

RICE SWCD CONSERVATION NEWS

Rice Soil and Water Conservation District, 1810 30th St. NW, Faribault, MN, 55021
www.riceswcd.org 507-332-5408



Wally Hildebrandt receives well-deserved award for "50" Years as Rice SWCD Supervisor



(Wally Hildebrandt and Robert Borchert)

Wally Hildebrandt received an award on December 16 for serving "50" years as a supervisor for the Rice Soil and Water Conservation District. Wally was nominated as a Rice SWCD supervisor in 1959, started serving his first term January 1, 1960, and has been re-elected every term since then. Besides being an Area Director for the eleven-county (Area 7) Southeast Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Wally was also president, at the state level, of the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Providing leadership as an active member of the Cannon River Watershed Partnership, the Rice County Planning Commission, and currently serving his third term as Chairman of the Hiawatha Valley Resource Conservation & Development are some of his many accomplishments towards changing agricultural policies and conserving soil and water resources at the area, state and national level. The Hildebrandt farm is in Richland Township where Wally and his wife Doris also raised seven children and have twelve grandchildren.

Inside this issue:

- Trees
- Nutrient Update
- 50 years of service for Wally Hildebrandt
- Conservation Awards for 2009
- NRCS report
- Rainfall totals for 2009 growing season

Rice SWCD Staff

Steven Pahs, District Manager
Tim Labs, District Program Manager
Debbie Skarupa, District Secretary
Danielle Waldschmidt, District Technician
Adam Arndt, Nutrient Management Specialist

Natural Resources Conservation Service Staff

Thomas Coffman, District Conservationist
Kelly Oliver, Soil Conservation Technician

Tri-Lakes Sportsmen's Club is Outstanding Conservationist



(Greg Duban, Pat Rickards, Gary Novotny from the Tri-Lakes Sportsmen's Club & Paula Mohr from The Farmer magazine.)

2009 Outstanding Conservationist Award

The Outstanding Conservationist Award is given to groups or individuals who have demonstrated a strong commitment to soil and water conservation in Rice County. This year, we selected the Tri-Lakes Sportsmen's Club. They have been active in various conservation projects throughout the past 40 years including youth education, wildlife habitat and land acquisition. Congratulations to all the members of the club for your outstanding work!

2010 Tree Program

We are now accepting tree and shrub orders for spring of 2010. We sell on a first-come, first-served basis, so order early to make sure you get what you want! This year we have the highly desired Princeton American Elm available. Until now, you could not get this Dutch Elm disease resistant tree in bare root seedlings. The Princeton Elm is a true elm, not a hybrid, and is a vigorous grower. Other new trees/ shrubs we have on our list include Butternut, Nannyberry, and larger sizes of Black Hills Spruce and Norway Spruce. Use the order form in the newsletter or fill one out from our website at www.riceswcd.org.

Need help with planning a new windbreak for your building site? We would be happy to recommend trees, spacing, and designs for you at no cost! We can also give you ideas for wildlife plantings and riparian buffers. Give us a call at 507-332-5408.

Wildlife Enhancement Award



(Sally & Bernie Rosckes - Richard Huston)

Since 2006, Rice SWCD has recognized individuals who have done extraordinary work in enhancing and protecting wildlife. This year the award was given to Sally and Bernie Rosckes. The Rosckes' have done many conservation practices over the years including: upland nesting cover, a 30 acre wetland restoration, hardwood tree plantings, native prairie grasses, Conservation Reserve Program, wildlife tree plantings and food plots.

Drainage Ditch Report

Since May 2008, Rice SWCD has served as the ditch inspector for all public drainage ditch systems in Rice County. The single biggest problem we have seen on the majority of ditches is the overgrowth of trees in the ditch corridor. Trees do not belong in drainage ditches. They inhibit cleanout efforts and some species like boxelder contribute to soil erosion and unstable banks. Tree removal is very expensive, and the cheapest way to deal with them is to maintain grass cover along the ditch. Our goal over the next few years is to restore the ditch banks by removing the trees and following up with chemical control for new growth.

Soil erosion and bank sloughing is also a common problem. Landowners can help reduce this problem by establishing grass buffers along the ditch. Call us for information about conservation programs available for buffer strips along any ditch or stream.

Cleanouts and culvert replacement is perhaps the most common question we get. In general, the policy on culverts is that if a culvert is failing and was part of the original construction of the ditch, we will replace it and the cost will be picked up by the drainage system. If a culvert was installed by a private landowner, they are responsible for upkeep and replacement. With cleanouts, we will sometimes do a survey to determine where the problem areas are, and then hire a contractor to perform the work. If the project is large, a hearing may be requested.

For more information or specific questions about public ditches, please give us a call or stop by our office and we will be glad to hear your concerns.

Raingarden Recap: Last summer over 15 raingardens were installed in Rice County through a grant from MN Waters. A raingarden is a shallow depression that is positioned to collect rain water. The water that enters a raingarden is either used by the plants or percolates through the soil. Interested in installing a raingarden? Winter is the perfect time to start planning a raingarden. See: www.bluethumb.org.

NRCS is now taking EQIP & CSP Applications

NRCS is now taking applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). EQIP provides technical and financial assistance for practices such as terraces, water and sediment control basins, grassed waterways, feedlot fixes, nutrient management, no-till residue management, well sealing, and buckthorn removal.

CSP is a new voluntary program that launched in 2009. CSP encourages producers by providing annual payments to maintain existing conservation practices while adopting additional ones on their operations. CSP is available on cropland, woodlands, and pasture. Please contact Tom or Kelly for additional information at 507-334-1887 x3.

