



PhotoPress

Only good news

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SERVING MARTIN COUNTY PLUS ADJACENT MINNESOTA & IOWA COUNTIES

Farm Operators Consider CRP Enrollment

Guest Columnist



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The 49th enrollment period for the General Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) began December 1st, 2015 and continues through February 26th, 2016 at local USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices throughout the Country. The last General CRP sign-up period was in 2013. There appears to be more interest in the CRP enrollment in 2016, due to the current lower crop prices and reduced farm profitability. Currently, there are over 630,000 CRP contracts in place, on over 350,000 farms, with just over 23.4 million acres under some-type of CRP contract in the U.S.

The 23.4 million acres enrolled in the CRP program in November 2015, is down from nearly 27 million acres in 2013, approximately 31 million acres in 2009, and over 36.8 million in

2007. Currently, there are just shy of 17 million acres under General CRP contracts, 5 million acres under Continuous CRP contracts, 1.1 million acres under CREP contracts, and 380,000 acres in the Farmable Wetland program. The maximum number of CRP acres enrolled at any one time has been reduced in each of the last two Farm Bills, with the 2014 Farm Bill setting the maximum acres in the CRP program at 24 million acres. As of November 2015, there were a total of 54,476 CRP contracts in place in Minnesota, with a total of just over 1.1 million acres. Just over 530,000 acres are under a General CRP contract, and slightly over 582,000 acres were under a continuous CRP contract.

Enrollment periods for the General CRP program only occur when USDA deems necessary to try to

attract additional crop acres into the CRP program, in order to maintain the desired CRP acreage. Sign-up for the Continuous CRP program is on-going, and is likely to continue that way for the foreseeable future. The Continuous CRP program targets the most sensitive environmental land areas, such as filter strips, buffer strips, wetlands, etc. The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) program is a CRP partnership with State Conservation Programs, and target specific watersheds. There are several CREP programs in existence in Minnesota.

The average CRP land rental rate in the U.S. in 2015 was about \$70.00 per acre, with an average of \$51 per acre on General CRP acres, \$114 per acre on Continuous CRP acres, and \$144 per acre on CREP acres. CRP rental

rates vary widely from State-to-State, and within different regions of a given State. The current average CRP rental rate in Minnesota is \$95 per acre, with an average of \$70 per acre on General CRP acres, and \$118 per acre on Continuous CRP acres. Most CRP annual land rental rates in Southern Minnesota are considerably higher than the State average rate. Some other current average CRP rental rates for Midwestern States are Iowa at \$181 per acre, South Dakota at \$82 per acre, North Dakota at \$45 per acre, and Wisconsin at \$111 per acre.

Both new crop land acres and current CRP acres that expire on September 30th, 2016 may be offered for enrollment into the General CRP program during the current sign-up period. Producers with existing CRP contracts that are expiring in 2016 will have no preferential status for keeping their land in the CRP program after this year, and must re-submit a new CRP bid to be re-enrolled in the CRP program. Any new crop land being offered for CRP must have been planted, or considered planted, to an agricultural

commodity in four of the six crop years from 2008 to 2013. New CRP contracts for 2016 are for 10 or 15 years, and will be initiated on October 1st, 2016, with annual rental payments taking place in October each year. Landowners may also receive cost-share assistance up to 50 percent of the costs to establish approved cover crops and practices on CRP acres.

USDA adjusts the maximum annual CRP rental rates for Continuous CRP sign-up each year on a county-by-county basis, which are also used as the maximum CRP rates for General CRP enrollment period in a given year. The maximum rental rates are based on the relative productivity of the soils within each county, as well as on the average dry land cash rental rate for each county, based on the National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) annual land rental analysis. Landowners are provided the maximum allowable CRP rental rate; however, they may submit a lower rental bid if desired, in order to enhance the chances of

their General CRP bid being accepted.

FSA will rank all bid offers for the General CRP enrollment on the basis of the "Environmental Benefits Index" (EBI) to determine which CRP bids are accepted. The EBI is used to target the most environmentally sensitive land with the CRP enrollment process. Factors included in the EBI calculation include benefits for water quality, wildlife habitat, soil erosion, and air quality, as well as accounting for benefits that will likely endure beyond the CRP contract period. The cost per acre for the CRP rental contract is also factored into the EBI for final determination of accepted CRP bids.

For more information on the current General CRP sign-up, or on Continuous CRP enrollment, land owners and producers should contact their local FSA Office, or go to the USDA CRP web site: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp>

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PETERSON-DUFLO - Laura Peterson and Joey Duflo were married October 16th, 2016 at the Linnaeus Arboretum in St. Peter, Minnesota. Pastor Brad Jackson officiated. A reception followed at the Country Inn & Suites in Mankato. Parents of the couple are David and Anita Peterson of Elk River, Minnesota, Anne and Mike Krsiean of Houlton, Wisconsin, and Jerome and Sue Duflo of Fairmont, Minnesota. Grandparents of the bride are Maurice and Grace Peterson and Kathleen and the late Richard Fair. Grandparents of the groom are Art and Linda Juergens of Fairmont. Maid of honor was Samantha Peterson, sister of the bride. Bridesmaids were Brianna Duflo, sister in law, Kristi Long and Megan Lipps, friends of the bride. Best man was Joshua Duflo, brother of the groom. Groomsman were Derek Slaughter and Dustin Slaughter, cousins of the groom and Andrew Lentz, friend of the groom. Flower girls were Linda Juergens, grandmother of the groom, Grace Peterson and Kathy Fair, grandmothers of the bride. Ring bearer was Eli Davis, son of the bride. Ushers were Chuck Juergens, uncle of the groom and Mike Fair, uncle of the bride. The couple lives in Mankato where Joey is employed by Larkstur Engineering and Supply in Mankato. Laura is a teacher in the Owatonna School District. (Photo by Matt Hodgman (The Edge Gallery))

St. John Vianney Catholic School will hold its annual **Dinner Dance fundraiser** on Saturday, January 30th. The event will be at the Knights of Columbus Hall with appetizers at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m. and dance at 7:30 p.m. Formal/semi-formal attire is suggested. Main entrees are stuffed pork chop and salmon. Entertainment will be by Elegant Affairs of Mankato with a live auction of gift baskets and KC raffle tickets. Pick up the \$50 Dinner and Dance tickets at St. John Vianney School or call 235-5304.

The Ceylon American Legion and Auxiliary will have a **Shrimp Dinner** at Nassen-Detert Post #529 Ceylon on Sunday, January 31st. Serving will take place from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Proceeds will go towards the programs of Post #529. Takeouts are available. Ceylon Girl Scouts will help with the meal.

There will be an important meeting concerning the **Area Veterans Tribute** in Trimont City Hall on Tuesday, February 2nd at 7 p.m. There are more decisions to be made and the brochure will be presented for approval.

The Lakesters Car Club will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 2nd, 7 p.m. in the meeting room at McDonald's. All car enthusiasts are welcome.

There will be an Open House Miscellaneous Bridal Shower for **Ashlee Wiebe**, bride to be of Evan Oberdieck, on Saturday, February 6th at 1:30 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, Frasier Township in rural Fairmont. All family and friends are invited. They are registered at Walmart, Sears and Target.

FHS Band Boosters will have a **Dine and Dash Fundraiser** on Monday, February 22nd from 4 to 10 p.m. at Perkins of Fairmont. 15 percent of the sales will be donated to the FHS Marching Band Scholarship Fund. The FHS Marching Band will be traveling to the East coast this summer.

The First Congregational UCC will serve a **free community meal** on Wednesday, January 27th from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the church, 310 Downtown Plaza. The menu includes chili dogs, buns, condiments, carrots, bars, ice cream and beverages. The meal is hosted by the Mission Board of the church.

The Welcome Fire Department Relief Association will have a **Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser** on Sunday, February 7th from 8:00 a.m. until noon at the Welcome American Legion. Free will donation. Proceeds will go toward restoration of the 1929 fire truck.



KING 95TH - Charles King of Fairmont will be celebrating his 95th birthday on February 2nd, 2016 at Goldfinch Estates in Fairmont. Friends are invited to join him at 3:00 p.m. for cake and coffee.



LEMKE 80TH - Hubert Lemke of Fairmont will be celebrating his 80th birthday on February 1st, 2016. Cards can reach him at 1029 N. Hampton Street, Fairmont, MN 56031.



PYTLESKI 80TH - Marjorie Teuchert Pytleski is celebrating her 80th birthday. She was born on January 28th, 1936 in Rolling Green Township, Martin County. Cards can be sent to her at: 403 1st Avenue, Gruver, IA 51344.

Blood Donations Urgently Needed by the Red Cross

The American Red Cross urgently needs blood donors to make an appointment to give this winter. Eligible blood donors of all types are needed, especially those with O, AB, B negative and A negative.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities in this area include:

Trimont - February 15th from Noon to 6:00 p.m. at the Evangelical Covenant

Church, 61 Main Street East in Trimont.

Blood donations are urgently needed now and throughout the winter to maintain a sufficient blood supply for patients in need.

Make an appointment to donate blood by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 1-800 RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

2016 Fairmont Soccer Association **Annual Meeting and Traveling Registration** for U11-U17 boys and girls will be held Sunday, January 31st at 4:30 p.m. at the Fair-

mont Elementary School third through sixth grade lunchroom. Please enter through door #21. For more information visit fairmontsoccer.org.



STEFANSKI - LeRoy and Eunice Stefanski of East Chain celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last Thursday. They were married January 21st, 1966. Cards will reach them at 202 Aspen Road, Fairmont, MN 56031



Fairmont Concert Association Presents California Dreamin'

The Fairmont Concert Association will present "California Dreamin'" on Saturday, February 6th at 7:00 p.m. at the Fairmont

sic of the late 60's and early 70's, featuring music of the Mamas and Papas, Simon and Garfunkel, Peter, Paul and Mary and many other



Area High School Performing Arts Center.

This group is a quartet of two boys and two girls performing easy listening harmonies of folk/pop mu-

popular performers of that era.

Concert members are reminded to present their tickets at the door.

Fairmont High School Class of 1960, spouses, and friends will meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m. on

Tuesday, February 2nd at the Pizza Ranch in Fairmont.

The Fairmont Lakes Foundation monthly meeting will be held Tuesday, February 2nd, 5:30 p.m. in Room 102 of the Southern Minnesota Educational Center, 115 South Park Street. Enter by the south-east door.

A baby shower for **Emily McCoy** and baby girl McCoy will be at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 13th at the East Chain Evangelical Free Church fellowship hall. Everyone is welcome. She is registered at Babys R Us and at Target.

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LEEP Brings New Orleans to Mankato Area Community

Mankato nonprofit Leisure Education for Exceptional People (LEEP) is excited to announce the 2nd Annual Beads and Brass event presented by H&R Block set for Friday, February 5th, 2016 at 7 p.m. The community is welcome to let the good times roll at this Mardi Gras themed event at the Mankato Brewery.

aged to "dress to impress in you N'awlins best." Sequins, beads, extravagant clothing in shades of green, purple, and gold, and full costumes are encouraged.

This event is 21+ and every drink purchased at the event will help support LEEP programming. Mankato Brewery, MIO Catering and event After



Tickets to the event are \$40 now through Thursday, February 4th and will be \$55 at the door. Tickets include Cajun style appetizers, entertainment provided by DJ Shoba, the McNasty Brass Band and the highly anticipated King and Queen of Mardi Gras. Event will also feature a raffle drawing for a trip to New Orleans valued at \$2000. Raffle tickets are only \$25 and can be purchased before or during the event.

Attendees are encour-

Party Sponsor; Moonshiner Patio Bar, have all joined in to make the night a success through their support.

By participating in this event you will directly support LEEP's programming for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. LEEP not only hosts daily recreational activities, but also hosts the largest Special Olympics team in the state of Minnesota. Over 300 athletes compete on one of LEEP's 17 sports' teams.

Leiding Fundraiser Benefit

There will be a benefit fundraiser for Lonnie Leiding of Ceylon on Saturday, February 6th from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Ceylon American Legion Hall.

Friends and family members will be serving Pork patties, potato salad, chips, bars and drinks. A freewill offering will be taken with proceeds go-

ing to help offset medical expenses.

If you are unable to make the fundraiser, but would like to make a donation, you can make a check out payable to "Lonnie Leiding Benefit" and mail it to: Lonnie Leiding Benefit, 1674 - 40th Street, Ceylon, MN 56121.

Girl Scout Cookies Sales Begins

Martin County/Fairmont Girl Scouts are getting ready to sell cookies starting Saturday, February 6th ending Sunday, March 20th.

We have a new baker this year called ABC Bakers and so the names of your favorite cookies have changed, but not their great taste. We will also have a few new cookies this year.

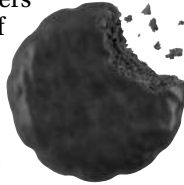
THIN MINTS are still called Thin Mints

CARAMEL DELITES is the new name for Samoas

PEANUT BUTTER PAT-TIES is the new name for Tagalongs

PEANUT BUTTER SANDWICH is the new name for Do-Si-Dos

SHORTBREAD is the new name for Trefoils



THANKS-A-LOT are shortbread cookies that are dipped in rich fudge and topped with an embossed thank you message in one of 5 languages

LEMONADES are shortbread cookies with a refreshingly tangy lemon flavored icing

CRANBERRY CITRUS CRISPS are crispy cookies made with whole grain, full of tangy cranberry bits and zesty citrus flavors

TRIOS - are gluten free cookies with chocolate chips nestled in gluten free peanut butter oatmeal

The Girl Scout Cookie Program is about more than just delicious cookies, it's about supporting Girl Scouts and teaching girls life skills. It is essential to the Girl Scout experience in three ways:

Girls learn business skills such as money management, customer service, and to be resilient.

