



1680 FRANKLIN STREET NORTH, GLENWOOD
(320) 634-5327
WWW.POPESWCD.ORG

Pope Soil and Water Conservation District

July 2023

Employment Opportunity

POSITION TITLE: Conservation Technician

Visit our website for full job description information and application: www.popeswcd.org

APPLICATION DEADLINE: July 21, 2023 4:00 p.m.

POSITION LOCATION: Glenwood, MN

EMPLOYMENT TERMS: Full-time

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

SUBMIT A COMPLETED APPLICATION, AND A ONE TO TWO PAGE RESUME AND THREE REFERENCES NO LATER THAN 4:00 P.M. FRIDAY, JULY 21st TO:

HOLLY KOVARIK, DISTRICT MANAGER

POPE SWCD

1680 FRANKLIN ST NORTH

GLENWOOD, MN 56334

holly.kovarik@mn.nacdnet.net

320-634-5327 phone



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



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 2nd to the 5th. This building opens at noon each day. Check out all our information that will be displayed.

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 4th 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 (NH_4) or nitrate (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.



Best wishes to Kelly Erickson as he moves onto another employment opportunity. Kelly worked for Pope SWCD for 17 years. Thank you for your years of service to the citizens of Pope County.



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



ROSHOLT RESEARCH FARM FIELD DAY

FREE
TO ATTEND.
LUNCH INCLUDED.

9:00AM
-1:00PM

THURSDAY,
AUGUST 17

Rosholt Research Farm, 910 Old Hwy 28, Westport, MN 56385

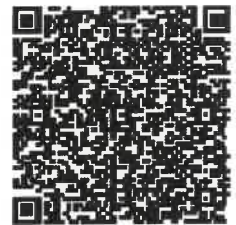
AGENDA TOPICS:

- AgCentric Trailer
- AURI Kernza Update
- When Nitrogen is Managed Right in Irrigated Sands, Do Cover Crops Help Corn Yield and the Environment?
- Lessons learned from Irrigation and Nitrogen Management study in Minnesota Central Sands.
- Long-term Management of Kernza for Water Quality Protection
- Agricultural Fertilizer Research and Education Council (AFREC) Updates

RSVP:

Free to attend. RSVP is required by August 11th, 2023.

RSVP via Event Bright: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rosholt-research-farm-field-day-tickets-640547925087> or Pope SWCD at 320-634-5327.



SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER

CONTACT:

Holly Kovarik | District Manager
Pope Soil & Water Conservation District
320-634-5327
www.popeswcd.org

***Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are pending approval**

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.



Funding provided from the Clean Water Fund as part of the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment. For more information, visit www.legacy.mn.gov/clean-water-fund.



MEET OUR SEASONAL STAFF



Abigail Meyer



Mason Stewart



Judi Femrite

Each summer Pope SWCD employs seasonal staff. This year we have Abigail Meyer, Mason Stewart, and Judi Femrite. They have assisted with tree planting and the plots at the Rosholt Research Farm. We are pleased to have them all assisting us this summer!



**RAIN
BARREL
SALE!**

***Rain barrels for
sale \$75 plus tax
we are fully
restocked. Call
today to purchase
yours!***

Poster Contest Theme “One Water”

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 and 4th graders at BBE and Glacial Hills were asked to create an artistic, yet informative poster centered on this year’s theme of One Water. 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 declined to attend Long Lake Conservation Camp but the 2nd Place Overall winner will be attending. Kaylee Martin has received a scholarship for the cost of the camp.

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. Cate Frey- Minnewaska, 2. Kaylee Martin- Minnewaska, 3. Annabelle Norsworthy-Glacial Hills



DeMorett and Brede presenting at the schools this spring

Minnewaska Winners-

1. Cate Frey
2. Kaylee Martin
3. Clark Wendt

BBE Winners-

1. Rae Brower
2. Myles Lehner
3. Ellie Schueler

Glacial Hills Winners-

1. Annabelle Norsworthy
2. Christian Johnson
3. Lucy Recker





Pope SWCD District Manager Holly Kovarik was recently recognized by the Clean Water Council (CWC). Kovarik has served on the CWC for two terms totaling 8 years 2015-2023. The outgoing members pictured in person and virtually include: Holly Kovarik, Phillip Sterner, Pat Shea, Jen Kader, Frank Jewel, and Raj Rajan. Not pictured but also an outgoing member of the council is Jordan Vandal.

To learn more about the Clean Water Council visit: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air-water-land-climate/clean-water-council>

Stewardship Week Was Observed April 30th-May 7th, 2023



The Pope SWCD, in partnership with the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), celebrated Stewardship Week from April 30 – May 7, 2023, focusing on the theme “One Water.”

Pope SWCD is a member of NACD, which oversees the annual Stewardship Week program, now in its 68th year. Stewardship Week is one of the largest national annual programs to promote conservation.

The Pope SWCD was formed to assist people in Pope County with technical assistance towards conservation of land and water resources, through project implementation. During Stewardship Week, Pope SWCD provided stewardship week materials to local churches and presented this year's poster contest theme “One Water” to fourth, fifth and sixth graders to three schools in the area.

“No matter where you live, clean water is a critical resource,” said NACD President Kim LaFleur. “This year’s Stewardship Week recognizes the importance of effective conservation practices to maintain healthy watersheds and emphasizes the interconnectedness of waterways across the country.”

Fresh water shortages continue to grow. It is crucial that we practice good water conservation. Water is an essential resource for everything from human health (drinking, cleaning, recreation) to agriculture/food production. People, animals and plants all need healthy watersheds to survive.

Pope SWCD can assist you in learning more about water health in your area and provide information on watershed conservation practices.

Our office encourages you to participate in conservation activities through the entire year. For more information about Stewardship Week and conservation, contact Pope SWCD at 320-634-5327 or www.popeswcd.org .

Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program



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 an 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.

North Fork Crow River One Watershed One Plan Conservation Open House

Join us to see conservation efforts within the
North Fork Crow River Watershed

🕒 08/03 | 5:30 - 7:30 pm

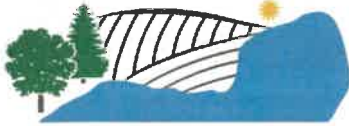
📍 Litchfield Eagle's Club,
389 CSAH 34 S, Litchfield, MN
55355

RSVP:
Scan QR code or click
the link attached



Pope SWCD wants to invite you to the North Fork Crow River Watershed One Plan Conservation Open House. This will be held on August 3, 2023 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. The event will be held at the Litchfield Eagle's Club! Come learn about this partnership and the conservation work being put into action.

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.

July 18	Board Meeting
August 15	Board Meeting
September 19	Board Meeting
October 17	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), Kimberly DeMorett (Technician)