

# *Pipestone Soil and Water Conservation District*



## **2015 Annual Plan**



*Mission: To Promote Conservation of Natural Resources through  
Education, Technical Assistance and Stewardship.*



### **Introduction:**

This work plan serves as the Pipestone Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Work Plan. The plan provides organization of goals set forth by the employees and supervisors. This plan provides details of the resource concerns of priority within the County of Pipestone. The plan also presents why these are of concern and how the concern will be addressed. This plan will help to accomplish the goals of the Pipestone Soil and Water Conservation District throughout the year of 2015.

## Resource Concerns

1. Soil
  - a. Soil Erosion
    - i. Promote state cost share program
    - ii. Work with NRCS to promote EQIP projects
    - iii. Educate county land owners on the importance of soil protection
  - b. Soil Health
    - i. Provide information about importance of soil health to county residents
    - ii. Host Soil Health Workshops and Trainings
    - iii. Promote cover crops and No-till.
2. Water
  - a. Surface Water
    - i. Tile Education
      1. Provide newsletters and educational meetings about controlled drainage.
      2. Promote state cost share projects involved with tile projects
      3. Create a local program to provide control structures to land owners installed tile projects.
    - ii. Rock River Watershed
      1. Work jointly with neighboring counties on projects within the watershed
    - iii. Pipestone Creek Watershed
      1. Work within the watershed to implement practices to address impairments.
    - iv. Split Rock Creek Watershed
      1. Work within the watershed to implement practices to address impairments.
  - b. Ground Water
    - i. County Wellhead Inventory
      1. Create an inventory for each wellhead of potential pollution sources.
    - ii. Wellhead Protection Implementation
      1. Provide cost-share on sealing of abandoned wells
      2. Provide incentive dollars towards BMP's
    - iii. MDA Nitrate Reduction Program
      1. Provide incentives to producers who utilize nitrate reduction measures.
3. Wetlands
  - a. Actively educate land owners on WCA Rules
  - b. Administer Wetland Conservation Act
    - i. Complete application reviews
    - ii. Conduct field investigations on all sites
    - iii. Attend training as required
  - c. Pursue opportunities to restore wetlands with programs available
4. Addressing Resource Concerns
  - a. Distribute Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) cost-share grants according to guidelines and policies

- b. Utilize USDA Programs to assist landowners with addressing resource concerns.

#### Tree Program

1. Maintain an active district tree and matting program.
  - a. Actively promote the district tree program

#### Grass Drill Program

1. Maintain an active district seeding program.
  - a. Rent a tractor and utilize staff to do custom seeding for producers
  - b. Actively promote the district seeding program

#### Feedlot

1. Administer County Feedlot Program
  - a. Conduct site inspections to insure compliance of feedlots
    - i. Focus inspections in wellhead and shore land areas.
    - ii. Conduct Manure Management Plans within wellhead area.
  - b. Permit Sites for new and expanding feedlots
  - c. Maintain Site Registrations
2. Provide producer assistance with runoff control practices

#### Solid Waste/Hazardous Waste

1. Host weekly hazardous waste and appliance collections
2. Maintain HHW facility
3. Promote recycling programs and proper disposal of waste within the Pipestone County

#### County SSTS Program

1. Complete design and soil review on all systems that are to be installed
2. Conduct site inspections during installation of systems
3. Attend certification and recertification courses as necessary
4. Work with City of Trosky to work towards installation of sewer system
5. Distribute loans and grants to eligible land owners
  - a. Use County, Rock River and Ag BMP loans to system installation
  - b. Use grant dollars for low income residents to install systems

#### Education

1. Maintain a website
2. Distribute a fall and spring conservation newsletter to county residents
3. Air two 30 second conservation radio advertisements daily
4. Hold informational meetings
5. Youth Education
  - a. Environmental Fair
  - b. Ecology Bus

- c. Summer Conservation/4-H Camp
- 6. County Fair

### RIM, CRP, WIA

1. Promote the use of RIM and CRP as conservation tools
  - a. Promote RIM and CRP for buffers in shore land areas
  - b. Promote RIM and CRP for ground water protection in wellhead areas
2. Promote DNR WIA Program to eligible landowners
3. Do an inventory of missing buffers along the DNR protected streams
4. Promote the seeding of the 50 foot Buffers along the DNR protected streams.

### Programs and Operations

1. Sustain an active elected Board of Supervisors
  - a. Hold regular monthly board meetings
  - b. Maintain financial and operation records
2. Cooperate with all units of government including but not limited to Joint Powers, Conservation organizations, RC&D, NRCS, and U of M Extension.
3. Maintain a County GIS program
  - a. Update and maintain County Shape files
  - b. Provide GIS training
  - c. Generate maps as requested
  - d. Oversee contracted services with Lyon County
  - e. Coordinate GIS committee meeting
4. Coordinate County Ag Inspector
  - a. Program Conduct site inspections
  - b. Carry out enforcement
5. Participate in a cooperative agreement through NRCS
  - a. Allow employees to work on EQIP projects
  - b. Pursue appropriate job approval authority