Troops earn funds for activities such as troop trips, community service, and council programs.

It keeps Girl Scouts affordable. Funds from the Cookie Program help to subsidize the cost of camp, provide resources to girls and volunteers, and offer grants to families who need financial assistance.

If you do not have someone come to the door, we will find a scout in your area. Contact Judy at 236-2540.



Jerry Tietje, President of the Immanuel Lutheran Church Men's Club (left) presents a check for \$300 to Jerry Bergt, member of the Heaven's Table Food Shelf Board of Directors in Fairmont. Funds will be used for costs involved in operating the food shelf and the backpack program.



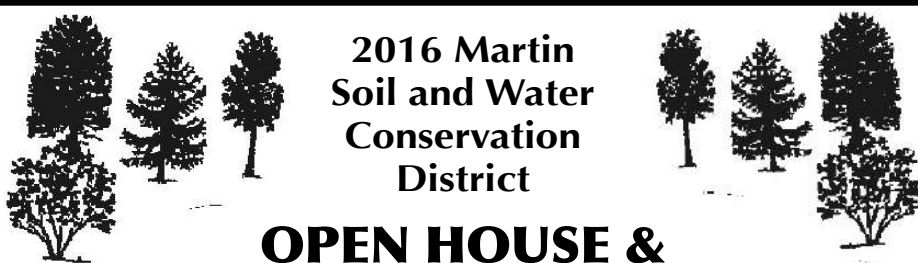
The Martin County Area Foundation held their annual grant awards ceremony at the 2015 Martin County Fair. MCAF Board member Tabitha Bicknase (right) is pictured presenting a check to Sue Eisenmenger, representative from STEP, Inc.



3M hosted their 5th Annual Mathcounts Competition on January 15th, 2016 at the Holiday Inn in Fairmont. 40 students in grades six through eight participated from Fairmont Area Schools and Martin County West. Students competed in four rounds of competition throughout the morning, were treated to a pizza lunch and the event ended with an awards ceremony. Students advancing to the next level will be competing at the Chapter Competition scheduled to take place on February 5th, 2016 at Minnesota State University-Mankato.



Steve Hawkins of Hawkins Chevrolet (right) presents a \$500 donation to the Fairmont Youth Hockey Association's Jason Hegdal during the Fairmont Hockey Day activities held Saturday, January 23rd.



2016 Martin
Soil and Water
Conservation
District

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and Saturday, January 30, 8 a.m. - noon

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OBITUARY notices

Lyle H. Maschoff, 85



Funeral services for Lyle H. Maschoff, 85, of Fairmont, were held Friday, January 22nd, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Fairmont. Burial followed at Lakeside Cemetery in Fairmont with full military honors by Martin County V.F.W. Post 1222 and Lee C. Prentice American Legion Post 36. Lyle passed away Sunday, January 17th, 2016 at Prelude Homes of Woodbury, MN. Lakeview Funeral Home and Cremation Services handled arrangements for the family.

Lyle Henry Maschoff was born March 29th, 1930 in rural Fairmont, the son of Paul and Ella (Milow) Maschoff. Lyle attended grade school at St. Paul's Parochial School in Wilbert and graduated from Fairmont High School in 1948. He then attended college in Mankato for two years, and began working for W. Hodgman and Sons, Inc. as a bookkeeper.

In 1951, he joined the U.S. Army. In the same year, he married his high school sweetheart, Maxine Anderson. Lyle served for two years in the Army before returning to Fairmont and working for W. Hodgman and Sons, Inc. When Ken Hodgman retired, Lyle, as President and majority owner along with his partners, purchased and continued the operation of the company. He sold his business in 1999.

Lyle was an active member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Fairmont where he served in various positions. Lyle and Maxine's love of golf led to many close, life-long friendships. Lyle loved Las Vegas, and his family took him there in November of 2015.

Lyle was well-loved and respected. Even with his Parkinson's disease where he could not speak or walk, those around him enjoyed his sense of humor, kind spirit and optimistic outlook; he never complained or gave up.

Lyle and Maxine moved to the Twin Cities in 2011 to be closer to family. After many years of his loving care of Maxine, she passed from away from Alzheimer's in 2013.

Those that will cherish his memory include son, Gary Maschoff and his wife, Beth, of Woodbury; daughter, Lori Maschoff-Fox and her husband, Daniel, of Westcliffe, CO; two grand-

sons, Zachary and Dillon Fox of Denver, CO; two brothers, Arlen Maschoff of Jackson, and Leon (Lee) Maschoff and his wife, Bev, of Corrales, NM; sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Arlene Hewett and her husband Jim, of Mankato, Elaine Wieskus and her husband, Joe, of Jackson, Sharon Niss and her husband, Darb, of Eagle Lake, Audre Anderson of Truman; Wally Reineke of St. Peter; many nieces and nephews, other relatives and friends.

In addition to his parents and wife, Lyle was also preceded in death by his sisters and brothers-in-law, Lorene Maschoff, Richard and Marilyn Anderson, Lois Reineke, Donna Najt, and Wayne Swanson.

Memorials can be made to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Fairmont or to Prelude Homes & Services, Woodbury, MN.

lakeviewfuneralhome.net

Evelyn L. Sandberg, 91



Services for Evelyn L. Sandberg, 91, of Fairmont, were held Friday, January 22nd, 2016, at United Methodist Church in Fairmont. A private family burial was held at Lakeside Cemetery in Fairmont. Evelyn passed away Tuesday, January 19th, at Goldfinch Estates in Fairmont. Lakeview Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Fairmont assisted the family with arrangements.

Evelyn Lucille (Bruner) Sandberg was born May 5th, 1924, on the family farm near Appleton, MN, the daughter of Lee Roy and Lucy (Stewart) Bruner. She attended school in Appleton and graduated from Appleton High School in 1942.

While working for her parents at their hotel, Evelyn met Boyd Sandberg. On February 23rd, 1950, they were united in marriage in Marshall, MN. The couple made their home in Marshall and Worthington before moving to Fairmont. To this union three children were born, Deanna, Sheila, and Dean. Evelyn worked for Armour Foods for five years. She then began working at the Fairmont Community Hospital where she worked in housekeeping for 16 years, retiring August 1st, 1993.

In her spare time, Evelyn enjoyed working on crossword puzzles, playing cards, reading, and working on jigsaw puzzles. She had a sweet tooth and loved to bake and make goodies such as banana bread and chocolate covered peanut

butter balls. Evelyn enjoyed spending time with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was a member of the United Methodist Church in Fairmont and also a life member of the Lakeview Methodist Health Care Auxiliary and Fairmont Community Hospital Auxiliary.

Left to cherish her memory are her children, Deanna Swanson and her husband, Lee of Blaine, MN, Sheila Hall and her husband, Dennis of Bettendorf, IA, and Dean Sandberg and his wife, Ruth of Fairmont; grandchildren, Gretchen Pierson, Ned Pierson, Tylor Lasley and his wife, Erin, Sherra Lasley, Desi Hall, Alyssa Sandberg, and Logan Sandberg; great-grandchildren, Declan Lasley and Harrison Lasley; as well as brother and sister-in-laws, nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Evelyn was preceded in death by her parents; husband; granddaughter, Carrie Jo Lasley; brothers, Lester Bruner and Leo Bruner; sister, Elaine Ormberg; as well as many in-laws.

Memorials may be left to Fairmont United Methodist Church and St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

lakeviewfuneralhome.net

Thomas J. Winzenburg, 77



Funeral Services for Thomas J. Winzenburg, 77, of Belgrade, Minnesota were held on Friday, January 15th, 2016 at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church in Belgrade. Interment was in Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery in Little Falls, Minnesota. Thomas passed away Tuesday, June 12th, 2016.

Thomas Jerome Winzenburg was born on June 8, 1938 in Fairmont, the son of Frank and Rowene (Tierney) Winzenburg. He grew up in Fairmont and attended St. John Vianney Catholic School and graduated from Fairmont High School in 1956. Tom then enlisted in the United States Army. He served until November of 1958, when he was Honorably Discharged. After his service, Tom returned to Minnesota to help run his family's elevator in Fairmont.

On May 21st, 1960, Tom married Stella Hammer at St. John Vianney Catholic Church in Fairmont. They were blessed with two sons and two daughters. The family lived in Fairmont until 1965, then moved to Brooklyn Center. In 1973, Tom and his family moved to Willmar where he and

Stella opened up Kandi Mall Barber and Beauty Shop and also Tom's Barber Shop in downtown Willmar. They continued to live in Willmar until 1991, when they moved to Sunburg, staying there until 2015, when they moved to their current home in Belgrade.

Tom was a member of St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church. He was active in the Knights of Columbus and also on the church council. Tom was a member of Little Crow Anglers, Willmar Sportsman Club, Muskies Inc., and MN Deer Hunters Association. He volunteered for Medora Foundation and Alexandria Orthopedics. Tom loved spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Tom is survived by his wife of 55 years, Stella; children: Timothy (Lorie) of Sundburg, Dennis (Teresa) of Sundburg, Kathleen (Richard) Roden of Granite Falls, and Jennifer (Michael) Hahn of Willmar; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. Brothers: Frank (Kate) of Fairmont, Jim (Char) of Denver, CO, Gordy (Bonnie) of Brainerd and sister Joan (Jim) Burson of Twian Hart, CA. He was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Mary Kathleen Winzenburg.

Herman J. Deling, 99



Funeral Service for Herman J. Deling, 99, of Fairmont, formerly of Ceylon, was held Monday, January 25th, 2016, at the United Methodist Church in Fairmont with interment in Tenhassen Township Cemetery, rural Ceylon. Herman passed away on Thursday, January 21st, 2016, at Mayo Clinic Health System in Fairmont. Lakeview Funeral Home in Fairmont assisted the family with arrangements. Herman was preceded in death by his beloved wife of nearly 75 years, Irleen (Palmer) Deling, in September 2013.

Herman Johnson Deling was born on December 15th, 1916, in Jolly, IA. He was the son of Henry and Lena (Oltman) Deling. In his early years Herman farmed in the Dunnell and Ceylon areas. On December 30th, 1938, he married Irleen (Palmer) Deling of Ceylon. They continued to farm in Martin and Blue Earth Counties, raising seven children.

Herman saw many changes in farming over the years, as he went from farming with work horses to us-

ing tractors. He always had a love of horses, riding horses well into his seventies. Later he worked at Stokely-Van-Camp in Fairmont. Herman and Irleen were caregivers for the Tenhassen Township Cemetery for many years and were members of the Ceylon United Methodist Church.

Herman celebrated his 99th birthday in December with his family, who survive him: Orville (Irene) Deling of Fairmont, Russell (Brenda) Deling of Dolliver, IA, Leroy Deling of Mankato, Loren (Marilyn) Deling of Rochester, Mary Deling of Stewartville, Marlin (Lori) Deling of Ramsey, and Marjorie (Scott) Kittleson of Aitkin; 16 grandchildren; 21 great grandchildren; 14 great-great grandchildren; brother-in-law, Harold (Darlene) Palmer of Brainerd; sister-in-law, Doris Palmer of Owatonna; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his wife, Herman was preceded in death by his parents; his in-laws, Major and Miriam Palmer; brother, Raymond Deling; sisters, Ann Gjerstad, Grace Lysholm, and Joann Bowman; seven brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law; one granddaughter; two nieces; and three nephews.

lakeviewfuneralhome.net

Diane M. Erwin (Crawford), 67



Diane Marie Erwin (Crawford), 67, of Fairmont, died on January 19th, 2016, surrounded by family at St. Mary's Hospital. Mass of Christian Burial was held Wednesday, January 27th, at St. John Vianney Catholic Church in Fairmont. Burial will be at a later date. Lakeview Funeral Home and Cre-

mation Services handled arrangements for the family.

Diane, the daughter of Walter (Bud) Crawford and Lillian (Sokoloski) Lund, was born on January 18th, 1949 in Fairmont. She attended and graduated from Fairmont High School in 1967. Diane married Gustaf (Gus) Anderson Jr. on January 31st, 1969. Together they were blessed with three children, Terra, Heather, Emily.

Diane enjoyed a long career in the health care field where she enjoyed helping others. Diane also worked at Kid's Corner for a short time and ultimately went back to the health care field as a Physical Therapy Aide.

Diane was united in marriage with Patrick (Pat) Erwin on July, 20th, 2000, in Fairmont. Diane loved his three children, Jill, Matthew, Brian, as her own.

She was a strong person from a very young age. At 1 years of age, Diane had the first surgery of her kind in the United States at Gillette Children's Hospital.

Diane is survived by her husband, Pat, of Fairmont; three daughters, Terra Anderson, Heather (Travis) Bowman, and Emily Anderson; three step-children, Jill (Charles) Erwin Jessup, Matthew (Diana) Erwin, Brian (Heather) Erwin; mother, Lillian Lund; grandchildren, Levi, Amara, Isabella, Madelyn, Michael (Kristina), Gabriel, Nathaniel, Joshua, Sarah, and Sophia; great grandchildren, Braeden and Alexa; sister, Karen Lester; brother, Rick (Julie) Crawford; mother-in-law, Lorraine Erwin; sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Nancy (Kimber) Prehn, Barb (Dwain) Perkins, Donna (James) Loken, David (Cynthia) Erwin, Stephen (Amy) Erwin; as well as many other family and loved ones.

