



CONSERVATION TODAY

Sibley Soil and Water Conservation District & USDA

Winter 2019



2018 Conservationist of the Year

Weber and Weber Farms, located between Arlington and Henderson, have been selected as this year's Sibley SWCD conservationists of the year. They operate a 2,200-acre farm, along with 25 head of beef cattle. Over the years, the Webers have installed several terraces and a grade stabilization structure. In addition, they've restored over 70 acres of wetlands, providing wildlife habitat through the Re-invest In Minnesota (RIM) and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) programs. Being involved in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), the Webers have improved nutrient and pest management application techniques. They've installed drift-reducing nozzles, lowered their boom height, implemented GPS targeted spraying and plant tissue testing and analysis. The Webers are stewards of the land and the Sibley SWCD would like to thank them for their conservation efforts!



CRP Filter Strip

Pete Weber

United States Department of Agriculture Conservation Financial Assistance Programs:

CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program)

Continuous Sign-up

This sign-up is dependent upon an extension to the current Farm Bill or a new Farm Bill.

EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program)

Continuous Sign-up

*Now Accepting Applications for FY 2019 Funds
State Application Cut-Off **January 18, 2019***

For more information, contact the NRCS Office at (507) 237-5435 x3

Natural Resources Conservation Service
112 5th Street, PO Box 868, Gaylord, MN 55334
An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



Sibley SWCD

Joel Wurscher,
District Manager

Jeremy Buckentin,
District Technician

Jack Bushman,
Conservation Technician

Ron Otto, Water Planner/
Watershed Technician

SWCD Board

Kathleen Thies - District 1

Paul Wiemann - District 2

Loren Evenson - District 3

Wayne Grams - District 4

Robert Nielsen - District 5



USDA - NRCS

April Sullivan,
District Conservationist

Diane Hrabe,
General Clerk
Ultima Contractor

Board Meetings

Second Tuesday
4 p.m., SWCD Office

Office Hours

Monday - Friday
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



Erosion Watch

By Jeremy Buckentin, District Technician

This crop year has been marked by some extreme rain events this past year, especially in June. Due to the intensity of these rains, folks may, or may not be, surprised to find some serious soil erosion in their fields during harvest.

There are many types of erosion, most commonly it becomes noticeable once it forms a small eroded gully along a draw or concentrated water flow area. Most often, these areas get tilled over each year, the gully appears to be gone and the land sits ready for another spring. Although it may not seem like much soil has been lost, in reality, these ephemeral erosion areas continue to remove topsoil from the land each year as our rain-falls become increasingly more intense and the gully reforms. Eventually, the continuation of this cycle will yield to larger, classic gullies that become difficult to cross and more expensive to treat.

Solutions do exist to treat these issues, and you are strongly encouraged to contact your local SWCD and USDA NRCS for assistance in managing erosion. SWCD staff can work to create a management plan for you that would guide you toward controlling your erosion issues through various programs. The Sibley SWCD can be reached Monday-Friday in Gaylord adjacent to the Sibley USDA Service Center or by phone at 507-702-7077.



