

POPE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Conservation News

October 2018

Pope SWCD Board

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NRCS Staff

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District Conservationist

Melissa Behrens

Soil Conservation Technician

Pope County Ag Inspector

Barry Bouwman

(320) 634-7793 Office

(320) 424-0194 Cell

Pope SWCD/NRCS Office

1680 Franklin Street N

Glenwood, MN 56334

(320) 634-5327

www.popeswcd.org

BLAIR FAMILY NAMED 2018 POPE COUNTY OUTSTANDING CONSERVATIONISTS



The Pope SWCD has selected this year's County Outstanding Conservationist of the Year. The Shane and Jessica Blair Family are this year's recipient of this award. They are from Starbuck and have four children Morgan, Parker, Owen, and Dawson.

The Blair's operation a 546 acre diversified farm with approximately 200 polypay ewes,

400 market lambs, 60 British White and Herford Angus Cross Cows, 60 market steers, and 60 crossbred market hogs and crops. They utilize no-till on 100% of their operation. They have converted all of their highly erodible land to native pasture and utilize cover crops through the farm especially cover crops in cash crops and cover crops with small grains. They have integrated cover crops as a way to extend the grazing season for their cattle and sheep herds. They have been able to graze as late as December in some paddocks.

They have planted a shelter belt to address wind erosion around the farm and to provide shelter for the livestock. They have a robust rotational grazing system which utilizes public lands in conjunction with the Nature Conservancy. They also have a grazing plan to improve cover on a parcel enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. They have divided most of their acres into paddocks and they leave the livestock on the site no longer than 6 days. The goal is to leave 1/2 of the forage behind and they rest each paddock for no less than 45 days. They typically put the cattle on a paddock first and then introduce the sheep. They have found some great results in using this method. The Blair's have been working with the NRCS grazing specialist, Jeff Duchene and NRCS Soil Conservation Technician Melissa Behrens since 2008. Since 2008 with the assistance of NRCS staff and the EQIP program the Blairs have worked to convert their entire operation including pasture planning, cover crop plans, and a grazing system establishment.

The Blairs are using soil test and have maintained all their buffers on the property. They also have a parcel currently enrolled in the CREP program.



The Blairs were Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certified in 2018 through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. They intend to use the MAWQCP certification for marketing their products through their Fire Rock Brand. They strive to work with nature to provide fresh, healthy local food. They use extended season rotational grazing, cover crops, and no-till farming methods to prevent soil erosion and increase organic matter on their land.

The Blairs are active in their community including the Sustainable Farming Association, 4-H, Homeschoolers group, and Shane currently serves on the Blue Mounds Township Board.

They have participated and hosted tours at their farm and been members on panels promoting and sharing with others about the conservation practices they have implemented.

Shane and Jessica Blair are excellent stewards of the land and we are proud to nominate them for this recognition. The Blairs will be honored at a County Board Meeting in November and at the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Convention in December. Congrats to the Blair Family.

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS –GLACIAL HILLS DAY, POPE AND STEVENS COUNTY WATERFEST AND CONSERVATION DAY



ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT A PROJECT? REMEMBER THAT IF YOU PLAN TO EXCAVATE THAT YOU NEED TO CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!

POPE SWCD STAFF WILL ASSIST YOU IN DETERMINING IF THE WETLAND CONSERVATION ACT APPLIES. 320-634-5327 ASK FOR KELLY

PLAN NOW FOR SPRING TREE PLANTINGS



Pope SWCD is taking orders now for spring delivery and planting of shelterbelts and other tree practices. Call to schedule an appointment with Kelly Erickson to get started on your tree plan to ensure that trees will be available.

POPE SOIL & WATER



CONSERVATION DISTRICT

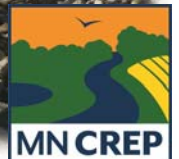


CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP)

There is now a new Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) sign up. CREP is a combination of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program. Previous CREP sign ups had a general wildlife habitat focus. This CREP sign up requires a minimum of 8 acres for the offer and focuses on buffers and wetland restoration acres for increased water quality enhancement. A waiver form may be filled out for an offer of lesser acres on buffer practices. The land being enrolled must have cropping history and meet FSA's CRP eligibility. Expiring CRP contracts that meet the CREP sign up criteria may be eligible for enrollment.

The CRP contract portion will be held by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) for the 15 year lifespan of CRP. Annual payments for the CRP contract will be received. Payment rates are based on the three most predominate soil types found on that parcel. The land will roll over into a straight perpetual RIM contract once the CRP portion is expired. However, the RIM easement is acquired at the time of signing. This easement is purchased and held with the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). A one-time payment is received at the time that the permanent easement is purchased. The easement payment is determined by subtracting the CRP payment from the RIM rate per acre.

