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Clay SWCD Conservation News

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

WINTER / SPRING 2016

49th General CRP Sign-up

- Sign - up Ends
Feb. 26, 2016
- Call for more information
- Stop in for options and rental rates

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2015 Buffer Legislation

Last June, Governor Dayton signed into law a new buffer initiative aimed at enhancing protection of Minnesota's waters. The buffer initiative will help protect the state's water resources from erosion and runoff pollution by establishing roughly 110,000 acres of buffer along waterways while providing flexibility and technical support to landowners for installation and maintenance.



What is a Buffer? A buffer, also known as a riparian buffer strip, is vegetated land adjacent to a stream, river, lake, or wetland. Buffers help filter out phosphorus, nitrogen, and sediment, and are an important conservation practice for helping keep water clean.

What is required? Under the law, buffer widths will be:

An average of 50 feet, with a minimum of 30 feet, and must be planted to perennial vegetation adjacent to public waters by November 2017. A minimum of 16.5 feet must be planted to perennial vegetation on public drainage systems by November 2018.

Does My Land Require a Buffer? The MN Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) has been given the responsibility of produc-

ing a Public Waters Inventory map by July 1, 2016 and a Public Drainage Systems map by July 1, 2017. Draft versions of the map are available for viewing at :

<http://arcgis.dnr.state.mn.us/gis/buffersviewer/#>

or stop in at the Clay SWCD office and we can view them with you.

The Clay SWCD is here to provide technical assistance and to answer questions about financial assistance options. You can also find information from the MN DNR at :

<http://dnr.state.mn.us/buffers/index.html>

MAWQCP

Landowners, are you interested in potentially becoming exempt from any State Water Quality laws for 10 years?

The Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) is a voluntary opportunity for farmers and agricultural landowners to take the lead in implementing conservation farm management practices that protect our water. Those who implement and maintain approved farm management practices will be certified and in turn obtain regulatory certainty from any new State water quality rules or laws for a period of ten years (this does not apply to any

federal or local laws).

Through this program **Certified farms receive:**

Regulatory certainty: certified producers are deemed to be in compliance with any new State water quality rules or laws during the period (10 years) of their certification.

Recognition: certified producers may use their status to promote their business as protective of water quality.

Priority for technical and financial assistance; producers seeking certification can obtain specially designated technical and financial assistance to implement practices that

promote water quality.

The public receives:

Assurance that certified producers are using conservation practices to protect Minnesota's lakes, rivers, and streams.

Agricultural operations and landowners seeking certification will undergo a three step process—Application, Assessment, and Verification. Interested individuals should contact the Clay SWCD as staff is here to assist you with the application process.

If you would like this publication e-mailed to you please send your e-mail address to Amanda.lewis@i29.net

Manure Application

Minimum setbacks near waters ✓
(Counties can be more restrictive than state Rule 7020)

	Surface application	Incorporation within 24 hrs.
Lake, stream	300 feet*	25 feet**
Wetlands (10+ ac.)	300 feet*	25 feet**
Ditches (no berms)	300 feet*	25 feet**
Open tile intakes	300 feet	0 feet
Well, quarry	50 feet	50 feet
Sinkhole (no berms)		
Downslope	50 feet	50 feet
Upslope	300 feet	50 feet

*100-foot vegetated buffer can be used instead of 300-foot setback for non-winter applications (50-foot buffer for wetlands, ditches)
** No long-term phosphorus buildup within 300 feet

State Duty Officer: 1-800-422-0798
MPCA-St. Paul: 1-800-657-3884

✓ See "Applying manure in sensitive areas" At <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/gp0r69c>

- ### Calendar of events
- Feb. 11 - SWCD Board Meeting
 - Feb. 15 - Closed - President's Day
 - Feb 16-19 - Annual Tree Week
 - Mar. 1 - Last day to cancel tree order
 - Mar. 10 - SWCD Board Meeting
 - Mar. 21 - Clay County Association of Township Officers Ag Inspector Workshop
 - April 14 - SWCD Board Meeting
 - April 26 - Rain Barrel Workshop
 - May 3 - Compost Tumbler Workshop
 - May 12 - SWCD Board Meeting
 - May 30 - Closed - Memorial Day

Tree Program News

2016 Tree Pickup Reminder
Please remember to watch your mail for a post-card in April/May advising you of the day and time

Before we know it spring will be here and our tree program will be in full stride.

