

# Conservation News



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## ROSHOLT FIELD DAY SET FOR AUGUST 29

Rosholt Research Farm is 40 acres located in Westport on the Eastern side of Pope County. The Farm was started for irrigation research and eventually was used to conduct Hybrid Poplar Research with the Forest Service. In 2009 Prairie Lakes Coop and Pope SWCD reached an agreement to conduct crop trials at the site. In 2011 the University of MN and MN Department of Ag started Nitrogen research trials at the site. Rosholt offers many experimental plots and comparisons to show how various conditions, fertilizers, and chemicals can affect a crop.

Here are just a few plots that can be studied at Rosholt.

- ◆ An ESN plot to show what the effects of slow release nitrogen through the growing season is vs. plain urea which is readily available and allows for nitrogen loss.
- ◆ Hybrid comparison plots that show what different hybrids can do under similar conditions.
- ◆ Water quality plots that study the effects of nitrogen fertilizers on ground water nitrate levels.



By showing what factors can positively and adversely affect the crop, Rosholt is sure to help make the hard agronomic decisions for next year's season. Join us August 29th at our Rosholt Field Day/Answer Plot Session. To learn more about the plot or to schedule a private tour, contact a Prairie Lakes Coop Account Advisor today!

## MINNEWASKA PEOPLE'S GARDEN UPDATE

The Minnewaska People's Garden started its third growing season this Spring. The community garden is made possible because of volunteers from the community.

Mike Knutson has been a lead for the project. He has worked many hours not only expanding the garden but spending time with volunteers who want to learn more about gardening. The community garden has given him a opportunity to expand his gardening knowledge also. The USDA Service Center would like to Thank Mike for all of his hours of work in the Garden! This project would not be possible with out you!

The 2012 harvest was very good hundreds of pounds of fresh produce being donated to the Pope County food shelf. Some of the fresh produce that was donated was radishes, beets, lettuce, onions, carrots, sweet corn, beans, cabbage, peas, cucumbers, summer

squash, winter squash, peppers, broccoli, cauliflower, eggplant, potatoes, watermelons, melons, pumpkins, and tomatoes.

The Community Garden needs help from people of all ages and gardening experience. We would love to continue to provide lots of fresh produce to the food shelf.



We would like to thank the Stark family, Glenwood Floral and Greenhouse for plants and seeds and to the Glenwood Rotary and Starbuck VFW for their contributions. If you can help or want to contribute please contact Mike at the church office 320 -634-4514.



## BIRD-FRIENDLY GRAZING SYSTEMS, ALSO PROFITABLE FOR FARMERS

For some time, experts have been promoting the advantages of splitting large pastures into a series of smaller pastures or paddocks, and moving cattle, sheep, horses or other livestock from paddock to paddock during the grazing season.

This rotational grazing pattern allows grasses that have been grazed to build energy reserves and renew vigor. The result is more pasture production overall, better protection of the land against soil erosion, and improved forage quality.

Some highly intensive rotational systems call for moving cattle as often as every other day. More recently, University of Wisconsin researchers have found that rotational grazing system can also provide excellent habitat for grassland birds, with little or no extra cost to the livestock producer. It's a matter of how the pastures are rotated. Dr. Dan Undersander says the key is to understand the basic nesting needs of grassland birds, to give them cover during nesting. It takes from 4 to 5 weeks for a bird to build a nest, hatch the eggs and fledge their young.

Depending on location, the nesting season usually begins in early May and continues through mid-July. Grassland nesting birds prefer to nest in open areas as far away from trees and buildings as possible. A landowner can optimize a rotational grazing system for grassland birds, then, by deferring grazing on a paddock or two in the center of the grazing system as a temporary bird refuge until at least July 1. Other management tips:

- 1) Move livestock to new paddocks frequently to minimize trampling.
- 2) Leave at least 4 inches of growth after grazing.
- 3) Create a single large refuge in the center of the pasture rather than multiple small refuges.
- 4) If the refuge is planned for hay harvest later, select it based on high legume content. Or, use native warm season grasses in center paddocks, providing nesting cover early in the year and optimizing forage quality later in the summer.
- 5) Graze any areas intended as refuges up until May 15 if they are planned for hay harvest later.

For more information, stop by the NRCS office at 1680 Franklin Street in Glenwood.



### DID YOU KNOW....

Rotational grazing that leaves at least one large paddock rested during the bird nesting season can be an excellent way to maximize pasture production as well as bird nesting success.

