

SWCD Focus



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AIS Program Now with Hubbard County's ESD

By Jamin Carlson

The spring of 2016 saw a change in Hubbard County's Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) program moving from the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to the Environmental Services Department in the Hubbard County Courthouse. The SWCD saw additional programs and no longer had the capacity to run the AIS program. The AIS program observed phenomenal growth over the four years the SWCD ran the program. The new contact for the AIS program is Bill DonCarlos who started at the beginning of June and is now in charge of the program. The transition was a smooth process with the SWCD running the program until Bill could fully take the reins. The program itself has not seen significant changes since the move to the ESD. The decontamination station is still at the Hubbard County transfer station in Park Rapids with the same hours of operation and can be found online at https://webapps15.dnr.state.mn.us/ais_decon_sites and the on-call phone number is (218) 252-6738. Contact information for Hubbard County's AIS program can be found online at www.co.hubbard.mn.us and by phone at (218) 732-2376.

New Administrative Assistant at SWCD

We welcomed Annette Olson to the Hubbard County SWCD as our new Administrative Assistant this past July. She comes to our district with a degree in Office Management from the Univ. of Minnesota-Waseca and has experience as an account assistant at the U of M-Waseca and an Administrative Assistant/Payroll at the Warren/Alvarado/Oslo School District. She has had many opportunities to learn new skills outside her office background as her husband relocated to enrich his career in education. Annette grew up on a farm north of Hector, MN learning many values of farm life and caring for our surrounding natural resources from her parents, family and teachers. She enjoyed several years in 4-H and was very active in FFA in her high school. She spent many enjoyable hours caring for ducks, geese, chickens and a couple of years of brooding pheasants for release. After college she met and married Wayne Olson a native of Thief River Falls. They have two daughters, both married and living in Washington state, and two wonderful grandchildren with another on the way. She has many hobbies including crocheting and beading as well as hiking, fishing and baking family favorites. Annette and Wayne purchased a home near Dorset years ago with plans to retire in a lake

home. She now looks forward to learning more about the Soil and Water Conservation District activities and duties as the administrative assistant.



Irrigation Scheduler Program Available for 2017

The Hubbard SWCD Irrigation Scheduler Program is again offered for the 2017 growing year. In 2016 Hubbard had two producers with seven fields signed up. This program gives producers information on whether or not to irrigate by tracking soil moisture, prevent crop loss due to insufficient moisture, and prevent ground water contamination due to over application of water and nutrients. Services provided: weekly field visits to check soil moisture, weekly soil moisture maps, access to daily evapotranspiration data (via email, radio and online), one on one consultation, free pivot uniformity testing, and high quality record keeping.

The decision to irrigate is still up to the farmer.

The Hubbard SWCD encourages producers to call the office and find out about the program. We are looking for additional producers to participate. Please call 218-732-0121.

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District Supervisors

Hubbard County SWCD Board meets the 2nd Wednesday, monthly, at 8:30 a.m. at our new location, 603 Central Avenue North

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

District Staff

- Julie Kingsley, District Manager (julie.kingsley@mn.nacdnet.net)
- Annette Olson, Admin Assistant (Annette.olson@mn.nacdnet.net)
- Jamin Carlson, Water Quality/Resource Specialist (jamin.carlson@mn.nacdnet.net)

Assisted by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Dan Pazdernik, D.C (daniel.pazdernik@mn.usda.gov)

Alicia Laturmus, Soil Technician (alicia.laturmus@mn.usda.gov)

Jon Geimer, Clerk (jon.geimer@mn.nacdnet.net)

On the web at: www.hubbardswcd.org

Free Nitrate Clinic held the first Friday of every month at the SWCD office located at 603 Central Ave N, Park Rapids, MN.

The Minnesota Buffer Law

By Julie Kingsley, District Manager

Many of you have heard of the Buffer Law that Governor Dayton signed into law in 2015 to enhance the protection of Minnesota's waters. This initiative will help by establishing 90,000 to 110,000 acres of buffers statewide.

Questions have arisen about what the term "buffer" actually means. A buffer, also known as a filter strip, is an area of permanently vegetated land adjacent to a body of water such as lakes and streams. Buffers help to filter excess nutrients and sediment from entering our waters. Buffers also stabilize soil and protect riparian corridors all of which are beneficial to plant, wildlife and water quality. Several key events led to the introduction of the Buffer law. In 2015 the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) published that they had found no lakes and few streams in the Minnesota portion of the Missouri River basin that met the state standards for supporting aquatic life and were not considered recreationally fishable or swimmable. The Environmental Work Group (EWG) published that in 37 southern Minnesota counties 8,649 acres of 50 foot buffers were required with only 6,364 acres of buffers actually present. Another ditch buffer study completed in 2014 by the Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR) determined that just 12 percent of Chapter 103E drainage ditches had triggered the requirement for installing buffer strips for Best Management Practices (BMP's).

The Buffer Law states that for all **public waters** a continuous buffer of perennial rooted vegetation must be in place with an average of 50 feet in width, minimum of 30 feet. This must be in place by November 1, 2017 and comply with the state shoreland standards. For **public ditches**, a 16.5 foot, or one rod, buffer of perennial vegetation must be in place by November 1, 2018 and also comply with the state shoreland standards.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) has completed maps showing each of the buffer designations listed above. You can find the map online at: <http://arcgis.dnr.state.mn.us/gis/buffersviewer/>. If you do not have access to a computer local libraries or your local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) office will be able to help you. On the DNR Buffer map, waterways lined in green are the areas labeled public ditches and areas lined in blue are public waters.

