



CONSERVATION TIDBITS

Sibley Soil and Water Conservation District and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

January 2014

Sibley County Announces Trebelhorn Family 2013 Outstanding Conservationist



(L to R): Todd, Donna, Mary, Ron, Dave, Laurie, April and Luke Trebelhorn

The Sibley County Soil and Water Conservation District has awarded the 2013 Outstanding Conservationist to the Trebelhorn Family of Winthrop, MN. Together, the Trebelhorn's continue to farm the family farm which was established in 1936.

The Trebelhorn's operate a 400-head beef cattle operation and farm 2,000 acres of cropland. Practicing soil and water conservation has evolved this family into exceptional stewards of the land.

Over the years their conservation efforts have expanded from tree plantings into new methods to improve soil health and quality. Today, their conservation operation practices stem in many directions. It is not uncommon to find buffer strips protecting the Trebelhorn's valuable soil from eroding away into streams and ditches. The Trebelhorn's have placed a strong emphasis on soil loss prevention, and practice mulch tillage on their cropland. The Trebelhorn's

have recently began incorporating soil cover crops into their grain and vegetable crop rotation, and have noticed positive soil health benefits.

Their conservation efforts made them ideal candidates for the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Within the program, the Trebelhorn's continue to practice quality soil and water conservation, but have also accepted the challenge of trying innovated enhancements to improve upon their quality efforts.

The Trebelhorn's were recognized for their stewardship efforts at the annual meeting of the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, held in Bloomington this past December.

Congratulations to Ron and Mary, Dave and Laurie, Todd and Donna, and Luke and April Trebelhorn for all your hard work and conservation stewardship.

Staff

USDA-NRCS

April Sullivan, District

Conservationist

Leanne Langeberg, Soil

Conservation Technician

Jon Sellnow, Area Resources

Conservationist

SWCD

Loren Evenson, District Manager

Ron Otto, Water Planner

SWCD Board Members

Paul Wiemann, Chairman

Robert Nielsen, Vice Chairman

Wayne Grahms, Secretary

Tom Pfarr, Treasurer

Gary Schafer, Reporter

Board Meetings

2nd Tuesday of each month
4:00 pm

USDA Service Center

Hours

Monday—Friday

8:00am—4:30 pm

Tree Ordering Day
February 19, 2014
9:00 am—3:30pm

Sibley County
USDA Service Center
111 6th Street
Gaylord, MN



Conservation Innovation brings control back to the farm...improves soil and water quality

For many years, rendering services have provided an effective solution for managing agricultural animal mortality waste. With the rise in concern for managing biosecurity for animal health, along with increasing animal rendering service expenses, producers are considering alternative methods for managing their animal mortality waste.

Local Producer Curtis Weckwerth of Arlington, considered the option and benefits of implementing an on-site compost facility. In the spring of 2013, he met with local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) staff, to discuss the opportunity of constructing an Animal Mortality Facility to meet the mortality concerns of his hog and beef operation. Together, Weckwerth, NRCS and a Technical Service Provider (TSP) developed a conservation plan design to construct a 24'X42' concrete animal mortality facility on his farm-site located in Kelso Township.



An animal mortality facility is a concrete compost structure. It is designed to compost livestock and poultry carcasses. The structure provides a confined control environment. Inside the compost, sawdust is mixed with animal remains to break down the waste into a compost material that can be safely applied to cropland fields.

Why consider constructing an on-site compost facility? Onsite Composts:

- ♦ Provide a safe method for discarding livestock or poultry carcasses
- ♦ Reduce the impact of odors that result from improperly handled animal mortality
- ♦ Minimize the risk of contaminated runoff entering nearby streams, water bodies, groundwater and soil.
- ♦ Decrease the likelihood of the spread of disease or other pathogens that result from the interaction of predators with animal mortality waste.

"I'm pleased with the final results," stated Weckwerth. Weckwerth completed the construction of his facility this past November.

If you are considering implementing an animal compost option into your farm operation, we encourage you to stop by the NRCS office in Gaylord. The NRCS staff is ready to work with you to determine an appropriate facility design. Financial assistance may be available to qualified applicants through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

NRCS District Conservationist's Year in Review

2013 was an outstanding year for soil and water conservation in Sibley County. Thank you to all producers and landowners who took into consideration your resource conservation concerns and chose to consult with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Sibley Soil and Water Conservation District.