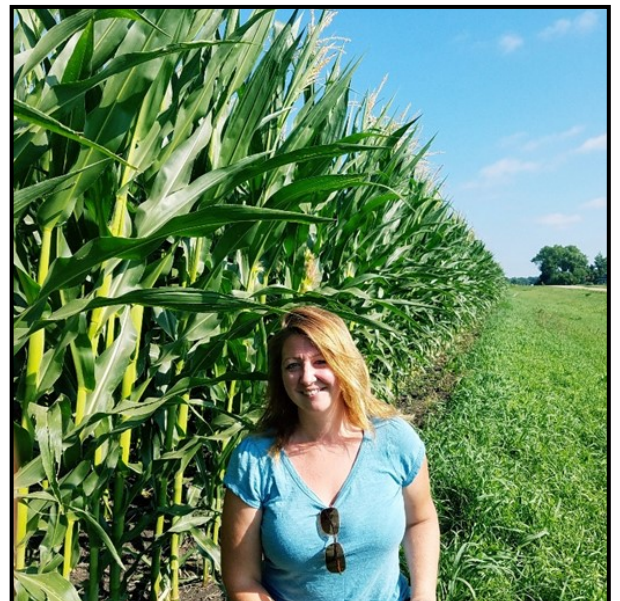
Classic Gully Forming

Middle Minnesota Watershed Planning Strategy and the Watershed Planner

Local, state, and federal agencies have come together to target conservation in the Middle Minnesota Watershed. Jennifer Hahn, the Middle MN Watershed Planner, will be working with the conservation offices and producers in Blue Earth, Brown, Cottonwood, Le Sueur, Nicollet, Redwood, Renville and Sibley Counties. She will work with landowners and operators on their resource concerns provide plans and designs to address those concerns, and connect the producers to programs for financial assistance. This includes feedlots, erosion control projects, ravine stabilizations, soil health, prescribed grazing, wetland restorations, nutrient and pest management, just to name a few.

Jennifer grew up on a dairy farm that now runs corn and soybeans and has been assessing and providing conservation planning since 2005 in Minnesota. She also spent time analyzing profitability of conservation practices to help producers increase their return on investment (ROI).

If you're interested in having someone take a look at an issue you're having out in the field or are curious about options for improving your soil, reducing erosion, tightening up inputs, etc, give your local conservation office a call at 507-237-5435 or give Jennifer a call at 651-485-7848.





So You Didn't Get Your Buffer In, What's Next?

The Sibley SWCD would like to thank all of those who have seeded their buffers and are compliant with the 2015 Buffer Law. Producers of Sibley County have really stepped up and led by example, showing they truly care about conservation while still being agriculturally productive and sustainable. We understand not every landowner was in favor of this law; however, we heard the comment from a lot of producers that when it comes right down to it, the buffer strips would have a positive impact.

We had a lot of questions about the deadline for the public ditches this past November 1, mainly what happens if I don't/didn't get the buffer seeded in? According to Article 330 of the Sibley County buffer ordinance, when the County identifies a potential non-compliance with the buffer law requirements or receives a third party complaint from a private individual or entity or from another public agency, staff will consult with the SWCD to determine the appropriate course of action to document compliance status. If determined to be non-compliant, the County will send out notification of this status via certified mail. The landowner would then fall under one of two categories, initial violation or repeat violation. I have included an excerpt from the Administrative Penalty Order (APO) listing the penalty process for both categories:

330.6.2.1 Initial violation. The penalty for a landowner on a single parcel that has not previously been the subject of an APO issued by the County shall be:

- I. \$0 per parcel per month for 11 months after receipt of the Corrective Action Notice;
- II. \$50 per parcel per month for the first six (6) months (180 days) following the time period in paragraph 330.6.2.1 i; and
- III. \$200 per parcel per month after six (6) months (180 days) following the time period in paragraph 330.6.2.1

