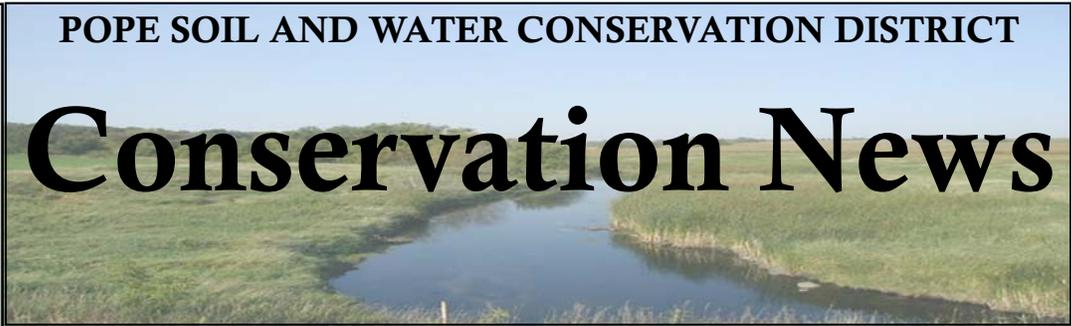




# POPE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

# Conservation News



## **Pope SWCD Board**

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Nicole Zimmerman

*Farmbill Technician*

Jessica Oldakowski

*Technician*

## **NRCS Staff**

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*District Conservationist*

Melissa Behrens

*Soil Conservation Technician*

Kasey Wiechmann

*Office Assistant*

## **DU Contract Biologist**

Matt Rose

## **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*

## Dorrich Dairy 1st Pope County Farm to Receive Certainty Certification from Minnesota Department of Agriculture



## Dorrich Dairy Named 2015 Outstanding Conservationist for Pope County & Area Finalist for state Award

The Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) has named Dorrich Dairy, Glenwood, Minnesota as one of eight Area Finalists in the 2015 Outstanding Conservationist Award Program. Dorrich Dairy will be recognized at a Dec. 8 luncheon at MASWCD's 79<sup>th</sup> annual convention in Bloomington. The awards program recognizes farm families, individuals, conservation organizations, and other groups for their accomplishments in implementing conservation practices and improving Minnesota's natural resources.

Of the eight finalists, one will be announced as the State's Outstanding Conservationist of the Year at the Dec. 8 luncheon.

"We're proud of Dorrich Dairy and the Vold Family for what they've done in conserving the natural resources in our area," said Tom Talle supervisor of the Pope Soil and Water Conservation District, which nominated Dorrich Dairy and the Vold Family for the award. "It's great to be able to recognize the work they've done locally. They've provided a wonderful example for us by implementing buffers, no-till, pest and nutrient management, wildlife practices, water reuse, cover crops, and much more," he said. They are also very active in the community and provide education an outreach to the community to share their expertise about agriculture. Dorrich Dairy was also just recently recognized as the first operation certified in Pope County through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture Ag Certainty program.

MASWCD sponsors the Outstanding Conservationist Award Program, with support from *The Farmer* magazine.

# **DNR PROVIDES BUFFER MAPPING PROJECT DETAILS**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is providing a timeline and other details about its production of maps for the state's new law requiring vegetative buffers around bodies of water. The information is available at [www.mndnr.gov/buffers](http://www.mndnr.gov/buffers).

"We understand people have questions about the buffer initiative," said Dave Leuthe, DNR project manager. "This information explains the process the DNR will use for the mapping project, the timeline in which maps will be developed, and opportunities for local governments and the public to engage in the process."

Gov. Mark Dayton's landmark buffer initiative was signed into law earlier this year. The law will establish new perennial vegetation buffers of up to 50 feet along rivers, streams and ditches to help filter out phosphorus, nitrogen and sediment.

