest focuses on all things water. Some of the learning stations that the students attend are Web of Life, Sea Bingo, Minnow Races, DNR fish tank, Macro Invertebrates, Science Museum, and a few others.

The second event is Conservation Day held at Scandia Woods Environmental Learning Lab. Conservation Day focuses on anything related to nature. Some of the topics at conservation day include: orienteering, nature's stock market, wetlands, prairie wildlife, and others.

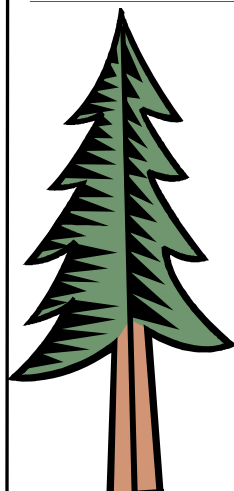
For more information on these events or any of the services that Pope SWCD offers contact Holly at 320-634-5327.

## STAFF CHANGES AT POPE SWCD

August and September brought about some big staff changes at Pope SWCD, Luan Johnsrud left to pursue new endeavors with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, and Matt Fischer joined the Board of Soil and Water Resources as a board conservationist. Todd Kulaf also left to join Mille Lacs SWCD. We are sad to see them leave but wish them luck in their new career paths!

Returning to Pope SWCD is Holly Kovarik. Holly worked with Pope SWCD several years ago and is excited to be returning. Most currently Holly had been at the Sauk River Watershed District. Holly is the New District Manager.

We have two brand new faces in the office Grant Bullemer and Mary Beth Walker. Grant will be replacing Matt as the Farm Bill Technician. Grant had been working in Lac Qui Parle SWCD prior to starting at Pope SWCD. Mary Beth will be working with NRCS as an office assistant. She replaces Todd. Welcome back Holly and welcome Grant and Mary Beth!



## ANNUAL TREE SALE UNTIL DECEMBER 10TH

The Pope SWCD will be holding the annual tree sale until December 10, 2013. Place your order for 2013 trees and receive a 10% discount. Be sure to have your order in by the 10th to get the 10% discount.

Remember you can always stop by and visit with Kelly about other services that are available, including grass seed and seeding, no-till drill rentals, tree planning, tree planting, and tree matting.

Also feel free to stop by and visit with Grant about the Conservation Reserve Program. See what services the District offers the County. Pope Soil and Water is here to help you with all your conservation needs!

## Nesting Habitat Key for Pheasant Populations



Nesting habitat, winter cover, and food for young chicks are the critical components to increasing ring-necked pheasant numbers in this area. Dr. Bill Hohman of the NRCS Wildlife Habitat Management Institute and Iowa State University pheasant expert William Clark say habitat for ring-necked pheasants includes:

### Nesting Habitat

Although hens will nest in roadsides, grassed waterways and other strips of vegetation, they prefer to nest in blocks of cover larger than 40 acres that contain ground litter and a leafy canopy. Undisturbed CRP fields or hayfields not mowed until after nesting can be excellent nesting cover. Iowa studies show hens were three times more likely to nest in cool season grasses like brome grass and alfalfa than tall switch grass.

### Winter Cover

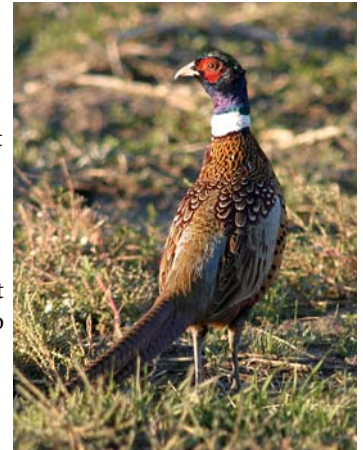
Shelterbelts or other woody cover with a shrubby understory, cattail wetlands, and dense stands of native grasses all give good winter cover.

Pheasants will spend most of their time within the first 150 feet of the edge of these good patches of cover and move into adjacent crop fields to eat. Vegetated wetlands are also used heavily by pheasants for roosting and escape and loafing cover from late fall through spring. Pheasant survival in winter can be quite high in areas with a couple of 5- acre shrubby woodlands,

or 30-acre wetlands or switch grass patches.

