1. **COMPLIANCE TRACKING OF ALL PARCELS SUBJECT TO THE BUFFER LAW**
   All parcels in the county are to be reviewed within a 3-year timeframe. The Rice SWCD will review 1/3 of all parcels each year. See Attachment A.

2. **RANDOM SPOT CHECKS**
   Random spot checks will be done in addition to the tracking of all parcels within a 3 year span. These checks may be conducted via aerial photo review or on-site review depending on availability of updated aerial photos and the practice that is being checked/access to farms. A combination of both aerial and on-site review may also be used.
   
   a. The SWCD will conduct 25 parcels on a random spot check each year outside of the scheduled area.
   
   b. Additionally, the SWCD will review parcels of emphasis more frequently.
      
      - Previously non-compliant
      - No-till/Conservation tillage or cover crop alternative practice plans
      - Variable width buffers (i.e. Land O’ Lakes buffer tool, Decision Support Tool)
      - Other Alternative Practice Plans
      - Cost-share funded projects (years 1,3,9 of contract)
      - Parcels of further emphasis (potential violators)

3. **PROCESS TO HANDLE COMPLAINTS**
   When the Rice SWCD receives a complaint from a private individual, entity, or public agency, the SWCD shall determine whether the parcel is in compliance by conducting an investigation, which may include, but is not limited to: evaluating any available and relevant documentation; evaluating or inspecting the buffer; considering any alternative practices. If the parcel is found to be non-compliant, the Rice SWCD will issue a notification of non-compliance to the landowner, Rice County, and the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources.
Attachment A
Rice SWCD Buffer Monitoring Areas