The DNR is responsible for producing maps of public waters and ditch systems that require buffers under the new law. Local governments will provide information on ditches, which the DNR will integrate with information on public waters to develop preliminary buffer maps. The DNR is scheduled to produce final maps by July 2016, using a four-phase approach:

- Phase I - This fall, the DNR will use existing digital data to identify public waters that require a buffer (50-foot average width) and provide the information to local governments for review.
- Phase II - Beginning this fall and continuing through winter, the DNR will coordinate with counties and watershed districts to transfer local information on ditches, within the benefited areas of public drainage systems, into digital data. This will be used by the DNR to help identify ditches that require a one-rod (16.5-foot) buffer.
- Phase III - In late winter 2016, the DNR will use the combined public water and ditch system data to produce preliminary buffer maps. Local governments such as cities, townships and soil and water conservation districts, will review the maps, take input from landowners, and provide comments to the DNR.
- Phase IV - In summer 2016, the DNR will deliver integrated buffer maps to the Board of Water and Soil Resources, local soil and water conservation districts, and other local governments. The Board of Water and Soil Resources is responsible for the implementation process.

There will be public engagement opportunities when the preliminary maps are available. The maps will help landowners identify whether they need to create a buffer and, if so, whether they need a 16.5-foot or 50-foot average buffer width.

Local soil and water conservation districts will work directly with landowners and help them use the maps to create the right size buffer, or help the landowner select an alternative water quality practice in lieu of a buffer.

Go to [www.mndnr.gov/buffers](http://www.mndnr.gov/buffers) to learn more about how the DNR is producing maps for the governor's buffer initiative.

## **MINNESOTA'S BUFFER LAW**

*ARTICLE CREDIT: STEARNS SWCD*

What landowners need to know regarding the recent legislation.

- The DNR will map all public waters and ditches that will be subject to buffers by July 2016.
- 50 foot buffers must be installed on public waters by November 2017.
- 16 1/2 foot buffers on public ditches must be installed by November 2018. (Minnesota Statute 103 E)
- Many small streams, headwaters and ditches aren't public. It will be up to the SWCD's to identify those that need buffers.
- Landowners retain use of the buffer unless enrolled in a program that has restrictions to use.
- Landowners can seed the buffer on their own without cost share and retain ability to use buffer as long as perennial vegetation is maintained.
- Landowner could adopt other practices to protect water quality if they are the same level of protection as a buffer.
- SWCD's will be receiving funding assistance to provide technical assistance to landowners.
- Pope SWCD has hired an additional staff person to assist landowners.
- The Board of Soil and Water Resources can withhold funds to SWCDs that fail to implement the law.
- Counties and watershed districts that do not enforce the law will also jeopardize their state funding.
- Regulatory entities (County, Watershed District, BWSR) can issue fines to landowners if they do not comply.
- No new financing is available to aid producers to take cropland out of production to plant buffers.

## **MINNESOTA AG WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM** **AVAILABLE TO POPE COUNTY PRODUCERS**

In June, Stearns SWCD hired Grant Pearson to work on the Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP). This has been a pilot program in only a few areas of the state over the last couple of years. The program was made available statewide this summer. Grant will provide assistance to 11 counties in the West Central Technical Service Area 2 this includes Pope County.

This new position is unique in working relationships with landowners and partners including the SWCD, agronomists, and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture along with corporate sponsors.

The MAWQCP is a voluntary program

and opportunity for landowners to take the lead in implementing conservation practices to improve water quality. Those who implement and maintain approved farm management practices will be certified and in turn obtain regulatory certainty for a period of 10 years. Certified farmers are deemed in compliance with any new water quality rules or laws during the period of certification. Farmers interested in becoming certified also receive priority status for technical and financial assistance.

Pope SWCD staff has begun to reach out to producers regarding this new program. For more information on how to become

certified in the Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program visit [www.mda.state.mn.us/awqcp](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/awqcp) or contact our office (320) 634-5327.



*ARTICLE CREDIT: STEARNS SWCD*

## **EQIP SIGNUP DEADLINE NOVEMBER 20TH**

Agricultural producers looking to solve natural resource problems on their farms will want to plan ahead and sign-up early for United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) funding. Cathee Pullman, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist in [Minnesota](#), announced that farmers interested in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) need to apply by November 20, 2015, for funding in 2016.