She was preceded in death by her father, Walter (Bud) Crawford, step-father, Burton (Bud) Lund, father-in-law, Donald Erwin, and brother-in-law, Malcolm Lester.

Diane's signature gift of kindness will never be forgotten. She was able to donate to Lifesource as a final act of kindness.

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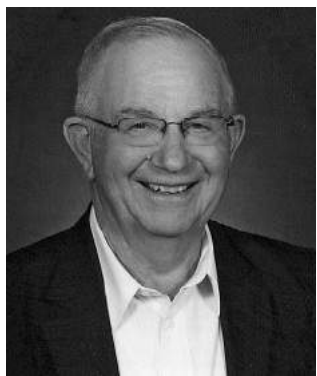


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Arlyn G. Sandersfeld, 83



Funeral services for Arlyn G. Sandersfeld, 83, of Fairmont will be 1:30 p.m. Thursday, January 28th, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Fairmont. Burial will follow the service at Fairview Memorial Park in Fairmont. Visitation will be 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 27th, at Lakeview Funeral Home in Fairmont and will continue one hour prior to the service at the church on Thursday.

Arlyn passed away Saturday, January 23rd, 2016 at Mayo Clinic Health System - Fairmont. Lakeview Funeral Home and Cremation Services is handling the arrangements for the family.

Arlyn George Sandersfeld was born on October 1st, 1932 in Fox Lake Township, the son of Walter and Edna (Klein) Sandersfeld. He was baptized and confirmed at Trinity Lutheran Church in Welcome. He attended District #14 country school and Sherburn public school. On October 10th, 1952, he married Barbara Jean Kuntz and they had three children together, LaRae, Leland and Lyn. They were later divorced. On December 16th, 1964, he married Ruth Ann Mulso in Sioux Falls, SD.

Arlyn worked for several farmers, then the Midland Co-op as a bulk driver. He then went to work for the Street Department for the City of Fairmont where he worked until retirement. After retiring from the city he drove the city bus for Fair Lakes Taxi Service.

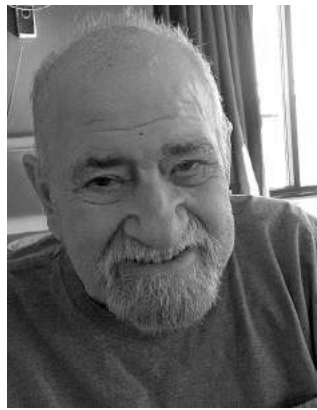
He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Ruth Ann Sandersfeld of Fairmont; children, LaRae Henry of Encinitas, CA, Leland Sandersfeld of Fairmont, and Lyn Sandersfeld and his wife, Barbara, of Fairmont; step children, Arnold Mulso and his wife, Patricia, of Albert Lea, Allan Mulso and his wife, Kim, of N. Scituate, RI; grandchildren, Amy (Jake), Emily (Lucas), Ryan, Luke (Samantha) and Sadie; step grandchildren, Stacy (Tony), Dean (Ann), Matthew (Kris), Jer-

emy (Teresa), Hayley and Shawn; four great grandchildren; two brothers, Verlyn Sandersfeld (Kay) of Fairmont, Gary Sandersfeld (Carmen) of San Diego, CA; four sisters, Birdella Allen of Trimont, Shirley Crocker of Fairmont, Marlys Grunst (Allen) of Des Moines, IA, Nila Gilbertson of Fairmont; nieces and nephews, other relatives and friends.

Arlyn was preceded in death by his parents; and brothers-in-law, John Allen, David Crocker and Dwayne Gilbertson.

lakeviewfuneralhome.net

Dick Van Ravenhorst, 78



Memorial Service for Dick Van Ravenhorst, 78, of Elmore, was held Wednesday, January 27th, 2016 at Elmore United Methodist Church. Dick passed away Sunday, January 24th, 2016 at Lakeview Methodist Health Care Center in Fairmont. Lakeview Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Fairmont assisted the family with arrangements.

Dick was born August 24th, 1937 to George and Hazel (Wynia) Van Ravenhorst in Hollandale, MN. He attended school before enlisting in the United States Army in 1960. Dick proudly served his country until his honorable discharge in 1962.

On August 11th, 1965 Dick was united in marriage to Melissa Scott. This union was blessed with two children, Theresa and Daryl. Later in life Dick married Linda Berkness on April 29th, 2005 in Elmore. The two made their home together in Elmore before Dick moved to the Lakeview Methodist Health Care Center in May of 2015.

Dick worked for Holly Park Homes in Blue Earth and Elmore Concrete in Elmore before he began at ADA Enterprise in Northwood, IA where he delivered various farm equipment supplies. Dick retired

in 2002. He was a lifetime member of the Blue Earth American Legion Post 89.

He enjoyed farm and threshing events, John Deere tractors, taking long walks and traveling to Orange City, IA to the Tulip Festival. Dick was proud of his Dutch heritage and enjoyed talking about and learning more about the culture.

Those left to cherish his memory include his wife, Linda Van Ravenhorst of Elmore; children: Theresa Van Ravenhorst of Owatonna, and Daryl (Mary) Van Ravenhorst of Janesville, MN; brother, Jim (Diane) Van Ravenhorst of Owatonna; sister, Everna (Harold) Northern of Apache Junction, AZ; brother-in-law, Walter Rich of Boise, ID; eight

grandchildren; 3-great grandchildren; five step-children: Tara, Paul (Denise), Jaci (Alex), Erin (financé, Mike) and Kirsten; and three step-grandchildren.

Dick was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Yvonne Stratton; sisters: Effie Rich, Henrietta Stoen; and brother, Delbert Van Ravenhorst.

lakeviewfuneralhome.net

All obituaries must be submitted by noon on Monday of the week that it is to be placed. Any photos must be in high resolution and high quality. Any questions on the Photo Press obituary policy can be sent to Jeff Hagen jeff@fairmontphotopress.com

DEATH notices



January 19 - Evelyn L. Sandberg, 91, Fairmont.

Lakeview Funeral Home

January 19 - Wilma Potter-Caryl, 91, Fairmont.

Lakeview Funeral Home

January 19 - Diane M. Erwin, 67, Fairmont.

Lakeview Funeral Home

January 21 - Herman J. Deling, 99, Fairmont

(formerly of Ceylon). Lakeview Funeral Home

January 22 - Alice M. Christensen, 93, Ceylon.

Kramer Family Funeral Home

January 23 - Arlyn G. Sandersfeld, 83, Fairmont.

Lakeview Funeral Home

January 24 - Dick Van Ravenhorst, 78, Elmore.

Lakeview Funeral Home

January 24 - Luella F. Wessel, 99, Truman.

Zaharia Family Funeral and Cremation Service

In Memoriam One Year Ago This Week

January 19 - Ione Laase, 96, Trimont

January 19 - Frieda V. Nolte, 98, Fairmont

January 20 - Ruth M. Hendricksen, 96, Truman

January 21 - Barbara K. Hoops, 70, Fairmont

January 23 - Ellrich C. Fritz, 96, Fairmont

January 24 - David O. Anderson, 81, Trimont

January 25 - Phylliss M. Pierce, 99, Fairmont

January 25 - Dale F. Kettner, 63, Truman



LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK

Enrollment is now open for the 2016-2017 school year at Martin Luther High School, Northrop. All students in grades 9-12 are welcome.

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LUD-KEY

A brain on nature

by Al Batt

Birds fly over with such certainty.

They appear to know where they are going.

That's not always the case. I found a dead Lapland longspur on the road. I suspect that the lovely bird had collided with a car. Birds live fast and die young.

In my yard, I watched a junco do the double scratch of a chicken in the seed hulls resting on the snow. A downy woodpecker fed on a suet feeder. It had red on its head, so it was a male. The female lacks red. The smallest woodpecker in the U.S., the downy is found in every state but Hawaii.

Another downy flew to the ground to eat fallen suet. It was chased away by a squirrel. You don't have to be nuts to be afraid of squirrels. We tend to think of squirrels as vegetarians, but they are willing to eat insects, eggs and young birds. I have birding friends

who put great stock in the first bird they see each year. It could be their theme bird, spirit bird or magic bird. The first bird I saw this year was a cardinal foraging in the gathering light. It was my cool bird.

A black-capped chickadee whistled its fee-bee spring song that it begins singing every winter. It's the state bird of Massachusetts and Maine.

I watched a high school basketball game in which one of the starters was named Nicole Bunting. Thanks to having a brain on nature, I thought of both basketball and birds. I've been fortunate enough to have seen an indigo bunting, blue bunting, painted bunting, lark bunting, snow bunting, corn bunting and common reed bunting. And now, a Nicole Bunting.

Q-and-A

"Do all birds have hollow bones?" Most birds have hollow bones optimized for flight. Some don't. Our state bird, the common loon, has nearly solid bones optimized for diving as deep as 200 feet below the water's surface in search of fish, frogs, leeches and crayfish. Most hunting takes place at 20 feet down as the loons'

large feet propel them like torpedoes. They can stay underwater for up to three minutes. The extra weight requires a runway of over 100 feet to become airborne, but once aloft they can reach speeds in excess of 55 miles per hour.

"There were barn owls in our barn when I was a girl. Why don't I see them now?" They have suffered from loss of habitat--they prefer grassland habitat. They are highly susceptible to rodenticides, great horned owls prey on them, cold winters are hard on them and their hunting habits lead to collisions with cars.

"Why don't birds freeze while bathing in the winter?" It'd seem that winter bathing would put birds at risk, but they do it quite safely. The feathers of a healthy bird shed most of the water, preventing it from leaking through to the insulating down and skin. This is most obvious in waterfowl, but also applies to songbirds that shed and shake water from plumage.

Water cleans feathers of anything that might interfere with feather barbules. A study found that birds spend 9 percent of their time preening. This helps make sure that feathers do



A white-breasted nuthatch, better known as "cute." Photo by Al Batt

their jobs. In nature, wintering songbirds typically bathe in shallow water of flowing streams.

"How much does a chickadee weigh?" A black-capped chickadee weighs .3 to .5 ounces. You could mail three smaller ones for a single Forever stamp. It'd take about 40 of them to make a pound.

"What is an animal?" It's estimated that there are as many as 10 million species of animals. The exact number is unknown. Animals range in size from a few cells to organisms weighing tons, such as the giant

squid. Most species of animals are insects.

All animals are members of the Kingdom Animalia, are multicellular and are heterotrophs (relying directly or indirectly on other organisms for nourishment) ingesting and digesting food in an internal cavity rather than manufacturing their own food as plants do. At some point in their life cycle, animals move under their own power. Animals lack rigid cells walls, with bodies that are soft and pliable rather than woody or fibrous.

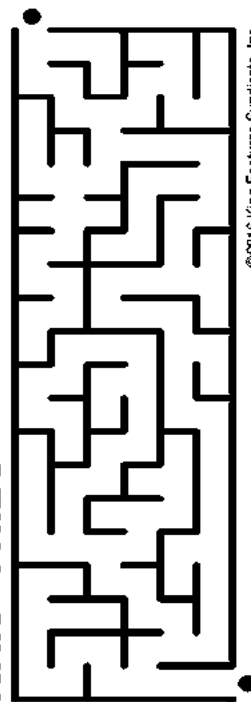
Thanks for stopping by

"You can drive out nature with a pitchfork, but she keeps on coming back." -Horace

"To speak ill of others is a dishonest way of praising ourselves."--Will Durant

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Kids' Maze



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Martin Soil & Water Conservation Update

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Vol. 35 No. 1 | Martin Soil & Water 2016 Progress Report | Supplement to the Photo Press

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Martin County Conservation Club 2015 Update

by Bruce Moore,
President, MCCI

We held our third annual fundraiser banquet on February 28th, 2015 at the Fairmont National Guard Armory. It was again successful beyond expectations with a full house of 400 people attending enjoying

sponsors, donors, and attendees for making this the success that it was.

We donated funds from the banquet to the Fairmont high school trap team and the 4H shooting sports team. The Fairmont team is sending several members to the state tournament and both groups reported

sport.

Other recipients of proceeds from our banquet included "Let's Go Fishing for Seniors", Martin County Soil and Water District for various conservation projects, the "Harry Stewart Environment Day" for county fifth graders at Cedar Creek Park. Funds were also sent to the

lakes," Turn in Poachers" (TIP) and a scholarship with "Dollars for Scholars".

Our club and our generous neighbors on North Silver Lake continue in our efforts to restock game fish into the lake after the winterkill in 2014. Walleye fry were stocked in May of 2014 and adult perch, crappies, bluegills and bass in May of this year. Good fishing should return next spring.

We again sponsored a Youth Habitat Day at the mall in March. Approximately 110 wren and robin nest platforms were assembled by the kids with assistance from MCCI volunteers. More wren houses were given to the first graders of Martin County West Elementary School. We also gave away about wood duck houses, bluebird and wren houses to the public at our

club shelter house in April.

The club provided fishing poles for kids to use at the annual Fishing Derby in Fairmont sponsored by the local Bass Seekers group and Kiwanis in June.

