

**FILLMORE SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

900 Washington Street NW
Preston, MN 55965

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

See us at:
www.fillmoreswcd.org



DISTRICT BOARD:

Travis Willford—Chair
Tim Gossman—Vice Chair
Dwayne Ostrem—Treasurer
Kathy Tesmer—Secretary
Eunice Biel—Supervisor

Prairie Walk 2021

On Tuesday, September 28th, 2021, we held our annual Prairie Walk, this year hosted by the Fillmore Central Elementary School. F-C Elementary School Principal Jim Peters graciously invited us on site, where we were able to enjoy a perfect fall evening exploring the prairie and checking out the new Outdoor Classroom building. As a group, we worked to begin a plant ID list of the prairie, discussed multiple management ideas, and brainstormed a list of educational ideas that the school can use the site for. While trying to narrow down when the prairie was planted, attendees reminisced about when they attended or taught school here, as well as all of the memories at the school. After the Prairie Walk, staff at the SWCD found an article in the Winona Post that dates the prairie to the spring of 2015, completed by F-C elementary students and the local Winona/Root River Pheasants Forever chapter. Do you have any recommendations for where we could hold next year's Prairie Walk? Please let us know!



Nikki Wheeler
Water Management Coordinator (507) 765-3878 ext. 129

2021 Forestry Field Day

The 2021 Forestry Field Day, hosted by the Fillmore SWCD, was held at the Maynard Underbakke Forest Management Unit. Approximately 30 people attended the field day on a beautiful July evening that avoided any inclement weather.

Attendees learned about the history of the site, how state-owned land can be a resource for all, as well as the management of state land in hardwood production. The Forestry Field Day was made possible by the MN DNR, MN Forestry Association, and High Point Land Company.

The 2022 Forestry Field Day will be held July 27, with the location TBD. Stay tuned for future newsletter articles and media for announcements.



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.

No Till November



Photo Credit: No-Tillfarmer.org

NO TILL QUICK FACTS

- * Higher Water Retention
- * Less Erosion
- * Less Soil Compaction
- * Decreased Use of Machinery/Lower Fuel Cost
- * In 2016, 35% of U.S Farmland Was No Till
- * Higher Carbon Retention & Overall CO2 Reduction
- * Decreased Labor Cost
- * Increased Biological Activity in Soil
- * Higher, More Stable Crop Yields

No Till November



Photo Credit: SARE.ORG

COVER CROP QUICK FACTS

- * Reduce Soil Erosion
- * Improve Soil Health
- * Increase Soil Porosity & Infiltration
- * Weed Fighter
- * Improve Soil Microbiology
- * 15.4 Million Acres of Cover Crop in the U.S.
- * Produce/Scavenge Crop Nutrients
- * Reduce Soil Compaction
- * Improve Nutrient Cycling
- * Protect Water Quality
- * Enhance Wildlife Habitat

Ostrem Farms Drone Seeding

In the Fall of 2018, Dwayne Ostrem began pursuing a lifelong dream of farming his family's farm. In the time leading up to the decision to farm, Dwayne had been learning and observing the no-till aspect of row crop farming. The practice of no-till farming has been enhanced to include cover crops. Cover crop farming ascribes to the theory that the soil needs to have year-round "armor" for protection from natural elements such as wind and rain erosion. Recent improvements in no-till planters, along with planter attachment technologies have made it possible to create a suitable seedbed with one pass across the field with a no-till planter.

Although no-till planters solve a major challenge of equipment erosion, they do not specifically address the needs of the soil. That being the armament of the soil from the natural elements; early season rain events and blowing wind. Rain events are easily identified, yet blowing wind across soil with no vegetation cover exposes the soil to the drifting of precious topsoil. To mitigate both naturally occurring events, Ostrem has employed the fall seeding of winter wheat and cereal rye with the expectation those small grains would sprout the following spring.