Once the compliance dates are reached the SWCD's will determine whether or not each parcel is compliant. This is done with a Cloud based internet tool. As parcels are located needing corrective action, those cases will be passed to those with jurisdiction to form action plans or fines. There are several ways to meet compliance. One is to request technical and financial assistance through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) through the Farm Services Agency (FSA). These programs offer eligible landowners/producers yearly rental payments to set aside land for conservation practices such as buffer strips.

If you have any questions regarding your property and the Buffer Law and how it affects you please call the Hubbard SWCD office at 218-732-0121 ext. 4.

Conservation Stewardship Program

By Dan Pazdernik, District Conservationist

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service voluntary program which helps agricultural producers and private forest managers maintain and improve their existing operations and adopt additional conservation activities to address resource concerns. Participants earn annual CSP payments for conservation activity: the higher the performance, the higher the payment.

Benefits

Through CSP participants take additional steps to improve resource condition including soil quality, water quality and quantity, air quality, habitat quality, and energy savings.

CSP provides annual payments for installing new conservation activities and maintaining existing practices through five-year contracts. Producers may be able to renew a contract if they have successfully fulfilled the initial contract and agree to achieve additional conservation objectives. Payments are made as soon as practical after October 1 of each fiscal year for contract activities installed and maintained in the previous year.


Eligibility

Eligible lands include private and Tribal agricultural lands, cropland, grassland, pastureland, rangeland, and nonindustrial private forest land. Applicants may include individuals, legal entities, joint operations, or Indian tribes that meet the eligibility requirements. They must also agree to adopt at least one activity in the first year of the contract at a minimum. Additional enhancements may be adopted which will lead to higher performance points and a higher annual payment.

Producers must have effective control of the land for the five year term of the proposed contract. Contracts include all eligible land in the agricultural operation. If participants do not have control of their rented land for the five year period that land is considered ineligible and cannot be included in the contract.

Additional restrictions and program requirements may apply. New conservation activities may involve cover crops, nutrient & pest management, soil health, grazing management, pollinator habitat, invasive species management, and wildlife habitat to name a few. For a complete list of activities that are available, or for more information about CSP or other technical or financial assistance programs offered by NRCS, feel free to contact the Hubbard County NRCS at 218-732-9723 ext 3 or visit us at the office located at 603 North Central Ave, Suite 100, in Park Rapids.

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

	Autumn Scramble	
	Taste	Colors
	Tadpole	Hunting
	Raccoon	Skunks
	Spruce	Walnut

We are now taking orders for the 2017 tree planting season!

We have two new Plant Kits available (found on page 2 of your order form), the Raingarden/Shoreline Kit and the Shade/Woodland Edge Kit. These and our Pollinator Plant Kit have 36 plugs of **6 different** species for \$62.00. Each plant kit will cover 36 square feet. Species for each kit are chosen from the following dependent on availability:

Pollinator Plant Kit

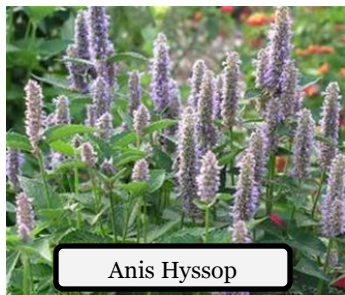
Smooth Blue Aster
 Butterfly Weed
 Narrow Leaved Coneflower
 Purple Prairie Clover
 Meadow Blazingstar
 Showy Goldenrod
 Anise Hyssop
 Prairie Smoke
 Whorled Milkweed
 Little Bluestem
 Prairie Dropseed
 Side Oats Grama

Raingarden/Shoreline Kit

Swamp Milkweed
 Great Blue Lobelia
 Blue Flag Iris
 New England Aster
 Wild Bergamot
 Meadow Blazingstar
 Black Eyed Susan's
 Stiff Goldenrod
 Golden Alexander's
 Brown Fox Sedge
 Tussock Sedge
 Quill Sedge

Shade/Woodland Edge Kit

Anise Hyssop
 Big Leaf Aster
 Zig Zag Goldenrod
 Blue Wood Aster
 Jacob's Ladder
 Columbine
 Fringed Loosestrife
 Woodland Phlox
 Wild Strawberry
 Eastern Star Sedge
 Long Beaked Sedge
 Bottlebrush Grass



If you are interested in ordering trees, seed packets, or plant kits please fill out the enclosed order form and mail or bring it in to our NEW OFFICE located at 603 Central Avenue N, Suite 100 in Park Rapids, 56470. Please call our office if you have any questions.



We are carrying our seed packets again this year. Each packet covers 500 square feet. (Lakeshore/Waters Edge and Pollinator Mix)
 As always, our prices listed include tax. Tree supplies are also available on page 2 of our order form.



Order early to ensure you get the tree species you want!



Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Park Rapids, MN
Permit #21

NEW ADDRESS!
603 Central Avenue N Suite 100
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.

2017 Tree Form Enclosed

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District is to help preserve surface and ground water quality, to encourage wise land use decisions throughout the district, and to foster a secure and prosperous community with agriculture, tourism, and industry working together in harmony for the general welfare of the people of the district.

Kids' Corner

Autumn Scramble

1. steta _ _ _ _ _
2. rosloc _ _ _ _ _
3. etdploa _ _ _ _ _
4. gntuhni _ _ _ _ _
5. ocnaorc _ _ _ _ _
6. kskuns _ _ _ _ _
7. cupsre _ _ _ _ _
8. tlhwua _ _ _ _ _