The Gaylord Field Office continues to see positive response to the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Over 50 outstanding conservation producers are now active in the CSP program. Their conservation leadership provides endless benefits to future generations of farming operators. I look forward to meeting with more of our Sibley County conservation stewards.

The increase in large rain events has put a stress on the soil and water resources of Sibley County. During the 2013 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) rankings, Sibley County agricultural landowners and producers were awarded over \$215,000 in financial assistance to complete soil and water protection projects including:

- 5 - Water and sediment control basins
- 3 - Animal mortality facility structures
- 2 - Grassed waterways
- 2 - Grade stabilization projects
- 1 - Rotational grazing system
- 1 - Terrace System

We anticipate additional EQIP financial assistance will be awarded in 2014 to

construct water and sediment control structures, compost facilities and more.

During 2013, Sibley county enrolled 115 new acres into the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP). Through WRP the land will be restored/enhanced to quality wetlands on private property. These acres will be protected under a permanent easement through the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program.

I'm impressed with the work and effort of Sibley county producers and landowners. I look forward to a successful year in 2014. Thank you for considering and practicing the best soil and water conservation efforts.

April Sullivan, District Conservationist



Sign up NOW!
Conservation Stewardship Program
is Accepting Applications.
Apply by January 17, 2014



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Being a good steward of the
land has its rewards.**

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is designed to help you maintain your present conservation activities and make new conservation improvements, such as improved erosion control, better water quality practices or wildlife habitat management.

Is CSP Right for You?

CSP involves a five-year contract in which the farmer agrees to maintain existing conservation and to do more over the life of the contract. It also requires time and good documentation of your farm conservation activities, which are used to determine eligibility and ranking.

A self screening checklist is available online at
www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov

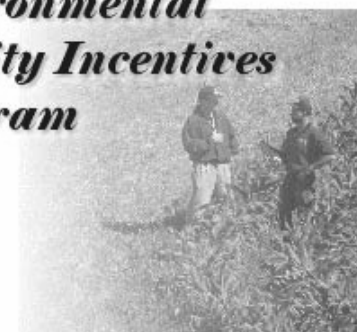
or contact your local NRCS Service Center for
more details.

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer
Minnesota 2014



***Environmental Quality Incentive Program
2014 Signup Going On***

***Environmental
Quality Incentives
Program***



NRCS Photo

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is now accepting applications to help Sibley County producers improve water and air quality, build healthier soil, conserve energy, and achieve other environmental benefits.

In 2013, NRCS awarded over \$215,000 in financial assistance to aid Sibley County producers in implementing conservation practices through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). If you are experiencing resource concerns, or would like to implement innovative

conservation practices, we encourage you to visit NRCS at the Gaylord USDA Service Center, for more information.

The first 2014 EQIP ranking cutoff will take place in February, with additional rankings possible for accepted applications to follow as funds allow.

To learn more about the EQIP program visit:
<http://www.mn.usda.gov>



Sibley County Welcomes Watershed Grant Coordinator



Please join us in welcoming the High Island Creek and Rush River Watershed's Watershed Grant Coordinator, Nick Bancks. Bancks started his new duties as Watershed Grants Coordinator this past October. He is stationed at the Sibley County Courthouse.

"I'm looking forward to working with the residents and landowners in the High Island and Rush River Watersheds." Said Bancks

Bancks originates from Fairmont, MN. He and his wife, Jodi and baby boy, Landon, reside in South Minneapolis.

Bancks feels connected to Sibley county with ties to his heritage. His grandfather grew up in Gaylord, MN, while his great-grandfather owned and operated the clothing store in town.

Prior to joining the Watershed District, Bancks completed an internship with the Heron Lake Watershed District, located in southwest Minnesota.

Nick is looking forward to working with the residents and landowners of the High Island and Rush River Watersheds. He is looking forward to finding successful solutions to address the water & soil quality issues of each watershed.