### Food

Waste grain is usually an abundant source of winter food; leave rows of corn or sorghum along field edges for more. At hatching, young chicks and hen pheasants remain within 100 yards of the nest for only a day or two, then begin to move as much as half a mile away to fields with a mixture of grasses and broad-leaved plants with an abundance of insects. During the first few weeks of life, chicks feed on beetles, bugs, caterpillars, ground spiders and other slow-moving animals that supply protein.



Weedy edges of fields, hay fields, and native prairies with a significant component of broadleaved plants have many more insects in them than dense grass. Heavy spraying of herbicides reduces insect populations just as much as insecticide use, because it destroys the weeds that are the habitat for the insects. For more information, including disking, burning and other management ideas, stop at our office at 1680 Franklin Street in Glenwood, or see a web leaflet from the NRCS Wildlife Habitat Management Institute at <http://www.whmi.nrcs.usda.gov/>

## Pope SWCD Native Shoreline Restoration



Photo taken from DNR restore your shore website

Native shoreline habitat restorations are an excellent alternative tool compared to rock riprap to prevent lakeshore erosion, beautify shorelines, and generate habitat for pollinator species and fish nesting zones when aquatic

plants are used. Native plants, when compared to traditional turf grasses have much deeper and more complex root structures, this is what gives natives the power to fight erosion and also to filter out harmful algae causing nutrients from lawn care products.

We are currently working on building our shoreline program here in Pope County. There is great potential with the vast number of shoreline miles and lake residences located within the county. We are currently working with 4 landowners from a current grant, and plan to plant the projects in spring of 2104. We have also submitted a grant application to the DNR for shoreline projects for 2014 and 2015, and are currently seeking applicants now to generate a list of interested individuals for the potential funding. If you are interested in native restoration please stop in or call us at 320-634-5327.

## Septic System Money Available

Do you know that your Septic System needs upgrading or replacing? Pope County Land and Resource wants to remind homeowners that they are responsible for their septic system. All Septic systems need to be maintained. If you know that your septic system needs updating there may be money to help.



Pope County Land and Resource Management has some funding available for possible septic system upgrades contact their office at 320-634-7792. For more information or to see if you qualify.

One final reminder septic systems are not garbage dumps think before dumping something in your septic system!

## Save Money, Save Energy Conservation Practices that Save: Crop Residue Management

A producer can save at least 3.5 gallons of fuel per acre by going from conventional tillage methods to no-till. At November 2005 diesel prices, this amounts to \$7.70 per acre in production cost savings. On a farm with 1,000 acres of cropland, these savings add up to 3,500 gallons of diesel fuel per year valued at \$7,700.

Currently, no-till is practiced on over 62 million acres. If the amount of no-till acreage doubled, farmers could save an additional 217 million gallons of fuel, valued at over \$480 million.

No-till is a conservation practice that leaves the crop residue undisturbed from harvest through planting except for narrow strips that cause minimal soil disturbance. Crop residues are materials left in an agricultural field after the crop has been harvested. These residues include stalks and stubble (stems), leaves and seed pods.

Good management of field residues can increase efficiency of irrigation and

control of erosion. No-till can be used for almost any crop in almost any soil and can save producers labor costs and fuel. It's a sound investment for the environment and the farm.

In addition to energy efficiencies and cost savings, no-till has several environmental benefits. No-till increases the organic matter in the soil, making it more stable and helping prevent soil erosion. No-till reduces greenhouse gases because it requires less fuel and sequesters (stores) carbon in the soil. Other benefits of using no-till as part of a resource management system include:

- Increased earthworm populations that improve soil quality—an average of 540,000 earthworms per acre versus 285,000 in conventional tillage;
- Increased water infiltration—cutting evaporation and runoff by at least 70 percent;



Conservation tillage systems have at least 30 percent of last year's crop residue on the soil at planting. Residue adequately controls erosion by both wind and water, among other

- Reduced tilling time per acre—by as much as two-thirds; and
- Improved wildlife habitat.