## LOCAL STUDENTS COMPETE AT AREA and State ENVIROTHON'S

The Annual Area II Envirothon was held April 24th at the Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center in Spicer, MN.



Students from local high schools within the area competed for a chance to go to the state Envirothon. The teams consist of five members and compete at five training/testing stations. The stations are Soils, Aquatics, Forestry, Wildlife, and Current Environmental Issue.

Students also compete by giving an oral presentation. The students are given a scenario prior to the event. They have time to develop a reasonable solution to the scenario and prepare a presentation and poster. This year's topic was on minimizing impacts to sensitive features by implementing a rotational grazing

system.

At the conclusion of the competition, scores from tests stations and scores from the oral presentations are combined for final ranking and awards are distributed. Students from the top three teams went on to compete at the state Envirothon on May 20, at St. John's College Campus in Collegeville, MN. Our area was the host to the State Envirothon this year. The overall winners TrekNorth, from Bemidji, get to compete in the National Envirothon that will be held August 4-9, in Bozeman, Montana.

The Envirothon program was started in

1979. It was started as an outdoors hands on competition in Pennsylvania.

Minnesota held its first Envirothon in 1993 with only a 100 students participating. By 1996 area competitions were held across the state. Nearly 1,000 students participate now. There are eight Area Envirothons held and each area sends their top three teams to state Envirothon.

The goal of the Envirothon is to expose students to diverse environmental issues. Student teams compete by demonstrating their knowledge of environmental science and natural resource management issues. For more information about Envirothon visit:

<http://www.maswcd.org/envirothon.htm>



## CONSERVATION EDUCATION DAYS PLANNED FOR SEPTEMBER

September is a busy month for conservation education. Pope and Stevens Soil and Water Conservation Districts promote conservation education to students in the 5-6 grade ages. Topics cover water, wildlife, habitat, but most importantly learning about the environment around us.



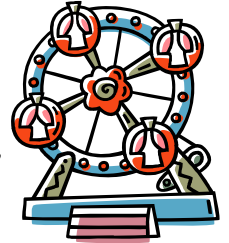
Water fest will be held on September 14 at the Pope County Fairgrounds. Water fest teaches 6th grade students about the importance of water.

Conservation Day will be held on September 26 at SWELL, the Scandia Woods Environmental Learning Lab. Conservation day teaches 5th grade students about conservation related topics.

If you would like more information or would like to volunteer for any of these events. Please contact the Pope SWCD at 320-634-5327.

## POPE COUNTY FAIR AUGUST 7TH-11TH

It's Summer! Along with summer comes Fair Season, the Pope County Fair will be held August 7th-11th. Pope Soil and Water Conservation District will have a display booth. So, stop by and visit!



- ◆ Sign up for door prizes both for adults & kids.
- ◆ See some of the posters on display from the 2012 poster contest.
- ◆ Have your water tested for nitrates on Saturday August 10th from Noon to four.

The booth will be located in the industrial building. See you at the fair!

## 2013 POSTER CONTEST WINNERS SELECTED

The 2013 poster contest took place with 5th and 6th grade students from local schools competing. The theme for this years poster contest was "Where Does Your Water Shed?" Participants could choose to participate in one of two categories; posters drawn by an individual, or murals drawn by a group of two or more students. The overall winner for Pope County will receive a trip to Long Lake Conservation Camp. The overall poster and mural winners will advance on to

the area poster contest. The winners from our local schools were selected at the April SWCD Board meeting.

### Overall Winners

- 1) Nathan Gallagher- Minnewaska
- 2) Austin Young & Kole Kamps - BBE
- 3) Savannah Lorsung & Isabella Robinson, Minnewaska

### BBE Poster Winners

- 1) Emily Ann Knight
- 2) Elise Anderson
- 3) Macie Kirkof

### BBE Mural Winners

- 1) Austin Young & Kole Kamps
- 2) Dylan Meyer & Abraham Peter
- 3) Kathenne Masty & Brooke Kaiser

