

CONSERVATION CHRONICLES

Winter 2011

2012 Tree Order
Form Inside



FILLMORE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

900 Washington Street NW
Preston, Minnesota 55965

Phone: 507-765-3878
Fax: 507-765-4415
www.fillmoreswcd.org

Mathison Families Named 2011 Area and County Outstanding Conservationist

Larry and Irene Mathison and Loren and Carrie Mathison of Preston have been chosen as the 2011 Fillmore County Outstanding Conservationists of the Year. In addition, the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) has named the Mathison families as one of eight Area Finalists in the 2011 Outstanding Conservationists Award program. The State Outstanding Conservationists award winner will be announced at the MASWCD annual meeting set for December 4-6 at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Bloomington. The state's SWCDs are currently recognizing accomplishments in implementing conservation practices and improving Minnesota's natural resources.

The Mathison's own and rent a total of 880 acres of crop ground which is mainly a corn-soybean-hay-oats rotation that is adapted to match their landscape. They maintain 170 acres of hay, some of which is in strips that were laid out twenty-five years ago. The Mathisons have about 90 cows that are rotationally grazed in 11 paddocks on three farms in addition to 70 head of cattle that are in lots for part of the year. They installed feedlot runoff practices which include a cement wall, picket fence, roof gutters, a berm, freshwater diversion and filter strips.

Buffers are maintained along 4,378 feet of Canfield Creek that flows through the Mathison property. They have installed 41,990 feet or 27.4 acres of grassed waterways on both land they own and rent. Eighteen acres of CRP on their steepest cropland has been maintained for 17 years.

In 2005, the Mathisons hosted a manure application and equipment field day in cooperation with the University of Minnesota Extension Service and the Fillmore SWCD.



Pictured L to R: Larry & Irene Mathison, Irene's Dad, Charlie Fravel, Carrie & Loren Mathison

**The Fillmore SWCD is proud to recognize the ongoing efforts of the
Mathison families to be good stewards of the land.**

District Board

Pamela Mensink.....Chair
Leonard Leutink.....Vice Chair
Travis Willford.....Treasurer
Brian Hazel.....Secretary
Tim Gossman.....Supervisor

The SWCD's role

The function of the Soil and Water Conservation District is to take available technical, financial and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land user.

District Staff.....

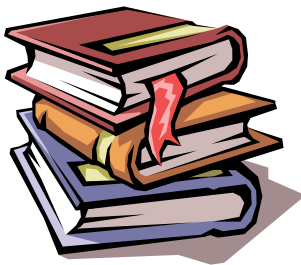
Donna Rasmussen Rick Grooters
Doug Keene Jeanette Serfling
Dean Thomas Joe Magee
Anne Koliha Dawn Bernau
Jennifer Ronnenberg Ryan Thesing

The Fillmore SWCD offers:

- Low interest loan dollars
- State cost-share dollars for waterways, terraces, farmstead windbreaks and ponds
- Feedlot cost-share assistance
- Nutrient Management Plans
- Manure Spreader Calibration
- Grazing Management Plans
- Tree Program
- Bacteria Testing
- Plat Book Sales

College Scholarship Recipient Announced...

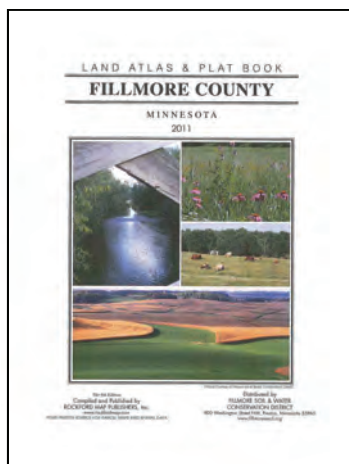
Each year the Fillmore Soil and Water Conservation District awards a \$500 scholarship to a returning college sophomore, junior or senior pursuing a degree in Natural Resources, Agriculture or related field, who is enrolled in the fall semester of classes and has not been a prior recipient of an SWCD scholarship.



Abigail Stocker of Peterson was chosen as the 2011 recipient. Abigail is currently attending Bethel University and hopes to combine her love of words with her enthusiasm for the

outdoors and environmental stewardship, as possibly an environmental writer for a magazine or national park.

Congratulations Abigail and best wishes in your future endeavors!



New 2011 Plat Book Available...