Now is the time to think about ordering trees for planting this spring. Our 2016 Tree Order Form is enclosed with this newsletter and is also available on our website.

Staff is available to assist you with designing a tree plan and recommending different tree varieties for the region. Give us a call at 218-287-2255 if you have questions or would like to set up an appointment.

Tree Ground Preparation

Those landowners requesting

machine tree planting, please remember that we require the site to be worked once or twice before we schedule your plant job. Once your ground has been worked you can call the office to schedule your planting. Please do not call for scheduling before your ground is ready.

There is a 50% deposit on all of our tree orders to reserve your trees for spring.

As in the past we will accept cancellations at no penalty to landowners, on or before March 1, 2016.

State Cost-Share Program

There are State Cost-Share funds available for field windbreaks and conservation practices addressing high priority erosion, sedimentation, or water quality problems. The Clay SWCD Board will cost-share a percentage of the total cost with a maximum amount of \$4,000.00 per project.

The Cost-share funds are available on a first-come first-served basis, as funds are limited. Staff is available to assist with the process of the State Cost-share program.

Please remember that if you are a landowner that has an approved State Cost-share contract with Clay SWCD, all practices have at least a 10 year contract term length. The practice that was cost-shared must remain in place for the contract life and not be removed. If the land is sold where the practice is located, the new landowner must abide by the rules of the original contract. It is the sellers responsibility to disclose this information to the new owner.



How to Control Weeds

Weed control is critical to the survival of your newly planted trees. The Clay SWCD offers matting installation over tree rows. We charge \$65/100'. This price includes the matting and the installation.

FABRIC MANAGEMENT

Make sure you inspect your fabric periodically to ensure the edges are firmly anchored. Control weeds in openings. Make sure you enlarge openings as needed to prevent stem girdling. This service is available for the cost-share program on qualifying plantings. Contact Clay SWCD for more information.

Pollinators and Trees

As you are making decisions about the upcoming tree season, keep in mind the benefits to wildlife as you are selecting species to plant! A major concern in the last few years has been a decline in pollinators, bees and other insects, that play an essential role in global food production. Critical in the requirements for a stable, healthy population of pollinators is adequate habitat for

foraging. When people think of bees they often think of flowers, but few understand the benefits that woody vegetation and shrubs can provide to pollinating insects. Many varieties of trees and shrubs, including chokecherry, plum, dogwood, and willow, provide an excellent source for foraging in the spring and early summer. Not only are these species beneficial to bees

and insects, if planned correctly, they can also provide excellent winter cover and shelter to pheasants and deer during the winter season. As you are planning your tree planting for the spring, maximize your benefits and select wildlife friendly species!

Urban Conservation

With the growing population of the Fargo-Moorhead area, and an increasing interest in urban conservation and concern for the environment, the Clay SWCD is proud to announce a new Partnership with Cass (ND) Soil Conservation District and Riverkeepers of Fargo-Moorhead. Although this is a new partnership, the Clay SWCD hopes to capitalize on the

efforts of our 2 partners to incorporate new and exciting conservation program ideas for the urban population centers of Clay County. We will begin our new endeavor on April 26th with a Rain Barrel Workshop and a Compost Tumbler Workshop on the 3rd of May. Both will start at 6pm and be held at Lindenwood Park in Fargo, ND. In the future we hope to continue to support urban conservation

through technical advice and assistance with Urban Pollinator Plots and many other soil and water quality programs! We would welcome your input as we begin this process. If you have any questions or want to sign up for one of the workshops please call, as space will be limited.

Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) Information

The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is in the rulemaking process for WCA. This process will reconcile the statute changes that occurred in 2011, 2012, and 2015. In addition there are several new goals and considerations being explored. A few highlighted items being evaluated include an In-Lieu Fee wetland replacement program and establishing "High Priority Areas" for wetland replacements. In addition, the State of Minnesota (BWSR) is reviewing the potential to assume responsibility of the Clean Water Act Section 404 currently administered by the US Army Corps of

Engineers (USACOE). The current time schedule (subject to change) projects the new rules will take effect December 2017.