We continue to partner with the Fox Lake Conservation League, Pheasants Forever, DU, and the DNR in efforts to acquire marginal non-crop lands for wildlife and the public's use. We applied for a Conservation Partners Legacy grant to purchase lands near Fairmont in September. Unfortunately, we weren't successful, but Pheasants Forever picked up the purchase and the Island WMA near Pierce Lake will gain an additional 71 acres!

All club meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. From November through March,

they are held at Tami's on the Ave (lower level) in Fairmont. April through October meetings are at the club's shelter house on the south end of North Silver Lake. All members and the public are welcome and encouraged to attend. Memberships are available from directors, at meetings, or at Sommer's Outdoors in Fairmont for \$15 individual or \$25 for immediate family.

Thank you to all members and the public for your donations and support of our efforts conserving the natural resources in Martin County. Plan to attend our 4th annual fundraising banquet on February 20th, 2016 at the Fairmont National Guard Armory in Fairmont. Tickets available at HyVee, Sommers Outdoors, and calling Mike Ebert. Visit us on Facebook.



a delicious meal, numerous raffles, and prizes. Many thanks to our generous

increasing interests by their student members in this relatively new high school

Fairmont Lakes Foundation (\$15,000) for new fishing docks on the Fairmont

Anticipation Comes with Seasons of New Beginnings

by Michael Katzenmeyer,
Chair Fairmont Lakes
Foundation, Inc.

The Fairmont Chain of Lakes water level is approximately 22 inches higher than last year, due in part to the wet fall. There is still current running under the ice cover. This can cause extreme variations of thickness within short distances and may lull an unsuspecting fisherman into complacency.

Our Annual Fairmont Lakes Foundation, Inc. Fishing Contest is January 30th. Register early as the contest is limited to 150 participants.

Please remember your stewardship responsibilities as you utilize our frozen resources this season. Anything you bring with you should leave with you when you are finished. Help protect our resource.

Was it really last summer that, with the financial assistance of the Martin County Conservation Club, The Martin County Area Foundation and the \$50,000 grant from Michelob Golden Lite, Fairmont Lakes Foundation, Inc. was able to purchase three fishing piers for our lakes? By the time the last one was installed, it left little more than a month for residents and visitors to enjoy the additional public access opportunities before they needed to be stored for the winter.

Fairmont Lakes Foundation, Inc. has been consulting with Martin Soil

and water and the City of Fairmont to put together a grant application that, if successful, would assist with funding a clean-up project on Dutch Creek. This is a top priority, as a long range goal for enhancing the water quality in our

longer serves as an effective predator on the top end of the lakes food chain. The DNR is considering introducing Muskellunge (Muskies) to our Chain of Lakes to replace the much-needed predator. This has created mixed reactions

receiving muskies in our reservoir, the target date for stocking is the fall of 2016. With the numbers proposed for stocking, it would take approximately 5-10 years for them to become a predator source capable of having an impact on the rough fish in our lakes.

Fairmont Lakes Foundation, Inc. is also trying to re-establish native aquatic vegetation in our lakes in an effort to assist in improving the water quality in our reservoir. Rough fish are counter productive to that effort. So is the fear expressed by many that if native aquatic vegetation is allowed to take hold it will destroy recreational boating. With the shape of our reservoir and water clarity of 12"-14", it would be difficult if not impossible for sunlight to penetrate deep enough to germinate seeds more than 50 feet from shore. This does, however, present a point of personal preference for lakeshore owners as to whether or not they wish to participate in any attempt to enhance water clarity in our lakes. By bringing back our native aquatic vegetation, we would also be improving habitat for our fish.

We have often stated that the role of Fairmont Lakes Foundation, Inc. is to be considered a "work in progress." That work will see us continue to strive to maintain, enhance, and protect the waters of our lakes.

Create a natural shoreline and protect our Lakes.

A natural shoreline will protect the bank from erosion, catch and filter runoff from the yard, provide shade over shallow water, create habitat, and add beauty. Because of these benefits, natural shorelines reduce nutrient pollution and algae blooms in your lake too!

Creating a natural shoreline doesn't mean cutting out recreational uses or a view from the deck, but it does mean that you'll intentionally decide how and where you should increase the number of trees, shrubs, grasses, and flowers on your lot.



Chain of Lakes.

Fairmont Lakes Foundation, Inc. also continues to work on a long range goal of establishing a "carp abatement plan." Under the advisement of the DNR, we began implementing that plan by purchasing and stocking roughly 3,000 bluegills in George Lake, Sisseton Lake, and Amber Lake. These lakes were selected, as it was determined that they had the most desirable habitat to support the stocking. This project should aid in carp abatement by providing a "predator source" that will eat vast amounts of carp eggs.

Through survey data compiled by the DNR, it shows that our Northern Pike population has dwindled to the point that it no

from various sources.

While the DNR proposal comes from studying our specific needs in this reservoir, they have data which supports the need for and the potential success of stocking muskies. First of all, data shows that our reservoir houses an estimated 900 pounds of rough fish (carp, sheepshead, etc.) per acre of water. Secondly, the fear of muskies coming in and destroying our game fish population, is unfounded. Statistics show that muskies successfully co-exist with game fish populations and enhance rather than destroy the health of these populations. Locally, they are able to provide supportive data from the Fox Lake reservoir.

If we are successful in

Southern MN DU, #2 in State of Minnesota for Fundraising

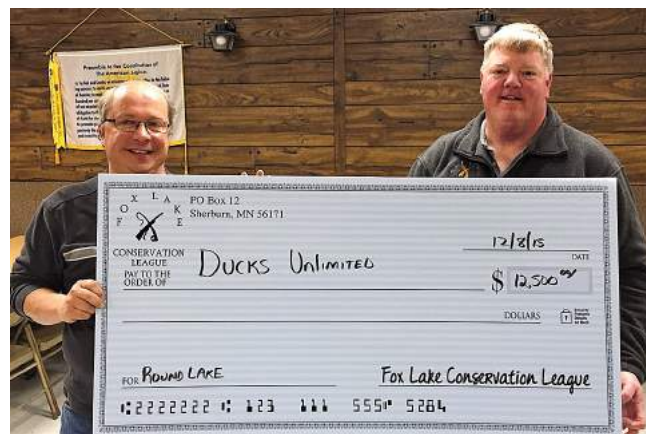
by Doug Hartke

The Southern Minnesota chapter of Ducks Unlimited, located in Sherburne, MN 56171, has been awarded with the 2015 #2 ranking in terms of fundraising dollars, for the state of Minnesota. Southern Minnesota DU again led the entire southern region of chapters in fundraising and numbers of sponsor memberships. In 2015, the chapter had 147 Sponsors and are trying to break their own state record with

local high school trap teams to raise money for both conservation and youth shooting.

Ducks Unlimited is a non-profit that leads the world in wetlands conservation. All Ducks Unlimited chapters are led by volunteers that have a passion for leaving the landscape in better condition for the next generation of hunters and conservationists.

Funds raised by all Ducks Unlimited chapters are used for wetlands con-



a recruiting effort going on now until their March 19th Spring Event.

Volunteers for the chapter, hosted five fundraising events throughout the calendar year, including an annual dinner event that will be held on March 19th this year, a sponsor event, and a Greenwing event for youth under the age of 17. The chapter also partnered with

conservation in Minnesota and across North America. Last year Ducks Unlimited delivered over 40,000 acres of habitat conservation work in Minnesota and hundreds of thousands of acres across North America.

For information on becoming a DU volunteer in the Sherburne area, please contact Doug Hartke at (507) 236-1700.

All programs and services of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Martin Soil and Water Conservation District are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

County Water Plan and Wetland Conservation Act

by Rich Perrine

Martin SWCD continues to administer the Martin County Local Water Plan and the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act, a role delegated to the District by the Martin County Board of Commissioners.

On November 3rd, 2015 The County Board passed a resolution to update the Martin County Water Plan. The current plan was written in 2006 and updated in 2011. The new plan will be organized by watershed to help transition to the new "One Watershed One Plan" approach that is in the works for the future of water planning. Our plan includes parts of the Blue Earth, the Watonwan and the Des Moines River Watersheds. The transition to One Watershed One Plan is expected to happen over a period of years, beginning with the Watonwan River Watershed which drains the northern part of the county, basically the land north of Elm Creek that does not drain into Elm Creek.

The water plan is not a regulatory document, but rather includes recommendations and actions that are needed to manage water in order to maintain

or improve water quality and address water quantity issues.

The Water Plan, meeting minutes, and agenda for the next meeting can be found on the Web: www.martinswcd.net or the county site: www.co.martin.mn.us

Please contact the Martin SWCD office with any priority concerns or issues you feel should be addressed in the new water plan. The current plan recommends a 200 foot minimum buffer adjacent to water bodies regardless of land use. It recognizes the need to restore native habitat while installing practices to protect water quality and manage water quantity.

With a lack of funding through the RIM program, CRP and land acquisitions by DNR for habitat restorations have been the primary tools to implement water plan activities again last year. There are plans for a RIM and CREP signup this year which would allow for some additional options for landowners.

The Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund has provided funding as recommended by the Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources for two projects in Martin County. One in 2014 applied for by the Fox Lake

Conservation League continues to work toward the purchase of a prairie remnant in Cedar Township. Another project submitted by Martin SWCD and funded in 2015 is restoring native habitat in selected locations in 13 counties. Both of these projects are helping to implement the water plan.

The current water plan does not include methods to prioritize areas for setting land aside for conservation purposes. That process needs to be developed.

A Comprehensive Wetland Protection and Management Plan was completed in 2002. That plan was never adopted for inclusion in the water plan. The wetland plan needs to be updated and included in the water plan or added as an addendum.

Wellhead protection continues to be a major focus for the cities in Martin County. Working with the MN Department of Health local cities have updated their Wellhead Protection Plans for their public water systems and are beginning to implement those plans.

While water plan activities are generally voluntary, allowing projects to utilize many sources of funding to accomplish multiple objectives, The Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act is

regulatory legislation that has been regulating wetland activity since its passage in 1991. Remember, wetlands are simply wet land. They do not need to grow cattails, and may only be wet for a short period in the spring or after heavy rains.

Please contact the Martin SWCD office prior to working in an area you suspect may be a wetland. Avoiding or minimizing impacts to wetlands is the intent of the law. Draining, filling or altering a wetland in any way are often regulated activities. An approved plan will be needed

before work should begin. Purchasing credits from the wetland bank held by the MN BWSR is one method that can be used to replace wetland impacts. Whether restoring a wetland for banking or using banking credits to replace drainage project impacts, a plan needs to be developed and approved before either activity can be started.

There are very few wetland credits available in Martin County, and since it is a priority to replace wetlands within the same watershed where the impacts occur, we are currently

working with landowners in the Des Moines and Blue Earth River Watersheds to restore wetlands that will provide credits for local use.

And always be SAFE! Call Gopher One before you dig: 1-800-252-1166.

A Big Thanks goes out to the Fox Lake Conservation League again this year for the project support and matching funding needed to implement water plan activities. The funding of the ATV for project work will be a tremendous help in the field for SWCD staff.

Doug Hartke and Ashley Brenke with the new ATV.



Outstanding Conservationist Award

Deb Mosloski was the Martin County SWCD Outstanding Conservationist of the Year award winner in 2015.

Deb was the Martin County Drainage Administrator for many years, and was instrumental in leading the County through the redetermination of benefits process on public drainage systems.

Deb has been a spokesperson representing Martin County for redetermination of benefits throughout the state of Minnesota. She has spoken to many groups about the benefits of redeterminations, and buffer strips. Deb's excellent working relationship with agriculture, conservation groups, and all agencies in-



involved with drainage, was the reason for her nomination. Congratulations Deb!

Environmental Awareness Day

by Greg Johanson

Beginning in the mid 1970's, the Martin County Soil and Water Conservation District has set aside one day in the fall for all 5th grade students in our county. This day is used to help the students learn about our environment and its surroundings. The event includes three 20 minute learning stations, followed by the University of Minnesota Raptor Center. The stations this past year in-

clude the DNR fisheries, a working watershed model and the native prairie. A one hour presentation from the Raptor Center is always a big hit with the students as well. This past year, Environmental Awareness

Day was held on September 15th, 2015 at the Heritage Acres learning center. Heritage Acres provides a great setting for both indoor and outdoor presentations, as well as a look into agriculture's past.



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What are Aquatic Invasive Species?

by Dustin Benes

Aquatic invasive species are plants or animals that are not native to Minnesota and cause economic, environmental harm, or harm to human health. Minnesota's natural resources are threatened by a number of aquatic invasive species such as zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, curly leaf pondweed, Bighead and Silver Carp, and spiny or fishhook water fleas, just to name a few. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources works to help prevent the spread and promote the management of invasive species. Invasive species spread rapidly in new areas and lack natural predators to keep their numbers in check. Once an invasive species is in an area, it's almost impossible to eradicate them. About 5% of Minnesota's more than 11,000 lakes are on the infested waters list. As of November 2015, the MN DNR confirmed zebra mussels in 112 lakes, rivers and wetlands.

So, why do we care if Aquatic Invasive Species invade our lakes and rivers? Aquatic Invasive Species disrupt the local ecotype, causing many problems.