EQIP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers. These contracts provide financial assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns and for opportunities to improve soil, water, plant, animal, air, and related resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland.

“EQIP is just one tool for landowners who want to apply conservation practices on the ground,” said Jeff Hellermann. “By working with the [local NRCS offices](#), you can apply for NRCS programs which work best for your land.”

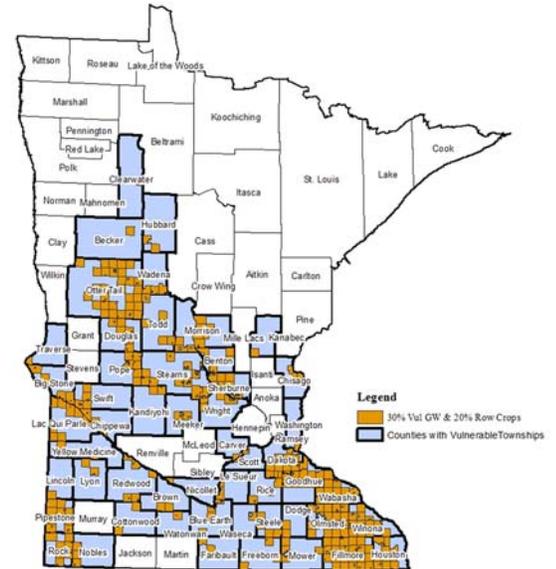
Applications for EQIP are accepted on a continuous basis, however, NRCS establishes application acceptance or submission deadline dates for evaluation and ranking of eligible applications. Contracts will be awarded to producers’ with the highest rankings until funds are exhausted. To learn more about EQIP, contact your [local NRCS field office](#) or visit the [MN NRCS website](#).

# DOMESTIC WELL NITRATE TESTING PROGRAM

Pope SWCD has been working with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to test domestic wells in targeted townships as shown on the map to the left. These Townships will include: Leven, Westport, Glenwood, Grove Lake, Bangor, and Lake Johanna.

The quality of drinking water is important for every well owner. Nitrate is one of the most common ground water contaminants found in rural areas. Drinking water with high nitrate concentrations can cause serious health effects in infants and the presence of nitrates may be an indicate of other contaminants in water.

Wells in these townships may be at risk to nitrate contamination due to the type of geology and depth to groundwater. We will be coordinating with homeowners in these targeted townships to offer a free nitrate testing for their wells. They will be sent a letter and testing kit in the next few weeks. The information provided by the testing will help these families and provide valuable information on the presence of nitrates in drinking water. If you have questions please call our office and ask for Holly. Kits are officially out.



## NEW STAFF HIRED AT POPE SWCD

Pope SWCD recently hired two new staff to assist with program implementation in the County.

Nicole Zimmerman was hired as the new Farmbill Technician. She is from Alexandria and was most recently employed by Ultima in the Douglas County NRCS office. She was also an intern with Pope SWCD in the summer of 2014. She will be working with the Conservation Reserve Program, Walk In Access Program, and youth educational programming.

Jessica Oldakowski was hired as a new Technician in August and resides in Morris. She just completed an internship with Pope SWCD working with the Cooperative Weed Management Program and has assisted with monitoring at the Rosholt Research Farm. She will continue working with the Cooperative Weed Management Program but will also focus on the Buffer Initiative, Reinvest in Minnesota Program, and Shoreline Restoration Program.

Congratulations on your new roles and welcome to Pope County!

## WELL SEALING COST SHARE AVAILABLE

Pope SWCD has some funding to provide cost-share assistance for well sealing. The SWCD will contract with the property owners to share the cost of priority-abandoned wells. In turn, the property owner must contract with a state-licensed well sealing contractor to perform all necessary work. All work must be done in accordance with the Minnesota Well Code, including the filing of a sealed well record with the Minnesota Department of Health. Upon completion of all of the required work and the submission of the required documents to the SWCD, reimbursement to the property owner will be made.

