

SWCD Focus



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Spring 2015

Inside this issue:

NRCS Programs	2
Water Conservation	3
Wetlands	3
Plat Book Order Form	4

Hubbard County AIS Program

During the 2014 session, the Minnesota State Legislature approved direct funding to Minnesota counties for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) prevention. Hubbard County was allocated its portion based on a formula that considered the number of public launch sites in the county (65) and the total number of trailer parking spots (391) at the launch sites (per MN Statute 477A.19). Hubbard County's portion of the state funding equates to approximately \$112,160 in 2014 and \$249,244 in 2015

and years following.

The Hubbard County Commissioners established the Hubbard County AIS Task Force as the organization responsible for developing the plan and the guidelines for use of the proceeds from State Revenue.

A subset of the Hubbard County AIS Task Force wrote a comprehensive plan that was approved by the commissioners and the SWCD Board. The Hubbard County SWCD has taken on the responsibility of

being the fiscal agent for the state funds as well as managing the watercraft inspection and decontamination program. We have close to 14,500 hours of inspection planned for 37 access sites throughout the county. The funding for our watercraft inspection program is coming from the state, county, townships, cities, and lake associations.

To view the 2015 Hubbard County AIS Plan visit our website at www.hubbardswcd.org.

District Supervisors

The District Board meets the 2nd Tuesday monthly at 8:30 a.m.

- Bob Iles, Chair
- Lynn Goodrich, Vice-Chair
- Ruth Grandy, Secretary
- Don Sells, Treasurer
- Don Rettinger, PR & Information

District Staff

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Alicia Laturnus, Soil Technician
(alicia.laturnus@mn.usda.gov)

On the web at:
www.hubbardswcd.org

Nitrate Testing

With the ever growing concerns about nitrates in our well water, the SWCD Board decided to hold free nitrate testing on a monthly basis.

Nitrate testing is held at our office at 212 1/2 2nd St W on the first Friday of the month from 9 am - 2 pm.

We will also hold our annual clinic at the fairgrounds during the Hubbard County Fair on Friday, July 17 from 9am—6pm and Saturday, July 18 from 9am—2pm in the Environmental Ed building.

To take a sample, run your water (before any treatment, i.e. water softener, filters, reverse osmosis) for 5 mins. Collect about one cup of water in a plastic baggie or clean jar.

It is a good idea to have a routine nitrate test every two or three years, more frequently if nitrates have been detected in previous samples.

If high nitrates are found in your water and your well is old or you do not know if it is structurally sound, you should have it inspected by a licensed

well contractor. Contamination could be caused by structural flaws that allow contaminated surface water to enter the well.

Common sources of nitrates are fertilizers, animal waste, and failing sewer systems. These sources should be located and managed so that they do not contaminate the well.

For more information, please call us at 218-732-0121.

NRCS Programs

By Dan Pazdernik, District Conservationist

Conservation Stewardship Program

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a voluntary conservation program that encourages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by undertaking additional conservation activities; and improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities. CSP is available on Tribal and private agricultural lands and non-industrial private forest land.

Through CSP, NRCS will provide financial and technical assistance to eligible producers to conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. Eligible lands include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pastureland, rangeland, nonindustrial private forest lands, agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe, and other private agricultural land (including cropped woodland, marshes, and agricultural land used for the production of livestock) on which resource concerns related to agricultural production could be addressed. Participation in the program is voluntary.

CSP encourages land stewards to improve their conservation performance by installing and adopting additional activities, and improving, maintaining, and managing existing activities on agricultural land and nonindustrial private forest land. The NRCS will make CSP available nationwide on a continuous application basis with announced application cut-off dates for ranking periods.

The entire agricultural operation must be enrolled and must include all agricultural land that will be under the applicant's control for the term of the proposed contract. For more information, please contact the Hubbard County NRCS office at 218-732-9723 ext 3.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program that helps agricultural producers in a manner that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals. Through EQIP, agricultural producers receive financial and technical assistance to implement structural and management conservation practices that optimize environmental benefits on working agricultural land.