This late summer, after watching a demonstration of drone seeding, Dwayne seeded a mixture of tiller radishes and red clover into his maturing soybeans just prior to the beans dropping their leaves. The results have been favorable, particularly seeing the establishing of the tiller radishes. The drone seeding was done on September 11th just as the bean leaves began to fade in color.

Since then, the beans have been harvested and Dwayne has begun seeding his previously planned cover crop of winter wheat. The tiller radishes have sprouted and developed a 4" tap root, and while the red clover has sprouted, the growth is slower. The radishes will terminate at the first hard frost and the red clover is expected to survive the winter, then begin growing again when the winter wheat sprouts next spring.

Ostrem noted that next year he will double his application rate per acre from five pounds to ten pounds and will look at a third small seed cover crop which will survive the Minnesota winter.

Paul Meints, (PhD) (Agriculture, Seed Physiology)



Photo Credit: Dwayne Ostrem Drone Seeded Cover Crop

2021 Conservationist of the Year

Congratulations to the Fillmore County 2021 Outstanding Conservationists, Lynn and Roxie Tienter. Their participation in federal, state and local conservation programs, as well as their unassisted conservation efforts make them a land steward standout in our county. They oversee the management of 300 beautiful rolling acres of prairie, pasture, hayland, and forest. By implementing practices that keep their land in continuous cover, they are improving soil health and protecting local water resources for generations to come. Eager for this transition is toy tractor towing grandson Weston who already has big ideas for the day when he might inherit the farm. Field borders, waterways, sinkhole buffers, and grade stabilizations are scattered about their 55 acres of rotationally grazed pasture, 30 acres of rotated alfalfa, oats and corn, 115 acres of CRP/CREP, and remaining acres of mature forest. Providing a beautiful backdrop to the Tienter family farming operation, roughly half of these tillable acres abut beautiful vistas of Forestville State Park.

Thank you, Lynn and Roxie, for your mindful management of your land. You are true role models of conservation.



How Can We Help You?

Use Your Local SWCD To Your Greatest Benefit

By Warren Formo for The Farmer Oct., 2021

A tremendous amount of conservation work is done by farmers and landowners working on their own, investing their own time and money. The next-largest category of conservation activity includes work done by landowners and farmers in partnership with their local Soil and Water Conservation District. All of Minnesota is covered by a local SWCD, mostly as county-based entities. SWCDs are funded by counties and receive project funding primarily from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) at the federal level, and the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) at the state level. Passage of the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment in 2008 has provided millions of dollars, resulting in even more conservation activity. Not all SWCDs are the same. The same is true of farmers and landowners. I know full well that sometimes relationships can sour, usually as a result of the quasi-regulatory roles SWCDs have been tasked with, such as those regarding wetlands or buffers. Fortunately, the vast majority of SWCD personnel are eager to help, and many landowners have taken advantage of cost-share programs to improve their land, improve habitat and protect water resources. If you have a resource concern on your farm beyond what you might address on your own, your local SWCD is a good place to start. A wide range of programs are available to address drainage, feedlots, erosion and other issues. SWCDs can be especially helpful for projects that need to involve multiple landowners, such as drainage system fixes. Often controversial and requiring the cooperation of many landowners, repairs needed to maintain the ability to manage excess water increasingly require offsets, such as small wetlands for temporary water storage. SWCDs can help with design and funding of such projects. The list of programs is so long and sometimes overwhelming that I suggest landowners start with a simple question of their local SWCD: “How can you help me?” This should start a conversation about programs available to address your concerns and sources of funds, including cost-share requirements and technical needs. If you would like to see what SWCDs and farmers in your region are doing to advance conservation, check out [Clean Water Fund Stories | MN Board of Water, Soil Resources \(state.mn.us\)](#) for ideas and examples. You will quickly see that needs vary by region and farming system, so there is no single program or solution. That’s why I recommend an open-ended question, inviting your local conservation personnel to explain and sell their programs.