The new 2011 Fillmore County Land Atlas and Plat Book is now available for purchase at the Fillmore SWCD office. Plat books are a great reference tool not only for landowners, but for business owners as well. The plat book accurately displays boundaries, roadways, railways, section lines, municipal boundaries, acreages and an index to owners. An aerial map lies opposite each township parcel map, and is very useful in providing a quick gauge to the use of a particular parcel. Copies of the new plat book are available for purchase at the SWCD office for \$30.00. Please call (507) 765-3878 ext. 3 for pricing for non-printable CDs or individual township maps. The new plat book was produced by Rockford Map Publishers, located in Belvidere, Illinois.

2012 Tree Sales are Now Underway....

The Fillmore Soil and Water Conservation District is once again conducting its annual Tree Sales Program.

The District offers a variety of bare-root and potted trees and shrubs. Order your trees and shrubs early for the best selection, as quantities are limited. The SWCD sells good quality trees, but offers no guarantee of survival.

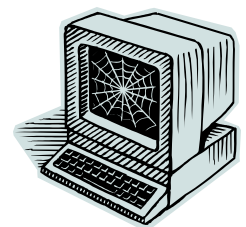


If you would like to order a tree or shrub not listed on our order form, please call our office at (507) 765-3878 ext. 3 and we will check availability from our supplier.

Payment in full is required with your order and should be received at the SWCD office by **February 24, 2012**. The tree order form is included in this newsletter or it can be found on our website at www.fillmoreswcd.org.

Check us out on the web at:

www.fillmoreswcd.org





Fillmore SWCD
 900 Washington Street NW
 Preston, MN 55965
 507-765-3878 Ext. 3
www.fillmoreswcd.org

**2012
 Tree Order
 Form**

Name: _____ Phone: _____
 Address: _____ Alternate Phone: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____ E-mail Address: _____

	Variety	Size	Trees per bundle	Bundle Price	# of Bundles	Cost
Shrubs	Common Purple Lilac	18"-24"	25	\$25.00		
	*Redosier Dogwood	18"-24"	25	\$24.00		
	*Red Splendor Crabapple	18"-24"	25	\$26.00		
	*American Cranberrybush	18"-24"	25	\$38.00		
	*Common Chokecherry	18"-24"	25	\$24.00		
	Ninebark	18"-24"	25	\$30.00		
	*Juneberry	18"-24"	25	\$29.00		
Deciduous Trees	Red Maple	2'-3'	25	\$37.00		
	*Black Walnut	18"-24"	25	\$30.00		
	Sugar Maple	2'-3'	25	\$37.00		
	*Red Oak	18"-24"	25	\$33.00		
	*Bur Oak	18"-24"	25	\$29.00		
	*White Oak	6"-12"	25	\$33.00		
	*Hackberry	18"-24"	25	\$29.00		
Bare Root Conifers	American Hazelnut	18"-24"	25	\$30.00		
	*Black Hills Spruce	8"-12"	25	\$33.00		
	Norway Spruce	7"-15"	25	\$30.00		
	*White Pine	7"-15"	25	\$30.00		
	*Red Pine	7"-15"	25	\$30.00		
Potted Conifers	American Arborvitae	12"-18"	25	\$38.00		
	*Black Hills Spruce	18"-24"	Each	\$13.00		
	Dark Green Arborvitae	18"-24"	Each	\$13.00		
	Techny Arborvitae	18"-24"	Each	\$13.00		
	Norway Spruce	18"-24"	Each	\$13.00		
Supplies	White Spruce	18"-24"	Each	\$13.00		
	Tree Mat (1-3' x 3' mat w/5 staples)		Each	\$2.00		
	Fertilizer Packet		Each	\$.30		
					TOTAL	\$

Please note: All Prices Include Sales Tax

*Approved for CRP plantings

Payment in full is due with order. Make checks payable to **FILLMORE SWCD** and mail to **900 Washington St. NW, Preston, MN 55965**. The SWCD sells good quality trees, but offers no guarantee of survival.