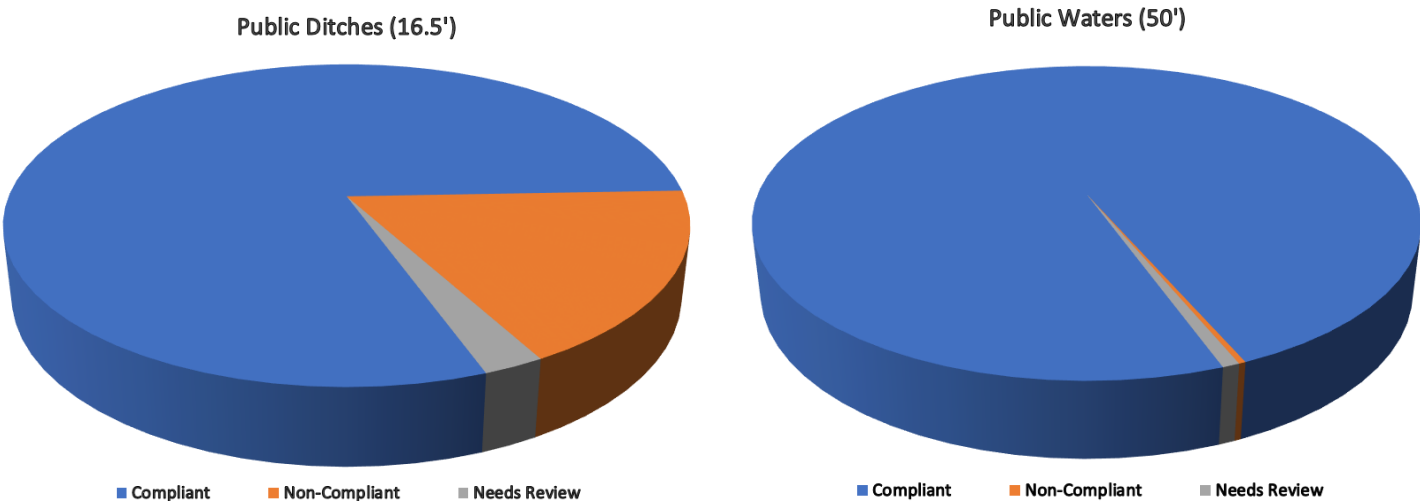
330.6.2.2 Repeat violation. The penalty for a landowner on a single parcel that has previously been the subject of an APO issued by the County shall be:

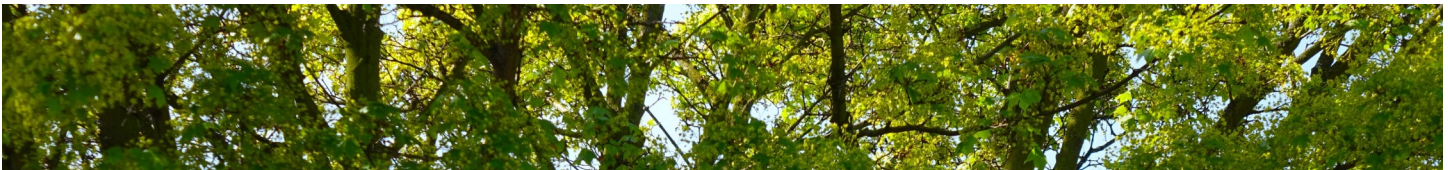
- I. \$50 per parcel per day for 180 days after receipt of the Corrective Action Notice; and
- II. \$200 per parcel per day after 180 days following the time period in paragraph 330.6.2.2 i.

Below is a link to the full Sibley County buffer ordinance document:

<https://www.co.sibley.mn.us/auditor/docs/Buffer%20Ordinance.pdf>

If you have any questions regarding the 2015 Buffer Law or would like to request any technical assistance, stop by the office or call (507) 702-7077.





Following Your Seed Plan

When you signed up for a conservation project that involved planting natural vegetation, you received a seeding plan. It's an extremely important document! By adhering to it, you ensure you will get paid for your conservation improvements. If you deviate from this plan or change it in any way, without prior approval from Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or Farm Service Agency (FSA) staff, you could jeopardize your payment and possibly future participation in conservation projects.

