



Lac qui Parle Soil & Water Conservation District 2009 April Newsletter

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www.lacquiparleswcd.org

The mission of the Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District is to take available technical, financial and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land user to help him/her protect Lac qui Parle's natural resources.

YES, people notice erosion in your fields!

We have received several comments from people about the significant erosion and washing of soil taking place this spring. There are conservation practices that can be used to protect your ground, but they have to be in place to provide this protection!

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides cost share assistance to install conservation practices where needed. NRCS will be announcing a signup for this program in the near future. Funds must be obligated for projects by the middle of July.

Assess your fields while you are doing field preparations this spring. If you have some spots you would like looked at give our office a call. We can make a field visit to determine eligibility and make cost estimates. EQIP can provide financial assistance for a wide variety of practices including terraces, water and sediment control basins, grass waterways, grade stabilization structures, diversions, and the tile that is needed to make these practices function. The program also can be used to seal old wells, install ag waste systems that correct pollution problems, convert irrigation systems to low pressure, develop wildlife habitat, control invasive noxious plants, and install farmstead windbreaks. You may also be able to earn incentives to adopt practices like no-till/strip till, nutrient management plans, pesticide management plans, prescribed grazing systems, and the conversion to organic production. Don't procrastinate - call or stop at the office for details.

Minnesota Arbor Day.....April 24

District Supervisors

John Rebehn....Chairperson
Ed Radermacher....Vice-chair
LeRoy SchuelkeSecretary
Bob Ludvigson....Treasurer
Jeff JohnsonPublicity & Information

District Staff

Terry WittnebelDistrict Manager
Leslie Kvidera....District Technician
Deborah Hoffman....Program Assistant
Curtis Nordaune....District Eng. Tech
Assisted by **NRCS Staff**
Burton Hendrickson....District Conservationist
JonPaul Pringle....Soil Conservation Technician

May is Minnesota Arbor Month

It's our radio debut!

Hear us live on the radio (Q-92) each week at 9:20 on Wednesdays for updates on programs, projects, and current events affecting the resources in Lac qui Parle County! This joint effort by the Lac qui Parle YellowBank Clean Water Partnership, Lac qui Parle Soil & Water Conservation District, Lac qui Parle County Water Plan, and the Lac qui Parle Environmental Office will feature Mary, Terry, and Jenny, and include guest spots such as NRCS staff Burt Hendrickson and others. Have a resource question? Let us know — it might become a featured topic!

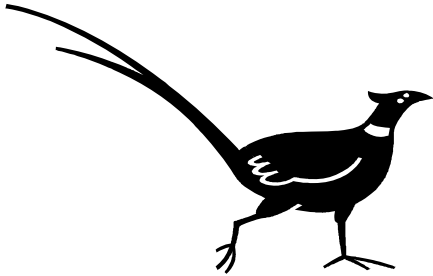
RIM/WRP signup April 20 - June 5

This state-federal wetland restoration program will enhance wildlife habitat, improve water quality, and reduce potential flood damage in targeted areas. Priority is given to the prairie pothole region of the state. Do you have an area you think might fit this program?

WHIP

The Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) is a cost share program to develop wildlife habitat on your land. It can help with approximately 75% of costs to establish native grassland, restore wetlands, and plant windbreaks. It can also be used to manage existing areas of wildlife cover so they are better suited to produce the type of wildlife you want. This could include prescribed burning to protect and preserve native grasslands, control of noxious invasive plant species in woodlots or on grasslands, and/or planting of better grasses to improve upland wildlife habitat. This year's signup will be coming very soon. Stop by the office to discuss eligibility.

The EQIP and WHIP programs may have additional options or higher levels of cost share for applicants that qualify as limited resource farmers, beginning farmers, or applicants that are considered traditionally underserved.



National Volunteer Week April 19-25

NRCS is proud of the dedicated Earth Team volunteers and staff who have committed their time and talents to conserving and protecting our natural resources. In Madison we have several Earth Team volunteers doing things such as rain gauge and stream monitoring, and helping with outreach activities. If you are interested in helping as a volunteer, we likely have a need that matches your area of interest and time schedule! Stop by the office to find out more.

Building a garage, repairing a road, cleaning out an old stand of trees - the Wetland Conservation Act applies to YOU! Before starting work, check at the Environmental Office to see if your proposed project may impact a wetland.

Native Buffer cost share program

We have a program that provides cost share up to 75% to establish and manage 25 species of native grasses and forbs. Eligible land includes cropland, pasture, and land already covered by an easement such as the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Program. The land must then be managed to maintain the diverse stand for at least 15 years.

If the land is not under an existing program, there is an upfront per acre payment which is based on 75% of the CRP annual rental rate which is then multiplied by 3 years. If not restricted by an easement, the landowner has the right to harvest the hay and/or to harvest and sell the seed.