NRCS supports conservation practices that save producers money and improve the environmental health of the Nation. For more information on energy saving conservation practices, visit the NRCS "Save ENERGY, Save MONEY" Web site at [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov).



### **PLANT CORNER: Highbush CRANBERRY**

Thinking about the plant corner this quarter we (NRCS and the SWCD) got to thinking we often feature plants that we consider weeds. We wanted to feature something new. So in this plant corner we are going to feature a conservation shrub, Highbush Cranberry also known as American Cranberrybush.

The Highbush Cranberry is a native shrub found across much of North America. It is commonly used as an ornamental plant that is valued for its edible fruit. The fruit is usually picked slightly under ripe and is sour. It can be used in sauces, jellies, and juices. When left on the plant the fruit seems to persist thru the winter. Suggesting it is not a favorite of wildlife. However it is known that many mammals and birds have eaten the fruit.

The Highbush Cranberry has deeply 3-lobed leaves that are coarsely toothed. It flowers in June to July and the flowers are white, in flat topped clusters. It has a reddish purple to reddish yellow fall color. The fruit is berry like, bright red, and about 8-10 mm in diameter.

This shrub grows well in wet woods, along streams, and on moist hillsides. So it prefers damp well drained soils. This plant is

relatively free from insect and disease damages. It is easy to grow and adaptable to a variety of sites. It

prefers partial shade to full sun. It grows to 8-12' in height and in width. It is often planted in windbreaks and riparian plantings.

When considering your next windbreak or wildlife tree planting you may want to consider this shrub. Remember these key points this plant likes well drained soils that remain moist and it grows 8-12' in height and width. Its flowers are white in color, in the fall the leaves turn color to reddish purple to reddish yellow, and its fruits are bright red. Although the fruits may not be a favorite of wildlife they will eat the fruits. The fruits may also be used for jams, jellies, and sauces.



*Viburnum opulus* — Hugh Wilson, Vascular Plant Image Gallery, Texas A&M Univ., Bioinformatics Working Group





## ***Fall Pasture Management: The Value of Leaving Residual Stubble Height on Pasture Over Winter***

The management of prescribed grazing systems is ultimately based upon managing residual stubble heights of pastures. Many producers that implement managed grazing systems do a good job of managing pastures during the growing season; however, fall pasture management tends to slip. In many cases, the common mentality for fall management is that the plants aren't growing anymore, so it is ok to remove all plant material and no longer manage for stubble height. This mentality poses the question: What value is there in maintaining the recommended residual stubble height going into winter?

Leaving residual stubble height over winter has many benefits to plant production and pasture health the next growing season. Many of these benefits deal with the physiology of plant growth. One benefit to leaving residual in the fall is that many plants grow new buds and tillers that they will use the next spring to start growth. These can be damaged or removed by overgrazing the plants in the fall. Root regeneration also occurs in the fall. The root system relies upon the energy from the aboveground leaves and stems for this process.

Another key benefit to leaving residual involves energy storage. The leaves and stems of many common pasture grasses store a large amount of carbohydrate energy as well as supplying photosynthetic material needed for plant growth. After a grazing event, many grass plants rely heavily upon this residual to provide the energy to growth. In the fall, particularly after dormancy, re-growth is not a concern. However, the lower leaves, stems, and root crown store substantial amounts of nutrients for use the next year. If the aboveground plant material is removed, it can severely inhibit the amount of nutrients stored

by those plants.

The residual stubble height also provides important ground cover for moderating soil temperature and trapping snow for winter ground cover. These insulating factors may reduce winterkill of plants.



Ultimately, overuse in the fall will adversely affect production in the next growing season. It may also lead to weaker plant communities that are more susceptible to weed invasion as well as loss of desirable plants. Over the long-term, these factors may cause a shift in the plant community to plants that are better able to cope with this type of grazing management. One example is Kentucky bluegrass invading a stand over time. It can better cope with heavier grazing pressure than more productive grasses, such as smooth brome grass or orchardgrass, thus becoming more expressive in the stand. The bottom line is that if long term pasture productivity and maintaining desirable forage species are goals of the operation, fall residual stubble height management is just as important as it is during the growing season.