Order Deadline: February 24, 2012

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Date Received: _____	Paid In Full
Cash _____	Check # _____
Invoice # _____	

SHRUBS

VARIETY	SIZE	MATURITY SIZE	DESCRIPTION
Common Purple Lilac	18" - 24"	10'-15'	A fast growing shrub with giant purple clusters of fragrant blooms in spring.
Redosier Dogwood	18" - 24"	10' - 15'	Attractive red stems with creamy-white flowers followed by white berries. Red twigs create winter color. Tolerates most any location, growing in moist soils and in sun or shade. Excellent wildlife food source and cover.
Red Splendor Crabapple	18" - 24"	15' - 25'	Tree of open graceful upright spreading habit. Reddish-green glossy foliage turns reddish-purple in fall. Very persistent fruits are dark red and showy.
American Cranberry Bush	18" - 24"	16'	Dark green turning bright red in fall. Pair of reddish glands on petiole near base of leaf. White flowers in large flat-topped clusters bloom in June.
Common Chokecherry	18" - 24"	20' - 30'	Purple foliage color; new leaves emerge green and turn purple as they mature. Small white flower in May; small, reddish-purple fruit relished by birds. Plants naturally form many root suckers. Prefers well-drained soils.
Common Ninebark	18" - 24"	5' - 9'	Moderately fast growing shrub, moderately tolerant of shade and will grow in a variety of soils. Has a spirea-like flower in spring. After the petals fall, the bladder fruit forms changing from green to russet. Golden yellow fall leaf color. Good food-great nectar source, fruits eaten by birds.
Juneberry	18" - 24"	8'	Most popular for its fruit production, is a hardy native of the Great Plains.

Deciduous Trees

Red Maple	2' - 3'	40' - 60'	An excellent landscape tree. It has an oval to round crown, smooth gray bark as a young tree and red flowers in very early spring. The lobed leaves are a nice bright green and develop beautiful fall colors ranging from yellow to orange to vivid red. Requires full sun for best results. Moderately fast growing.
Black Walnut	18" - 24"	70' - 100'	Tall with deeply fissured brown bark. Important timber tree. Fast growing. Prefers moist, well drained soils. Nuts eaten by squirrels and red and gray fox.
Sugar Maple	2' - 3'	60' - 80'	The largest of our native maples, somewhat slow-growing but desirable for symmetrical form and bright fall colors. Very hardy. Prefers rich, well-drained soil.
Red Oak	18" - 24"	60' - 80'	Fastest grower of the oaks. Does best on moist or well-drained sites in full sun. Dense, lustrous foliage. Red to reddish-brown fall color. Valuable wood products tree. Acorns provide excellent wildlife food source.
Bur Oak	18" - 24"	50' - 80'	Large, hardy, long-lived tree. Slow growing. Prefers adequate moisture and clean cultivation.
White Oak	18" - 24"	50' - 70'	Does best on slightly moist to well-drained sites. Requires full sun. Valuable wood products tree. Acorns provide excellent wildlife food source. Purplish-red autumn color. Moderate growth rate.
Hackberry	18" - 24"	40' - 60'	Prefers moist loam soil but tolerates both wet and dry sites. Has purplish-brown fruit and is readily eaten by birds and other wildlife.
American Hazelnut	18' - 24"	8' - 15'	Grows in dry or moist wooded areas in full sun to partial shade. Has a male and female flower on one tree. Male flowers are showy yellowish brown catkins and female flowers appear in small reddish inconspicuous catkins. Nuts are commonly left for the squirrels and birds. Fall color ranges from orange, rose, purplish red, yellow and green to undistinguished, dull yellowish green.

Bare Root Conifers

Black Hills Spruce	8" = 12"	40' - 80'	Noted for its dark green foliage and conical form. Slower growing. Prefers heavier soils, adequate moisture, and clean cultivation
Norway Spruce	7" - 15"	40' - 60'	Hardy. Does best on moist to well-drained soils. Shade tolerant. Fastest growing of the spruce trees. Attractive drooping branches.
White Pine	7" - 15"	50' - 80'	Needles are 3"-5" long, very soft and flexible, and bluish-green color. Grows well in rich, moist soil, but does best in moist, sandy loams. Full to partial shade. Good lumber tree.
Red Pine (Norway)	7" - 15"	50' - 80'	Needles are 4" - 6" long, flexible and a dark yellow-green color. Prefers well-drained soils. Prefers moist soils, but will tolerate dry conditions. Shade intolerant. Moderate to rapid growth.
American Arborvitae	12" - 18"	15' - 25'	Vigorous growing pyramidal tree developing a broad base and medium height. Foliage retains its dark green color year round. It has a medium growth rate.

