



Christmas Conservation Newsletter

Special points of interest:

- Order Trees by December 31st for spring 2012 planting.
- Deadline to signup for EQIP is February 3rd, 2012
- Next Electronics & Appliance Collection will be held April 25th, 2012
- Enrollment for the Walk-In Program will be from Feb. 1st Through April 15, 2012.
- Next Household Hazardous Waste Collection will be in May.



Have A Merry Green Christmas

Yes, the holidays draw out the best in most of us each year. But they also bring what seems like an environmentalist's worst nightmare: tons of extra garbage, millions of chopped-down trees, and megawatts of flashing lights. With a little tweaking, however; everything from holiday gift-giving to light-stringing can celebrate the environment, too. Here's how:

- Turn down the heat before the guests arrive.
- Use Energy Efficient LED Christmas Lights.
- Recycle your old or unwanted Christmas Lights. (Drop off site located at our office.)
- Buy gifts that don't need wrapping, (Certificates, Event Tickets, Saving Bonds)
- Spare the wrapping paper on large gifts & put a bow on them instead.
- Wrap gifts with unwanted newspapers, magazines, or comics for the kids.
- Avoid using materials that cannot be recycled like Styrofoam or Packing Peanuts.
- Get a tree that can be mulched or planted afterward, or buy an artificial one.
- Send E-Greetings to your online Friends and Family instead of sending cards.
- Buy Rechargeable batteries for all of those electronic devices.
- Reuse or Bring your own bag when you go out shopping.
- Plan meals wisely & practice portion control to minimize waste:

FOOD/DRINK	PORTION PER PERSON
Eggnog	1/2 cup
Turkey	12-14 pounds (up to 10 people)
Stuffing	1/4 pound
Green Beans	1/4 pound
Pumpkin Pie	1/8 of a 9" pie

The Pipestone Soil & Water Conservation District Celebrates 60 Years in 2012!

Soil & Water Conservation Districts were created after the Dust Bowl in the 1930's to conserve our land. The Pipestone SWCD was initially formed in 1952, Wow, 60 years of education & working Hand in Hand with the Landowners of Pipestone County to get Conservation on the land; that's a long time. Back when the Pipestone SWCD first started, supervisors & staff spent most of their time visiting with landowners in their homes about different conservation practices that they could do to better their land. These practices included crop rotation, contour farming, grassed waterways, tiling, terraces, water and sediment control basins, wildlife habitat, wildlife food plots, farm ponds, farmstead shelterbelts and field windbreaks. Now 60 years later, the SWCD works jointly with the federal, state, and local government by not only providing education about conservation, but they also provide funding to landowners for several different conservation & pollution reduction practices. Some new practices that are being initiated include: Rain Gardens, Feedlot Manure Storage Basins, Rotational Grazing Systems, and Nutrient Management Plans... We will be celebrating our 60th Anniversary in 2012. More details on the celebration to come!



Check Before You Tile, Drain, Excavate or Fill

If you are you planning on doing any tiling, ditch work, repairing some existing tile, or cleaning out an existing ditch, it is important to fill out the necessary paperwork before doing the work to ensure you are not draining and/or filling a wetland. The following must be completed prior to starting:

- Fill out a Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) form for all drainage, filling and excavating work at the Pipestone Conservation & Zoning Office (WCA-is a state mandated program).
- Fill out a 1026 form at the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to avoid possible wetland violations with the 1985 Food Security Act. NRCS will need to review each 1026.

You may also need to contact other Agencies for their approval depending on the type of project you are wanting to implement. For more information concerning tiling, drainage, filling or excavating call our office at 825-6765.