### Minnewaska Poster Winners

- 1) Nathan Gallegher
- 2) Grace Names
- 3) Hannah Orlovski

### Minnewaska Mural Winners

- 1) Savannah Lorsung & Isabella Robinson
- 2) Greta Reichmann & Andria Vigil



- 3) Emma Thorfinson & Ellie Danielson

### Cyrus Poster Winners

- 1) Mackenzie Stahman
- 2) Ian Laine
- 3) Christopher Just

### Glacial Hills Poster Winners

- 1) Zach Johnson & Jackson Peterson
- 2) Emilie Peterson
- 3) Brittney Lardy

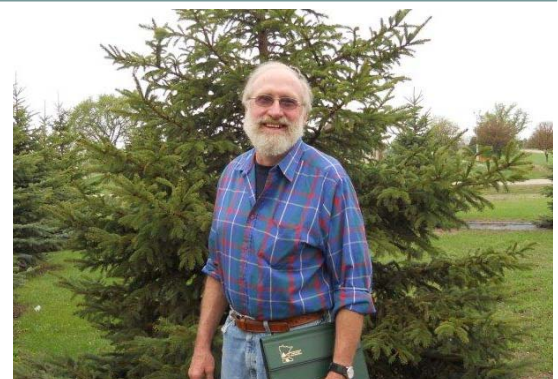
## REENTS, 25 YEARS AND COUNTING

On May 10th D. Gary Reents reached a milestone, his milestone is service to Pope County for 25 years. Gary started serving on the Soil and Water Conservation District Board on May 10, 1988, he was appointed to the position to replace David McIver.

When Gary began serving on the Pope SWCD Board in 1988, the worst drought since the 1930's was just beginning. The State of Minnesota experienced over 1.2 billion dollars in crop loss in 1988. Conservation practices were more important than ever.

While Gary has served on the board he has helped to promote and review water quality improvement projects, shelterbelts, field windbreaks, grass plantings, and wetland restorations; just to name a few things. One of the larger conservation projects Gary has seen implemented include the beginning of the Herman Rosholt Farm, where poplar research was conducted and now irrigation management and nitrogen water quality are being studied.

Pope SWCD Board and Staff wish to thank Gary for his dedicated service and wish him the best as he continues to promote conservation throughout Pope County!



## POPE SWCD SELECTS DR. BRUCE BROWN AS CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

Dr. Bruce A. Brown has been awarded the Pope Soil and Water Conservation District 2013 Conservationist of the Year Award. This award is given to individuals, conservation organizations, and others for outstanding accomplishments with implementing conservation practices and improving Pope County's natural resources. Dr. Brown has committed countless hours to coordinating Pope County Coalition of Lakes (COLA) water quality monitoring and reporting for 18 area lakes, as well as other conservation activities.

The Conservationist of the Year Award is sponsored by the Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD), with support from The Farmer magazine. Local award winners go on to participate at the State level during the MASWCD Annual Convention December 1-3, 2013 at the Double Tree Inn, Bloomington.

## NOTES FROM THE CO-OP WEED MANAGEMENT AREA: LEAFY SPURGE

The weed management team wanted to take a moment to mention Leafy Spurge. Most producers in Pope County are familiar with this weed because it has been a target for such a long time. As we have been out and around the county we have noticed that the spurge seems to be more prevalent this year. Which can be common for spurge to run in cycles. We plan to gather and place beetles on Leafy Spurge infestations around the county as much as we can. This requires good timing and cooperation of the weather. This invasive has been in the county for decades and has been a particular nuisance. It is in many ditches and many areas in the county.



Leafy Spurge By MSB

For those who do not know much about leafy spurge here is a brief description. It's a perennial plant that grows two to three feet tall. It has a very deep vertical root. Stems are smooth and emit a white sap when broken. Some people have allergies to the white sap, so be careful. The leaves are narrow, oblong, and alternate. The flowers are a yellow green color. The plant blooms from June into the fall. Leafy Spurge can be a prolific seed producer and the seeds have a high germination rate. Seeds from the plant can remain viable in the soil for up to seven years.

The County Weed Management Area intern is here to help you with Spurge infestations. For assistance or information call the SWCD office at 320-634-5327 and ask for Alex. Alex is also available for assistance with Wild Parsnip, Spotted Knapweed, or any other weeds that are causing problems.

## NOTES FROM THE FEEDLOT OFFICE: LAND APPLICATION OF MANURE AND STOCKPILING

There are a many things to consider before applying and stockpiling manure. First and foremost please remember that "All people applying manure, including those who do not need a permit or written manure management plan, are required to follow setbacks and other rules regarding sensitive areas."

