

Conservation Newsletter

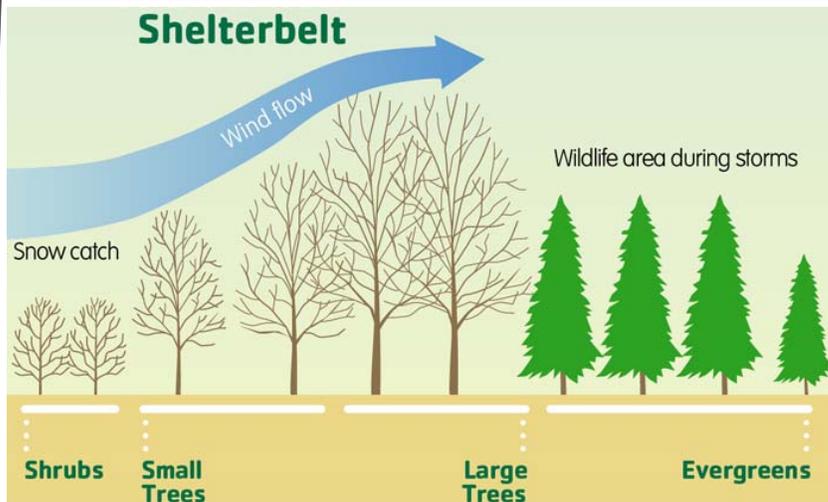


2013 Conservation Farmer Award

This year the Pipestone SWCD Board of Supervisors nominated Alan and Georgia Bahn (pictured right) of Pipestone as this year's candidates for Outstanding Conservation Farmer. They were chosen for this recognition because of their conservation efforts. The Bahns planted trees in a beautiful farmstead shelterbelt which is fully grown and that is now an awesome windbreak protecting their farmyard from the west and north winds. Over the years they installed terraces and waterways which provide stable areas for concentrated water runoff and eliminate gully erosion by keeping these areas in a permanent grass cover, which in turn enhances water quality. The Bahns will be honored for their award as outstanding conservationists in December at the annual convention of the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Bloomington.



Let us Plant you a Windbreak!