Maintenance Reminder:

NRCS Staff would like to remind landowners and producers with terraces and water and sediment control basins to remove volunteer trees. Trees and shrubs will root into the drainage tile and damage the tile. Please cut and remove the trees and treat the stumps to prevent re-sprouting.

**RE-INVEST IN MINNESOTA (RIM)
RESERVE SIGNUP**

We are currently taking signups for the RIM program for filter strips located adjacent to public waters defined as streams, ditches and lakes. The acreage must be currently enrolled in the CRP program under a riparian buffer filter strip. Other criteria include:

- * Permanent easements only
- * Buffer widths must be a minimum of 50 feet and no more than 100 feet maximum average
- *Must be owned by the applicant for 1 year prior to application

Contact the SWCD office at 507-332-5408 for payment rates or questions.

Marginal Cropland Areas May be Eligible for CCRP

The USDA is offering a program through the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) called Farmable Wetland Program (FWP). FWP allows landowners with areas difficult to farm due to flooding or pooling of storm water, an opportunity to enroll eligible acres in exchange for annual rental and incentive payments. The purpose of FWP is to restore the functions and values of wetlands that have been devoted to agricultural use.

Landowners enrolling cropland into FWP agree to sign a 10 or 15 year contract in exchange for annual rental payments, incentive payments and cost share for installing necessary practices.


If you are interested in FWP or other CCRP practices, please call the office at 507-332-5408 or stop in with any questions.



A special thank you to our rain gauge readers in 2009. Precipitation measurements help predict flood levels, crop maturity and long-term climate changes, just to name a few. See www.climate.umn.edu for other interesting weather facts.

First	Last	Start	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Totals
Mark	Bauer	April 1, 2000	2.54	1.50	4.11	2.79	7.70	1.05	6.55	26.24
David	Doneux	July 1, 1998	1.89	1.08	4.09	2.48	7.59	0.83	6.13	24.09
Leonard	Duffney	April 1, 2005	1.53	0.90	3.97	1.43	6.10	0.98	5.51	20.42
Rene	Koester	May 1, 1991	1.90	1.21	4.55	2.34	6.87	0.68	6.45	24.00
Virgil	Luehrs	April 1, 2006	1.75	1.35	3.17	2.81	5.73	1.03	5.69	21.53
Wm	Malecha	April 1, 1979	1.58	1.13	4.32	1.73	7.34	0.78	6.42	23.30
Joy	Meschke	May 1, 1993	1.97	1.19	3.80	3.53	2.98	0.70	6.62	20.79
Peggy	Radtke	April 1, 1979	2.27	2.32	4.52	2.10	5.67	1.12	5.09	23.09
Rice SWCD		April 1, 2008	1.97	1.33	3.77	2.13	5.73	0.76	6.18	21.87
Elgin	Trcka	April 1, 2008	2.15	1.68	3.55	2.95	7.13	0.80	5.95	24.21
Wayne	Winjum	June 1, 1991	2.22	1.80	4.19	3.39	5.26	1.01	5.73	23.60
	Growing Season Totals		21.77	15.49	44.04	27.68	68.10	9.74	66.32	253.14
	Averages		1.98	1.41	4.00	2.52	6.19	0.89	6.03	23.01

The Rice Soil and Water Conservation District thanks the following businesses for supporting this newsletter:

 <p>KEVIN ELLINGSON WEST CONCORD, MN 55985 OFFICE: 888-527-2294 CELL: 507-259-6890 FAX: 507-527-2296 kevin27@ellingsondrainage.com</p> <p>Septic License #077 LICA Contractor #000-038-1000 www.ellingsondrainage.com</p>	 <p>60731 120th Avenue • Claremont, MN 55924 Phone: 507.528.2225 or 877.528.2225 • Fax 507.528.2210 www.hodgmandrainage.com</p>	 <p>507-527-2444</p> <p>Larry Ellingson Eldon Ellingson Cell 507-951-2279 Cell 507-951-2276 Home 507-527-2512 Home 507-527-2128</p>	
<p>HOYSLER REAL ESTATE SERVICE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm Management & Consultation • Sale or Purchase of Ag Land <p>1400 Cannon Circle, Suite 2, Faribault 507-332-8211 frontdesk@hoysler.com Serving you since 1958</p>	<p>LICA certification # 0411000</p>   <p>Estrem Excavating, Inc. 4605 County 49 Blvd. • Dennison, MN 55018 Re-shaping the earth since 1969</p> <p>Don Estrem Office: 507-789-5725 Cell: 507-458-5325</p>	<p>Terry Barker Construction</p>  <p><u>Heavy Equipment Operator</u> *Septic System Designer/Installer *Basements/Driveways *Road Building *SCS Terraces/Waterways *Wildlife Ponds/Restoration *Hog/Dairy Building Sites/Manure Ponds</p> <p>Terry Barker 49431 193rd Ave. Waterville, MN 56096 Phone & Fax: (507) 362-8659</p>	
 <p>507-685-2148</p> <p><i>Dable Enterprises</i></p> <p>State Certified Complete Septic Service Pumping, Design, Repairs, New Installation Excavating, Basements Dug, Farm Drainage</p> <p>25525 Independence Ave, P.O. Box 247 Morristown, MN 55052-0247 • Fax 507-685-2152</p> <p>TROY Home 507-685-2369 JEFF Home 507-685-2129</p>			

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