Now manure is a valuable resource so lets treat it like it's a valuable resource because if we do not then manure becomes a pollutant. When it becomes a pollutant it threatens our water quality. So when you are getting ready to stockpile or apply manure think of surface and ground water protection. Sensitive areas can be protected by using practices like immediate incorporation, maintaining setbacks, apply manure less frequently, or installing buffers. Applying some of these practices can also be money in your pocket.

Not taking proper care of your manure is like throwing money away. Fertilizer prices are high, use your manure to offset fertilizer costs. When applying manure remember there

are state rules regarding nitrogen rate limits on all fields where manure is applied. So, get soil and manure tests so you can optimize the use of your manure and comply with the 7020 rules.



Some other important things to remember, when considering stockpiling, location and location. First, lets remember environmental location, keep the stockpiles at least 300 ft from any water features; this includes road ditches. Choose sites that have higher ground level to keep a good separation above the water table. Second, remember neighborhood location, pick spots that will keep odors and fly's away from your neighbors.

Remember the feedlot office is here to help you with choosing a good location and to help you with the rules so give us a call if you need assistance 320-634-5020.



## USDA & EPA RELEASE NEW REPORT ON HONEY BEE HEALTH

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today released a comprehensive scientific report on honey bee health. The report states that there are multiple factors playing a role in honey bee colony declines, including parasites and disease, genetics, poor nutrition and pesticide exposure.

"There is an important link between the health of American agriculture and the health of our honeybees for our country's long term agricultural productivity," said Agriculture Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan. "The forces impacting honeybee health are complex and USDA, our research partners, and key stakeholders will be engaged in addressing this challenge."

"The decline in honey bee health is a complex problem caused by a combination of stressors, and at EPA we are committed to continuing our work with USDA, researchers, beekeepers, growers and the public to address this challenge," said Acting EPA Administrator Bob Perciasepe. "The report we've released today is the product of unprecedented collaboration, and our work in concert must continue. As the report makes clear, we've made significant progress, but there is still much work to be done to protect the honey bee population."

In October 2012, a National Stakeholders Conference on Honey Bee Health, led by federal researchers and managers, along with Pennsylvania State University, was convened to synthesize the current state of knowledge regarding the primary factors that scientists believe have the greatest impact on managed bee health. Key findings include:

### **Parasites and Disease Present Risks to Honey Bees:**

The parasitic Varroa mite is recognized as the major factor underlying colony loss in the U.S. and other countries. There is widespread resistance to the chemicals beekeepers use to control mites within the hive. New virus species have been found in the U.S. and several of these have been associated with Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD).

### **Increased Genetic Diversity is Needed:**

U.S. honeybee colonies need increased genetic diversity. Genetic variation improves bees thermoregulation (the ability to keep body temperature steady even if the surrounding environment is different), disease resistance and worker productivity.

Honey bee breeding should emphasize traits such as hygienic behavior that confer improved resistance to Varroa mites and diseases (such as American foulbrood).

### **Poor Nutrition Among Honey Bee Colonies:**

Nutrition has a major impact on individual bee and colony longevity. A nutrition-poor diet can make bees more susceptible to harm from disease and parasites. Bees need better forage and a

variety of plants to support colony health.

Federal and state partners should consider actions affecting land management to maximize available nutritional forage to promote and enhance good bee health and to protect bees by keeping them away from pesticide-treated fields.

There is a Need for Improved Collaboration and Information Sharing: Best Management Practices associated with bees and pesticide use, exist, but are not widely or systematically followed by members of the crop-producing industry. There is a need for informed and coordinated communication between growers and beekeepers and effective collaboration between stakeholders on practices to

protect bees from pesticides.

Beekeepers emphasized the need for accurate and timely bee kill incident reporting, monitoring, and enforcement.

Additional Research is Needed to Determine Risks Presented by Pesticides: The most pressing pesticide research questions relate to determining actual pesticide exposures and effects of pesticides to bees in the field and the potential for impacts on bee health and productivity of whole honey bee colonies.

Those involved in developing the report include USDA's Office of Pest Management Policy (OPMP), National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), Agricultural Research Services (ARS), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) as well as the EPA and Pennsylvania State University. The report will provide important input to the Colony Collapse Disorder Steering Committee, led by the USDA, EPA and the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

An estimated one-third of all food and beverages are made possible by pollination, mainly by honey bees. In the United States, pollination contributes to crop production worth \$20-30 billion in agricultural production annually. A decline in managed bee colonies puts great pressure on the sectors of agriculture reliant on commercial pollination services. This is evident from reports of shortages of bees available for the pollination of many crops.