Time to Place your Tree Orders

Many trees were damaged and uprooted with the severe weather that passed through Pipestone County last July. If you are looking to replace or plant new trees, the Deadline to order is December 31, 2011. So Hurry up and call or stop by and talk to Angie, she is available to help you with your planting by providing free cost estimates , tree plans, and help you plant and mat your trees in the spring. (\$100 min planting fee & other restrictions may apply)

<u>Trees (\$1.50 - \$10)</u>	<u>Evergreens (\$2- \$30)</u>	<u>Shrubs (\$1.25 - \$1.75)</u>
Lindens	Black Hills Spruce	Dogwood
Maples	Meyer Spruce	Cranberry Bush
Oaks	Colorado Spruce	June berry
Cottonwood	Ponderosa Pine	Lilac
Willows	Austrian Pine	Elder berry
Crabapple	Red Cedar	Nanny berry
<i>(Many Other Varieties Available)</i>		



Cost-Share On Windbreaks and Shelterbelts is also Available!

(First come First Serve - Ask Angie How)

USDA Reminds Native American Farmers and Ranchers that Keepseagle Settlement Claims Filing Period Closes Dec. 27

WASHINGTON, December 13, 2011 – Janie Hipp, Senior Adviser to Secretary Vilsack for Tribal Relations, reminds Native American farmers and ranchers that the period to file a claim in the Keepseagle class action settlement remains open through December 27, 2011.

“Native American farmers and ranchers who feel entitled to funds under the Keepseagle settlements have two weeks remaining to file a claim before the December 27, 2011, deadline,” said Ms. Hipp. “USDA urges Tribal leaders to educate members on the claims package process and distribute the toll-free number for assistance with filing before the period closes.” To obtain information about the Native American Farmer and Rancher Class Action Settlement visit: www.indianfarmclass.com or contact a Claimant services representative by calling 1-888-233-5506.

Congratulations Brian & Jerry Houselog - 2011 Conservation Farmers of the Year



Brothers Brian & Jerry Houselog, of Holland were chosen as this years Conservation Farmers of the year for Pipestone County. They operate a grain farm raising Corn and Soybeans, and also have several head of cattle. The Houselog's have been farming for a number of years and ultimately began doing conservation practices when they took over a neighboring farm that was well known for its conservation practices. Over the years, they have planted several windbreaks, installed grassed waterways, filter strips, terraces, and have also done a good job maintaining a wetland area. Most recently they have installed conservation practices that include sediment control basins as well as a prescribed grazing system for their cattle. The Houselog's have shown a

remarkable will to be first-class stewards of the land by practicing strip till farming and keeping their nutrient management plans up to date. The Houselog's were recently honored for their award at the Annual Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation District's award Banquet that was held in Bloomington the first week in December. Thank You Brian, Jerry, and their father Darrell for all that you have done over the years.