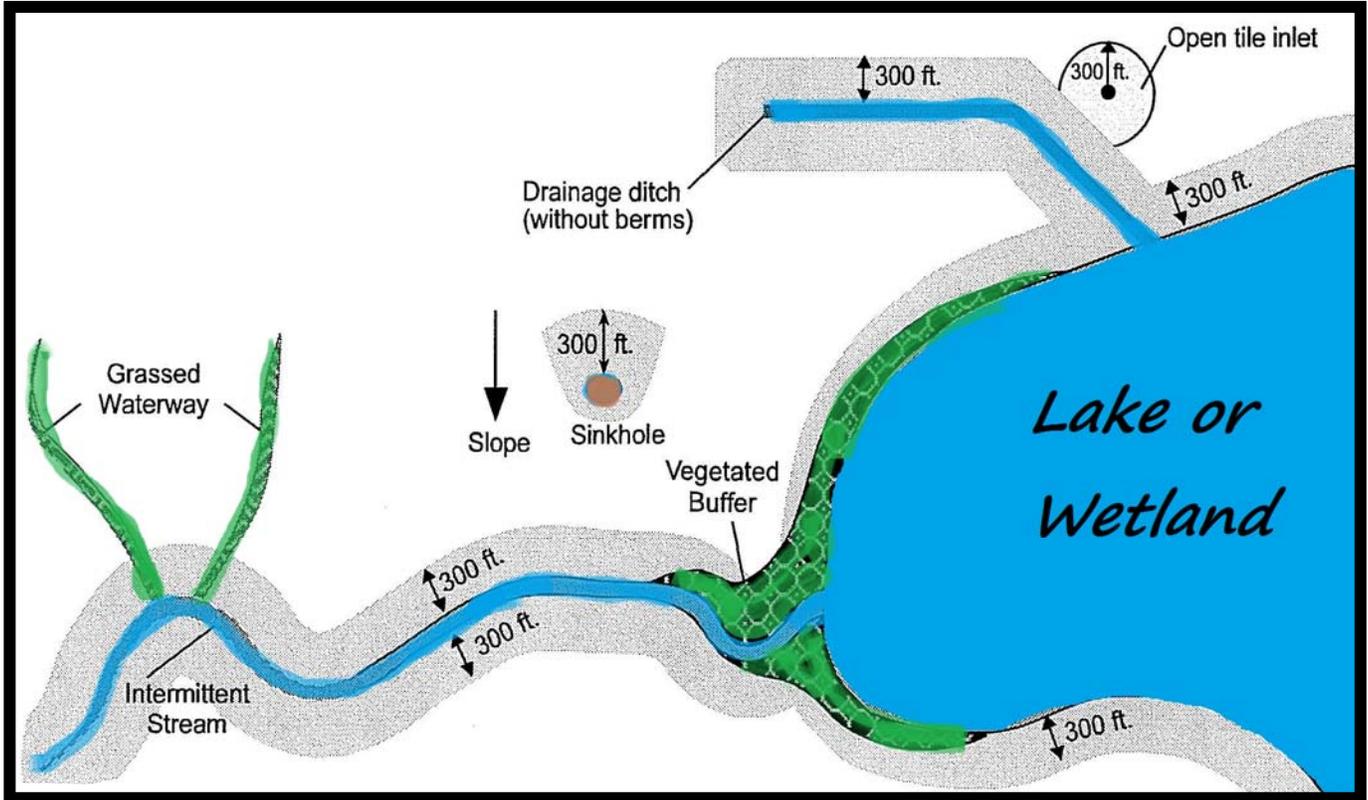


It's that time of year again. Time to order Trees! The Pipestone SWCD annually sells, plants, and mats Conservation Grade trees to be used for windbreak protection against your Home, Livestock, and Wildlife. A good farmstead windbreak adds thousands of dollars to property values and provides many benefits. Some benefits such as energy conservation and snow control are the result of wind speed reduction. Other benefits such as wildlife habitat and aesthetic value are the result of having trees and shrubs in the landscape. Tree orders are Due December 31st for spring 2014 planting. Call or stop by the office today to place your order. (Tree Order Form Enclosed)

Manure Application Setbacks

The use of manure as domestic fertilizer is a great tool that can reduce the overall cost of fertilizer for the upcoming cropping season. With manure application season in full swing it is important to remember the requirements involved with manure application. Manure application setbacks are important to protect our surface and ground waters from pollution problems and nutrient loading.

The image below shows the setback requirements for manure application according to the Minnesota Pollution Control's Animal Feedlot Rules Chapter 7020.



Also, please note that the setback is reduced to 25 feet for lakes, streams, wetlands, and drainage ditches without berms if the manure is incorporated within 24 hours of application as long as there is not long term phosphorus build up within 300 feet of the feature.

Recycling: Get your New Bin Today

Currently the Pipestone County Board of Commissioners approved to continue utilizing the Source Separated method of Recycling. This means that rural residents will continue to self-haul their sorted recyclables to one of the designated recycling sheds. With that, the board decided to offer all Residents Recycling Totes so that everyone can easily collect and haul their recyclables. If you would like a tote, please stop by the Pipestone Conservation & Zoning Office anytime Monday - Friday from 8am to 4:00pm. Up to 4 totes will be given away to each household so that they can easily sort their materials.



Recyclables accepted include:

Corrugated Cardboard	Plastics #1 Through #5
Paper	Glass
Aluminum	Tin

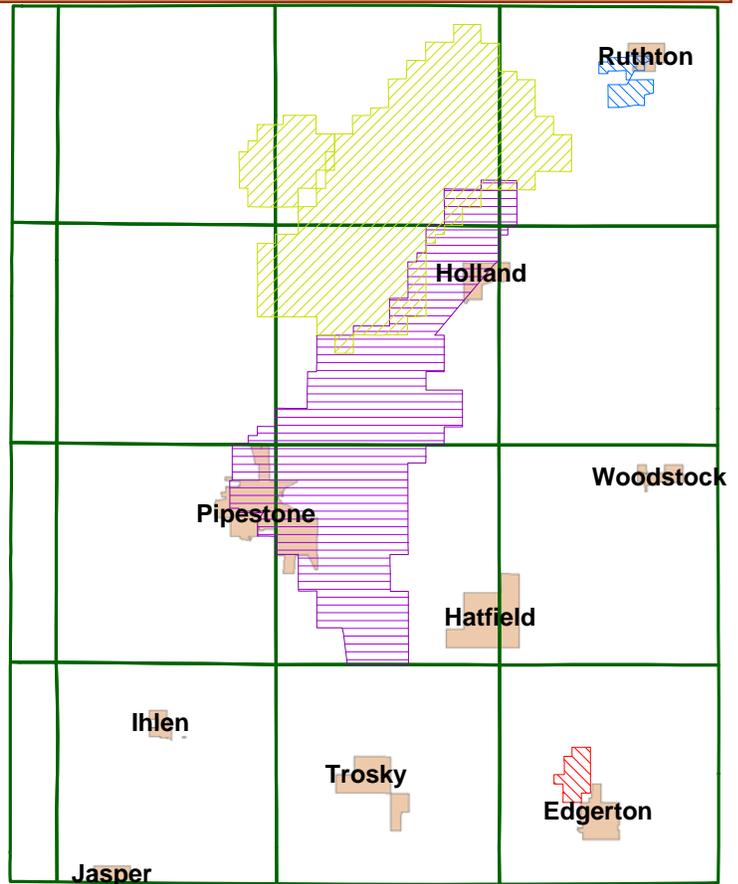
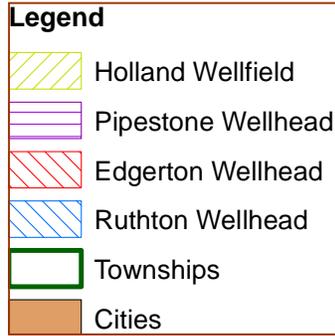
Questions on what is Recyclable? Call 825-6765