The Colony Collapse Steering Committee was formed in response to a sudden and widespread disappearance of adult honey bees from beehives, which first occurred in 2006. The Committee will consider the report's recommendations and update the CCD Action Plan which will outline major priorities to be addressed in the next 5-10 years and serve as a reference document for policy makers, legislators and the public and will help coordinate the federal strategy in response to honey bee losses.

To view the report, which represents the consensus of the scientific community studying honey bees, please visit: <http://www.usda.gov/documents/ReportHoneyBeeHealth.pdf>



## NRCS IMPROVES IMPAIRED WATERSHEDS IN MINNESOTA, INCLUDING GILCHRIST WATERSHED IN POPE COUNTY

ST PAUL, MN, May 6, 2013— State Conservationist Don Baloun today announced additional funding for an initiative to improve water quality in selected watersheds in Minnesota.

NRCS will make \$1,151,972.00 in assistance available this year to help farmers, ranchers and forestland owners install conservation practices that manage nutrients, pathogens and sediments. Funding comes through the agency's National Water Quality Initiative.

Eligible producers will receive assistance for installing conservation systems that may include practices such as nutrient management, cover crops, conservation cropping systems, filter strips, terraces, and in some cases, edge-of-field water quality monitoring.

"The Water Quality Initiative will further NRCS' partnership efforts to improve water quality using voluntary actions on private lands," Baloun said. "This initiative is a focused approach in areas facing significant natural resource challenges. It bolsters the positive results of landscape conservation initiatives NRCS and its partners already have underway."

NRCS worked closely with partners to select the priority watersheds. State agencies, key partners and technical experts chose three watersheds, where on-farm conservation investments have the best chance to improve water quality.

Through this water quality initiative, NRCS is also piloting its

new Water Quality Index for Agricultural Runoff. The tool will help landowners determine how alternative conservation systems they are considering will impact water quality improvement. Additionally, state water quality agencies and other partners will do in-stream and watershed-level monitoring to track water quality improvements in many of the project watersheds.

NRCS accepts applications for financial assistance on a continuous basis throughout the year. All applications for funding consideration during this fiscal year must be received by the following dates: May 17, 2013; June 21, 2013; and July 12, 2013.

For more information about NRCS' programs, initiatives and services in Minnesota, visit us online at <http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/frpp/frpp.html>

The watersheds approved in Minnesota are Big Twin Lake Watershed; Gilchrist Lake Watershed and Seven Mile Creek Watershed. Gilchrist Lake Watershed is located in Pope County.

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service helps America's farmers and ranchers conserve the Nation's soil, water, air and other natural resources. All programs are voluntary and offer science-based solutions that benefit both the landowner and the environment.

## NEW WRP SIGN UP, JUNE 3 – 28, 2013

The RIM – WRP Partnership Program is seeking areas drained by ditches and tiles with surrounding upland acres for buffers. Restoration of the wetland and upland acres is paid for by the program.

For enrolling the land in a permanent conservation easement, landowners receive \$4,507 to \$2,792 per cropland acre, depending on township.

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



## MONEY AVAILABLE TO CONTROL WEEDS ON NON PROGRAM ACRES

Pope and Swift County Soil and Water Conservation Districts are providing Cost Share Assistance to landowners, townships and Cities to treat specific invasive species. This assistance will be provided thru the Cooperative Weed Management Area Grant Or CWMA.

Monetary assistance will be for a single chemical treatment for either wild parsnip, plumeless and canadian thistles, spotted knapweed, purple loosestrife, leafy spurge, and buckthorn. Up to 75% of the cost of the chemical will be covered. Landowners will need to sign an agreement and follow recommendations from the CWMA. Infestations occur in a variety of habitats and sites. Control measures should focus on eliminating seed production and exhausting the seed bank. Acres that are enrolled in other programs are not eligible to receive this assistance.

For more information contact Pope Soil and Water Conservation District to sign up.

# PLANT CORNER: WHAT DOES A SEED TAG TELL YOU?



Understanding what is on a seed tag is important when purchasing seed. It gives the needed information to properly certify seed mixes for amount and quality of seed.

**Name**

The variety and species name. Tags for common seed should include the variety name, if known, otherwise VNS (variety not stated). Common seed needs to be from an acceptable state or Canadian province and varieties need to be from an accepted list for NRCS programs.

**Lot Number**

All seed sold needs a lot number. The lot number identifies the seed and provides a record of that seed lot.