The landowner will still own the land, but the state purchases an easement for the purpose of the land, i.e. buffers or wetland restorations. The land continues to be private, it will not be open to the public. If you are interested in CREP please make an appointment to talk to Jessica or Nicole.



BUFFER LAW UPDATES

This fall's harvest is well underway. The November 1st deadline is here for the public drainage systems. This means that most of the required buffers should be seeded. If you think you may have trouble getting that buffer seeded to meet the deadline please call the SWCD to discuss your options.

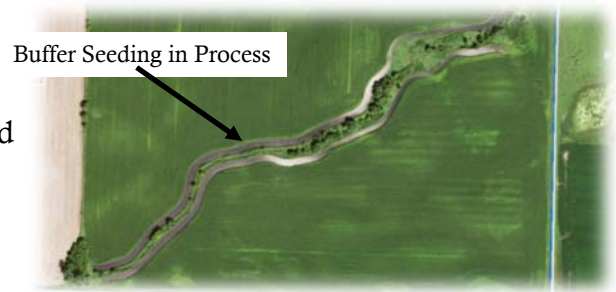
The Pope SWCD still has some cost share available to establish cover or for alternative practices. This is \$250 per acre for seed and seeding costs or 65% cost share on structural practices. We need to have a signed contract in place prior to the work being completed.

Pope SWCD staff will be sending out information in the next month to those who have not seeded their buffer yet. We ask that you respond so that we can update our records. Pope

SWCD is currently estimated at around 98% compliant. We know there will be several dormant seedings this fall and as long as our office is notified on the plans for establishment there will be some grace given to landowners to accomplish the work. Conditions are good right now to complete these seedings this fall.

If you need the buffer area staked please call to talk to Jessica to make these arrangements. We can still work through alternative practice determinations if you are interested.

We ask that once your buffer has been seeded that you notify us so we can update our records. More information on the buffer law can be found at <https://mn.gov/portal/buffer-law/>.



NO-TILL DRILLS FOR RENT



Custom Native Grass Seed Mixes Available

**Call now to visit with Kelly
about your grass seeding
project.**

**Don't delay to ensure seed
availability for your project.**

CUSTOM MOWING



**CALL TODAY TO TALK TO KELLY TO SET UP YOUR SEEDING, SEED, AND MOWING
PROJECTS (320) 634-5327**

2019 SALES PROGRAM ORDER FORM

POPE SOIL & WATER



CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1680 Franklin St North, Glenwood, MN 56334

PHONE: (320) 634-5327

FAX: (320) 634-4278

www.popeswcd.org

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State Zip: _____

Email: _____

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, 2018 for 2019 planting will receive **10% off the tree order.**

Special orders available upon request, call now to secure your order! No project to big or small!

Prices are subject to change.

| ITEM | PRICE | #ORDERED | AMOUNT |
|--|---------|----------|--------|
| SHRUBS (All Bare Root) priced per bundle of 25 Trees | | | |
| Buffaloberry | \$37.50 | | |
| Chokeberry, black | \$37.50 | | |
| Hazlenut | \$37.50 | | |
| Hi Bush Cranberry | \$37.50 | | |
| Juneberry | \$37.50 | | |
| Nanking Cherry | \$37.50 | | |
| Cotoneaster | \$37.50 | | |
| Redosier Dogwood | \$37.50 | | |
| Sand Cherry | \$37.50 | | |
| Villosa Lilac | \$37.50 | | |
| Common Lilac | \$37.50 | | |
| LARGE TREES (All Bare Root) priced per bundle of 25 Trees | | | |
| Siouxland Cottonwood | \$37.50 | | |
| Hackberry | \$37.50 | | |
| Bur Oak | \$37.50 | | |
| Silver Maple | \$37.50 | | |
| Sugar Maple | \$37.50 | | |
| American Linden Basswood | \$37.50 | | |
| SMALL TREES (All Bare Root) priced per bundle of 25 Trees | | | |
| American Plum | \$37.50 | | |
| Common Chokecherry | \$37.50 | | |
| Red Splendor Crab | \$37.50 | | |
| EVERGREENS priced per bundle of 25 Trees | | | |
| Black Hills Spruce | \$40.00 | | |
| Colorado Blue Spruce | \$40.00 | | |
| Ponderosa Pine | \$40.00 | | |
| American Arborvitae (White Cedar) | \$40.00 | | |
| Red Pine (Norway Pine) | \$40.00 | | |

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

Trees Ordered: _____

Page Total: \$ _____

See Reverse Side for Tax.