Landowners are encouraged to check with the Clay SWCD before beginning any project that may impact a wetland. The State of Minnesota has wetland laws regulating the draining, filling, or excavation within wetlands. The federal government has separate laws regulating wetlands. These laws fall under either the US Department of Ag (USDA) or the USACOE. Although similar in many ways, the laws are different. Do not assume be-

cause you meet federal requirements, you will also meet MN State requirements.

If you are unsure if your project will impact a wetland(s), please contact our office before beginning the project. It is much better to deal with potential wetland impacts before any activity begins as mitigation requirements increase (both time and expense) once a violation occurs.

Clay SWCD Conservation News is published by the Clay Soil & Water Conservation District

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Website: <http://claycountymn.gov/272/Soil-Water-Conservation-District>

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USDA NRCS Staff

- Sharon Lean, District Conservationist
- Mark Dose, Ag/Civil Engineer
- Michelle Swanson, Ultima Employee



RIM Easement Ownership Issues

Did you know there are over 85 "active" Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) easements in Clay County? The RIM land retirement program has been around since 1986. Numerous parcels have had ownership transfers (once, twice or more times over the years) through buying/selling, a will, a death in the family, etc. Each time a parcel has a new landowner, it requires us to obtain the following information from the new owner; a **copy** of the recorded deed(s) showing the property transfer; a **RIM Easement Ownership Change form**; and if any future cost-share payments will be requested: a letter from the previous landowner directing any remaining reimbursements be made to the new owner.

Also, it is a goal of ours, over the

next few years, to install boundary posts around the RIM parcels. Only a small number of permanent RIM easements ever had boundary posts with signage installed. Take a few minutes, if you haven't done so for a while, to review your maps of the site(s). Remember, it is the landowner's responsibility to maintain the integrity (grass and/or tree cover, noxious weed control, etc.) of the enrolled acreage.

For those of you with boundary posts in place, we ask you to **please** take extra precaution when working around these posts.

Looking Forward to CREP III

Some exciting news to look forward to as you plan for future conservation projects! The State of Minnesota has announced its intent to partner with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and explore the idea of a Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). CREP is an offshoot of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency. The proposed CREP III will be a federal, state and local partnership that targets high priority conservation issues where landowners

voluntarily retire environmentally sensitive land. Using the Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Reserve program, land is permanently protected through establishing conservation practices via payments to farmers and landowners. This program will target 100,000 acres over a 5 year period funded by a combination of CRP and RIM. More details to come.



MN Walk In Access Program

The Minnesota Walk In Access Program (WIA) is a voluntary program that provides public hunting opportunities on private land and rewards landowners for keeping their ground in high quality habitat. The program started in 2011 as a 2 year pilot program funded by the USDA Voluntary Public Access Program. Currently,

there are more than 22,800 acres at 200 sites across Minnesota, with close to 1,000 acres in Clay County. If you are a landowner with quality habitat, and would be willing to provide a quality experience, while earning an additional incentive, contact the office for more information and see if you qualify.

Order form also available at: <http://claycountymn.gov/324/Tree-Orders>



2016 TREE & SHRUB ORDER FORM
CLAY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Receipt: _____

Date Paid: _____

We would like our tree orders to be a minimum of 25 trees per species, except where noted. Orders under \$50 must be paid in full at time of ordering, All orders over \$50 must pay a minimum of 50% down with the remainder being due upon pickup. We accept Cash or Check only.