Let's take zebra mussels

for example. Zebra mussels get their name from the dark stripes on their "D" shaped shells. The average size is about the size of your fingernail, but can grow up to two inches. One zebra mussel can filter up to one liter of water per day, competing with native fish for food, hurting the ecosystem. Young mussels, called veligers, are suspended in the water column for up to two weeks before attaching to a hard surface, giving them easy access to bait buckets, ballast water, or live wells. Adult zebra mussels attach to any hard surface and quickly populate the area. These small mussels from Eurasia can clog water intakes and damage equipment by attaching to boat motors and hard surfaces. They damage ecosystems by harming fisheries, filtering out food for native fish, smothering native



mussels and crayfish, and littering beaches with their sharp shells. Zebra mussels spread from Europe to the Great Lakes in the contaminated ballast water discharge and anchor chains from ships. From there, they expanded to the Mississippi River, its tributaries, and to inland lakes. Primarily they spread by attaching

to boat hulls, aquatic plants, fishing equipment, and in water.

What about the aquatic invasive plant, Eurasian Water Milfoil? This aquatic plant can rapidly form thick mats in shallow areas of lakes and rivers. These mats interfere with swimming and entangle propellers, which effects boating, fishing, and waterfowl hunting. Matted milfoil can displace native aquatic plants, impacting fish and wildlife. Milfoil spreads when plant pieces break off and float on water currents. It can cross land to new waters by clinging to boats, motors, trailers, personal watercraft, and fishing gear.



Another invasive aquatic plant to watch for is Curly Leaf Pondweed. This plant will quickly form dense mats at the water surface in late spring and early summer. In late fall it sprouts from rhizomes and turions, shading out native plants. Mats interfere with boating, fishing, waterfowl hunting, and swimming. Summer die-offs can form windrows of decaying plants on shore, sometimes followed by algae blooms. Curly leaf Pondweed displaces native plant communities and de-

cay can deplete oxygen levels, leading to fish kills and impacts on other aquatic life. Our job is to learn to identify these plants, inspect and remove all visible plants from all equipment before and after entering a body of water.

Bighead and Silver Carp are invasive fish spreading fast to lakes and rivers. They are filter feeders, feeding on plankton and competing for food with native mussels and fishes. These carp do not have stomachs and feed almost constantly filtering out phytoplankton. They are quickly dominating fisheries, impacting recreation, and commercial fishing. Silver carp have been known to leap

10 feet out of water when disturbed by watercraft, injuring people on the water. Both species were imported in the 1970's from Asia to control algae in aquaculture ponds and municipal wastewater treatment facilities, but soon escaped during floods. They are considered highly invasive, often reach high population densities, and are thought to have undesirable effects on the environment and native species. They are spreading fast through the waterways. To help prevent the spread of these two species, sport fishing bait should not be harvested on infested waters and unused bait should not be released into water bodies. Unused bait should be disposed of in the garbage and not released.

The last invasive species is the Spiny and Fishhook Water fleas. Both species are small predacious crustaceans that threaten aquatic ecosystems and fishing by competing with native fish for food and fouling gear. Both arrived in ships ballast water from Eurasia. Anglers often discover new infestations.

Both water fleas collect in masses on fishing lines and downrigger cables. Clumps of these look and feel like gelatin or cotton batting with tiny black dots. They can spread to inland waters when fishing gear is contaminated with egg laden females. While females die out of water, under certain conditions they produce eggs that resist drying, remain viable, and can establish a new population. Eradicating established infestations is impossible.

Minnesota has several state laws intended to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive species in the state. We need everyone who enjoys Minnesota's water resources to get on board and help stop the spread of AIS. You can help

prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species by taking three steps every time you leave a lake or river - whether or not it's infested:

Clean all aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other invasive species from boats, trailers, and water-related equipment.

Drain water from your boat, ballast tanks, motor, live well and bait container. Remove drain plugs and keep drain plugs out while transporting equipment.

Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash. To keep live bait, drain the water and refill the bait container with bottled or tap water.

To learn more about Aquatic and Terrestrial Invasive Species, go to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources website.

SWCD Seeding Program

by Greg Johanson

If you are enrolling into a conservation program such as CRP, RIM or you just need to do a grass seeding, the Martin County SWCD can help get you started. We now have a new 10 foot grass drill for rent, along with a no-till six foot drill. These drills are great for new waterways, enhancing existing CRP sites, ditch buffers and other soil conserving areas. WE also can custom seed new sites with our Vision Broadcast seeder. The Martin SWCD can also

order the seed that will fit your site. If you are interested in renting one of our drills, or contracting with the SWCD to do custom seeding, you can stop in our office, or call us at 507-235-6680. Our custom rates are as follows:

Drill Rental Rates

- In Martin County: \$8/acre with a \$50 minimum
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The Martin County Agricultural Best Management Practices Loan Program, administered by the MN Department of Agriculture, was created by the 1994 Minnesota Legislature and is funded with federal Environmental Protection Agency money. Applicants should call the SWCD/NRCS office at 235-6680 to make an appointment.

Pick up an application packet at the Martin County Soil & Water Conservation District Office: 923 N. State St., Fairmont, MN 56031



Conservation Reserve Program Continuous Sign-Up

USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive agricultural land is not farmed or ranched, but instead used for conservation benefits. CRP participants establish long-term, resource-conserving vegetative species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as "covers") to control soil erosion, improve the water quality and enhance wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Continuous sign-up contracts are 10 to 15 years in duration.

The Food Security Act of 1985, as amended, authorized CRP. The program is also governed by regulations published in 7 CFR, part 1410. The program is implemented by FSA on behalf of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation. More detailed information on CRP is available in the FSA fact sheet, "Conservation Reserve Program" located at www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/2014_crp-general.pdf

BENEFITS

CRP protects millions of acres of American topsoil from erosion and is designed to safeguard the nation's natural resources. By reducing water runoff and sedimentation, CRP protects groundwater and helps improve the condition of lakes, rivers, ponds, and streams. The vegetative covers also make CRP

a major contributor to increased wildlife populations in many parts of the country.

ADMINISTRATION

FSA administers CRP while technical support functions are provided by:

- USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS);
- USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA);
- State forestry agencies;
- Local soil and water conservation districts;
- Other non-federal providers of technical assistance.

CONTINUOUS SIGN-UP

Under continuous sign-up authority, environmentally sensitive land devoted to certain conservation practices can be enrolled in CRP at any time. Offers are automatically accepted provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements. Unlike CRP enrollments under general sign-up authority, offers for continuous sign-up are not subject to competitive bidding.

The effective date of the CRP contract is the first day of the month following the month of approval. In certain circumstances, producers may defer the effective date for up to six months.

If the acreage is currently under CRP contract and is within one year of the scheduled expiration date, the effective date is Oct. 1st following the expiration date.

To offer land for con-

tinuous sign-up, producers should contact their local FSA office.

ELIGIBLE PRODUCERS

A producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to submitting the offer, unless:

- The new owner acquired the land due to the previous owner's death;
- The ownership change occurred due to foreclosure where the owner exercised a timely right of redemption in accordance with state law or;
- The circumstances of the acquisition present adequate assurance to FSA that the new owner did not acquire the land for the purpose of placing it in CRP.

ELIGIBLE LAND

Land must be cropland that is planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity four of the previous six crop years from 2008 to 2013, and is physically and legally capable of being planted (no planting restrictions due to an easement or other legally binding instrument) in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity.

ELIGIBLE PRACTICES

The land must be eligible and suitable for any of the following conservation practices:

- Riparian buffers;
- Wildlife habitat buffers;
- Wetland buffers;
- Filter strips;
- Wetland restoration;
- Grass waterways;
- Shelterbelts;
- Living snow fences;

- Contour grass strips;
- Constructed wetlands;
- Restoration of aquaculture wetlands;
- Wildlife habitat restoration within approved State Areas for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) projects;
- The per-acre annual rental rate may not exceed the calculated rate determined in advance of enrollment. While continuous sign-up acceptance is not determined by a competitive offer process, producers may elect to receive an amount less than the maximum payment rate.
- Cost-Share Assistance
 - An upfront signing incentive payment (SIP) up to \$150 per acre. The one-time SIP will be made after the contract is approved and all payment eligibility criteria are met and;
 - A practice incentive payment (PIP) equal to 40 percent of the eligible installation costs for eligible participants who enroll certain practices. The one-time PIP will be issued after the practice is installed, eligible costs are verified and other payment eligibility criteria are met.

MORE INFORMATION

To find more information about FSA programs, contact your local FSA office or USDA Service Center. To find your local FSA county office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

- Salt tolerant vegetation or;
- Shallow water areas for wildlife.

Land within an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-designated public

wellhead area also may be eligible for enrollment on a continuous basis.

PAYMENTS

FSA provides CRP continuous sign-up participants with annual rental payments, including certain incentives and cost-share assistance:

- Rental Payments
 - In return for establishing long-term, resource-conserving covers, FSA provides annual rental payments to participants. FSA bases rental rates on the relative productivity of the soils within each county and the average dry-land cash rent or cash rent equivalent as guidelines.
 - The per-acre annual rental rate may not exceed the calculated rate determined in advance of enrollment. While continuous sign-up acceptance is not determined by a competitive offer process, producers may elect to receive an amount less than the maximum payment rate.
- Cost-Share Assistance
 - An upfront signing incentive payment (SIP) up to \$150 per acre. The one-time SIP will be made after the

contract is approved and all payment eligibility criteria are met and;

- A practice incentive payment (PIP) equal to 40 percent of the eligible installation costs for eligible participants who enroll certain practices. The one-time PIP will be issued after the practice is installed, eligible costs are verified and other payment eligibility criteria are met.

MORE INFORMATION

To find more information about FSA programs, contact your local FSA office or USDA Service Center. To find your local FSA county office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

Stop in at the USDA Service Center located at 923 N. State Street, Fairmont, or call 507-235-6661.

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Conservation Reserve Program, 49th General Enrollment Period Now Through February 26, 2016

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will conduct a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general enrollment period from December 1st, 2015, through February 26th, 2016.

CRP is a federally-funded voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive agricultural land is not farmed or ranched, but instead used for conservation benefits. CRP participants establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as "covers") to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years. Accepted contracts for the 49th CRP enrollment period will begin October 1st, 2016.

In its 30th year, CRP is authorized by the Food Security Act of 1985 and was reauthorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (the 2014 Farm Bill). FSA administers CRP, while other USDA agencies and partners provide technical support. More detailed information on CRP is available in the FSA fact sheet, "Conservation Reserve Program."

SUBMITTING CRP OFFERS

Land that is not currently enrolled in CRP may

be offered for enrollment during the 49th CRP general enrollment period. In addition, CRP participants with contracts expiring on September 30th, 2016, may submit offers.

To submit CRP offers, producers must visit their local FSA office. FSA will accept offers only during the enrollment period. To find a local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

ELIGIBLE PRODUCERS

To be eligible for CRP enrollment, a producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to the end of this CRP enrollment period, unless:

- The new owner acquired the land due to the previous owner's death;
- The ownership change occurred due to foreclosure where the owner exercised a timely right of redemption in accordance with state law or;
- The circumstance of the acquisition presents adequate assurance to FSA that the new owner did not acquire the land for the purpose of placing it in CRP.

ELIGIBLE LAND

To be eligible for the CRP general enrollment period, land must be cropland (including field margins) that is planted, or considered planted, to an agricultural commodity four of the six crop years from 2008 to

2013, and be physically and legally capable of being planted (no planting restrictions due to an easement or other legally binding instrument) in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity. Alfalfa or other multiyear grasses and legumes grown in a rotation not to exceed 12 years may be eligible for the 49th CRP enrollment period.

ADDITIONAL CROPLAND REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the eligible land requirements for the CRP general enrollment period, cropland must meet one of the following criteria:

- Have a weighted average erosion index of eight or higher;
- Be expiring CRP acres or;
- Be located in a national or state CRP conservation priority area.

CRP PAYMENTS

FSA provides those applicants who are selected for the 49th CRP general enrollment with annual rental payments, including certain incentive payments and cost-share assistance.

• Rental Payments

In return for establishing long-term, resource-conserving covers, FSA provides rental payments to participants. FSA bases rental rates on the relative productivity of the soils within each county and the

average dryland cash rent. County office staff working with the producer will calculate the maximum CRP rental rate for each offer prior to enrollment. Producers may offer land below the rate to increase the likelihood that their offer will be accepted.

• Cost-Share Assistance

FSA provides cost-share assistance to participants who establish approved cover on eligible cropland. The cost-share assistance cannot exceed 50 percent of the participant's costs to establish approved practices.

RANKING CRP OFFERS

FSA will rank offers for the 49th CRP general enrollment period according to the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI). FSA collects data (primarily based on location, soils information and selected conservation practice) and determines the environmental indices for the land offered.

FSA ranks each eligible offer in comparison to all other offers and selects

from that ranking. After the enrollment period ends, the Secretary of Agriculture will decide where to make the EBI cutoff. Those who have met previous EBI thresholds are not guaranteed a contract under this enrollment period. Producers may consult with local FSA and Natural Resource Conservation (NRCS) staff on how to maximize EBI points and increase the likelihood that their offer will be accepted.

More information on EBI for the 49th CRP enrollment period is available by reading the FSA fact sheet, "Conservation Reserve Program Enrollment 49, Environmental Benefits Index."

CRP CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT

In addition to the 49th CRP general enrollment period, producers at any time can participate in CRP continuous enrollment period, in which producers can enroll the most environmentally sensitive land. More information on CRP

continuous enrollment is available in the FSA fact sheet, "Conservation Reserve Program Continuous Sign-Up" located at http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdafiles/FactSheets/2015/crp_continuous_sign_up_november_2015.pdf.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

This fact sheet is for informational purposes; other restrictions may apply. Consult your local FSA office for details. For more information on CRP, visit FSA's website at www.fsa.usda.gov/crp or contact your local FSA office. To find the nearest FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

Stop in at the USDA Service Center located at 923 N. State Street, Fairmont, or call 507-235-6661.