Sibley County Established New Plan for Water Quality

On October 8, 2013 the Sibley County Board passed a resolution adopting and implementing the Sibley County Comprehensive Local Water Plan. The new Water Plan focuses on drinking water quality, water quantity, management of nutrient from human and animal waste and soil erosion. Over the next 10 years this plan will guide Sibley County toward cleaner and healthier water resources.

Under Minnesota State Statute, all counties in Minnesota are required to update their water plan every 10 years. Sibley County had previously been managing water resources under their 2001 water plan.

The writing of this new plan has been a two year work-in-progress. Starting in 2011, the Sibley County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution that allowed Sibley County's Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) to start their planning process.

Public input was considered for the direction of the plan's 11 goals, 13 objectives and 50 action items. "It was a



long road to reach this final plan." said Ron Otto, Sibley County Water Planner. "I think it's a doable and workable plan for this county."

The WRAC submitted the plan to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for review and approval. The BWSR Board approved the plan on September 25, 2013. The plan was returned it to Sibley county for final approval and implementation.

If you are interested in viewing the Sibley County Comprehensive Local Water Plan, please visit the Soil and Water Conservation District Website www.sibleyswcd.org, or the Sibley County website www.co.sibley.mn.us

Best Management Practices Cost Share Funding

The Sibley Soil and Water Conservation District has funding available for 2014 Best Management Practices (BMPs) through the state cost-share program.

Practices available for cost-share:

- Critical area plantings
- Diversions
- Field Windbreaks
- Grade Stabilization Structures
- Grass waterways
- Livestock Waste Management
- Filter strips
- Water and Sediment Control Basins
- Terraces
- Well Sealing

If you're interested in learning more about Best Management Practices and how to incorporate on your land, or you have a project in mind contact Loren at the Sibley SWCD office in Gaylord.

Sibley SWCD 2014 Tree Order Form

Quantity	Variety	Size	Price	TOTAL
	<i>Shrubs & Small Trees</i>			
	Caragana	18-24"	\$1.25	
	Dogwood, Redosier	18-24"	\$1.25	
	Honeysuckle, Freedom	12-18"	\$1.50	
	Lilac, Villosa	12-18"	\$1.25	
	Lilac, Chinese	12-18"	\$1.50	
	Maple, Amur	12-18"	\$1.25	
	Plum, American	18-24"	\$1.25	
	Crabapple, R. Splendor	18-24"	\$1.50	
	Nannyberry Viburnum	12-18"	\$1.25	
	<i>Hardwood Trees</i>			
	Elm, Princeton	12-18"	\$4.00	
	Hackberry	18-24"	\$1.50	
	Honeylocust, Thornless	18-24"	\$1.25	
	Linden, American	12-18"	\$2.00	
	Linden, Little Leaf	18-24"	\$1.50	
	Maple, Silver	18-24"	\$1.50	
	Maple, Sugar	18-24"	\$1.50	
	Maple, Red	18-24"	\$1.50	
	Oak, Red	12-18"	\$1.25	
	Oak, White	12-18"	\$1.25	
	Oak, Swamp White	12-18"	\$1.25	
	Buckeye, Ohio	12-18"	\$1.50	
	Cottonwood, Male	18-24"	\$1.25	
	Poplar, Norway	2-3'	\$1.25	
	Butternut	18-24"	\$2.00	
	<i>Bare Root Evergreens</i>			
	Pine, Ponderosa	7-15"	\$2.00	
	Pine, White	7-15"	\$2.00	
	Spruce, Black Hills	8-12"	\$2.00	
	Arborvitae, American	12-18"	\$2.00	
	<i>Potted Evergreens</i>			
	Spruce, Black Hills	15-18"	\$6.50	
	Arborvitae, Nigra	15-18"	\$6.50	
*Additional varieties may be available, but must be ordered in bundles of 25				

Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____
 e-mail _____

SUB TOTAL _____
 SALES TAX (6.875%) _____
 TOTAL _____
 LESS 25% DOWNPAYMENT _____
 BALANCE DUE _____

Make Checks Payable to
 Sibley SWCD

**SIBLEY SOIL AND WATER
 CONSERVATION DISTRICT
 PO BOX 161
 GAYLORD MN 55334
 507-237-5435**

FOR OFFICE USE

\$ _____
 Cash/Check
 Check# _____
 Initials _____

Sibley County SWCD 2014 Tree Program

The Sibley Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) will offer their 2014 Tree Program sale on Wednesday, February 19, 2014. 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). Mechanical tree planters are available (free of charge) for larger plantings, contact Loren (507) 237-5435 ext. 4 for more information. Orders will be accepted while supplies last. Please read the Terms and Conditions before placing your order.