Potted Conifers

Black Hills Spruce	18" - 24"	40' - 80'	Noted for its dark green foliage and conical form. Slower growing. Prefers heavier soils, adequate moisture and clean cultivation.
Dark Green Arborvitae	18" - 24"	40' - 60'	Vigorous growing. Prefers full sun to partial shade. More narrow in habit. 8' - 10' wide mature width.
Techny Arborvitae	18" - 24"	15' - 20'	Compact, broad-based, upright, conical-pyramidal conifer. Dark green foliage that doesn't turn yellow in winter. Prefers full sun to partial shade.
Norway Spruce	18" - 24"	40' - 60'	Hardy. Does best on moist to well-drained soils. Shade tolerant. Fastest growing of the spruce trees. Attractive drooping branches.
White Spruce	18" - 24"	40' - 60'	Needles are 1/3" - 3/4" long and blue-green in color. Hardy. Does best in moist, well-drained, gravelly soils. Quite tolerant of hot, dry summers. Fairly rapid growth rate. Tolerant of considerable shade. Good wildlife cover.

Miscellaneous Supplies

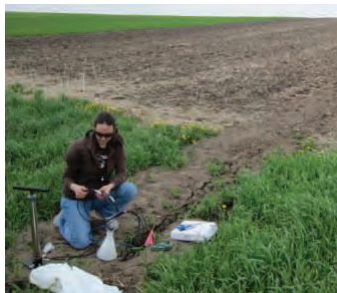
Tree Mat	1 - 3' x 3' mat with 5 sod staples. Mats block 92% of the sunlight to kill weeds and grasses for up to three years. By controlling weeds, each seedling can access all the water, minerals and nutrients available in the soil.		
Fertilizer Packet (16-6-8)	Controlled-release coating dissolves only when the soil is warm and moist, the time when nutrients and water can be absorbed and used efficiently. These packets release nutrients over a period of 12 months.		

Trees will be available in April, 2012. Postcards will be mailed in early April notifying you of pick-up date and time.

Nutrient Management Research Project Updates...

In the next couple of months the Fillmore Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Minnesota Department Agriculture (MDA), Minnesota Extension and Winona State University will be putting together data that has been collected in 2011 from three different research projects. The three projects all relate to nutrient management. Check the SWCD website this winter for future publications and project updates or contact Dawn Bernau, Nutrient Management Specialist at the SWCD office. Also, don't forget about updating your 2011/2012 Nutrient Management Plans (NMP). If you are in need of assistance for a NMP or to calibrate your manure spreader, contact Dawn Bernau at the SWCD office at (507) 765-3878 ext. 3.

Southeastern Minnesota Soil Water Monitoring Network: This network is a set of sites in southeast Minnesota where soil water nutrient concentrations were measured throughout 2011. This network includes several different land use practices, soil types, and geology found in southeast Minnesota. They range from agriculture, forest, prairie, urban, residential, and golf course settings. At each site lysimeters were installed to sample the water in the soil profile. These lysimeters were buried in the soil at a four foot depth. A vacuum created inside the lysimeter draws water into an internal chamber through a porous ceramic tip. The water is retrieved through a small sampling line at the surface of the soil. What are we monitoring? The network sites will evaluate the amount of nitrogen leaching below the root zone of our soils. How will the data be used? Our goal is to understand how our land management plans can be optimized to benefit the economy of our region and the quality of our water resources. The monitoring network is NOT designed, or intended, to yield data that can be used for regulatory enforcement purposes. This information will not be used to draw specific conclusions about one site as compared to another; rather it will be used to get a general idea of how our landscape works.