## ***DO YOU HAVE CRP, BUT MAY BE INTERESTED IN A LONGER TERM PROGRAM?***

The RIM – WRP Partnership Program is seeking wetland areas and surrounding upland buffer acres for enrollment in a conservation easement. Wetlands drained by ditches and tiles or areas restored under a previous program such as CRP are eligible. Restoration of the wetland and upland acres is paid for by the program.

For enrolling the land in a permanent conservation easement, landowners receive \$2,792 to \$4,507 per cropland acre, depending on township. There is a maximum of 8 to 1 upland to wetland ratio. Up to 20% non cropland can be enrolled. There are ownership requirements for the program, contact the office for more information.

In Pope County, contact Dave Jungst in the USDA office on Franklin Street North (top of the hill) in Glenwood, 320-634-5143 ext. 114.



**POPE SOIL & WATER**



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 PHONE: (320) 634-5327  
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[www.popeswcd.org](http://www.popeswcd.org)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Order early for the best selection of trees.  
 You will be notified in April of pick-up dates for trees, tree products, and for grass seed orders.  
 Orders received before December 10th for 2014 planting will receive 10% off the tree order.  
***Special orders available upon request, call now to secure your order! No project too big or small!***  
*Prices are subject to change*

ITEM	PRICE	#ORDERED	AMOUNT
<b>SHRUBS (All Bare Root) priced per bundle of 25 Trees</b>			
Buffaloberry	\$30.00		
Chokeberry, black	\$30.00		
Hazlenut	\$30.00		
High bush Cranberry	\$30.00		
Juneberry	\$30.00		
Nanking Cherry	\$30.00		
Cotoneaster	\$30.00		
Redosier Dogwood	\$30.00		
Sand Cherry	\$30.00		
Villosa Lilac	\$30.00		
Common Lilac	\$30.00		
<b>LARGE TREES (All Bare Root) priced per bundle of 25 Trees</b>			
Siouxland Cottonwood	\$30.00		
Hackberry	\$30.00		
Bur Oak	\$30.00		
Silver Maple	\$30.00		
Sugar Maple	\$30.00		
American Linden Basswood	\$30.00		
<b>SMALL TREES (All Bare Root) priced per bundle of 25 Trees</b>			
American Plum	\$30.00		
Common Chokecherry	\$30.00		
Red Splendor Crab	\$30.00		
<b>EVERGREENS priced per bundle of 25 Trees</b>			
Black Hills Spruce	\$37.50		
Colorado Blue Spruce	\$37.50		
Ponderosa Pine	\$37.50		
American Arborvitae (White Cedar)	\$37.50		
Red Pine (Norway Pine)	\$37.50		
<b>POTTED EVERGREENS (other varieties of evergreens available upon request)</b>			
Black Hills Spruce	\$12.00 each		
<b>TREE CARE (Plantskydd Repellent)</b>			
Plantskydd (deer/rabbit) Repellent (treats 200-300 1' seedlings) 1 lb powder	\$25.00		
Plantskydd (deer/rabbit) Repellent (treats 400-600 1' seedlings) 2.2 lb powder	\$37.00		
Plantskydd (deer/rabbit) Repellent (treats 100 1' seedlings) 1 liter premixed	\$20.00		

# Trees Ordered: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Page Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Conservation Grade Trees Must Be Ordered in Minimum Quantities of 25 unless otherwise noted.

See Reverse Side for Tax.