Sibley SWCD Terms and Conditions

- Sibley SWCD will not be responsible for the survival or condition of the stock once they are received. There will be no refunds.
- Full Payment must be made on orders of \$40.00 or less when order is placed. A down payment of 25% must be made on orders greater than \$40.00, with remaining balance payable when stock is received.
- Customers will be notified by phone or mail when and where the stock is to be picked up.
- Orders must be picked up on weekdays between 8:00 am—4:00 pm.
- The District reserves the right to substitute varieties or sizes.

Tree Ordering Day

**Wednesday February
19th, 2014**

9:00 am—3:30 pm

**Sibley USDA Service Center
111 6th Street**





High Island and Rush River Watersheds

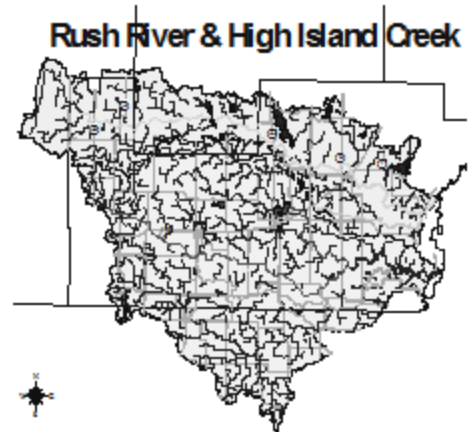
Cost share opportunities are available to install water quality improvements on your property in the High Island and Rush River Watersheds. The money is available through the High Island Creek Fecal Coliform TMDL and the Rush River Fecal Coliform TMDL. Best Management Practices (BMPs) included in the programs are:

- Manure Management Plans
- Feedlot Runoff Controls
- Clean Water Diversions
- Catch Basins
- Waste Storage Facilities

- Field Borders
- Vegetative Treatment areas
- Pasture Management
- Vegetative Waterways
- Grass Waterways
- Filter Strips
- Open Intake Alternatives

To learn more about these BMPs options visit:

- ⇒ **Nick Bancks**
Environmental Services
Sibley County Courthouse
- ⇒ **Ron Otto**
SWCD office



Sibley County Subsurface Sewage Treatment System (SSTS) Loan Program

Are you looking to manage your subsurface sewage? The Sibley County Ag BMP loan program may be an option for you if there are no other programs that fit your situation. Sibley County administers this loan program through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Additional requirements include a completed Application, an approved

septic plan, septic system permit, and taxes on the property cannot be delinquent. The loan can be up to 10 years in length with 3% interest on the unpaid balance.

Please stop in or call Ron Otto at the Sibley SWCD if you have any question or want an application.



Grants Available for Septic System Upgrades

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has made funding available to counties for Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS) to protect and prevent against groundwater degradation. These funds will be available to low income homeowners for updating imminent health threat septic systems. The program is being

administered by the Sibley County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) in conjunction with Sibley County Environmental Services and the County Auditor.

Funding for this program is grant based, and therefore will not require repayment responsibility by the land owner. These funds will cover \$6,424 of each household's new

system. The remaining costs of the new system can still be financed through Sibley County's low interest loan program. There is one grant remaining for available funding.

If you have questions, or would like an application, please contact Ron Otto at the Sibley County SWCD office, (507)237-5435 ext. 105.

Sibley SWCD and NRCS
111 6th Street
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Gaylord, MN 55334
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Up Coming Dates:

February 11th, 2014– SWCD Board Meeting
February 17th, 2014– President's Day Holiday
February 19th, 2014– Tree Ordering Day
February 21st, 2014– EQIP Ranking Begins

CRP/RIM Sign-Up

Riparian Buffer Conservation Easements

For sign-up information
stop by SWCD today!



Helping People Help the Land



We're on the web
[www. Sibleyswcd.org](http://www.Sibleyswcd.org)

SIBLEY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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