Within your seeding plan, please pay close attention to the following:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Seeding Dates: | This gives you a SPECIFIC window of time to seed your project (for example, May 15 to June 30 for a warm season planting). If inclement weather interferes with your planting, contact the NRCS office to amend your contract. |
| Acres: | A map and all documentation within your contract shows the exact location and number of acres to be planted. |
| Species: | If you want to make substitutions to species in your mix, you do need pre-approval to do so. Every practice (CP-21 or CP-23) have different seeds per square foot and ratio of grass to forbs (flowers) requirements, making it imperative to have it reviewed if changes are made. |
| Planting Methods: | Drill or drop seeders, packing, rolling, inter-seeding and dormant seeding options and recommendations are outlined. |

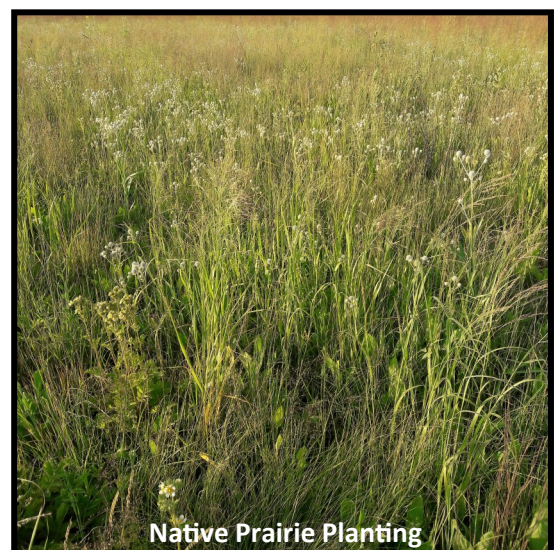
In addition, your seeding plan includes guidelines for preparation of your seedbed (cultivation, herbicides, weed reduction, etc.), seeding depth, grass-forb mix percentages and maintenance methods (i.e., burning, chemical and/or mechanical).

Seeding standards are based on pure live seed (PLS). PLS is a means of expressing seed quality. PLS is the percentage of seed (i.e. good viable seed) that has the potential to germinate within a measured one-pound weight of any seed lot. Nearly all species recommended for conservation plantings by NRCS uses Pure Live Seed (PLS) expressed in pounds per acre as the basis for the calculation of seeding rates. One exception to this rule is the use of bulk planting rates for traditionally used agronomic crops (e.g. wheat, oats, annual ryegrass, etc.). PLS provides a basis for comparing the quality of seed lots of the same species that differ in purity and germination. The use of PLS guarantees that the same amount of viable seed per acre is planted even though different seed lots with varying quality may be used.

All conservation plant mixes MUST meet seeding standards. If you have questions about your specific mix, contact the NRCS office BEFORE purchasing the seed.

It's important to remember: You must turn in all seed tags, seed bills, site preparation charges, seeding bills and weed-control bills prior to cost-share being approved. When you begin a conservation project, you are also given a seed vendor list to guide you in choosing your plant supplier(s).

For more information, don't hesitate to call the Sibley NRCS office, (507) 237-5435.





2019 TREE PROGRAM

ORDER FORM

(office use only)

ORDER #

Name:

Address:

City:

Zip:

Phone:

Email:

Would you like to receive emails regarding our yearly newsletters and tree order forms? **YES / NO**

PLEASE NOTE: All bundles contain 25 bare-root seedlings &

Taxes are already included in all listed prices.

INDIVIDUAL POTTED CONIFERS

Type	Species	Size	Price	Type	# of Pots	Total (\$)
1 QUART CONIFERS	Black Hills Spruce	1 Quart- 8" to 12"	\$ 4.25	Single Pot	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
	Colorado Spruce	1 Quart- 8" to 16"	\$ 4.25	Single Pot	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
	Red Pine	1 Quart- 5" to 10"	\$ 4.25	Single Pot	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
	White Pine	1 Quart- 5" to 8"	\$ 4.25	Single Pot	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
	Ponderosa Pine	1 Quart- 6" to 10"	\$ 4.25	Single Pot	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
	Scotch Pine *NEW*	1 Quart- 6" to 12"	\$ 4.25	Single Pot	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
	American Arborvitae	1 Quart- 6" to 12"	\$ 4.25	Single Pot	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
2 GALLON CONIFERS	American Arborvitae	2 Gal.- 18" to 24"	\$ 15.50	Single Pot	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
	Black Hills Spruce	2 Gal.- 18" to 24"	\$ 15.50	Single Pot	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
	Colorado Spruce	2 Gal.- 18" to 24"	\$ 15.50	Single Pot	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>