**Purity**

Pure seed or purity is the percent of seed of the lot that is the stated species. For example, a purity of 90% tells you that 10% of the bag content is inert matter (chaff), weed seed, or other crop.

**Other Crop**

The percent by weight that is a crop other than the seed species labeled. It does not include weeds. The crop seed must be listed by name if it is more than 5% of the content. This includes annual crops, other grass and forb species other than the target species.

**Inert**

The percent by weight of chaff, sticks, dirt, and other debris. High inert percentages could affect the seed flow through a drill.

Native Grass/Legume Mixture			Lot G3L22013			
Kind	Variety	Origin	% Pure Seed	% Germination	% Hard/Dormant	% Total Viability
Big bluestem	Bison	ND	30	70	20	90
Little bluestem	Badlands ecotype	ND	30	65		65
Switchgrass	Forestburg	SD	20	80	10	90
Purple prairieclover	Bismarck germplasm	ND	10	75	20	95
<b>Weed Seed:</b>	0.50%	<b>Other Crop:</b>	5.00%			
<b>Noxious Weed Seed:</b>	None	<b>Inert Matter:</b>	4.50%			
<b>Germ Test Date:</b>	March 2013				<b>Net Weight:</b>	50 lbs
<b>Labeler</b>	XYZ Elevator, 1 Harvest Way, Bismarck, ND 58502					

**Weed Seed**

The percentage of common and restricted weed seed in a lot.

**Noxious Weed**

Each state defines weeds that are restricted or prohibited. Restricted noxious weeds must be listed by name and the total seeds/pound identified on the tag. Lots containing prohibited noxious weeds are not allowed to be sold and planted in the state where it is listed as prohibited.

**Germination**

The percentage of seed that germinates in a set period of time under specific lab conditions. A germination test determines the capability of a seed lot to produce normal seedlings under favorable conditions.

**Dormant Seed or Hard Seed**

The portion of the seed sample that does not germinate during the time period of the seed test, but is determined to be

alive and respiring. Hard seed is a type of dormant seed that has a seed coat impermeable to water.

**Total Viability**

The germination percentage plus the hard/dormant seed percentage. For example, 80% germination and 10% dormant seed equals a total viability of 90%. Origin (Location where the seed was grown).

**Test Date**

The month and year of the germination test. For use in NRCS programs, the test date (excluding the test month) can be no older than 9 months in South Dakota and 12 months in North Dakota and Minnesota.

**Net Weight**

The bulk weight of the material in the bag.

**Name and Address of Seller**

The name and address of the seller.

**Pure Live Seed (PLS) = Purity X Total Viability**

90% purity and 90% total viability (germ + dormant and hard seed) would give you a PLS of 81%. This means the remaining 19% is other crop seed, weed seed or inert material. Remember to buy on a Pure Live Seed (PLS) basis but always calibrate and seed on a bulk weight basis.

**Understanding the Tag of a Seed Mixture**

- Grasses and wildflowers are frequently sold as mixtures. In addition to the basic label (tag) information, a tag for a mixture will include:
- 1) individually listed purity and germination (including hard and dormant) seed percentages and origin of each kind of seed occurring in excess of 5% of the total weight.
  - 2) pure seed percentage listed individually for each component as a percent of the whole.
  - 3) identification that seed is a mixture.

To calculate PLS amount of each kind of seed in the mixture: % pure seed/100 X % total viability/100 X net weight = PLS amount

To determine if all components of the mixture have been accounted for: % pure seed of each kind + % weed seed + % other crop + % inert + % noxious weed seed = 100%



# POPE SOIL & WATER



CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1680 Franklin St North  
Glenwood, MN 56334

Pope SWCD and USDA 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.

*I walk without  
flinching  
through the  
burning  
cathedral of the  
summer. My  
bank of wild  
grass is majestic  
and full of  
music. It is a  
fire that solitude  
presses against  
my lips.*

*~Violette  
Leduc, Mad in  
Pursuit*

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Did you know....

Grassland birds have declined more in the past 30 years  
than any other group of birds in North America.

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

### **July**

4th Independence Day

### **August**

7-11 Pope County Fair

29 Rosholt Field Day

### **September**

2 Labor Day

14 Waterfest

26 Conservation Day

**Board Meetings are held the third  
Tuesday of each month.**

**The public is welcome to join us.**



**"Helping People, Help the Land!"**