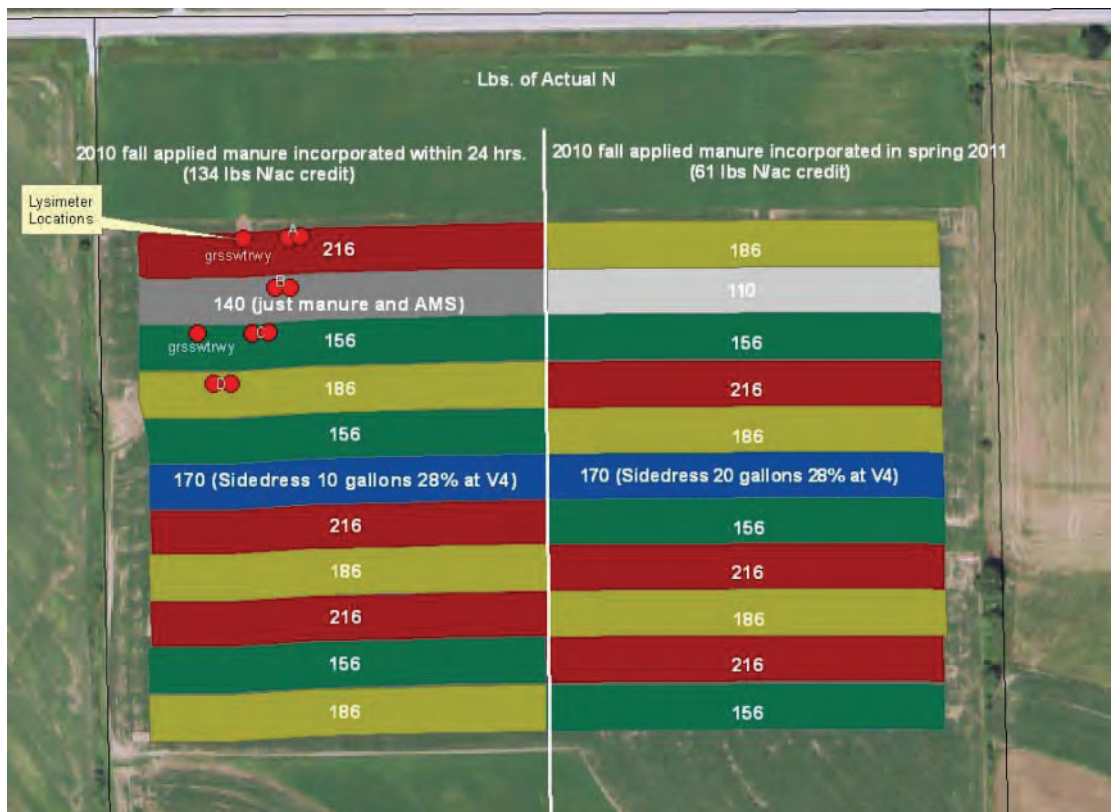


Nutrient Management Research Project Updates (cont'd)...

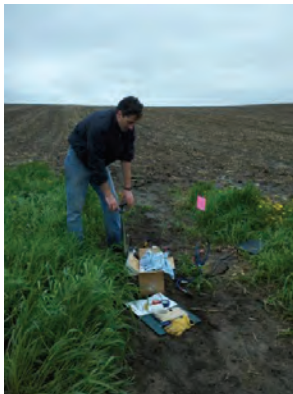
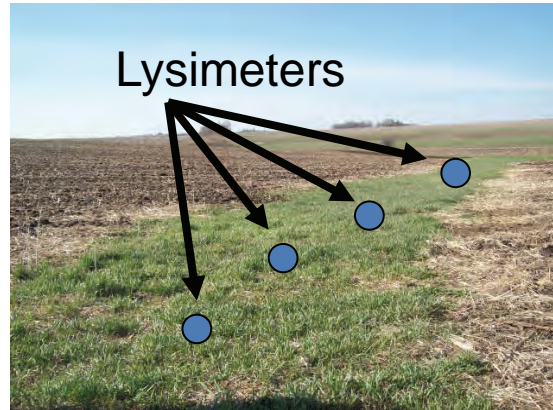
End of Season Basal Stalk Nitrate Test (BSNT) Watson Creek Watershed Project: The BSNT test was taken on a variety of corn fields within the Watson Creek Watershed this fall. The plan is to do BSNT tests on these same fields over the next few years. What is a BSNT test? It is a tissue test conducted at the end of the growing season (after black layer). There is a relationship between stalk nitrate concentration and relative yield. When collected over a variety of growing seasons, this tool can be used to help improve nitrogen management and profitability. How is the sample taken? They are taken one to three weeks after black layer. An 8 inch segment of stalk is cut 6 inches above the soil surface and the leaf sheaths are removed. Ten stalk segments are taken per sample. In summary, the stalk nitrate test is a tool that can help fine-tune future nitrogen management decisions. Basing future nitrogen rate decisions solely on one year's stalk nitrate values could result in poor decisions. The BSNT test is probably best suited for identifying fields/situations where soil nitrogen uptake was consistently excessive (no yield benefit), thus, costly to the grower and possibly the environment. The BSNT test is especially well suited for fields that are in a corn/corn rotation with manure. This test is especially informative and educational when combined with an N-rate comparison plot and soil water nitrate monitoring equipment (lysimeters).