Fillmore SWCD Feedlot Fix



Fillmore SWCD Grassed Waterway

Fillmore SWCD High School Scholarship

Part of the ongoing work of conservation is ensuring there is a continuous stream of high quality individuals working in the field and/or acting as knowledgeable spokespersons for conservation concerns. We encourage high school seniors to consider the importance of conservation as they plan their future studies. Each year we offer a \$500.00 scholarship to a graduating Fillmore County high school senior who is planning to study natural resources, agriculture or a related field. Future applicants can check out our website for details on the application process at: <http://www.fillmoreswcd.org/>

Buffer Compliance Update

Reminder to continue to maintain vegetative buffers along all DNR protected waters as part of the MN Buffer Law. Buffers must consist of perennial vegetation, not row crops or noxious or invasive weeds. Performing maintenance on buffers helps ensure successful establishment of desired vegetation and keeps buffers functioning as intended. Minnesota's Buffer Law was enacted to improve water quality statewide. Landowners can make water cleaner by continuing to keep the recommended buffer needed or the alternative practice in place and continue maintenance of the buffer area along the protected waters.

The Fillmore SWCD Offers

- State Cost Share dollars for waterways, terraces and structural erosion control
- Feedlot Cost Share Assistance
- Nutrient & Grazing Management Plans
- Manure Spreader Calibration
- Water Testing for Bacteria & Nitrates
- Survey Flags
- Tree Planter & Gopher Machine
- Tree Bar Rental/Sale
- Plat Book Sales

He Who Plants a Tree Plants Hope

The spring tree planting season will be here before you know it and the SWCD's tree program is just getting underway. The SWCD offers a variety of bare root and potted trees along with shrubs for sale. Information on each type of tree or shrub can be found on our website and in this issue of the Chronicles.

The District sells good quality trees, but offers no guarantee of survival. Trees and shrubs are offered on a first come, first serve basis. The order form is included in this newsletter, can be found on our website at www.fillmoreswcd.org, or picked up at the SWCD office located at 900 Washington St. NW in Preston. Also offered for sale are tree mats, tree tubes and fertilizer packets. Tree planters are available at a low rental rate. Tree order forms are due to the SWCD office by **February 21, 2022**. Last year we sold out fairly quick so be sure to get your orders in early for best selection. You will be notified by post card in early April when the trees will be available for pick up. Please see order form on the next page for selections.

New This Year... 2021 Fillmore County Plat Books for \$35



The latest plat book is now available! The front cover and background photos were supplied by photography students at Fillmore Central. With over 50 excellent photos received, the final selection was difficult and the resulting cover is a work of art! Plat books

are a great reference tool not only for landowners, but for business owners and hunters as well. Maps include parcel boundaries, acreage data, ownership information, roadways, waterways and more. An aerial map lies opposite each township parcel map, and is very useful in providing a quick reference to the use of a particular parcel.

