



Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District Newsletter



1948—2016

105 22nd Ave NE
Waseca, MN 56093

Phone: 507.835.4800
Web: www.wasecaswcd.org

Spring 2016

Cover Crop Cost Share Program

With the recent emphasis on soil health and water quality, the District has developed a new cost share opportunity for Waseca county landowners. We are offering payment incentives to help establish cover crops on row and canning crops.

Cover crops are grasses, legumes, and other forbs that are planted to reduce erosion, compaction, and weed growth while increasing or improving soil structure, nutrient capture and recycling, water infiltration, and beneficial soil biota and beneficial insects.

The District is offering an incentive of \$30/acre for a single species planting and \$40/acre for seed mixes containing four or more species. The other perimeters include no fall tillage.

Stop in or call the office if you would like more information on this program.

2016 Buffer and Soil Erosion Law

Vegetative buffer strips, also known as filter strips, are strips of perennial vegetation planted along water courses, wetlands, and lakes to provide a buffer between aquatic resources and the adjacent land and the practices applied to that land. These buffers have long been known as an easy to apply, effective and economical practice to capture sediment, pesticides, and fertilizers from storm water runoff before reaching the water. They have been required along public waters and county ditch systems for decades. This law speeds up the implementation time line. By November 1, 2017 a 50' wide buffer will need to be established on public waters with a November 1, 2018 deadline for the one rod (16.5') wide buffer on county ditch systems. Until these deadlines come, you may be eligible for financial assistance through our office for establishment.

Also, if you want to look at the preliminary map go to dnr.state.mn.us/buffers/index.html. Along with the map, much other information can be found. Additional information is available at bwsr.state.mn.us/buffers/index.html.

Waseca SWCD Staff

Eric Gulbransen—Manager
Tyler Polster—District Technician
Adrienne Justman—Administrative Assistant

Waseca SWCD Tree Program

The 2016 Annual Tree sale has come to a conclusion. The Waseca SWCD would like to thank everyone who ordered trees this year.

DNR Walk-In Access Program

The Waseca SWCD is partnering with the DNR to promote their Walk-In Access Program.

The program is designed to create more available hunting land for the public. Participants who enroll their eligible land in the program will be paid per acre enrolled.

For details contact the Waseca SWCD at 507-835-4800, or by stopping in the office at 105 22nd Ave NW, Waseca.

Look for your 2017 order forms this upcoming fall to find what you need to fill windbreaks, restore habitat or provide shade.

The Waseca SWCD provides technical assistance in windbreak design, tree health or any other questions you may have. Please contact the Waseca SWCD with any of your questions.



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Waseca SWCD
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IMPORTANT NOTICES

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Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

Farmers across Minnesota are now taking advantage of a state program that celebrates and ensures protection of the state's water resources.

Minnesota's Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program was designed by an advisory committee of independent stakeholders and implemented by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) in partnership with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, and local public, private and non-profit partners. The program is a voluntary opportunity for farmers and agricultural landowners to take the lead in implementing conservation practices that protect our water. Farmers and landowners who implement and maintain approved farm management practices are certified and in turn obtain regulatory certainty for a period of 10 years.

Producers interested in becoming certified also receive priority status for technical and financial assistance.

The MAWQCP puts producers together with local professionals and the new on-line field assessment tool to determine where risks to water quality exist on their farm, and empowers them to fix those risks when they're found, at the same avoiding the expense, time and trouble of applying half-measures or implementing misplaced actions.

Anyone interested in learning more about MAWQCP, the assessment process, or becoming certified should contact us at (507) 835-4800 or in person by stopping by the office at 105 22nd Ave NE, Waseca.