



Pipestone Conservation & Zoning

Conservation Newsletter

Check us out on the Web: www.pipestoneswcd.org

Chris & Clare Veldhuizen & Family

This year the Pipestone Soil & Water Conservation District has chosen Chris & Clare Veldhuizen, along with their children who are actively involved in their operation as 2012's Conservation Farmers of the year. The Veldhuizen's market 25,000 swine a year & farm 1800 acres. They are leaders in the Ag industry and were chosen for this award for their community involvement and eagerness to conserve our water and reduce pollution. Chris says, "Each acre of land is unique and needs to be treated as its own, the same farming practices just don't work on every acre." The Veldhuizen's run a fully integrated operation and utilize

Manure Management Practices by applying all of their manure to their crops and in turn utilizing the crops as feed. They've also converted 4 acres of pasture to wildlife habitat, preserved 20 acres of native prairie, and are one of the first producers in the state of Minnesota to construct a controlled drainage systems on over 240 acres of their land. The Veldhuizen's will be recognized in December for their remarkable accomplishments at the Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation District's awards banquet held in Bloomington.



Brad, Vera, Judd, and Melissa Prouty, Ryan, Clare, C.J., and Chris Veldhuizen

Applying Manure this Fall

With the harvest in full swing, along with it comes land application of livestock manure. Rising fertilizer costs coupled by fuel prices makes proper application of manure more important than ever. Taking credit for the nutrient content in manure is a great way to reduce the amount of commercial fertilizer required for the next cropping season.

Proper manure application also involves an awareness of potential environmental harm. We ask that setbacks set by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) be followed in order to be compliant with the Minnesota 7020 Rules. If you surface apply manure and do not incorporate within 24 hours, you must stay 300' from open tile intakes, streams and lakes. Incorporated or injected manure allows you to apply up to 25' from the same sensitive water features.

The Pipestone County Conservation and Zoning provides many services to help producer apply manure in a way to gain the most nutrient content while also being compliant with state rules. The Conservation and Zoning office has free manure sample kits to help get a baseline of nutrient values. We also offer free calibration of solid manure spreaders so you can take credit for the nutrients you are applying to your fields.

Grants Available for Updating Non-Compliant Septic Systems

Imminent Health Threat (IHT) systems are those that are discharging improperly treated human waste onto the ground surface or into surface waters. In addition to the potential water quality impacts, untreated sewage has the potential to introduce bacteria and viruses into the environment. When IHT systems are identified, county or city staff assist the homeowners through the process required to bring their systems into compliance with the septic ordinance. Low-income households are eligible for Subsurface Sewage Treatment System (SSTS) Imminent Health Threat grants from the Clean Water Fund to upgrade systems because of surface discharge or direct connection to surface waters. In 2011 \$1,357,221 in grant funds were awarded to upgrade 172 systems throughout the state and \$47,368 of that amount was given out to 9 Pipestone County Residents. For

County Recycling Center Opening Soon

Construction on the New Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) & Recycling Center is underway with a completion date set for the end of November. Once the Building is open, Residents of the County will be able to dispose of the following on a weekly basis:

Large Appliances, Electronics, Fluorescent Bulbs, Pesticide Containers, Batteries & HHW materials which include: Automotive, Lawn & Garden, Household & Home Project Waste.

More Details to Come... Check your local paper



Location: 718 4th St. N.W. in Pipestone

NRCS Conservation Practices:

The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service offers private landowners a couple financially incentive based programs to promote a variety of soil and water conservation practices. The two programs are the Environmental Quality Incentive Program and the Conservation Stewardship Program. NRCS is taking applications for both of these programs now through the middle of December. We anticipate to start funding applications in January of 2013.