****25 Acres of Cover Crops Remove as Much Atmospheric Carbon as Taking 1 Car Off the Road****

Tree Order Form



Fillmore SWCD

900 Washington Street NW

Preston, MN 55965

507-765-3878 Ext. 123

www.fillmoreswcd.orgEmail: anne.koliha@fillmoreswcd.org

2022 Tree Order Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

SPECIES/VARIETY	TREE SIZE	PRICE/BUNDLE	# OF BUNDLES	TOTAL COST \$
SHRUBS (Bare Root): SOLD IN BUNDLES OF 25				
Common Chokecherry	18"-24"	\$40.00		
American Cranberrybush	18"-24"	\$44.00		
Redosier Dogwood	18"-24"	\$34.00		
American Hazelnut	18"-24"	\$40.00		
Juneberry (Serviceberry)	18"-24"	\$36.00		
Common Purple Lilac	18"-24"	\$38.00		
DECIDUOUS TREES (Bare Root): SOLD IN BUNDLES OF 25				
Red Splendor Crabapple	18"-24"	\$35.00		
Hackberry	18"-24"	\$40.00		
Red Maple	2'-3'	\$44.00		
Sugar Maple	2'-3'	\$44.00		
Bur Oak	18"-24"	\$39.00		
Red Oak	18"-24"	\$39.00		
White Oak	18"-24"	\$39.00		
Black Walnut	18"-24"	\$37.00		
BARE ROOT CONIFERS: SOLD IN BUNDLES OF 25				
American Arborvitae	12"-18"	\$45.00		
Red (Norway) Pine	7"-15"	\$37.00		
White Pine	7"-15"	\$37.00		
Black Hills Spruce	7"-15"	\$39.00		
Norway Spruce	7"-15"	\$39.00		
White Spruce	7"-15"	\$39.00		
POTTED CONIFERS: SOLD PER TREE				
		PRICE/TREE	# ORDERED	
Dark Green Arborvitae	18"-24"	\$18.00		
Techny Arborvitae	18"-24"	\$18.00		
Black Hills Spruce	18"-24"	\$18.00		
Norway Spruce	18"-24"	\$18.00		
White Spruce	18"-24"	\$18.00		
SPECIAL ORDERS				
	SIZE	COST	# ORDERED	
OTHER ITEMS				
	SIZE	\$ PER PIECE	# OF PIECES	
Tree Mat with 5 staples	3'x3'	\$2.00		
Fertilizer Packet		\$0.30		
Bee Lawn Seed Mix	5 lbs.	\$35.00		
Tubex Combitube	5ft tube			
treeshelter w/ stake	& stake	\$8.00		
Rain Barrel (DIY Kit)		\$40.00		
			TOTAL	\$

*Please note: All Prices Include Sales Tax

The SWCD sells good quality trees, but offers no guarantee of survival.

ORDER BY:
FEBRUARY 21, 2022
FOR BEST SELECTION

Payment in full is due
with order.
Make checks payable to:
Fillmore SWCD
Mail to:
900 Washington St NW
Preston, MN 55965

Credit Cards Accepted:
CALL 507-765-3878 ext. 123
Convenience fee of 3%
charged for credit cards

Order Pick-up will be:
Spring 2022 (April-May)

Postcards will be sent out
with dates, times and
location of pick-up

Tree descriptions can be
found on the back of this
order form and also on our
website:
www.fillmoreswcd.org