**POPE SOIL & WATER**



CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

ITEM	PRICE	#ORDERED	AMOUNT
<b>TREE CARE</b>			
Tree Shelters 4' height (biodegradable tubes-no assembly required)	\$3.00		
Wood Stakes 4' height	\$0.90		
Weed Control Mats 3x3 w/ 4 staples	\$2.50		
Bulk Roll of Weed Fabric 500'	\$150.00		
Staples/1,000 per box (Anchor Pins)	\$70.00		
<b>SERVICES -- All Services have a \$75.00 one time service charge</b>			
Custom Installed Weed Fabric (fabric included in price)	\$0.50 per foot		
Custom Tree Planting (\$100 minimum charge)	\$0.50 per tree		
Custom Mowing	Call for Pricing		
Custom Cultivation	Call for Pricing		
Custom Grass Seeding ATV	Call for Pricing		
Custom Grass Seeding No-till Drill	Call for Pricing		
<b>EQUIPMENT RENTALS (Delivery charges do apply)</b>			
Tree Planter (minimum charge of \$50.00)	\$50.00 per day		
No-Till Drill (minimum charge of \$75.00)	\$8.00 per acre		
Packer (minimum charge of \$75.00)	\$2.50 per acre		
<b>CUSTOM GRASS SEED MIXES (priced per acre)</b>			
Custom mixes available upon request suited to meet program requirements. Call for a quote 320-634-5327			
*Planning and Design service with on-site visit. (FREE) *Trees sold are for conservation purposes only. *SWCD cannot guarantee survival rate of trees. *SWCD reserves the right to substitute sizes or cancel species due to availability. *A <b>25% down payment</b> is required on all orders at the time of the order. All orders after March 1st 2014 must be paid in full at the time of the order. All balances due by April 1st, 2014. Orders Cancelled after February 1st, 2014 will be charged a 25% cancellation fee. *10% Off Tree Orders recieved by December 10th, 2013.		Total This Side : _____ Total Front Side : _____ Subtotal : _____ 6.875% Sales Tax : _____ Total Order Cost : _____ Paid : _____ Balance : _____	

Pope SWCD prohibits discrimination in all their programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex (including gender identity and expression), marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



# 10% OFF

**ON TREE  
ORDERS  
RECEIVED BY  
DECEMBER  
10TH, 2013**





# NOTES FROM THE FEEDLOT OFFICE: RE-REGISTRATION & MANURE APPLICATION

Re-registration is in full swing, notices have been sent out to comply with the states requirement to re-register feedlots every four years. The process must be finished by January 1, 2014.

For those producers that are making changes to their operation, please read the registration update form carefully. If there are questions about expansion and animal unit thresholds for permitting it is best to contact the feedlot office. It would be best to set up a farm visit. Pope County requires a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to expand beyond 300 animal units, in the A-2 zone.

