



POPE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Conservation News

June 2019

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www.popeswcd.org

LAKESHORE RESTORATION PROGRAM AVAILABLE

Your lakeshore is part of a complex lake ecosystem. What you do with your section of shoreline impacts the entire lake. Pope SCWD encourages you to maintain natural shorelines or consider a shoreline restoration to return it to a more natural state. Natural shorelines ensure a healthy lake for everyone to enjoy.

One of the biggest benefits of having a natural shoreline is it acts as a buffer zone between land and lake ecosystems. Deep root systems make native vegetation the ideal choice for shoreline plants. Well planted shorelines filter out excess nutrients and pollution while increasing rain infiltration. This increases the water quality of your lake and reduces the amount of erosion to your shoreline. Native trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers will bring low maintenance beauty and privacy to your lakeshore all while providing valuable habitat for wildlife such as fish, birds, and pollinators.

If you are interested in finding out more information or wanting to start a shoreline restoration project on your property call Jessica Hoheisel at Pope Soil and Water Conservation District at (320)-634-5327.



ROSHOLT FIELD DAY AUGUST 27TH

WHEN: August 27, 2019 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

WHERE: Rosholt Research Farm, Westport MN

DETAILS:

Come join us at our annual field day at the Rosholt Research Farm on August 27th, 2019. Pope SWCD will have presenters for each of the research plots. They include irrigation management and technology, nitrogen best management practices, Kernza (new crop), and cover crops.

A meal will be served. Registration information will come out in July. **Mark your calendars to attend and help the Pope SWCD celebrate 70 years of conservation programming in Pope County!**





CWMA PROGRAM



Pope-Swift Cooperative Weed Management Area Cost-Share Assistance

.Do you have noxious invasive terrestrial weeds on your pasture?

.Do you need assistance creating a treatment plan?

What: Financial Assistance

Who: Landowners

Focus: Plumeless Thistle (Invasive Noxious Weed)

Where: Eligible Pasture Land

Cost-Share

The Pope-Swift CWMA program has funding available to assist landowners that have a plumeless thistle stand on their pasture ground.

Eligible landowners enter into a contract with the Pope SWCD for 75% reimbursement, not to exceed \$500, to offset the cost of herbicide and labor in treatment of plumeless thistle on the pasture.

Q: How do I begin?

A: Stop in to your Pope or Swift SWCD office to fill out an application.

Q: What all is involved with the contract?

A: A bid estimate is required for the cost of the herbicide and labor along with a map of the area to be treated. It is a one year contract.

Q: What is my share of the project?

A: Landowners are required to provide 25% of the actual project cost. Landowners are responsible for paying the contractor and will receive the 75% cost-share as a reimbursement.

Key Points

- ◊ 75% cost-share
- ◊ \$500 maximum payment
- ◊ Pasture land
- ◊ Plumeless thistle treatment
- ◊ First come, first serve basis
- ◊ 2019 spring and fall treatment
(as funds are available)

Begin to Restore Your Pasture Today



Pope SWCD

320-634-5327

popeswcd.org

Swift SWCD

320-842-7201

swiftswcd.org

March 2019

CONTINUOUS CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM SIGN UP OPEN



The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) continuous enrollment period will be beginning June 3, 2019. CRP is a voluntary program that sets environmentally sensitive agricultural lands aside for conservation use. The program allows landowners the opportunity to protect the topsoil from erosion, improve water quality, and provide habitat for wildlife by establishing long-term, resource-conserving vegetative species known as cover. USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides participants with annual rental payments and cost-share assistance. Technical support is provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), state forestry agencies, your SWCDs, and other non-federal providers of technical assistance.

To be eligible for the continuous CRP sign up a producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to submitting the offer. The land must also be cropland that was planted to an agricultural commodity years from 2012 to 2017. This year's signups will be prioritizing water-quality practices such as grassed waterways, filter strips, riparian buffers, wetland restorations, and others.

Annual rental payments to eligible participants are based on per acre cropland and marginal pasture land rental rates determined by FSA. Soil rental rates will be equal to 90% of the existing rates. Cost-share of up to 50% of the reimbursable cost of installing the practice. No incentive payments will be available and no mid-contract management payments for this signup. For those existing CRP participants who have expiring CRP contracts of 14 years or less, a one-year extension will be offered. Producers who are eligible for an extension will receive a letter describing their options. Continuous signup enrollment contracts are 10-15 years in duration.

Please feel free to stop by our office (320-634-5143) with questions or to go over your options. Visit <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-program/crp-continuous-enrollment/index> to learn more.

CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP)

There is a 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

Minnesota's Buffer Law requires all public waters and ditches to have perennial vegetation of up to 50 feet to filter out phosphorus, nitrogen, and sediment. Buffers help protect our soil, air, and water quality which in turn improves fish and wildlife habitat. The deadline for buffer implementation was November 1, 2017 for public waters which requires 50 feet of vegetation, and November 1, 2018 for public ditches which need 16.5 feet of vegetation. The Minnesota DNR has a map available to view all the public waters in the state that require a buffer <http://arcgis.dnr.state.mn.us/gis/buffersviewer/>. Pope County is sitting quite well and is now 99% compliant. Pope Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) staff will be in the field this spring/summer to complete the verification of the remaining parcels.

If you haven't seeded the buffers on your property yet, Pope SWCD encourages you to get it done as soon as possible to avoid enforcement measures. Once you have completed the seeding give us a call so we can update our records. If you need technical assistance, are interested in possible cost-share options, or have questions about Minnesota's Buffer Law give Pope SWCD a call at (320)-634-5327.



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**

RANDY MITTENESS ELECTED AS POPE SWCD SUPERVISOR



Randy Mitteness began his duties in January as the newest Pope SWCD Board member. He replaced Mike Billehus who did not file for reelection. He was raised on a farm south of Benson and graduated from Benson High School. He attended the U of M Crookston for his Associate degree. He then attended NDSU for his BS degree. He worked for Farm Credit Services for 32 years. His family moved back to Pope County in 2009 when they purchased his father-in-law's farm in Langhei township. They currently raise Angus cattle, corn, soybeans, wheat, hay and pasture. He is married to Karen and they have 2 adult children, Ryan and Mark. They have one granddaughter Morgan and a daughter in law Laura. We welcome Randy to Pope SWCD!

NOW TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR THE MINNESOTA AG WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) is a voluntary program that helps farmers and landowners manage lands within their operation to protect our state's water ways. Those who implement and maintain approved farm management practices will be certified and in turn obtain regulatory certainty for a period of ten years.

Producers seeking certification can obtain technical and financial assistance to implement practices that promote water quality. Certified farmers and landowners may use their status to promote their businesses as stewards of the land and can display signs showing their role in protecting Minnesota's waters. Certification also gives farmers and the public alike greater certainty about regulatory standards since they are deemed to be in compliance with new water quality rules for ten years.

Farmers and landowners interested in becoming certified can contact their local soil and water conservation district office or area certification specialist to start the application process. After completion of the application a certifying agent will work with you on the assessment process, which includes an online assessment tool and on-farm field verification. Lastly, certification of compliance with existing laws and rules needs to be complete when the certification agreement is signed.

MAWQCP is a state-federal partnership that includes:

- Clean Water Land & Legacy Amendment
- Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources
- Minnesota Department of Agriculture
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Services



RAIN BARRELS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

Rain barrels are containers used to collect storm water and are a 55-gallon plastic barrel with a screened lid, but they can be made of wood and vary in size. To install your own rain barrel simply place it under a downspout to collect the rain water that runs off your roof. This rainwater can then be reused on your property to water lawns and gardens, wash cars and windows, or fill water fountains. Note that rain water can pick up pollutants such as bacteria from birds and animals and chemicals from roof materials as it flows over the roof surface, so it is not safe for drinking water.

Installing rain barrels on your property is a simple way to make your home more environmentally friendly and save money on your water and utility bills. Some benefits of rain barrels include:

- Provide clean water for outdoor uses
- Conserve water and other natural resources
- Decrease the chance or magnitude of flooding
- Minimize the effects of droughts
- Decrease contributions to water pollution
- Capture rainwater for watering your plants



Rain barrels are easy to maintain. Follow the steps below to ensure you get the most out of your rain barrels. Use the water in your rain barrel frequently so storage is available for the next rain event. This also helps prevent your rain barrel from becoming mosquito breeding habitat. Before winter drain your barrel and clean it with a non-toxic cleaning solution. Store the empty barrel upside down to keep it from freezing and free from debris until you're ready to use it again in the spring.

Pope SWCD sells rain barrels for \$65+tax. Give us a call at (320)-634-5327 to get yours today!

POPE SWCD PROMOTES SOIL AND WATER STEWARDSHIP WEEK



Each year the Pope Soil and Water Conservation District hosts a poster contest in conjunction with Stewardship Week giving students the opportunity to demonstrate both knowledge and creativity about various conservation topics. This year the fifth and sixth graders of Glacial Hills, Minnewaska, and BBE Elementary were asked to create an artistic yet informative poster centered on this year's theme of Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper. With over 300 entries, students presented their knowledge of soil through each creative masterpiece. The Pope Soil and Water Conservation District board members were impressed with all of the students' efforts making the task of choosing the winners a difficult one. First through third place were chosen from each school as well as an overall first through third being awarded from the winners.