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Notice of Decision to Revise and Update the Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan

The Martin County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution on November 3rd, 2015 requiring the update and revision of the Martin County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan, as authorized under the Comprehensive Local Water Management Act, Minnesota Statutes, §103B.301. This plan will focus on the priority water management concerns.

The County invites all recipients of this notice to

submit water management issues they feel the plan should address. Also, please submit any water and related land resources plans and official controls so that these items can be reviewed to ensure consistency with the Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan.

Please submit issues and direct comments and inquiries by March 1st, 2016, to:

Rich Perrine
Water Planner
Martin SWCD

923 North State St, Suite 110
Fairmont, MN 56031

or
call him at: 507-235-6680

or
via email: richard.perrine@mn.nacdnet.net

or
Come to the Martin SWCD Open House and fill out a comment card.

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Cover Crop Progress

by Linda Meschke
Rural Advantage

Cover crops are becoming a more stable conservation practice in farm fields across the corn belt. The 2012 US Census of Agriculture, the first year cover crops were measured, reported 10.3 million acres of cover crops planted in the United States in 2012. In the Midwest, the majority of cover crops are planted in the states one tier below Minnesota including Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. Minnesota's climate is a little bit further north and will need continued research to establish stable management schemes for cover crops in corn/soybean systems. Given that, there are a significant number of farmers in southern Minnesota who are trying a variety of cover crops and getting them to work in their systems.

Cover crops are man-

aged in a variety of ways, but one method is to aerial apply cereal rye around September 1st when the lower leaves of soybeans start to yellow. The rye will have enough moisture to germinated and grow into the fall, including after harvest. Cereal rye will die off with the frost and the re-emerge in the spring. Just prior to spring seeding of

the North Central Region Sustainable Agricultural Research (NCR SARE) and Education and the Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC) surveyed over 1,900 farmers who were using cover crops in the Midwest. The results of the survey were very positive toward cover crop usage. The most cited result was that yield increase was

Summary of percentage yield increase
for years 2012 to 2014

Crop Year	Corn	Soybean
2012	9.6%	11.6%
2013	3.1%	4.3%
2014	2.1%	4.2%

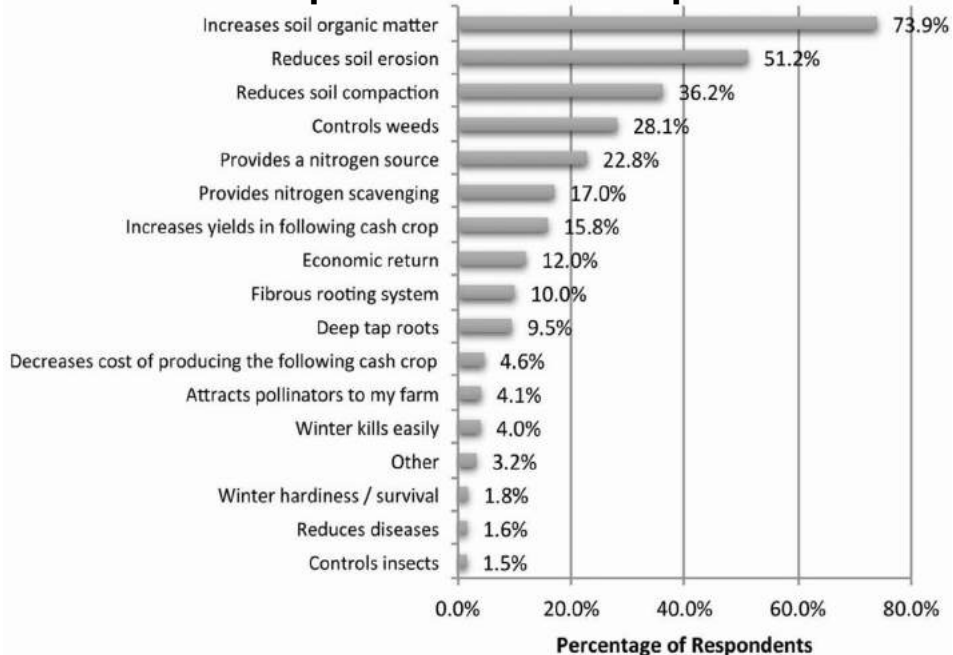
your corn or soybeans, the rye is terminated. The rye provides critical soil protection in fall and spring. In addition, cover crops add carbon, increases microbial bacteria, reduces compaction, helps control certain weeds, scavenges nitrogen and increases deep rooting.

In 2012, 2013 and 2014,

statistically significant.

Farmers participating in the survey were asked to identify up to three benefits they want from cover crops. Survey results are shown below. To read the full report can access it at: www.ctic.org/media/CoverCrops/CTIC_04_Cover_Crops_report.pdf.

Desired Cover Crop Benefits - Cover Crop User - 2013-14



Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) is a voluntary opportunity for farmers and agricultural landowners to take the lead in implementing conservation practices that protect our water. Those who implement and maintain approved farm management practices will be certified and in turn obtain regulatory certainty for a period of ten years. This program addresses concerns about the changing regulatory requirements from multiple state and federal agencies. Certainty is a commitment provided by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Efforts to expand the program statewide began in July 2015—prior to the statewide expansion, the program was piloted in four sub-watersheds—and the program has been met with strong support from both producers and local stakeholders.

THE PROCESS

Agricultural operations and landowners seeking certification undergo a three step process, with local conservation professionals assisting farmers throughout the certification process. Financial and technical assistance is also available for producers to mitigate their risks to water quality.

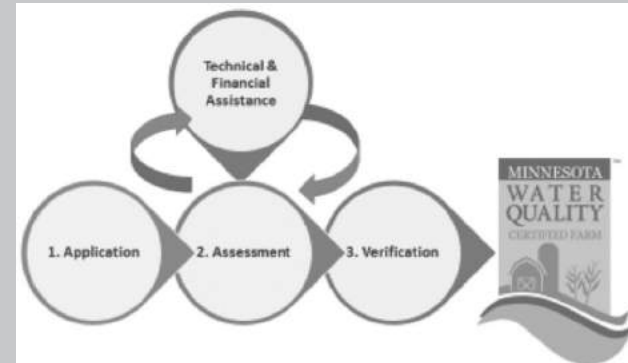
Step 1 - Application:

The first step is for farmers to fill out an application and to self-verify they are in compliance with existing Minnesota laws and regulations related to water quality.

Step 2 - Assessment:

Next, farmers undergo a field by field, whole farm assessment of their operation

with Minnesota's 91 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs). From its outset, the MAWQCP has prioritized working with the SWCDs in designing and implementing the certification program. The SWCDs play an integral role in recruiting, assessing and certifying farms. A promotion grant offered



using the MAWQCP's online assessment tool. The assessment tool evaluates: physical field characteristics, nutrient management factors, tillage management factors, pest management factors, irrigation and tile drainage management, and conservation management.

Step 3 - Verification: The last step in certification is an on-farm field verification with a MAWQCP-licensed certifier. This visit allows the producer and certifier to go through the operation on a field-by-field basis, identifying and discussing any water quality issues not identified in the assessment.

PARTNERING TO DELIVER CONSERVATION

Conservation is delivered best at the local level and unique to the MAWQCP is its partnership

to SWCDs to recruit new applicants should yield at least 500 applications by the end of FY2016, adding to the nearly 300 applications already signed by producers.

In addition to Minnesota's SWCDs, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has been an instrumental partner in developing and delivering the MAWQCP. The partnership model allows producers streamlined access to the suite of services provided by each agency, including technical and financial assistance for conservation from the NRCS.

To date, 80 farms totaling 46,168 acres have been certified in the State of Minnesota with 199 new conservation practices implemented.

mda.state.mn.us/awqcp

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NACD Soil Health Champion

by Darwin Roberts

Land Stewardship for landowners and operators is an on-going challenge, and for us in production agriculture, we strive to improve soil health and water quality, as it's our livelihood. In so doing, we produce the most economical food, fiber, and energy in the world. As the world population grows and quality farmland acres decline, everyone must rely on innovation, research, and education in all areas of land usage. Various enhancements to crop yields, usage of BMP's, and continued improvement of nutrient application need to occur. However, the consumer along with environmental concerns must always remain the primary focus. Regulatory mandates often times create hardships and unjustified outcomes in these efforts.

The past three terms serving as a Martin SWCD Supervisor has expanded my knowledge and appreciation of the many State and Federal Agencies working in collaboration of conservation and water quality programs. Improvements in water management, wildlife habitat, nutrient retention, upland water storage with tile drainage control structures, saturated buffers

along streambanks, vertical side inlets, woodchip bioreactors, CRP, biomass production, cover crops, soil erosion, and streambank restoration are only a few of the BMP's available to ag producers. Assistance and technical support are



provided by the University of Minnesota, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, DNR, BWSR, NRCS, and Martin SWCD for these practices. Continued research by these institutions and organizations help to provide education and enhancements to many environmental concerns.

For recognition of land/soil management and protection of water resources, the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) recently selected me as a Soil Health Champion. This nonprofit organization is headquartered in Washington DC, consisting of 3,000 Districts and 17,000

men and women serving on governing boards across the US (www.nacdnet.org). It began by President Roosevelt in 1937 as an outcome of the 1930's Dust Bowl. Soil Health Champions Network is a new nationwide program that requires voluntary three-year commitment to provide outreach efforts in conservation or natural resources by hosting field days with demonstrations, giving talks, and sharing experiences in print and social media.

Soil Health Champions selected from across the US will be honored at the NACD Annual Meeting January 30th to February 3rd, 2016 in Reno, NV. With over 1,000 attendees anticipated. I will be sharing a presentation on what types of soil health practices are occurring in the North Central US region consisting of MN, IA, WI, IL, IN, MI, and OH. Over the five days, various breakout sessions will allow for networking with scientific professionals. NRCS Chief Jason Weller and US Forestry Chief Tom Tidwell, plus many other speakers will be covering a variety of topics.

In agricultural production many concerns require technical support from various agencies to assist in preserving our natural resources while maintaining profitability. Being proactive as a farmer over land and water management issues will reduce future regulatory mandates. Another consideration is to obtain the ten year state regulatory Certainty by enrolling in the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP). Additional details about the Program are provided elsewhere in this publication.

For more information, contact Darwin Roberts at 507-236-6663.

Martin SWCD District Manager Report

by Ashley Brenke

The mission of Martin SWCD is to assist land users of Martin County in efficiently utilizing the soil and water resources in our county. This is accomplished in large part due to our partnerships with Federal, State, and Local agencies, as well as with local Conservation Organizations. By working with a diverse group of partners, we are able to make our grant funds go further to implement projects such as grassed waterways, field windbreaks, or conservation easements.

One of the projects we're working on is the watershed approach in the East Fork Des Moines River Watershed, which started in 2014. The watershed approach is a 10-year cycle that will occur in each of Minnesota's 81

actions designed to restore or protect water quality. The Minnesota Clean Water Fund provides a significant share of the funding for this program. We will be holding meetings in the East Fork Des Moines River Watershed in March to talk about what the monitoring has shown and also to discuss ways we can protect and restore the watershed. If you live in the southwest part of the County, give us a call to talk about the watershed!

On November 4th, 2008, Minnesota voters approved the Clean Water, Land & Legacy Amendment to the constitution to:

- protect drinking water sources;
- protect, enhance, and restore wetlands, prairies, forests, and fish, game, and wildlife habitat;
- preserve arts and cultural heritage;
- support parks and trails;
- and protect, enhance, and restore lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater.

The Amendment increases the sales and use

tax rate by three-eighths of one percent on taxable sales, starting July 1st, 2009, continuing through 2034. Those dollars are dedicated to four funds: Outdoor Heritage Fund, Clean Water Fund, Parks and Trails Fund, and Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Right now, Martin SWCD has funds from both the Clean Water Fund and State Cost Share to offset the cost of sealing abandoned wells. We can provide 50% cost share up to \$1,000 for sealing abandoned wells. The District also has a Clean Water Fund grant right now for saturated buffers and treatment wetlands. These conservation practices leave a small footprint at the edge of a field and are great for removing excess nutrients and sediment from tiles.

If you are interested in learning more about a conservation program or would like Martin SWCD to look at a potential conservation project, please call us at 507-235-6680 or stop by our office at 923 North State Street, Suite 110 in Fairmont.



major watersheds to evaluate water conditions, establish priorities and goals for improvement, and take

First rite of Spring

The Pasque flower is the first flower to appear on the prairie. Observing the Pasque flowers in bloom, the first color to appear on a drab late winter landscape, is often referred to as the "First Rite of Spring". Even before grass turns green and often with snow still lingering, the Pasque flowers brighten the colorless landscape, pushing up a fuzzy stem and bud. The pale lavender-blue blossoms open just as their leaves begin to appear. At about the same time, Spring Ephemerals like Bloodroot and Trilliums are starting to add color to our native for-



ests around the lakes.

Contact Martin SWCD at 507-235-6680 if you would like to be put on a contact list to participate in a guided walk to see the first wildflowers as they emerge from another winter's rest. We start checking in March, but have a target date of April 11th, 2015 for a hike to a Martin County native prairie where the Pasque flowers have welcomed spring visitors for centuries.