BUNDLES OF 25 BARERoot DECIDUOUS SEEDLINGS

Type	Species	Size	Price	Type	# of Bundles	Total (\$)
LARGE TREES	Black Walnut	12" to 18"	\$ 35.00	Bundle of 25	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
	Norway Poplar	18" to 24"	\$ 35.00	Bundle of 25	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
	Sugar Maple	18" to 24"	\$ 35.00	Bundle of 25	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
	Red Maple	18" to 24"	\$ 35.00	Bundle of 25	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
	Swamp White Oak	18" to 24"	\$ 35.00	Bundle of 25	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
	Red Oak	18" to 24"	\$ 35.00	Bundle of 25	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
	Bur Oak	18" to 24"	\$ 35.00	Bundle of 25	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
SMALL TREES	Elderberry	18" to 24"	\$ 35.00	Bundle of 25	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
	Nanking Cherry	18" to 24"	\$ 35.00	Bundle of 25	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
	Prairie Red Plum *NEW*	18" to 24"	\$ 35.00	Bundle of 25	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
	American Hazelnut	12" to 18"	\$ 35.00	Bundle of 25	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
SHRUBS	Common Lilac	18" to 24"	\$ 35.00	Bundle of 25	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
	Serviceberry	12" to 18"	\$ 35.00	Bundle of 25	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
	Red Osier Dogwood	18" to 24"	\$ 35.00	Bundle of 25	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
	Nannyberry *NEW*	12" to 18"	\$ 35.00	Bundle of 25	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
	Flame Willow	12" to 18"	\$ 35.00	Bundle of 25	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>

Sibley SWCD 507-702-7077

Tree Order Totals \$

112 5th Street, PO Box 161, Gaylord, MN 55334

(continued on back)

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2019 TREE PROGRAM

ORDER FORM

***New This Year* ~ Native Plant Kits!**

ORDER DEADLINE: 4/5/19

Use these kits to accent your gardens, landscaping, or to create your own custom wildlife habitat!
Each kit will contain 36 nursery selected live plants consisting of 6 species from the listed varieties.
Final kit species are based on nursery availability. Individual Cell Size: 2" x 2.25" x 3.25"

Native Plant Kits - 36 Plants

Plant Kit Name & Potential Plant Varieties	Preference	Price	Quantity	Total (\$)
*Pollinator Plant Kit: Forbs: Wild Bergamot, Showy Milkweed, Butterfly Milkweed, Prairie Coreopsis, Sky Blue Aster, Narrow Leaved Coneflower, Meadow Blazingstar, Showy Goldenrod	Partial to Full Sun	\$60.00 per Kit		\$
	Variety of Soils			
	Plant in 12-18" Spacing			
*Rain Garden/Lakeshore Plant Kit Rush/Sedges: Porcupine Sedge, Bebb's Sedge, Common Rush Forbs: Marsh Milkweed, Blue Flag Iris, New England Aster, Great Blue Lobelia, Cardinal Flower, Culvers Root, Sweet Black Eyed Susan's, Blue Vervain	Partial to Full Sun	\$60.00 per Kit		\$
	Poorly Drained Soils			
	Plant in 12-18" Spacing			
*Perennial Garden Accents Plant Kit: Grasses: Little Bluestem, Indian Grass Forbs: Culvers Root, Purple Prairie Clover, Purple Coneflower, Long Headed Coneflower, Butterfly Milkweed, Prairie Blazing Star	Partial to Full Sun	\$60.00 per Kit		\$
	Variety of Soils			
	Plant in 12-18" Spacing			
*Monarch/Butterfly Plant Kit: Grasses/Sedges: Little Bluestem, Sideoats Gramma, Long Beaked Sedge Forbs: Butterfly Milkweed, Showy Milkweed, Common Milkweed, Marsh Milkweed, Meadow Blazingstar, Showy Goldenrod, Sky Blue Aster, Prairie Blazingstar.	Partial to Full Sun	\$60.00 per Kit		\$
	Variety of Soils			
	Plant in 12-18" Spacing			
Prairie Plant Kit Total				\$