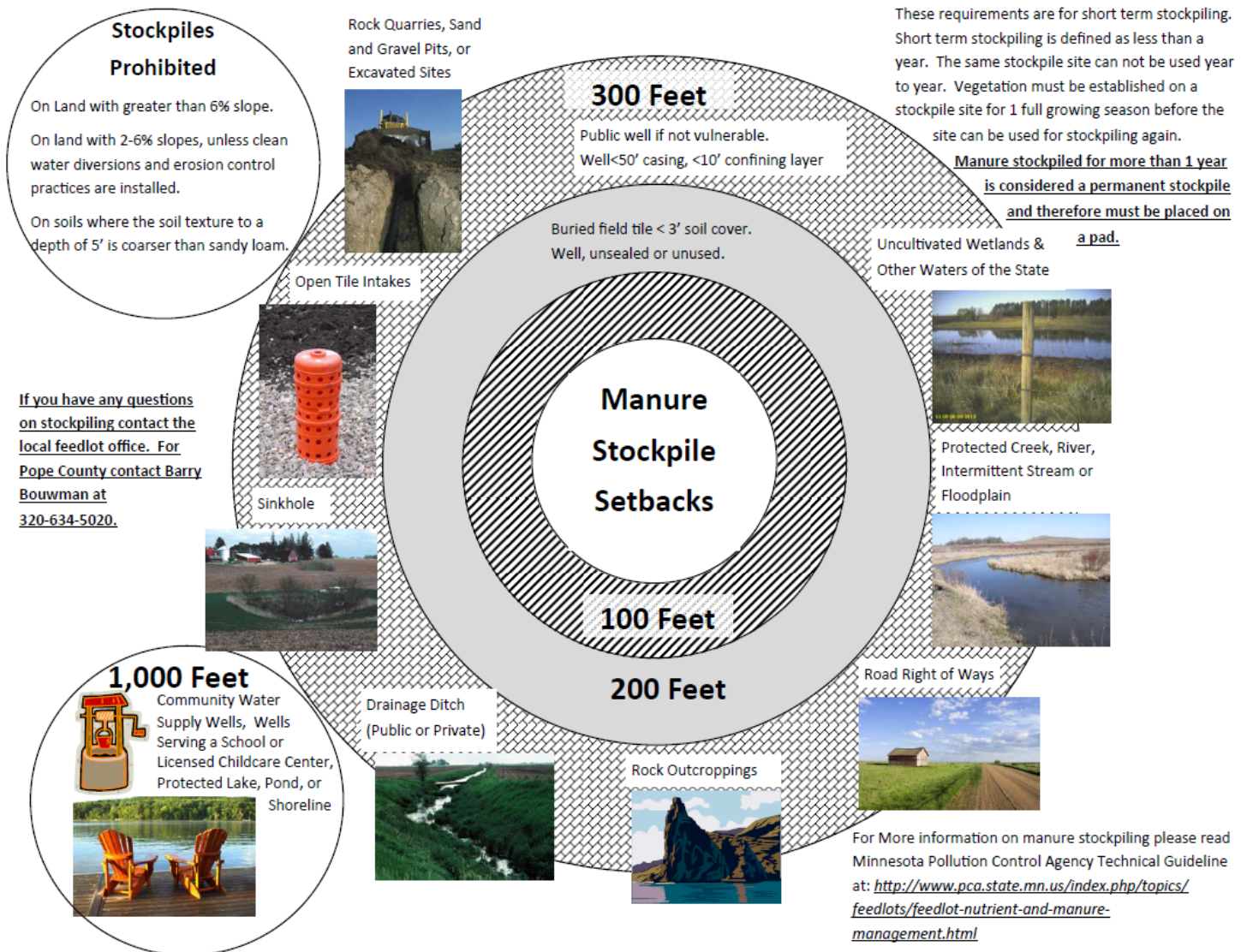
In the A-1 zone the animal units are capped at 200. If there are plans for the future involving expansion or starting a new facility, it is best to start the permitting process early. Contact the feedlot office to set up a site visit. We will go over the technical requirements and see how local zoning ordinances will affect you.

As fall field work comes to a close and producers start applying

manure to their cropland it is important to put a reminder out there about setbacks and incorporation. When applying manure stay 300 feet away from ditches, tiles and wetlands. If applying to frozen ground avoid slopes over 6%. Always remember to incorporate manure immediately.

We also wanted to remind producers of rules regarding stockpiling requirements. We put together a graphic pictured below to help show the setbacks when stockpiling. Stockpiles are efficient ways to clean up feedlot areas and get manure to the field for later application. Locate stockpiles so they do not discharge to water features during rain events or spring runoff/thaw. Keep stockpiles 300' away from road ditches, tile intakes and all water.

So as a final reminder, get re-registrations in by January 1, 2014. Contact the feedlot office with any questions regarding re-registration or permitting. Be careful of how you apply fall manure and how you stockpile. The feedlot office is here to help you so give us a call with any questions, 320-634-5020.



# POPE SOIL & WATER



CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1680 Franklin St North  
Glenwood, MN 56334

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"Listen!  
the wind is  
rising, and  
the air is  
wild with  
leaves,  
We have  
had our  
summer  
evenings,  
now for  
October  
eves!"



- Humbert  
Wolfe

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## *IMPORTANT DATES*

- October** 31 Happy Halloween
- November** 5 Election Day  
11 Veterans Day  
28 Happy Thanksgiving
- December** 10 Last Day of Tree  
Order discount (10%)  
25 Merry Christmas
- January** 1st Feedlot  
Re-Registration Due

Board Meetings are held the third  
Tuesday of each month at 7am.  
The public is welcome to join us.



Did you know.... The ring necked pheasant was introduced to the United States from Asia before the 1800s. A very popular game bird, the pheasant is now found across much of the northern two thirds of the country.



"Helping People, Help the Land!"