Name: _____

Telephone: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Bare Root Tall Trees	Mature Height	Price Each	QTY	Subtotal
Black Walnut	12-18"	35-60'	1.65	
Bur Oak	12-18"	40-70'	1.65	
Male Cottonwood	2-3'	50-100'	1.65	
Hackberry	2-3'	40-60'	1.65	
Silver Maple	2-3'	40-60'	1.65	
Norway Poplar	2-3'	40-60'	1.65	
Little Leaf Linden	2-3'	30-45'	1.65	
Bare Root Medium Trees	Mature Height	Price Each	QTY	Subtotal
* Amur Maple	2-3'	15-20'	1.65	
<i>Not eligible for Cost-Share</i>				
Flame Willow	2-3'	25-40'	1.65	
Laurel Leaf Willow	2-3'	25-40'	1.65	
Paper Birch	2-3'	30-55'	1.65	
Bare Root Pollinator Trees	Mature Height	Price Each	QTY	Subtotal
Common Chokecherry	12-25'	18-24"	1.65	
Shubert Chokecherr	18-24"	12-25'	1.65	
Siberian Flowering Crab (White Flower)	12-25'	2-3'	1.65	
Red-Splendor Flowering Crab (Pink Flower)	15-25'	2-3'	1.65	

Bare Root Evergreens	Mature Height	Price Each	QTY	Subtotal
Black Hills Spruce	12-18"	30-60'	1.65	
Ponderosa Pine	7-15"	50-70'	1.65	
Potted Evergreens	Mature Height	May be ordered Individually		
		Price	QTY	Subtotal
Meyers Spruce	15-18"	40-50'	17.50	
Black Hills Spruce	24-30"	30-60'	18.50	
Bare Root Pollinator Shrubs	Mature Height	Price each	Qty	Subtotal
Highbush Cranberry	18-24"	8-12'	1.65	
Redosier Dogwood	18-24"	7-10'	1.65	
Common Lilac (Purple Flower)	18-24"	8-12'	1.65	
Villosa Lilac (White/Pink Flower)	18-24"	8-12'	1.65	
American Plum	2-3'	8-10'	1.65	
Prairie-Red Plum	2-3'	6-15'	1.65	
Juneberry	18-24"	6-15'	1.65	
American Hazelnut	12-18"	8-15'	1.65	
Related Products	Price	Qty	Subtotal	
Tree Tube 4'	5.00			
Tree Tube 4'w/stake	5.50			
Rabbit/Deer Repellant 1# Powder	26.67			
Spray Bottle	23.38			
Crystals	15.92			

Service	Price	Min Charge	Subtotal
Tree Planting	0.65 per tree	300.00	
Call the office for Matting Prices			

Trees & Product Sub Total	
Sales Tax 6.875%	
Totals:	
Paid on Account:	
Balance:	

Due to numerous factors beyond our control, the Clay SWCD is unable to provide a guarantee on the trees we sell.

Cancellations not accepted after March 1, 2016.

Conservation Program options

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is celebrating 30 years of conservation benefits! CRP is a voluntary program that helps agricultural producers safeguard environmentally sensitive land. Landowners plant long term, resource-conserving covers to control soil erosion, improve water and air quality and enhance wildlife habitat. In return, landowners receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance. There is a General CRP Sign-up ongoing, **NOW THROUGH FEBRUARY 26th**, and there are still opportunities to sign up for the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP). Options for areas that are

less productive or difficult to farm, meeting the requirements of the Minnesota Buffer Initiative, or working towards certification through the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP), are all ways conservation programs can play an important role in your farming operation. If you have any questions about conservation programs please contact our office, we would be glad to sit down and discuss your options.



COUNTY ORDINANCE

For Tree planting along county roadways

8-3-8: Tree Planting:

- A. **Projection Over Public Ways Prohibited:** No person, whether owner or tenant of any property along the streets or roadways of the county, shall permit any trees to project over the sidewalks, streets, and roadways, and twelve feet (12') above streets and roadways.
- B. **Responsibility to Trim:** It is the duty of all persons, whether owners or tenants, to keep the trees along public streets and roadways adjoining such property trimmed in such manner that trees shall not interfere with travel on said streets, roadways, and sidewalks.
- C. **Road Right of Way; Ditch Back Slope:** No person shall plant any tree, shrub, or other vegetable growth except lawn grass on any road right of way, or within confines of the ditch back slope.
- D. **Intersections:** For the purpose of ensuring reasonable visibility at street or roadway intersections, trees shall be trimmed to at least twelve feet (12') above street or roadway surface.
- E. **Shelterbelts:** Shelterbelts shall not be planted closer than one hundred twenty five feet (125') from the center of the road.
- F. **Windbreaks:**
 - 1. **North and West:** Farmstead windbreaks, when planted north and west of road, stay one hundred feet (100') away from center of road.
 - 2. **East and South:** Farmstead windbreaks, when planted east and south of road, stay seventy five feet (75') away from center of road.
- G. **Hedges:** Hedges may be planted seventy feet (70') from the center of road if they do not exceed a height of twenty four inches(24").
- H. **Platted Areas:** In platted areas, trees and shrubs may be planted no closer than seventy feet (70') from center of road.