Manure Plot: "Validating the Optimal Amount of Nitrogen for Continuous Corn on Solid Pack Manured Soils as Affected by Rate, Form and Timing of Incorporation." The goal of this project will attempt to validate University of Minnesota nitrogen recommendations for corn following corn with recently applied solid-pack dairy steer manure. This is a cooperative project with Fillmore SWCD, MDA and Minnesota Extension Service. Funding for this project was provided by the Conservation Technology Information Center and the administration was provided by Minnesota Agricultural Water Resources Coalition. The plot consists of two test plots (11 acres each) located side by side. Test plot one has manure incorporated within 12 hours and test plot two the manure was not incorporated. There were three different nitrogen rates replicated three times across the entire plot and one side dress strip (156 lbs N/ac, 186 lbs N/ac, 216 lbs N/ac, 170 lbs N/ac side dress strip, and a check strip with just starter and manure). Also collected were manure tests, grid soil samples, residual and spring soil nitrate tests, pre-side dress soil nitrate tests, BSNT tests, color imagery taken in mid-August to identify areas of possible nitrogen deficiency, soil water monitoring (lysimeters) to evaluate relative nitrate losses from the root zone, and geo-referenced yield mapping at harvest using an AgLeader monitor. The urea

was applied using an air-flow applicator and Raven Controller; the side dress UAN was applied with a side dress coultter cart. The three hypotheses are 1) that the 156 pounds of nitrogen rate will optimize yield and economics, 2) there should also be no significant difference between the incorporated test plot and the non-incorporated test plot (commercial nitrogen application rates will take into account nitrogen availability differences), and 3) the side dress nitrogen based on the pre-side dress soil nitrate test will optimize yield and economics.



Nutrient Management Research Project Updates (cont'd)...



Ag BMP Low Interest Loan...

Loan dollars are available at 3% interest to encourage water quality protection. These funds are to be used for existing water quality problems.

Such eligible practices include:

- improvements to animal waste control facilities
- manure handling equipment
- terraces, grassed waterways, structural erosion control structures
- no-till equipment
- improvements to individual sewage treatment systems
- sealing of unused wells
- Construction of new wells due to contamination or a need to meet setbacks for a septic system or feedlot



To start the loan application, bring in a written estimate of the project to be done and fill out an application form at the Fillmore SWCD Office. These funds are limited and are on a first come, first serve basis. For further information or to apply for the loan, contact the Fillmore SWCD Office at 507-765-3878 Extension 3.

WHAT'S IN YOUR CONSERVATION PLAN?

It's up to individual farmers to decide how to best manage their land. Many choose to voluntarily develop a conservation plan to improve productivity, sustainability and profitability of their operations. If their operation includes highly erodible land (HEL), a conservation plan can help maintain eligibility for USDA programs. A Conservation Planning Specialist is now on staff in the SWCD office to update conservation plans free of charge to the farmer.

Some of the USDA programs and services affected by having and following a conservation plan when required by the federal Farm Bill include Commodity Credit Corporation Storage Payments, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Conservation Security Program (CSP), Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP), Emergency and Disaster Assistance Programs, Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), loan programs, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP), Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC), and Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP). Tracts not in compliance and having soil erosion rates over what is allowed can lead to ineligibility for benefits from these programs. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA) are required by law to do random status reviews on a number of tracts each year to determine compliance with HEL and wetland conservation regulations.

These requirements come from provisions enacted in the 1985 Food Security Act. All farmers producing agricultural commodities on highly erodible land were to fully implement an approved conservation plan by January 1, 1995 to remain eligible for certain farm program benefits. At the time the Farm Bill was enacted, opinion surveys showed a growing portion of the general public, and even the farm community, supported the idea that farmers who receive Federal assistance should be required to meet societal standards for environmental quality. In the years following 1985, conservation plans were written and approved for all tracts in the county with highly erodible land. Since that time, few of those plans have been updated even though farming practices have changed dramatically in the past 25 years. Hay is no longer a part of many crop rotations. Non-cultivated cropland dropped by 28 percent from 1982 to 1997 according to the USDA National Resources Inventory. It is estimated that one third of hay acres were replaced by soybean production. In terms of pastureland, there was a 22 percent drop during that period. Pasture acres are often steeper and not suitable

for row crop production. With a reduction in the more resource conserving land uses, especially on steeper ground, the risks for soil loss increase.