Project types that may work for this program include flood control, well head protection, stormwater treatment (rain gardens, biofiltration, detention areas), and areas where invasive species can be removed and diversity increased to 25 species.

This program ends soon - call now for more information.

Soil & Water Stewardship Week, April 26-May 3 Soil - few people understand, most take for granted, the earth's most critical natural resource

Visit Our Website

The Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District Website is up and running! If you have not had the opportunity to visit our site, we invite you to do so! Our web address is www.lacquiparleswcd.org. When you first arrive at our website, you will see our Home page, which includes our office address and phone, and fax numbers. We have also included an area entitled "What's New in the District?" We will try to keep that current by posting all of the exciting programs and projects we have coming up.

One of the first pages on our site is a page **About Us**, where you can "meet the staff" and read about the history of the Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District. Did you know that the Lac qui Parle Soil Conservation District received its charter from the State of Minnesota April 19, 1950? We may need to plan a celebration next year, for our 60th Anniversary!

Listed on the **Board of Supervisors** page, you can meet the governing body of the Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District. You can see who was elected to represent the township where you live or farm. This page is full of information from meeting agendas and minutes, to annual plans, reports and budgets. You may also view our most recent audit!

Services and Outreach is the page you will want to visit to find out about some of the programs that we offer. In addition to the Tree Program and Cost Share Program, we have: Land and Water Treatment Programs; Agriculture Best Management Practices Low interest Loan Program; Observation Well Program; Rain Gauge Monitoring, and we administer the Lac qui Parle County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan. There are more programs listed, and there are more to come!

On our **Outreach and Information** page, we have outlines for News and Activities. We have a bit of work to do on that page, as it is forever changing and needs to be constantly updated. Please bear with us, and we'll soon be there! We do have some Links of Interest listed, including the page that everyone wants to visit, the National Weather Service.

For years, we have been known for our cooperative spirit with other conservation entities. On our **Partners and Links** page, you may click on links to one of our local, state and federal partners, and find out more about them. We have an Affiliates program listed, which provides private individuals and local businesses the opportunity to be partners with the SWCD. You don't need to be part of a government agency to become in a partner in conservation.

We invite you to visit our **Contact** page to find the email addresses of the SWCD employees or our associates, the NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) staff.

We welcome you to visit our site, and your comments are always welcome.



Earth Day.... April 22

Earth Day is also Administrative Professionals' Day!

Owners, managers, and staff from local businesses in Madison were invited to celebrate with SWCD and Clean Water Partnership staff and find out "how green can you go?"! Coffee and treats were served from the Madison Chamber office the morning of Earth Day, coinciding with Administrative Professionals Day. Participants were challenged to go back to their workplace and make as many earth friendly choices as possible for the rest of the day.

Our ash trees & EAB

Lac qui Parle county's ash trees could be in danger from a small foreign invader - the emerald ash borer, EAB. This insect was discovered in the United States in 2002 and continues spreading to new areas leaving dead ash trees in its wake. The emerald ash borer can fly several miles in a year expanding its range, but it is firewood and wood products taken from infected areas and transported to other locations that enable them to expand their range fastest. They were recently found in western Wisconsin - what can we do to slow the spread of this beetle and keep them from destroying our trees? Do not transport wood! Whether going to your lake cabin or camping at a park, do not bring firewood from home, and don't bring unused wood back home!

To learn more about the emerald ash borer go to www.mda.state.mn.us or www.emeraldashborer.info.

Installing a Rain Garden for Water Quality

June 11, 2009, 5:00-8:30 pm

Dawson City Building

Participants may get their hands dirty installing a rain garden the following morning, Saturday, June 12, 9:00 am

A Special *Thank You* to our 2009 Affiliates

Affiliate Member fees are used here in our county. A conservation ethic is promoted through the education of present and future generations of land users. We help the land user gain access to available technical, financial, and educational resources. **In the current economic environment, we are especially appreciative of your support!**

Business Affiliates

Northern Plains

Lac qui Parle Co-op Oil Company
Farmers Mutual Telephone Company
Farmers Co-op Elevator, Bellingham

Friends of Conservation

Peggy Crosby

Canby Farmers Grain Company

Larry & Sonja Farmer

Jim & Denise Connor

Stan Olson

Paul & Lori Schwendemann

LqP County Household Hazardous Waste & Electronic Equipment Collection

May 7, 2009, 2:00 to 6:00 pm

Lac qui Parle County Garage in Madison
(follow Main Street south, Highway Garage on left)

Lac qui Parle County Joint Agency

Newsletter

FSA/NRCS/SWCD

122 8th AVE S

Madison MN 56256

Conservation Office 320-598-7321 x3

Farm Service Agency 320-598-3226 x2

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED