



## Pope County FSA Accepting Emergency Conservation Program Applications

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director Alex Fellbaum announced that Pope County is accepting applications for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) to address damages from excessive, heavy precipitation, flooding and high winds that occurred May 11 and 12, 2022. ECP sign-up began on July 11, 2022, and end on September 8, 2022.

The approved ECP practices under this authorization include EC1, EC2, EC3, EC4, and EC8 to address severe storm damage to eligible farmland, livestock fences, conservation structures/installations, and windbreaks/shelterbelts.

ECP assists producers with the recovery cost to restore the farmland to pre-disaster conditions. Approved ECP applicants may receive up to 75 percent of the cost of approved restoration activity. Limited resource, socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers and ranchers may receive up to 90 percent cost-share.

"Dealing with natural disasters is never easy, especially when you have to consider the health and safety of livestock, but it's important for producers to call our office before they take any action," said Fellbaum.

Producers with damage from such events must apply for assistance prior to beginning reconstructive work. FSA's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and environmental compliance review process is required to be completed before any actions are taken. Submitting an application after reconstructive work has been completed may not qualify for ECP.

FSA county committees will evaluate applications based on an on-site inspection of the damaged land, taking into consideration the type and extent of the damage. An on-site inspection does not guarantee that cost-share funding will be provided.

The 2018 Farm Bill increased the payment limitation for ECP to \$500,000 per disaster. The use of ECP funds is limited to activities to return the land to the relative pre-disaster condition. Conservation concerns that were present on the land prior to the disaster are not eligible for ECP assistance.

For more information on ECP, please contact the Pope County FSA office at 320-634-5143 or visit [farmers.gov/recover](http://farmers.gov/recover).

## Come Visit us at the Pope County Fair



The Pope SWCD's booth will be located in the Industrial Building. Join us at the fair Thursday through Saturday August 3rd to the 6th. This building opens at noon each day. Check out all our information that will be displayed.

# ROSHOLT RESEARCH FARM FIELD DAY

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18TH, 2022 10 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.

Physical Address: 610 Old Highway 28, Villard Minnesota, 56385

Location: Westport, Minnesota



## LEARN ABOUT:

- Nitrogen Budget for Irrigated Corn When Grown with Rye and Kura Clover
- Best Irrigation Management Strategies for Optimum Corn Production and Water Quality Protection
- Kernza-A Perennial Grain Crop for Cleaner Water and Improved Soil Health

**\*\*\*RSVP to Pope Soil and Water Conservation District by August 12th\*\*\***

Register by calling Holly Kovarik at Pope Soil and Water Conservation District at 320-634-5327 or online at [www.popeswcd.org](http://www.popeswcd.org).

Registrations can also be done online at Event Bright: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rosholt-research-farm-field-day-2022-tickets-381067211287>. Registration is free, but required. Lunch will be provided.

## FUNDING:

Funding for work at the Rosholt Research Farm has been provided by the Minnesota Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR), Minnesota Department of Agricultural Fertilizer Research and Education Council (AFREC), and the Clean Water Fund as a part of the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment.



Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR). For more information visit [www.lccmr.leg.mn](http://www.lccmr.leg.mn).



Funding provided by the Clean Water Fund as a part of the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment. For more information visit [www.legacy.mn.gov/clean-water-fund](http://www.legacy.mn.gov/clean-water-fund).

## PROJECT PARTNERS

POPE SOIL & WATER



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
Driven to Discover<sup>SM</sup>



Agricultural Utilization Research Institute



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## Nitrate Testing Clinic to be held at the Fair

Pope Soil and Water Conservation District (Pope SWCD) will be hosting a **free water testing clinic Friday, August 5th from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the Pope County Fair.** Bring your water sample to the Pope SWCD booth in the Industrial Building at the fairgrounds for a free nitrate analysis. To receive best results, collect a minimum of one-half cup of room temperature water in a clean container within two hours of testing.



Nitrogen exists in the environment in both organic and inorganic forms. When in its inorganic form, ammonium ( $\text{NH}_4$ ) or nitrate ( $\text{NO}_3$ ), it is an essential element to plants. However, when considering water quality, nitrogen becomes a concern when in its nitrate form. Excessive nitrate concentrations in groundwater can be hazardous to human and environmental health. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set 10 mg/L as the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for nitrate-nitrogen in drinking water. **The Minnesota Department of Health recommends that private wells receive nitrate testing at least once every two to three years. If nitrates have been previously detected or if an infant under six months will be consuming the water, testing should be conducted more frequently.**

Nitrates most commonly enter groundwater through leaching or draining. Because nitrate does not attach to soil particles, it is easily moved by water. Therefore, as water filters through the soil, so do present nitrates. Some primary factors that have an effect on nitrogen leaching include: nitrogen rate, application timing, nitrogen sources, irrigation practices, age of site, and soil texture. The contamination can result from both anthropogenic (human caused) and natural sources. Although both can lead to hazardous conditions, it is often anthropogenic sources that force nitrate concentrations into dangerous levels. These sources include but are not limited to: fertilizer application, manure storage, and sewage disposal. There are available treatments used to rehabilitate contaminated water. However, prevention of nitrogen loss is the favored method in reducing nitrate concentrations in groundwater.



**DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN FOLLOW  
POPE SWCD ON FACEBOOK!**



## Meet The SWCD Interns



Each summer Pope SWCD employs seasonal staff. This year we have Sarah Zellmer and Jaden Hunter. They assist with tree planting and the plots at the Rosholt Research Farm. We are pleased to have them all assisting us this summer!

### **DANGER! DO NOT TOUCH!**

Wild Parsnip is currently blooming in ditches, field edges, and possibly in your backyard. Please be cautious if you think you have this plant near your home. If the sap from the plant is exposed to sunlight it can cause severe blistering on your skin. Wild Parsnip is in the carrot family and has many native cousins that look similar. Wild Parsnip is easily recognized by its yellow flowering head and its celery like stalk. The celery stalk can be an indicator that you have wild parsnip vs. natives which have a smooth stalk and is safe. We want everyone to enjoy their summer and stay safe. If you have any questions or would like help identifying plants, please send us a picture or call us at 320-634-5327. You can also contact the County Ag Inspector, Barry Bouwman at 320-634-7791.



**Stewardship Week was Observed April 24-May 1, 2022**

***Pope SWCD provided this information to around 20 churches each year. Healthy Soil Healthy Life was this year's theme. If you have an interest in learning more visit the website at [www.nacdnet.org/stewardship-week](http://www.nacdnet.org/stewardship-week) or contact our office at 320-634-5327.***

# Poster Contest Held



## Healthy Soils Healthy Life

Every year the Pope Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) 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 Healthy Soils Healthy Life. With over 300 entries, students presented their knowledge of soils through each creative poster.

The Pope Soil and Water Conservation District board members were impressed with all the students' efforts. First through third place were chosen from each school as well as an overall first through third being awarded from the winners. Pope SWCD will be hanging up as many posters as possible at the Pope County fair for the public to view and learn from. The Overall Winner Maia Larson will attend Long Lake Conservation Camp and has received a scholarship for the cost of the camp for winning the contest.

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

**Overall Winners-** 1. Maia Larson - Minnewaska, 2. Mia Troen- Minnewaska, 3. Aubrey Polzin – Minnewaska

### **Minnewaska Winners-**

1. Maia Larson
2. Mia Troen
3. Aubrey Polzin

### **BBE Winners-**

1. Eliana Funes
2. Ashlyn Speddrich
3. Harper Buckentine

### **Glacial Hills Winners-**

1. Josiah Arevala
2. Decklin Johnson
3. Mason Swenson





## Plan Now for 2023 Tree Plantings



Pope SWCD has been hearing from landowners who had damage to their shelterbelts during the May storms. We encourage you to start planning now for a spring planting in 2023. There are programs that are potentially available and we can assist you in design and implementation of the tree practice.

We encourage you to start now so that we can order your trees early. This past spring we had availability issues and were not able to get certain varieties. Call Kelly now to start planning. 320-634-5327

## May Storms Cause Damage



Pope SWCD and the Natural Resource Conservation Service in Glenwood have been hearing from landowners that experienced erosion during the May storms. We encourage you to continue to come in and meet with staff. It is possible that we can assist you with design and technical assistance on projects. Call today to set up an appointment at 320-634-5327.

**Pope SWCD provides services including tree planting, grass seeding, mowing, and rental services. They also provide materials for seeding projects and trees.**



**Contact the SWCD for your planting and maintenance needs. Call 320-634-5327 and ask for Kelly.**



Pope SWCD in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture has been certifying landowners through the Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program since 2015. There are about 40 landowners certified in the county in this program. Landowners enrolled have available to them financial and technical assistance for new practices through the MDA. Producers that are not certified can sign up at anytime through our office. Give us a call to set up an appointment to start the process for your operation.



Certified landowners can also attain 5 different endorsements: Wildlife, Soil Health, Climate Smart, Irrigation Management, and Integrated Pest Management. Endorsements provide additional recognition to water quality certified producers who are going above and beyond to implement conservation on their farms. Those who achieve an endorsement will receive and additional sign for their farm and recognition for their conservation excellence. If you are a certified producer and are interested in attaining these additional endorsements give our office a call and talk with Nicole at 320-634-5327.



**REMINDER TO CALL BEFORE YOU DIG! THE WETLAND CONSERVATION ACT MAY APPLY.**



**RAIN BARREL SALE!**

*Rain barrels for sale \$65 plus tax limited quantity available call today to purchase yours!*



# 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.

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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.

August 16	Board Meeting
August 18	Rosholt Field Day
September 20	Board Meeting
October 18	Board Meeting



**2020 SWCD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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



**SWCD STAFF**

Nicole Brede (Farmbill Technician), Holly Kovarik (Manager),  
Kelly Erickson (Technician), Kimberly DeMorett (Technician)