No till can help meet T on highly erodible land

Soil erosion not only reduces soil productivity with the loss of nutrients and organic matter, but also has negative downstream effects on aquatic habitat and landowners whose fields are covered with silt and sand during floods. The Root River has one of the heaviest sediment loads in the Upper Mississippi Basin. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers data shows that the cost for dredging pool 8 of the Mississippi River, into which the Root River is the only major contributing tributary, averages \$750,000 per year.

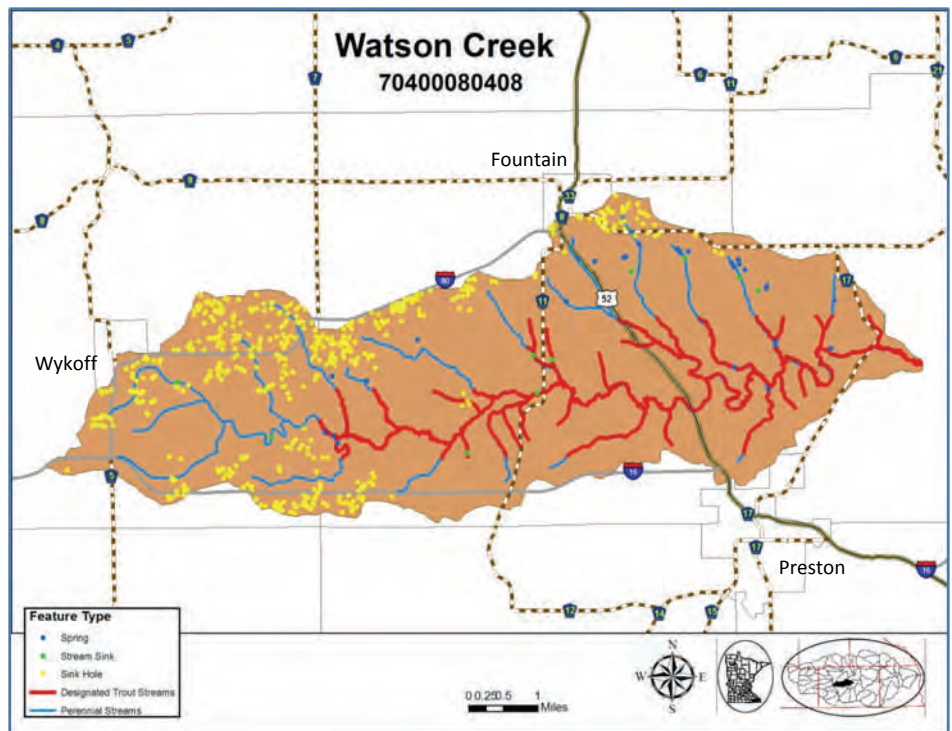
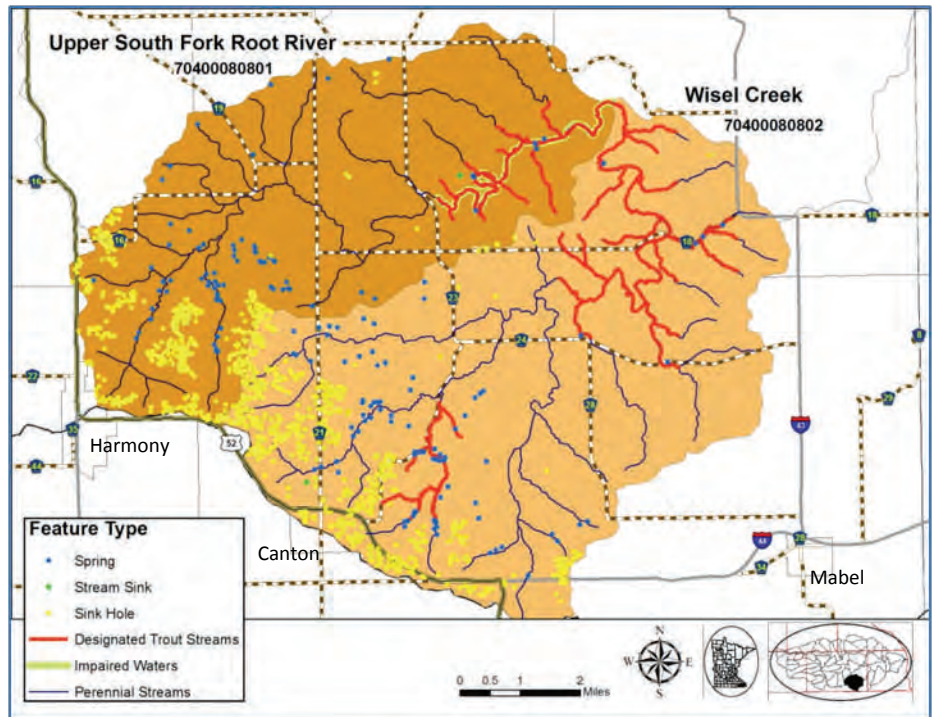
Sometimes the increase in erosion in a field is almost imperceptible. Consider that 1 ton of soil loss per acre is only the thickness of a dime across that acre. Most of the soil types in Fillmore County have a 3-5 ton per acre soil loss tolerance (T) which means that 3-5 tons of soil can be lost each year without affecting a soil's productivity. This is a number that is difficult to understand just by looking at a field. However, if erosion is visible, then soil productivity is being affected. The best way to determine soil loss rates is a calculation called the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE). RUSLE takes into account the characteristics of each soil type and the management practices used on the land to calculate soil loss rates. For example, conversion from hay and pasture can be offset by management practices, such as maintaining residue cover or planting cover crops, to get erosion rates to T.