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Implementing the Buffer Legislation

Governor Dayton signed into law a new buffer initiative aimed at enhancing protection of Minnesota's waters. The buffer initiative will help protect the state's water resources from erosion and runoff pollution by establishing roughly 110,000 acres of buffer along waterways while providing flexibility and technical support to landowners for installation and maintenance.

What is a buffer?
A buffer, also known as a riparian filter strip, is vegetated land adjacent to a stream, river, lake or wetland. Buffers help filter out phosphorus, nitrogen, and sediment, and are an im-

portant conservation practice for helping keep water clean.

Why buffers?
Studies by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency show that buffers are critical to protecting and restoring water quality and healthy aquatic life, natural stream functions and aquatic habitat due to their immediate proximity to the water.

What is required?
Under the law, buffer widths will be:

- An average of 50 feet, minimum of 30 feet, on public waters
- A minimum of 16.5 feet on public drainage systems
- Buffer recommenda-



tions for other waters will be determined by soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs)

How will I know if buffers are required?
The Department of Natural Resources is in the process of mapping all waters subject to the new requirements. The buffer protection maps are expected to be completed by July 2016.

How will the program work?
The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, which will oversee the new law, is working to get program details developed. Landowners may install buffers on their own at any time, or can wait until the buffer protection maps are complete in 2016. The local SWCD will provide technical assistance and answer questions about financial assistance options. Landowners also have the option of working with their SWCD to determine if other alternative practices aimed at protecting water quality can be used.

Is there financial assistance available?
Yes. The 2015 Buffer Law relies on long-standing fed-

eral, state, and local programs to provide financial and technical support to landowners to implement buffers or alternative water quality practices. Landowners may use federal Farm Bill resources, such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Continuous CRP, and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program to get buffers installed. State resources include programs such as the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) easement program, Conservation Cost-Share, and the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program.

What's the timeline?
The new law specifies:

- November 1st, 2017: Buffers in place on all public waters
- November 1st, 2018: Buffers in place on all public drainage systems

Where do I go for more information?
Contact your local SWCD for more information about buffers and local requirements.
For more information on the new buffer law, please visit: www.bwsr.state.mn.us/buffers/.

Pictured are samples of buffers from around the state of Minnesota.
Contact your local Soil & Water Conservation District for more information: 507-235-6680. Or stop in at 923 North State Street, Suite 110, Fairmont, Minnesota.



Environmental Quality Incentives Program- National Water Quality Initiative

By Ben Cottrell

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program that helps agricultural producers in a manner that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals. Through EQIP, agricultural producers receive financial and technical assistance to implement structural and management conservation practices that optimize environmental benefits on working agricultural land. EQIP works with agricultural producers to plan and implement conservation practices

“cut-off” or submission deadline dates for evaluation, ranking and approval of eligible applications. EQIP is open to all eligible agricultural producers and submitted applications may be considered or evaluated in multiple funding pool opportunities. As of now we are accepting applications for 2017 and the 2016 EQIP cut-off has already passed.

Owners of land in agricultural or forest production or persons who are engaged in livestock, agricultural or forest production on eligible land and that have a natural resource concern on that land may apply to participate in EQIP. Eligible land includes cropland, rangeland, pasture-

You have control or own eligible land. You comply with adjusted gross income (AGI) for less than \$900,000. Note: Federally recognized Native American Indian Tribes or Alaska Native corporations are exempt from the AGI payment limitations. Also you must be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation requirements. And finally we must be able to develop an NRCS EQIP plan of operations that addresses at least one natural resource concern.

Also for those of you that have not heard, within EQIP the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has a special initiative available called the National

really encourage producers in this watershed to take part in this special initiative.

NWQI is a tool agricultural producers can use to implement many conservation practices to improve and protect soil, improve soil health, improve water quality, and reduce soil erosion in Prevented planted fields at a much higher payment rate than the general EQIP rates. Practices include but are not limited to, Conservation Cover, Cover Crops, Diversion, Filter Strips, Waterways, Subsurface Drainage, and Water and Sediment Control Basins.

This special Initiative has been around since 2013 and started because of the



Soil Conservationist Ben Cottrell with Cover Crops

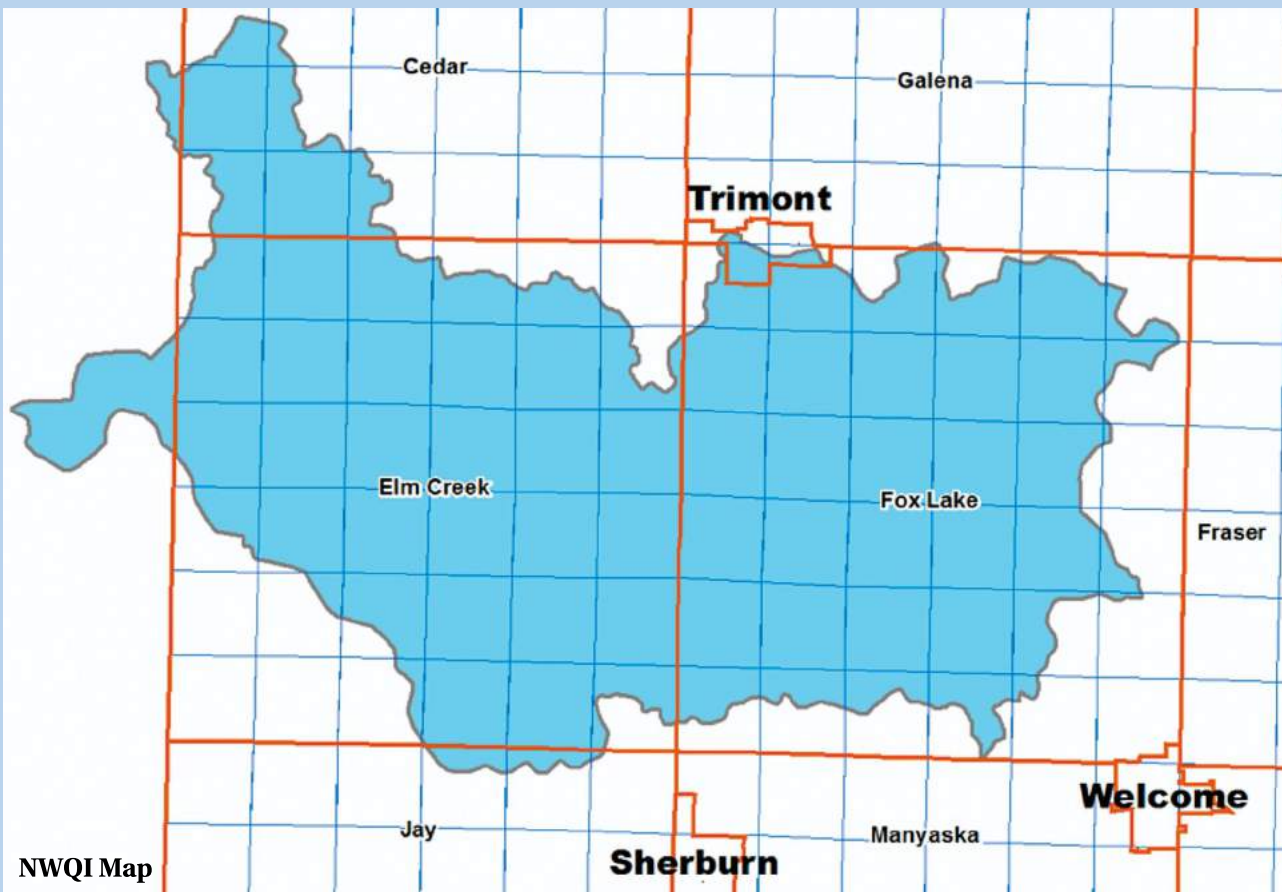
complex business and current grain prices this initiative is able to greatly help ones in need. This leads to the question is your ground covered? Cover crops have been a huge topic recently in the soil health world about maximizing profitability for an agricultural producer. The use of cover crops in Minnesota can be difficult because of the small window of opportunity to establish them. Minnesota farmers nonetheless have found creative ways to utilize cover crops such as: After harvesting corn silage, after harvesting peas, over-seeding into a standing beans or into organic systems. As we have been learning more and more about cover crops every day, NWQI is a great opportunity to fund them. For the 2016 year we are paying producers that fall in the National Water Quality Initiative up to \$54 an acre for a single species cover crop mix. Pictured here you can see Soil Conservationist Benjamin Cottrell in successful stand of Cover Crops

and how they provide excellent cover for the winter months. The benefits of covers crops and resources available are numerous including the fixing of nitrogen, build organic matter, control weeds, control erosion and/or improve soil quality during the remainder of the planting season. Whatever your goals may be the team at your local NRCS can help provide you with more resources and build a plan for your field that will help meet your farming needs.

NRCS accepts applications for financial assistance on a continuous basis throughout the year. All application consideration until further notice will be for 2017.

For more information about NRCS' programs, initiatives and services in Minnesota, visit us online at <http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov>, or stop in the office or call and speak with us at 507-235-6661 ext. 3.

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that improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related natural resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland. EQIP may also help producers meet Federal, State, Tribal, and local environmental regulations.

EQIP applications are accepted on a continuous basis, however, NRCS establishes application

land, non-industrial private forestland and other farm or ranch lands.

You are considered an eligible applicant if you meet the following criteria. You are an agricultural producer (person, legal entity, or joint operation who has an interest in the agricultural operation, or who is engaged in agricultural production or forestry management).

Water Quality Initiative or NWQI to improve water quality in three Minnesota impaired watersheds. One of these watershed happens to be in Martin County. Big Twin Lake-Elm Creek Watershed. The Big Twin Lake-Elm Creek watershed is located in a majority of Fox Lake and Elm Creek Townships and also the southern part of Cedar Township. We

prolonged rain and flooding that year which resulted in many fields that will go unplanted. Farmers in this situation need to weigh not only their program and insurance options (“prevented planting”), but should also assess agronomic options to ensure long-term productivity when this situation happens again.

With farming being a

Helping People Help the Land

by: Ben Cottrell

Conserving our natural resources is not a one-person job. The farmers and private landowners of this country cannot do it alone, nor can the government. We must all work together to help make sure that our land is sustainable for generations to come.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is an agency committed to “helping people help the land”—our mission is to provide resources to farmers and landowners to aid them with conservation. Ensuring productive lands in harmony with a healthy environment is our priority. With operations in the United States, the Virgin

Islands, Puerto Rico, and Guam, our agency touches the lives of a diverse range of individuals.

NRCS employs approximately 12,000 people in its 2900 offices; 90 percent of whom work outside of Washington, D.C. We are in numerous communities across North America, working hand-in-hand with landowners and our partners to improve our natural resources. Our passion is derived from stewardship of the land—benefits we all enjoy, such as cleaner air and water, improved soil and abundant wildlife habitat.

What originally began as the Soil Conservation Service in 1935 is now known as the Natural Resources Con-

servation Service (NRCS), a name change that highlights our broader mission of conservation. Bringing 80 years of scientific and technical expertise to the conservation industry, we are involved with activities that help benefit soil, water, plants, air, and animals. With seventy percent of U.S. land privately owned, partnership with private landowners is critical to health of our nation's land. By providing assistance to these landowners, we help to cultivate productive lands and healthy ecosystems.

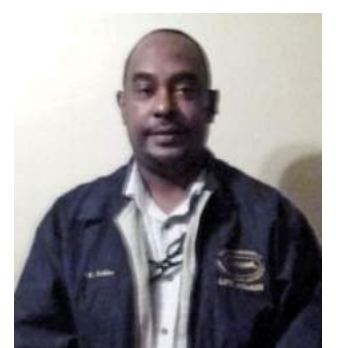
NRCS succeeds through its partnerships, working closely with individual farmers and ranchers, landowners, local conservation districts, government agen-

cies, Tribes, Earth Team volunteers and many other people and groups that care about the quality of America's natural resources. Partnerships allow our agency to expand the reach and depth of conservation. It is our duty to service the people by providing quality assistance to farmers and landowners to ensure we protect our nation's lands.

Now that you know a little background on the agency it is time to meet the staff of your Martin County NRCS office. The District Conservationist and the Soil Conservationist are both line officers who plan the application of total resource management systems; provide conservation planning assistance from initial eval-

uation to completion. These people possess a practical knowledge of the methods and techniques of soil, water, and environmental conservation as they relate to agricultural operations and land use measures. They also help landowners with issues such as dealing with soil, water, air, plants, and animal resource concerns. Reginald Liddell is the District Conservationist and Benjamin Cottrell is the Soil Conservationist for the area of Martin County.

Reginald Liddell was born and raised on a small family farm in Belzoni, MS. He is the oldest of six kids and the father of four kids. Reginald has a B.S. Degree from Alcorn State University in Agricultural



Economics. After graduation Reginald accepted full time employment with the Soil Conservation Service in the state of Kentucky as a Soil Conservationist. Since his employment Reginald has worked in Mississippi, North Carolina, Arkansas,

*Help the Land
continued on page 10S*

Help the Land continued from page 9S

and most recently moved to Minnesota in 2012. Reginald is also the Black Emphasis Program Manager for the state of Minnesota.

In part of being the District Conservationist, Reginald provides many things to producers including promoting, marketing and implementation of Farm Bill initiatives, and develops/maintains a positive relationship with local, state, and federal agencies. Reginald is here to help landowners to develop, implement, maintain and revise the most complex conservation plans and train others in these areas including his Soil Conservationist.