* Reminder the New Household Hazardous Waste Facility is open every Wednesday from 7am—1pm



Nitrate Reduction Plan for Local Wellhead Areas

Pipestone Conservation and Zoning office along with other area counties are organizing a program to assist area land owners within the wellhead protection areas to reduce nitrate leaching into ground water sources. The plan calls for a payments to be made to participating land owners that are within the well head protection area that use nitrate inhibitors or other practical methods to reduce nitrate leaching. The goal of this program is to reduce nitrates in ground water sources but also be a cost saving effort working towards your bottom line by reducing nutrient losses in the soil. If you have farm ground located within any of the six wellhead protection areas in Pipestone County, stop by or call the office to receive more information and put your name on a list of interested participants in order to receive funds.



Federal Funds being Utilized in Pipestone County

Every year, the NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) obtains Federal Dollars to put Conservation practices on the Land. This year has been another successful year.

The NRCS Currently has 34 active CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program) Contracts in Pipestone County promoting conservation through a wide variety of Precision Farming Practices. Pipestone County also allocated over a half a million dollars under the EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program) this year. These dollars were put toward 17 new projects promoting cover crops, soil health, and water and sediment control basin projects. The NRCS is also on schedule to construct 45 new water and sediment control basins in the Holland, MN area this fall / winter.

Sign up for EQIP

The USDA NRCS is accepting applications to help producers improve water and air quality, build healthier soil, improve grazing lands, conserve energy, enhance organic operations, and achieve other environmental benefits. “The Environmental Quality Incentives Program offers farmers and ranchers a variety of options to conserve natural resources,” District Conservationist, Jerry Purdin, said. “This conservation investment helps improve environmental health as well as the economy in Minnesota communities.” EQIP provides financial assistance for a variety of conservation activities, such as constructing terraces, reduced tillage, field buffers, rotational grazing systems and much more. The deadline for the next signup period in Minnesota is December 20, 2013. Additional signup deadlines include: January 17, 2014; February 21, 2014 and March 21, 2014.



Let us help you Unlock Your Farm's Potential...

Have you seen it? It's our latest billboard design that we have up along Highway 23 North of Pipestone. What's it all about? It's our attempt to get the Farmers in Pipestone County and the surrounding area to start thinking about Soil Health. By incorporating Soil Health practices on your Farm you can reduce your input cost, protect your land against drought, and increase crop production. To learn more about Soil Health visit our website at www.pipestoneswcd.org or check out NRCS' website at www.nrcs.usda.gov

What is Soil Health? and Why should I care?

Soil health is the capacity of a soil to function. How well is your soil functioning to infiltrate water and cycle nutrients to water and feed growing plants? Soil is a living factory of macroscopic and microscopic workers who need food to eat and places to live to do their work. There are more individual organisms in a teaspoon of soil than there are people on earth; thus, the soil is controlled by these organisms. Tillage, fertilizer, livestock, pesticides, and other management tools can be used to improve soil health, or they can significantly damage soil health if not applied correctly. Managing for soil health (improved soil function) is mostly a matter of maintaining suitable habitat for the myriad of creatures that comprise the soil food web. Managing for soil health can be accomplished by disturbing the soil as little as possible, growing as many different species of plants as practical, keeping living plants in the soil as often as possible, and keeping the soil covered all the time.