-OFFICE USE ONLY-

Date Received: _____

Paid In Full Y / N

Cash _____

Check # _____

C.C. _____

INVOICE # _____

Tree & Shrub Descriptions

Variety	Maturity Size	Growth Rate	Description
Shrubs			
Chokecherry, Common	10'-25'	Slow/Moderate	Produces edible reddish-purple or black cherries that ripen in late summer. Needs well drained soils. Pruning may be necessary. Excellent plant for wildlife food and cover.
Cranberry, American	10'-12'	Moderate/Fast	Dark green leaves turning red to maroon in fall. Numerous, white, flat-topped clusters in June followed by showy red fruit that persists into winter.
Redosier Dogwood	8'-10'	Fast	Attractive red stems with creamy-white flowers followed by white berries. Red twigs provide winter color. Tolerates most any location, growing in moist soils and in sun or shade. Excellent wildlife food source and cover. Prune out older stems to maintain best stem color.
Hazelnut, American	15'-18'	Moderate	Shade tolerant. Produces edible nuts eaten by birds and mammals. Variable fall color. Can reproduce by suckering
Juneberry (Serviceberry)	6'-15'	Moderate	Most popular for its fruit production. Expands by suckers. Prefers loam to sandy loam with high organic matter. Limited drought tolerance. Will not sustain in ponded conditions.
Lilac, Common Purple	10'-12'	Moderate	Large, round-headed shrub. Profuse bloomer with purple flowers in the spring. Prefers well-drained soils and full sun for best flowering effect.
Deciduous Trees			
Crabapple, Red Splendor	15'-25'	Moderate/Fast	Reddish-green glossy foliage turns reddish-purple in fall. Very persistent fruits are dark red and showy. Full sun, moderately drought tolerant.
Hackberry	40'-60'	Fast	Tall, wide spreading crown. Has a scaly or warty bark. Produces dark purple fruit. Grows best in well drained, moist soils. Excellent cover and food source for wildlife.
Red Maple	40'-60'	Moderate	Saw toothed lobed leaves. Shade tolerant, grows in very wet to dry conditions. Leaves can turn red, yellow or orange in fall.
Sugar Maple	60'-80'	Slow	Produces dense, oval crown and bright fall colors ranging from yellow to orangish red. Needs well-drained loamy soils. Not tolerant to wet soils. Shade tolerant.
Bur Oak	50'-80'	Slow/Moderate	Has simple lobed leaves and produces acorns. Good for wildlife. Tolerates a variety of soil types.
Red Oak	50'-70'	Moderate	Simple lobed, bristle-tipped leaves. Red or brown fall leaf color. Good for wildlife. Prefers deep, rich soils. Long-lived and fastest growing oak.
White Oak	50'-70'	Slow/Moderate	Does best on slightly moist to well-drained sites. Full to partial sun. Acorns provide excellent wildlife food source. Brown, purple autumn foliage. Valuable wood products tree.
Black Walnut	50'-75'	Fast	Tall with deeply fissured brown bark. Important timber tree. Prefers moist, well-drained soils. Produce a hard shelled nut. Good for wildlife.
Conifers			
American Arborvitae	20'-50'	Moderate	A dense, flat green pyramidal tree, it has feather-like yellowish green needles with blunt tips.
Dark Green Arborvitae	20'-50'	Moderate	Vigorous growing, pyramidal tree developing a broad base. Has scale-like foliage which retains its dark green color year round.
Techny Arborvitae	15'-30'	Moderate	Is a compact, broad-based, upright, conical-pyramidal, dwarf cultivar. It is noted for its rich dark green foliage that does not yellow in winter. Foliage is scale-like and appears in flat, fan-shaped cluster.
Red (Norway) Pine	50'-80'	Moderate/Fast	Long needled, pyramid shaped tree. Prefers well-drained sandy soils. Popular Christmas tree species.
White Pine	50'-80'	Moderate/Fast	Needles in group of 5. Pyramid shaped when young, broadening with age. Prefers sandy or silt loam soils, but will tolerate a wide range.
Black Hills Spruce	40'-50'	Slow/Moderate	Noted for its dark green foliage and conical form. Prefers heavier soils, adequate moisture and clean cultivation. Drought tolerant.
Norway Spruce	40'-100'	Fast	Pyramidal tree with drooping branches. Hardy. Does best on moist to sandy, well-drained soils. Partial shade to full sun.
White Spruce	40'-80'	Moderate	Prefers fertile soils and is tolerant of most light conditions. Good wildlife cover.
Other Items			
Tree Mat with 5 staples	3' x 3' with 5 staples	Mat greatly reduces weed competition, reduces maintenance time and increases soil moisture.	
Fertilizer Packet (18-9-9)	A small packet filled with a pre-measured amount of fertilizer that is placed alongside the seedling at time of planting.		
Bee Lawn Seed Mix	5 lbs	Cover 1000-1500 sq.ft.	Mix of fine-fescue grasses and flowers. Provides high quality nutrition for bees and other pollinators. Mow at least 3" high and refrain from mowing when flowers are blooming.
Tubex Combitube treeshelter w/ stake	5ft tube with stake	Designed for more exposed sites, the Tubex Combitube combines the benefits of a solid base for improved establishment and reliable protection, with a ventilated upper section, allowing the tree to acclimatise before emerging from the shelter.	
Rain Barrel (DIY Kit)	Pre-drilled 55 gallon plastic barrel, parts packet and assembly instructions.		
*Note: This is general information about each tree and growth characteristics. Life expectancy will depend on the care and weather conditions.			