RECOMMENDED IN –ROW TREE SPACINGS

Shrubs (Dogwood, Lilac, Juneberry): 3'-6' apart.

Medium Trees (Plum, Common and Shubert Chokecherry, Flowering Crab, and Amur Maple): 6'-10' apart.

Large Trees (Black Walnut, Bur Oak, Elm, Hackberry, Poplar, Flame Willow, Laurel Leaf Willow,

Little Leaf Linden, & Evergreens) : 10'16' apart.

Large Trees (Silver Maple and Male Cottonwood) : 20' apart.

RECOMMENDED BETWEEN –ROW SPACINGS

Shrubs and medium sized trees: 12'-16' apart

Medium sized trees : 12'-16' apart

Medium and Large trees : 16'-20' apart.

A good rule of thumb when figuring spacing between rows is to allow 3'-4' on either side for tillage equipment. Example: for a 10' disc or field cultivator you would allow 16'-18' between rows.

We recommend keeping the area around the trees black for at least 3 years.

ATTENTION LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS
Before Purchasing or custom feeding additional livestock, contact the Clay SWCD office to ensure you are in compliance with local feedlot rules and regulations

"In the end we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught"

Baba Dioum



County Feedlot Program

ATTENTION LIVESTOCK OPERATORS.

Any owner of an animal feedlot or manure storage area (facility) proposing to construct a new or expand an existing facility with animal unit (AU) capacity less than 300 AU, must notify the County Feedlot Office (CFO) and Clay County Planning and Zoning at least 30 days before starting construction. AU= 1,000 pounds. For operations with 300 to 999 AU, a Construction Short Form permit is needed for any construction activities related to liquid manure storage areas and for

new and expanding feedlots. If a pollution hazard also exists, an Interim, NPDES, or SDS permit is required instead of the Construction Short Form permit. The permit application (including all plans and specifications) must be submitted to the CFO at least 90 days prior to the planned start of construction. Neighbors within 5,000 feet of proposed construction or expansion activities for facilities, with 500 or more AU, must be personally notified, sent a letter, or be notified through publication in a local newspaper within 10 days of submitting a permit application to the CFO. The SWCD administers the County Feedlot Program under the rules and regulations set forth by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

JD No-Till Drills

The Clay SWCD office will again have two John Deere 15' drills available for rent in 2016. Please contact the Clay SWCD office for the current rental rate charges.



Plantskydd ®

Repellent

The Clay SWCD Office has Plantskydd ® Repellent available to deter animals from eating your newly planted trees. Please contact the Clay SWCD office for questions.

CAI Program

The County Ag Inspector (CAI) Program is administered by the Clay SWCD. The Clay SWCD staff continues to attend training familiarizing themselves with the responsibilities of the program. Staff works closely with town board supervisors as each town board supervisor, by law, is a local weed inspector.



Low Interest Loans Available

Low interest, Ag Best Management Practice (AgBMP), loans are available again this year. Farmers, rural landowners, and farm supply businesses are eligible to apply. With all AgBMP Loans, the project must have a direct impact on improving or protecting water quality. Eligible items/practices must fall into one of the following categories:

Conservation Tillage Equip-

ment, Septic System Replacement, Ag Waste Management Systems, Erosion Control Structures, and Well Relocation.

Applications are made at the Clay SWCD office and then prioritized by the Clay SWCD Board of Supervisors. Approved applications are processed through a local lender. Loan rates are fixed at 3% interest.

The lender may charge a customary processing fee.

These loans are used to protect the natural resources in Clay County. For more information, contact the Clay SWCD.