Manage More by Disturbing Less

Tilling the soil is the equivalent of an earthquake, hurricane, tornado, and forest fire occurring simultaneously to the world of soil organisms. Simply stated, tillage is bad for the soil. Physical soil disturbance, such as tillage with a plow, disk, or chisel plow, that results in bare or compacted soil is destructive and disruptive to soil microbes and creates a hostile, instead of hospitable, place for them to live and work. The soil may also be disturbed chemically or biologically through the misuse of inputs, such as fertilizers and pesticides. This disrupts the symbiotic relationship between fungi, microorganisms and crop roots. By reducing nutrient inputs, we can take advantage of the nutrient cycles in the soil to supply crop nutrients and allow plants to make essential associations with soil organisms.

Managing for soil health is one of the easiest and most effective ways for farmers to increase crop productivity and profitability while improving the environment.

Results are often realized immediately, and last well into the future. Using these four basic principles is the key to improving the health of your soil.

1. Keep the soil covered as much as possible
2. Disturb the soil as little as possible
3. Keep plants growing throughout the year to feed the soil
4. Diversify as much as possible using crop rotation and cover crops

Use the checklist below to determine if you're using some or the core Soil Health Management System farming practices. These core practices form the basis of a Soil Health Management System that can help you optimize your inputs, protect against drought, and increase production.

Soil Health Management Systems Include:

What is it?		What does it do?	How does it help?
<p>Conservation Crop Rotation</p> <p>Growing a diverse number of crops in a planned sequence in order to increase soil organic matter and biodiversity in the soil.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases nutrient cycling • Manages plant pest (weeds, insects, and diseases) • Reduces sheet, rill, and wind erosion • Holds soil moisture • Adds diversity so soil microbes can thrive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improves nutrient use efficiency • Decreases use of pesticides • Improves water quality • Conserves water • Improves plant production
<p>Cover Crop</p> <p>An un-harvested crop grown as part of planned rotation to provide conservation benefits to the soil.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases soil organic matter • Prevents soil erosion • Conserves soil moisture • Increases nutrient cycling • Provides nitrogen for plant use • Suppresses weeds • Reduces compaction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improves crop production • Improves water quality • Conserves water • Improves nutrient use efficiency • Decreases use of pesticides • Improves water efficiency to crops
<p>No Till</p> <p>A way of growing crops without disturbing the soil through tillage.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improves water holding capacity of soils • Increases organic matter • Reduces soil erosion • Reduces energy use • Decreases compaction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improves water efficiency • Conserves water • Improves crop production • Improves water quality • Saves renewable resources • Improves air quality • Increases productivity
<p>Nutrient Management</p> <p>Managing soil nutrients to meet crop needs while minimizing the impact on the environment and the soil.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases plant nutrient uptake • Improves the physical, chemical, and biological properties of the soil • Budgets, supplies, and conserves nutrients for plant production • Reduces odors and nitrogen emissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improves water quality • Improves plant production • Improves air quality
<p>Pest Management</p> <p>Managing pests by following an ecological approach that promotes the growth of healthy plants with strong defenses, while increasing stress on pests and enhancing the habitat for beneficial organisms.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces pesticide risks to water quality • Reduces threat of chemicals entering the air • Decreases pesticide risk to pollinators and other beneficial organisms • Increases soil organic matter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improves water quality • Improves air quality • Increases plant pollination • Increases plant productivity

Pipestone Conservation & Zoning
119 2nd Ave. S.W. Ste. 13
Pipestone, MN 56164
507-825-6765

«FIRST» «LAST»
«HNUM» «STREET»
«CITY», MN «ZIP»



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



Pipestone SWCD – Board of Supervisors :

Ed Loll, Chairman

Anna Mae Fritz, Vice Chairman

Ian Cunningham , Secretary/Treasurer

Joyce LaBrune , Programs

Cal Spronk, PR&I

Pipestone Conservation & Zoning Staff :

Kyle Krier, Office Administrator

Stephanie LaBrune, Administrative Assistant

Adam Ossefoort, Conservationist

Natural Resources Conservation Service Staff :

Jerry Purdin, District Conservationist

Danielle Waldschmidt– Soil Conservationist

Trudy Jordahl - Office Assistant

Building Permits Required

Pipestone County would like to remind all residents that the Pipestone County Zoning ordinance requires a building permit to be obtained from the Conservation and Zoning Office prior to the Construction or Addition of any structure. This include Grain Bins, Barns, Shops, Machine sheds, Dwellings, Wind Turbines, and any other permanent structures or additions to existing structures.

A Building permit is needed to ensure your safety and compliance with regulations such as the Septic and Feedlot Ordinance as well as Local, State, and Federal Property & Road Setbacks and other regulation that may apply to a given structure.

If a building was constructed without a permit and found not in compliance Pipestone County may require it be removed. Please be sure to obtain your building permit prior to construction. After the fact Permits will be charged two times the permit fee.