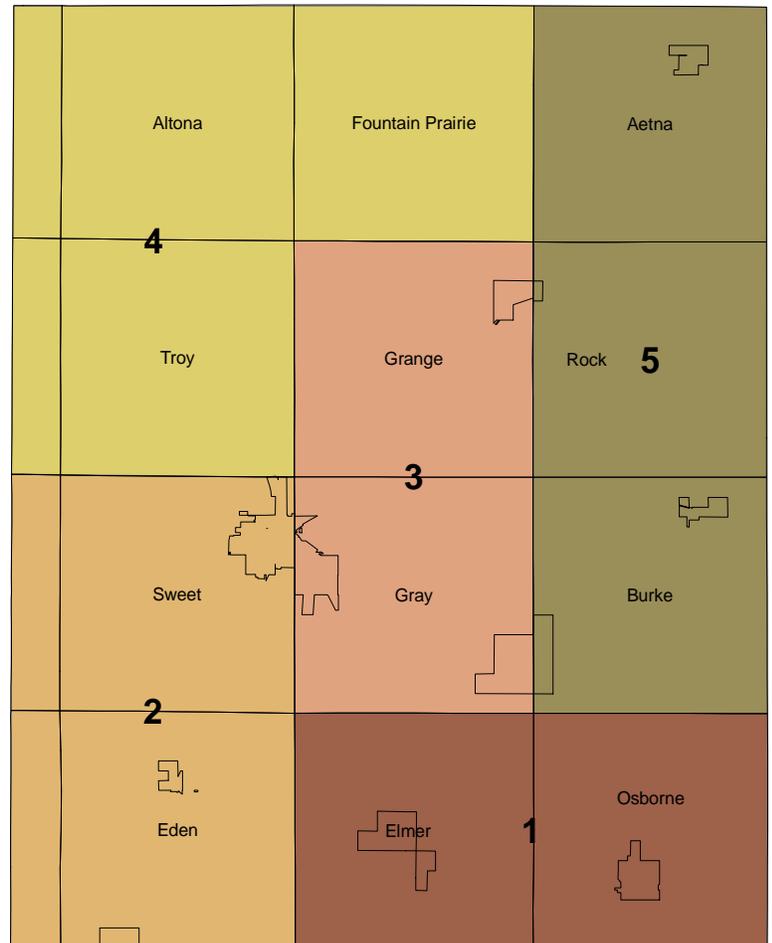
Funds Available in 2012

Recipients of the State Clean Water Legacy Funds have just been named, the Pipestone Conservation & Zoning office will be receiving \$30,407 for a Feedlot project in Pipestone County, and \$41,600 that will be available for low-income Septic Grants. Other funds that the office has available are \$16,508 in State Cost-Share Funds & \$24,000 in SWCD Funds to be utilized on projects such as Water & Sediment Basins, Tree plans, Feedlot Manure Storage Systems, etc. \$3,000 to be utilized on well sealing projects, almost \$4,000 to be used on Rain gardens, and \$4,000 that will be utilized by the area Schools for educational programs. If you have questions about any of these programs, please contact our office.

Up Coming SWCD Board Elections

Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) are political subdivisions of the State. Supervisors serve four year staggered terms; generally, two or three of the SWCD's five supervisors are up for election every two years. These positions have been local elected officials since SWCDs began to be formed in 1937. Since 1971 the offices have appeared on the November ballot as a nonpartisan office. In 2012 three of our Pipestone District Supervisors will be up for election. We are encouraging anyone that lives in Districts 1, 2, and 3 to run for a position on our district board. If you are interested in running for one of the SWCD Board positions, please contact our office and we can help you through the process. 825-6765

District	Supervisor	Term Ex.
	1 Cal Spronk	Dec. 2012
	2 Ian Cunningham	Dec. 2012
	3 Anna Mae Fritz	Dec. 2012
	4 Ed Loll	Dec. 2014
	5 Joyce LaBrune	Dec. 2014



Pipestone Conservation & Zoning

119 2nd Ave. S.W. Ste. 13

Pipestone, MN 56164

«FIRST» «LAST»

«ADDRESS»

«CITY», MN «ZIP»



**"To Promote Conservation of Natural Resources
through Education, Technical Assistance, & Stewardship."**



Pipestone SWCD – Board of Supervisors :

Ian Cunningham, Chairman

Cal Spronk, Vice Chairman

Anna Mae Fritz, Secretary/Treasurer

Ed Loll, Programs

Joyce LaBrune, PR&I

Pipestone Conservation & Zoning – Staff :

Kyle Krier, Office Administrator

Stephanie LaBrune, Administrative Assistant

Angie Raatz, District Conservationist

Natural Resources Conservation Service Staff :

Jerry Purdin, District Conservationist

Check us out on the Web:

www.pipestoneswcd.org

AG BMP Low Interest Loan Program

The Ag Best Management Practices (BMP) Loan program provides low interest financing to farmers, rural landowners to encourage agricultural best management practices that reduce existing water quality problems caused by agricultural activities.

Some of the eligible practices include:

- Feedlot improvements
- Upgrading manure storage basins
- Improved manure handling, spreading and incorporation equipment
- Terraces, waterways, stream bank protection, sedimentation basins, wind breaks and other practices that prevent erosion
- Conservation tillage equipment
- Repair of individual sewage treatment systems

The maximum amount any one individual can borrow at a given time cannot exceed \$50,000 unless the request has been approved by the local SWCD Board.

For more information concerning the Ag BMP low interest loan program contact our office at 507-825-6765.