The Environmental Quality Incentive Program is the traditional cost-share program that offers cost-share to promote the construction of Water and Sediment Control Basins (including tile/intakes), Grassed Waterways, Ag. Waste Storage Ponds, and cattle feeding Roof Structures. The Program offers technical assistance and financial incentives to build Rotational Grazing Systems (including interior fences, pipelines, water tanks). Also included within this program are yearly incentive payments to transition from conservation tillage to Strip-Till, Ridge-Till, or No-Till. Future EQIP programs are also going to promote fall seeded cover-crops to help improve soil health and provide late season feed for livestock producers.

The Conservation Stewardship Program offers 5 year contracts to eligible participants. The program measures your current level of conservation in order to determine initial eligibility. The program also offers extra financial Incentives to producers who are willing to add new enhancements to the operation. Many of the new enhancements are centered on precision farming practices including such things as GPS targeted spray applications and variable rate P & K applications based on conservation management zones.

Soil Health



Soil Health is the capacity of a soil to function. How well is your soil functioning to infiltrate water and cycle nutrients to support growing plants. Could your next big yield bump come from promoting your soils health and increasing biological activity within your soil. The five basic principles of conserving and building the soil resource are; armor the soil, minimal disturbance, crop diversity, continual live plants, and livestock integration.



Maximize Farm Production

Why not maximize grass production on your pastures much like you do on your cropland? Think pounds of beef per acre instead of bushels. This does not always mean more head of cattle. You can increase production per acre by increasing the weaning weight of your calves.

We have grazing specialist that have experience on their own ranches that can help by identifying the grass species present in your pastures and offer recommended stocking rates and best time to graze specific grasses. This is free service offered by the Conservation District and its conservation partners.

New Staff Available for Your Assistance

This Spring has brought about many changes in the Conservation office. Former SWCD Conservationist Angie Raatz and NRCS Technician David Dockett have moved on and 3 new employees are now here to help you with all of your environmental needs.

With the New County Recycling and Hazardous Waste Building in the works, Jesse DeGroot, a Pipestone native, was hired in April to fill a new position that was created to increase recycling rates and make changes to the current Solid Waste and Recycling Program to better serve the businesses and residents of Pipestone County.

Adam Ossefoort a Native of Luverne, MN was hired as the new SWCD Conservationist in June and will be filling the shoes of former employee Angie Raatz. For anyone who is looking to make changes to their land, feedlot or just looking for a cheap interest rate on pollution reduction type equipment Adam will be here to assist you and help you obtain cost-share for your project.

New to the NRCS is Danielle Waldschmidt the New Soil Conservationist and a former Steele County / Rice County SWCD Employee . She came to Pipestone from Fond du Lac, WI. Danielle will be assisting producers with conservation programs such as EQIP and CSP.

Jesse DeGroot



SWCD

Solid Waste Technician

Adam Ossefoort



SWCD

Conservationist

Danielle Waldschmidt



NRCS

Soil Conservationist

Pipestone Conservation & Zoning
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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 :

Cal Spronk, Chairman

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Joyce LaBrune, Secretary/Treasurer

Anna Mae Fritz, Programs

Ian Cunningham, PR&I

Pipestone Conservation & Zoning – Staff :

Kyle Krier, Office Administrator

Stephanie LaBrune, Administrative Assistant

Adam Ossefoort, District Conservationist

Jesse DeGroot - Solid Waste Technician

Natural Resources Conservation Service Staff :

Jerry Purdin, District Conservationist

Danielle Waldschmidt– Soil Conservationist

Reinvest In Minnesota



The Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM)

reserve program is a critical component of the state's efforts to improve water quality and wildlife habitat on private lands. The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) acquires conservation easements to permanently protect, restore and manage critical natural resources without owning the land outright. The landowner will receive a onetime payment for the easement. Payments vary by township and land use history (cropped or non-cropped). They are based on the assessor's township average market value for tillable land and have increased about 20% over the last year. The land remains in private ownership and the landowner retains responsibility for maintenance and paying applicable taxes and assessments. Land adjacent to public waters and expiring CRP are areas being targeted for RIM easements. If you would like more information on a specific piece of land contact Adam at the Pipestone County Conservation and Zoning office at 507-825-6765.