2019 SALES PROGRAM ORDER FORM



Last Name: _____

| ITEM | PRICE | #ORDERED | AMOUNT |
|--|-------------------------|---|--------|
| POTTED EVERGREENS <i>(other varieties of evergreens available upon request)</i> | | | |
| Black Hills Spruce | \$15.00 each | | |
| TREE CARE (Plant Skydd Repellent) | | | |
| 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 | | |
| TREE CARE | | | |
| Tree Shelters 4' height (biodegradeable) | <i>Call for Pricing</i> | | |
| Wood Stakes 4' height | <i>Call for Pricing</i> | | |
| Weed Control Mats 3x3 w/ 4 staples | \$3.50 | | |
| Bulk Roll of Weed Fabric 500' | \$150.00 per roll | | |
| Staples/1000 per box (Anchor Pins) | \$80.00 per box | | |
| SERVICES -- All Services have a \$75.00 one time service charge | | | |
| Custom Installed Weed Fabric (fabric included in price) | \$0.60 per foot | | |
| Custom Tree Planting (\$100 minimum charge) | \$0.60 per tree | | |
| Custom Mowing | <i>Call for Pricing</i> | | |
| Custom Cultivation | <i>Call for Pricing</i> | | |
| Custom Grass Seeding ATV | <i>Call for Pricing</i> | | |
| Custom Grass Seeding No-till Drill | <i>Call for Pricing</i> | | |
| EQUIPMENT RENTALS (Delivery charges do apply) | | | |
| 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 | | |
| Rainbarrels | \$65.00 each | | |
| CUSTOM GRASS SEED MIXES (priced per acre) | | | |
| <i>Custom mixes available upon request suited to meet program requirements. Call for a quote 320-634-532</i> | | | |
| <p>*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 25% down payment is required on all orders at the time of the order. All orders after March 1st 2019 must be paid in full at the time of the order. All balances due by April 1st, 2019. Orders Cancelled after February 1st, 2019 will be charged a 25% cancellation fee. *10% Off Tree Orders sent in by December 10, 2018.</p> | | <p>Total This Side :</p> <p>Total Front Side :</p> <p>Subtotal :</p> <p>6.875% Sales Tax :</p> <p>Total Order Cost :</p> <p>Paid :</p> <p>Balance :</p> | |

Pope SWCD prohibits discrimination in all their programs and activities on the basis of color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, and where applicable (including gender identity and expression), marital 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.

EQIP SIGN UP OPEN NOW THROUGH JANUARY 2019

The NRCS is accepting Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) applications for projects to be implemented in 2019. Applications can be taken now through the deadline. The deadline for signup is in January 2019. This program has funding for technical assistance and incentive payments.

Practices could include cover crops, water and sediment control basins, grazing practices, no-till, grassed waterways, nutrient management and much more. If you have questions regarding these programs stop in to see Jeff Hellerman or Melissa Behrens to learn more.

TAYLOR OELTJENBRUNS WINS POSTER CONTEST



Taylor Oeltjenbruns was this year's Poster Contest Winner. She attended Long Lake Conservation Camp this summer which was sponsored by Pope SWCD.

Pope SWCD along with the NRCS and the West Central Technical Service Area engineering staff have been working on erosion and sediment control projects this past spring and this fall. The SWCD continues to prioritize work based on the Pope County Local Water Management Plan and has been working in the two sub watersheds to Lake Minnewaska and Lake Emily. If you have an erosion concern contact our office for technical and financial assistance options. We will be working on new grant applications in 2019 for continued work.

If you have land located in this area of the county and have erosion or gully concerns please stop in to visit with Holly.

ROSHOLT RESEARCH FARM CONTINUES WATER QUALITY RESEARCH IN 2019 AND BEYOND



The Rosholt Research Farm has upgraded their irrigation system to variable rate technology and the weather station has been updated. Pope SWCD is working with the Minnesota Department of Ag, Stearns SWCD, and the University on new research starting in 2019 and continuing the nitrogen trial at the farm. More information to come.

POPE SOIL & WATER



CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1680 Franklin St North
Glenwood, MN 56334

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IMPORTANT DATES

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

November 20 Board Meeting

December 18 Board Meeting

January 15 Board Meeting



SWCD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Randy Pederson, D.Gary Reents, Tom Talle, Mike Billehus, and Keith Nygaard



SWCD STAFF

Nicole Brede (Farmbill Technician), Holly Kovarik (Manager), Jessica Hoheisel (Technician), Kelly Erickson (Technician)