EQIP applications are accepted on a continuous basis, however, NRCS establishes application "cut-off" or submission deadline dates for evaluation, ranking and approval of eligible applications. EQIP is open to all eligible agricultural producers and submitted applications may be considered or evaluated in multiple funding pool opportunities.

Agricultural producers and owners of non-industrial private forestland and Tribes are eligible to apply for EQIP. Eligible land includes cropland, rangeland, pastureland, non-industrial private forestland and other farm or ranch lands.

Applicants must:

- Control or own eligible land
- Comply with adjusted gross income limitation (AGI) provisions
- Be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation requirements
- Develop an NRCS EQIP plan of operations.

Additional restrictions and program requirements may apply.

For more information or to apply for EQIP/CSP funding, contact Dan Pazdernik at the Park Rapids NRCS Office at 218-732-9723 or go to: www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov

Helping People Help the Land

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Water Conservation at your home

In addition to saving money on your utility bill, water conservation reduces pollution in nearby lakes and rivers.

Fixing water leaks is one of the easiest ways to conserve water. Some leaks are harder to detect than others. To check if your toilet is leaking, place food coloring in the tank of your toilet. If, without flushing, the color appears in the bowl, you have a leak.

Another way to tell if you have a leak somewhere is to look at your water meter before and after a two hour period when no water is be-

ing used. If the number is not the same, you have a leak somewhere.

Other water conservation tips:

Store drinking water in the fridge, this will prevent you from running the water until it gets cold.

Water your lawn during the early morning it will prevent fungus growth and also reduce water loss to evaporation.

When watering the lawn do it long enough for the moisture to soak down to the roots where it will do the most good. To know

whether you have watered the right amount, place an empty tuna can on your lawn, when it is full, you've watered the right amount.

For more tips on conserving water, please visit www.wateruseitwisely.com.



"It is not so much for its beauty that the forest makes a claim upon men's hearts, as for that subtle something, that quality of air that emanates from old trees, that so wonderfully changes and renews a weary spirit."

- Robert Louis Stevenson



Attention Irrigators

For evapotranspiration information and corn stalk nutrient management, please contact the East Ottertail SWCD at 218-346-4260 or visit their website at www.eotswcd.org.

For information on the Irrigation Scheduler Program, please contact Wade Salo at 218-631-3195 ext. 4.

Don't forget to pick up your tree order at the Hubbard County Fairgrounds!

Friday, May 1, 1-6 pm

Saturday, May 2, 9-3 pm

Sunday, May 3, 1-3 pm

Wetlands

Wetlands provide habitat for diverse plant and animal species. Wetlands absorb and slow floodwaters, absorb excess nutrients, sediment, and other pollutants before they reach rivers, lakes and other bodies of water.

Congress enacted the Wetland Conservation Act to protect these vital natural resources. Preserving, restoring, and pro-

tecting the county wetlands are one of our priorities.

Before starting a project that might impact a wetland, please contact Julie and she will assist you in determining if there is a wetland and help you meet the requirements of the Wetland Conservation Act.

If you would like to receive this newsletter via e-mail, please e-mail melissa.koebnick@mn.nacdnet.net, or call us at 218-732-0121.

Thank you for helping us defray mailing costs!



212 1/2 2nd St W
Park Rapids, MN 56470

Phone: 218-732-0121
Fax: 855-547-8729
NRCS Phone: 218-732-9723

EEO- All programs of the Hubbard County Soil & Water Conservation District are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

EEO-The USDA prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political belief, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information should contact USDA's TARGET center at 202-720-2600.

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Mission Statement

The purpose of the Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District is to provide leadership, education, technical advice, financial assistance to landowners, cooperating agencies for various programs and projects with the goal being the whole community working together in harmony to pursue the sustainable management, wise-use, and protection of the district's soil, water, forests, wildlife, and recreational resources.

2013 Hubbard County Plat Book Order Form

I would like to order _____ copies of the Hubbard County Plat Books at \$35 ea. which totals \$_____.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Mail this form with your check to:

Hubbard County SWCD

212 1/2 2nd St W

Park Rapids, MN 56470

(218) 732-0121