Planting Materials

Item	Description	Price	Quantity	Total (\$)
Pre-Cut Tree Square	3' x 3' fabric mat with staples	\$1.75 ea		\$
Fabric Roll Mat	3'x300' fabric roll with staples	\$110.00 ea		\$
Grow Tube Kit	4 foot grow tube, stake and zip ties	\$6.00 / kit		\$
Materials Totals				\$

Order Totals

Notice:

Payment is due in full at time of order, no refunds for orders cancelled after February 26, 2019. Plant availability and sizes are subject to change. Tree's will be available near the end of April 2019; you will be notified of your pickup time as indicated by your selection below.

Terms and Agreement:

I acknowledge that the Sibley SWCD cannot be responsible for the condition in which the nursery stock arrives, the stock's condition beyond my scheduled pickup date(s) and that the SWCD reserves the rights to substitute different stock for damaged, unsuitable or lack of sufficient quantities received from the nursery.

I would like to be notified by Mail ___ Email ___ of my scheduled pickup dates.

Signature _____ Date: ____/____/____ 2 of 2

Tree Order Totals	\$
Prairie Plant Kit Totals	\$
Materials Totals	\$
Grand Total	\$



Sibley County SWCD 2019 Tree Program

The Sibley Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) will offer its 2019 Tree Program sale on **Thursday, February 21, 2019**, by hosting an open house. The SWCD will offer trees and shrubs for shelterbelts, field windbreaks, wildlife habitat and reforestation. Selected plant varieties are suited to the climate conditions and soils of Sibley County. Technical information regarding planting design and species selection are available at the District office.

Trees offered through the program are available at affordable prices (see price list on page 5 and 6). A mechanical tree planter is available (free of charge) for larger plantings; contact Jeremy (507) 702-7077 for more information. **Orders will be accepted while supplies last.** Please read the **terms and conditions** below before placing your order.

Sibley SWCD Terms and Conditions

- The Sibley SWCD is not responsible for the survival or condition of the stock once they are received.
- There will be no refunds on cancelled orders after **February 26**.
- Full payment must be made on the day of the order.
- The District reserves the right to substitute varieties or sizes, depending on stock availability.
- Pick-up days are tentatively scheduled for **Thursday, April 25 or Friday, April 26**, between **8 a.m. and 5 p.m.**
- Customers will be notified by postcard where and when their stock is to be picked up.

Open House Tree Ordering Day

Thursday,
February 21, 2019
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sibley County USDA
Service Center
112 5th Street
Gaylord MN 55334



Also new this year is our native plant plug kits! They are great for accenting your landscaping, rain gardens or just adding pollinator habitat.



Sibley SWCD and NRCS
112 5th St
PO Box 161
Gaylord MN 55334

PRESORTED STANDARD
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
GAYLORD MN 55334
PERMIT NO 61



SIBLEY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Upcoming Dates:

December 25, 2018.....Christmas Day (Office Closed)
January 1, 2019.....New Years Day (Office Closed)
January 8, 2019.....Sibley SWCD Board Meeting
January 21, 2019.....MLK Day (Office Closed)
February 12, 2019.....Sibley SWCD Board Meeting
February 21, 2019.....Sibley SWCD Tree Day

Conservation Today is published by the Sibley Soil and Water Conservation District and USDA NRCS
112 5th St, Gaylord MN 55334. For more information regarding this newsletter, contact (507) 702-7077.

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