The Pope SWCD will provide 75% cost-share per well not to exceed a maximum of \$500 per well. The funding is limited therefore not everyone will be funded.



To learn more about this program or to request an application call 320-634-5327 and ask for Holly.

# 2016 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](http://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** for 2016 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
<b>SHRUBS (All Bare Root) priced per bundle of 25 Trees</b>			
Buffaloberry	\$30.00		
Chokeberry, black	\$30.00		
Hazlenut	\$30.00		
Hi 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		

# Trees Ordered: \_\_\_\_\_

Page Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

See Reverse Side for Tax.

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

# 2016 SALES PROGRAM ORDER FORM



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

ITEM	PRICE	#ORDERED	AMOUNT
<b>POTTED EVERGREENS</b> <i>(other varieties of evergreens available upon request)</i>			
Black Hills Spruce	\$12.00 each		
<b>TREE CARE (Plant Skydd Repellent)</b>			
Plantskydd (deer/rabbit) Repellent (treats 200-300 1' seedlings) 1 lb powder	\$25.00		
Plantskydd (deer/rabbit) Repellent (treats 400-800 1' seedlings) 2.2 lb powder	\$37.00		
Plantskydd (deer/rabbit) Repellent (treats 100 1' seedlings) 1 liter premixed	\$20.00		
<b>TREE CARE</b>			
Tree Shelters 4' height (biodegradeable)	\$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/1000 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	<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>		
<b>EQUIPMENT RENTALS</b> <i>(Delivery charges do apply)</i>			
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</b> <i>(priced per acre)</i>			
<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 <b>25% down payment</b> is required on all orders at the time of the order.                      All orders after March 1st 2016 must be paid in full at the time of the order. All balances due by April 1st, 2016. Orders Cancelled after February 1st, 2016 will be charged a 25% cancellation fee.                      *10% Off Tree Orders sent in by December 10th, 2015.</p>		<p><b>Total This Side :</b></p> <p><b>Total Front Side :</b></p> <p><b>Subtotal :</b></p> <p><b>6.875% Sales Tax :</b></p> <p><b>Total Order Cost :</b></p> <p><b>Paid :</b></p> <p><b>Balance :</b></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.*



# EDUCATION

**Youth Education events were held in September and October for 5th and 6th grade students in Pope and Stevens Counties. Over 600 youth participated in these two events: Water Festival and Conservation Day.**

*A special thank you to all who helped make these events successful including our presenters, volunteers, and especially all of our donors. This event would not be possible without your support.*

There may be a General Conservation Reserve Program Sign-up late this year into early next year and a Conservation Reserve Easement Program sign up in early 2016. Watch for more details this winter. We have not received anything official regarding these programs. If you have an interest, we are keeping a list. Stop by to inquire.

## 1 WATERSHED 1 PLAN FOR THE NORTH FORK OF THE CROW RIVER WATERSHED

**Pope SWCD and other local governments have been participating in a water planning process for the North Fork of the Crow River watershed. This will result in a strategic plan for the North Fork of the Crow River watershed based on a watershed boundary not a county boundary. This is a new process and will change what priorities are implemented in our local counties to address water quality and quantity concerns. This will also be important because it is what we use to support our grant writing and accessing state and federal funding. Watch for more details as this process unfolds on our website [www.popeswcd.org](http://www.popeswcd.org). The plan will be finished by fall 2016.**

# POPE SOIL & WATER



CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1680 Franklin St North  
Glenwood, MN 56334

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**Page 5:** Sales Order Form

**Page 6:** Sales Order Form

**Page 7:** Educational Programs, General CRP Sign up, Watershed Water Planning

## *IMPORTANT DATES*

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

November 17 Board Meeting

December 6-8 MASWCD  
Convention

December 15 Board Meeting

January 19 Board Meeting



**SWCD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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



**SWCD STAFF**

*Kelly Erickson (Technician), Holly Kovarik (Manager), Nicole Zimmerman (Farmbill Technician), Jessica Oldakowski (Technician)*