Having an updated conservation plan helps a farmer to ensure that erosion rates are not exceeding what the soil type can tolerate to maintain productivity. Conservation plans that haven't been updated since they were first written probably do not reflect what is actually happening on the land so land may be eroding at rates higher than expected. If you would like your conservation plan updated, contact our office at 507-765-3878, ext. 3, to set up an appointment with the Conservation Planning Specialist. If you are contacted by the SWCD, please consider taking advantage of this service while it is available.

COST SHARE PROGRAM SIGNUP INFORMATION...

The signup period for the federal cost share programs EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program) and WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program) is ongoing, but applications on file will be ranked in January, so anyone wanting a project done in the next year should have an application in by the end of the year. This includes signup for regular annual funding for these programs and for special allocations made for Watson Creek watershed, the Upper South Fork Root River/Wisel Creek (see maps), and Rush-Pine Creek under the Mississippi River Basin Initiative (MRBI). Most practices are cost shared at 75% of the eligible costs of the practice. Stream bank stabilization projects on trout streams or in trout stream watersheds have the potential to get additional funding from Trout Unlimited. Cover crops on corn silage, canning crop, and soybean acres are eligible for funding through EQIP plus additional funding from The Nature Conservancy.

The MRBI funding is only available for two more fiscal years (FY2012 and 2013) and targets practices that reduce nutrient runoff from ag land. These include nutrient management planning, grassed waterways, sediment control basins, no till, contour strips, terraces, and several other conservation practices including forestry and wildlife practices. Because the funds are focused on these smaller watersheds, there is less competition for the funding so it is anticipated that all applications can be funded. Contact the SWCD office at 765-3878 for more information about these program funds or state cost share funding programs.



New Face At the Fillmore SWCD...

My name is Ryan Thesing, and I am the new Conservation Planning Specialist for the Fillmore SWCD. I grew up on a small dairy farm located just outside of Lewiston, MN. I attended college at Mankato State University, and earned a degree in Environment Science. While in college I worked on many different conservation/natural resources related topics. I worked with the Water Resource Center located on the Mankato State University campus doing studies on macro-invertebrates, fish, and water quality issues within the Minnesota River Watersheds. I also interned at the Blue Earth County SWCD and NRCS, where I did a variety of work helping with conservation practices, easements, and program implementation.



As the Conservation Planning Specialist my main duties will be updating conservation plans and helping out technicians when needed. I will focus my efforts in the MRBI watersheds, but will also be working throughout the county updating conservation plans. If you feel that your conservation plan is old or outdated, don't hesitate to call me at the conservation office to discuss updating your plan. Updating your plan has many benefits such as better land productivity, reduced soil loss, attracts wildlife, and makes you eligible for USDA farms programs. I look forward to meeting with producers and helping promote conservation in Fillmore County.

Hispanic and Women Farmers...

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established. If you believe that the United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation. For additional information on this and other settlement issues contact:

- **Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims process, please visit:**
www.farmerclaims.gov or call 1-888-508-4429
- **Pigford—The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation, please visit:**
www.blackfarmercase.com or call 1-866-950-5547
- **Keepseagle—The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement, please visit:**
www.IndianFarmClass.com or call 1-888-233-5506

For further information, contact Tammy Martin, County Executive Director, Fillmore Farm Service Agency Office at (507) 765-3892.

Wishing you and your family a
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year!