The winners from Glacial Hills are 5th grader Brooke Kjorness with 1st place, 6th grader Melana Longtin with 2nd, and 6th grader Lucas Tauber with 3rd place. The winners from BBE are 5th grader Andrea Douveir with 1st place, 6th grader Lily Kallevig with 2nd place, and 5th grader Kacey Fisher with 3rd place. Minnewaska's winners are 6th grader Luke Hoffman with 1st place, 6th grader Becca Femrite with 2nd place, and Lyla Stadtherr with 3rd place. The overall winners between the three schools are Luke Hoffman in 1st place, Becca Femrite in 2nd place, and Brooke Kjorness in 3rd place. Luke Hoffmann will be going to Long Lake Conservation Camp this summer which is sponsored by Pope SWCD as the Overall Poster Contest Winner.

Pope SCWD would like to extend their congratulations to all the winners and thank you to all the students who participated this year.

Pictured Right Top

BBE Winners Pictured left to right: Kacey Fisher 3rd place, Lily Kallevig 2nd place, and Andrea Douvier 1st place

Pictured Right Middle

GHEs Winners Pictured left to right: Melana Longtin 2nd place, Lucas Tauber 3rd place, and Brooke Kjorness 1st place

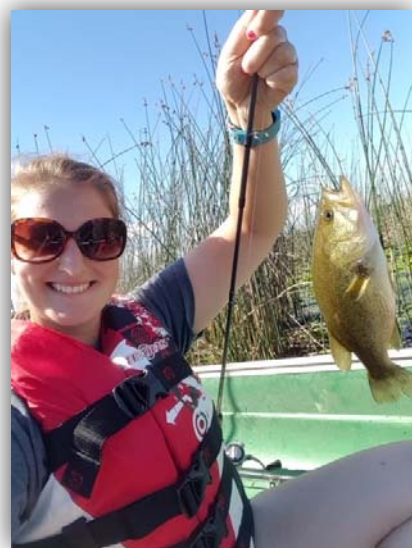
Pictured Right Bottom

MAHS Winners Pictured left to right: Lyla Stadtherr 3rd place, Becca Femrite 2nd place, and Lucas Hoffmann 1st place



TIFFANY MUELLENER HIRED AT POPE SWCD

My name is Tiffany Muellner. I am from Sauk Centre, MN where I grew up on the family dairy farm and I am a 2016 graduate of the University of Minnesota, Crookston with a degree in wildlife management. After graduation I spent some time in the interpretive naturalist world working a summer at Fort Ransom State Park in North Dakota and a summer at Lake Carlos State Park north of Alexandria, MN. Most recently I worked for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department as the outdoor skill instructor. I am excited to make the shift to more conservation work with the Pope SWCD this coming year.



In my free time, I enjoy helping out on the farm and hanging out with friends doing anything outdoors. I love going to the lake to canoe, kayak, and stand up paddleboard. I also enjoy traveling, hiking, and crafting. A fun fact about me is I spent three weeks in New Zealand as part of a study abroad trip where I went bungee jumping!

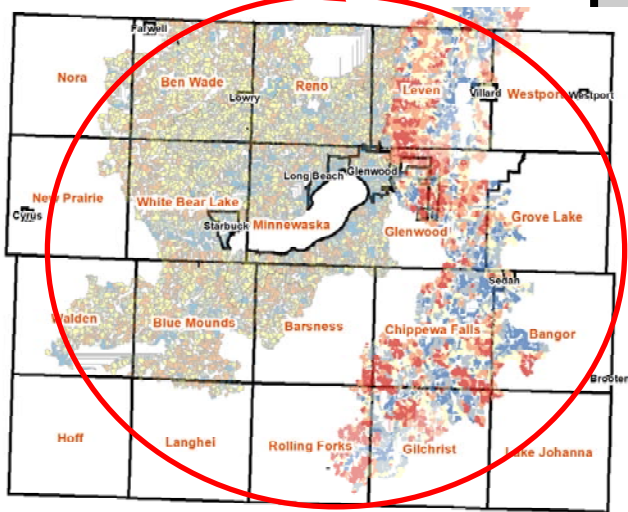
CONCERNED ABOUT EROSION

LET THE POPE SWCD KNOW-WE ARE WORKING ON GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR WORK IN 2020



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 last 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 concerns in the shaded map below contact Pope SWCD for technical and financial assistance options and to be included in this grant application. Pope SWCD will be working on new grant applications in 2019 for continued work.

Projects can be coordinated with other federal programs including EQIP.



**CALL POPE SWCD
TODAY APPLICATIONS
DUE LATER THIS
SUMMER!!**

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.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Page 1:** Lakeshore Program, Rosholt Field Day
- Page 2:** Cooperative Weed Management Pasture Program
- Page 3:** Conservation Reserve Program, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
- Page 4:** Buffer Law Updates, Seed-Drills-Custom Program, Meet Randy Mitteness
- Page 5:** MAWQCP, Rain Barrels for Purchase
- Page 6:** Poster Contest Winners Announced
- Page 7:** Tiffany Muellener hired for Rosholt, Erosion Program

IMPORTANT DATES

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

June 18	Board Meeting
July 16	Board Meeting
August 20	Board Meeting



SWCD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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



SWCD STAFF

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