Benjamin Cottrell was born in Northeast Missouri in the village of Monticello. After his time in the Marine Corps, Benjamin attained a



B.S. Degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia, or Mizzou, in Agricultural Systems Management. He also has a minor in Ag-

ricultural Economic and Plant Science. After graduating college, Benjamin's career with NRCS started in Missouri as a Soil Conservation Technician. Benjamin moved to the Martin county office in 2014 to assist Reginald in the daily activities.

As a Soil Conservationist, Benjamin's roles are similar to the District Conservationists. Instead of handling extremely complex work Benjamin works with landowners to develop, implement, maintain and revise complex conservation plans without the assistance of others. He also evaluates the implementation of conservation plans and their alternatives.

It is the NRCS role to provide national leadership and technical assistance for the conservation of our natural resources to ensure the continued production of food and fiber. Cropland, forestland, pastureland, and rangeland comprise the major land uses in the United States and the land uses receiving the majority of the conservation treatment that address our soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources.

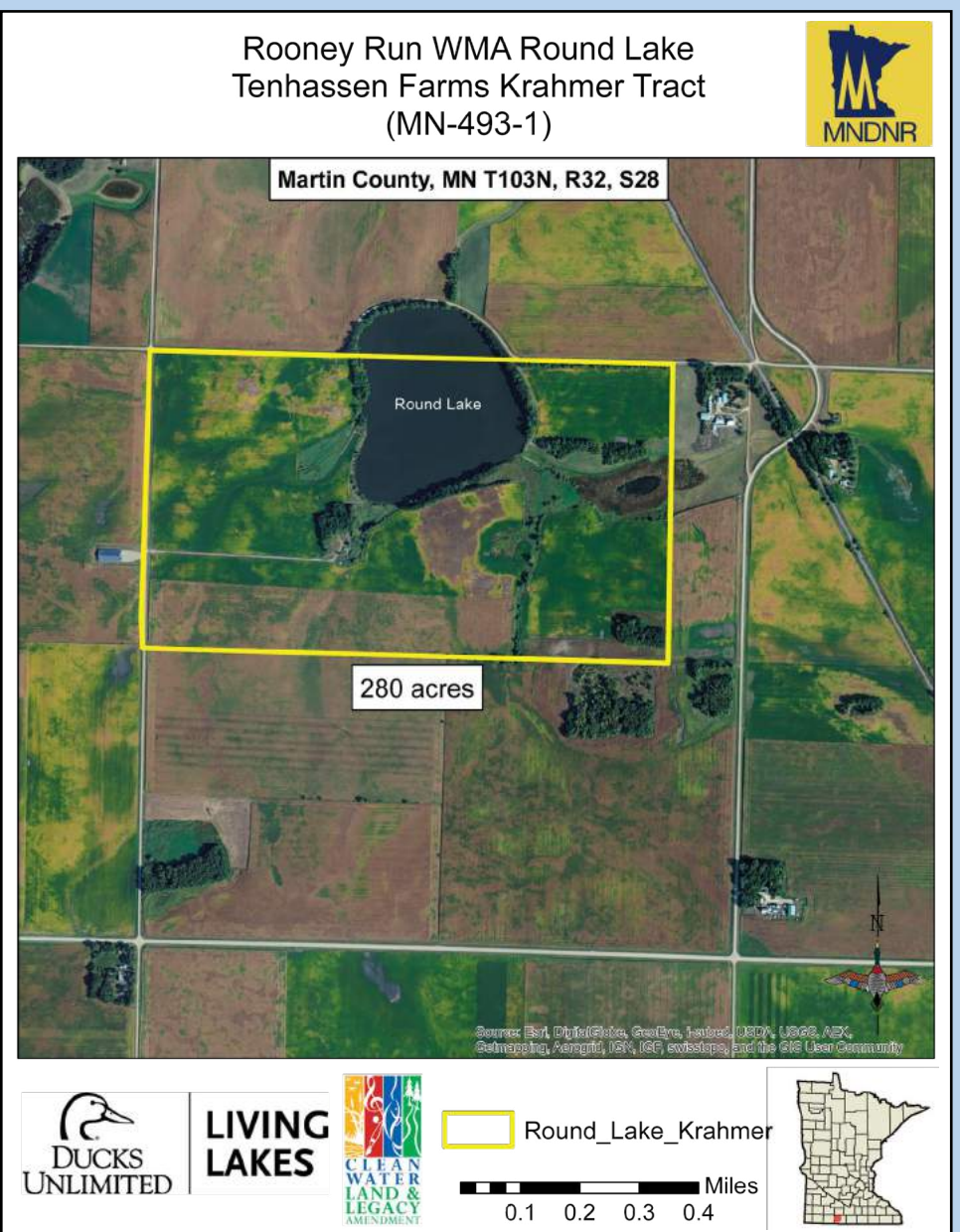
If you have questions or wonder how the Natural Resources can help you feel free to give us a call at (507) 235-6661 or stop in the office and see how we can be of assistance to you!

Ducks Unlimited purchases Farm Tract

Ducks Unlimited recently purchased the 280-acre Tenhasen Farms Tract in Fox Lake Twp 6 through a state grant from the Outdoor Heritage Fund. The parcel includes 40 acres of Round Lake, several small drained wetlands and about 200 acres of uplands that will be restored in 2016-17 and transferred to the Minnesota DNR for inclusion in the Rooney Run state WMA, and is open to public hunting. Native grass and forb seed has been purchased and DNR will seed the site in spring. DU engineers will survey and design wetland restorations this spring and hopefully begin work in summer/fall.

DU biologist John Lindstrom will help lead DU conservation projects throughout southern Minnesota, including Martin County. John is completing his M.S. Thesis at Southern Illinois University. He will be located in the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Litchfield Wetland Management District office. Contact him at jlindstrom@ducks.org or 320-212-8018.

Thanks to the Fox Lake Conservation League for the wonderful help to clean up the old farm site!



New Staff at Martin County Soil and Water Conservation District

My name is Dustin Benes and I was hired in October 2015 as the new



district technician for Martin County Soil and Water Conservation District. I was born and raised in Jackson and attended college at Brainerd Staples Community and Technical College in Brainerd Minnesota. I graduated with an AAS degree in Natural Resources.

Previously I worked on the Minnesota Agriculture Water Quality Certification Program, 3rd Crop opportunities, and cover crops with Agriculture producers at Rural Advantage in Fairmont. Before starting at Rural Advantage, I was employed at the Hy-Vee Food Store as a Department Manager since November of 2002.

I will be focusing on providing leadership in implementing the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) prevention program. This program will help educate the public on aquatic invasive species and work closely with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and other local agencies on how to prevent the spread. In December, I assisted the MN DNR with

dock inspections on the north end of Amber Lake. The main search was for zebra mussels. Currently Martin County does not have an infestation of aquatic invasive species. With everyone's help we can keep our lakes and streams free from aquatic invasive species.

I will also assist with the cooperative weed management program, propagating native plants and restoring diverse native habitats as well as water quality monitoring and measuring depths of DNR wells and a couple of lakes located in Martin County. Along with providing assistance with the Geographic Information System (GIS) and mapping for district conservation activities, I will pro-

vide technical support for all district programs including: cost share, which includes assistance for well sealing, educational programs and the seeding program.

I work with a group of knowledgeable people. Stop in our office at 923 North State Street, Suite #110 in Fairmont and visit with us about your conservation needs. Or give us a call at 507-235-6680.

NRCS welcomes Pamela Oltman

I grew up in Mankato, MN and attended MSU before moving to northern California. Upon returning to Minnesota in 1992, I worked as a legal assistant in the Minneapolis/St Paul area. I have been in the Fairmont area since October of 2015.

My responsibilities for NRCS are to provide assistance in collecting and assembling cost data and processing payment application requests for NRCS programs such as EQIP,



CRP, CSP and ACEP.

I will also be tracking producer requests for wetland compliance and highly erodible land.



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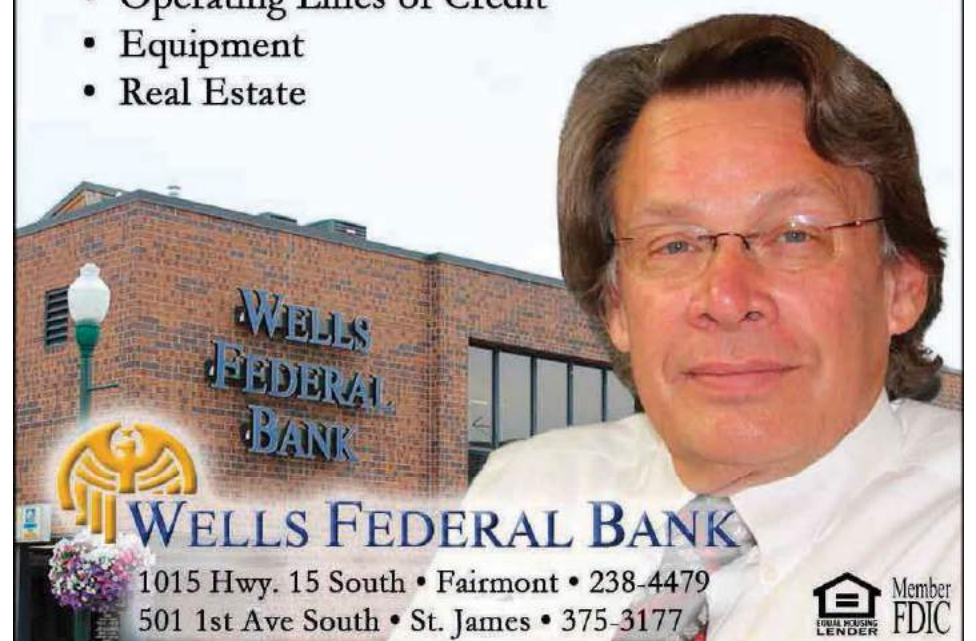
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2015 Year in Weather Review for Martin County

by Pete Boulay, MNDNR State Climatology Office

2015 will be remembered for a nearly optimal growing season with a lack of extreme heat and timely rains when the soil needed moisture the most. The balmy fall and mild start to winter were noteworthy as well.

A memorable wintry event in 2015 was the ground blizzard of January 8th featuring winds gusting up to 52mph at Fairmont. Blowing and drifting snow shut down many roads in southwest and south central Minnesota and wind chills in the -30's were common across the state.

It may be hard to imagine now, but in spring 2015 there was a sizable drought in Minnesota. The worst of this drought was May 5th with 94% of the state included in moderate drought and 40% of the state under a severe drought. Martin County was in a Moderate Drought on May 5th with precipitation totals four to six inches short of normal from October 1st, 2014 to

May 12th, 2015. Ice out was a bit earlier than the median date of March 30th, with Budd Lake losing its ice on March 20th.

Fears of the drought continuing into the summer were erased by a rainy May across much of the state. The Martin County average rainfall for May was over five inches, or about one to two inches above the 1981-2010 normal. With this boost, soil moisture levels stayed near or the long term averages at both Lamberton and Waseca through the summer. The warmest summer day was on June 9th when it reached 95 degrees at the Fairmont Airport. Sherburn hit 96 degrees on that day.

The severe weather season was relatively quiet overall in southern Minnesota with no tornadoes reported in Martin County in 2015. There was a weak tornado reported in Watonwan County north of Ormsby on July 24th but damage was limited to a storage building. One of the more memorable severe weather events reported in Martin County for 2015 was

on June 22nd when winds up to 70mph knocked trees down and caused some damage to cars and homes.

July will be remembered not for summer-like heat, but for smoky skies courtesy Canadian wildfires that reduced visibilities at times. The thickest smoky haze was on July 6th when the visibility was reduced to 2 miles at the Fairmont Airport. The smoke and haze lingered at intervals through the summer.

Fall 2015 was a warm one with the second warmest September-November from 1895-2015 for Minnesota. The only other autumn that was warmer was 1963. The warmer weather produced rain well into November and beyond and delayed the usual freeze-up of lakes. Budd Lake froze over on December 19th. In general lakes froze over about three weeks later than the median date in southern and central Minnesota.

2015 ended with a sign that winter was returning with a snowstorm on December 28th-29th that dumped 11.5 inches of

CTRS	Observer	Aux ID	Net	Apr15	May15	Jun15	Jul15	Aug15	Sep15
46 101N 29W 35	JOHANSON	MT997	SWCD	2.50	3.22	3.77	2.83	4.05	
46 101N 30W 13	CROP PRO	MT996	SWCD	2.73	5.01		1.93	4.71	
46 101N 30W 29	HAND ERN	MT995	SWCD	1.70	7.06	2.55	2.20	7.79	
46 101N 30W 32	SIEMS BO		SWCD			3.28	2.69	5.11	3.46
			SWCD						
46 101N 31W 26	BRENKE A		SWCD	2.09	4.89	2.52			
			SWCD						
46 101N 32W 25	BENTS MA	MT992	SWCD	2.57	5.14	4.50	1.89	6.27	5.03
46 101N 32W 26	SCHMIDTK		SWCD	2.00	4.48	4.34	1.76	6.46	3.84
46 101N 32W 33	BURMEIST		SWCD	1.80	4.95	3.12	1.78	5.74	3.58
46 101N 33W 6	SWANSN D		SWCD	2.11	5.44+	2.12	2.98	7.27	2.25
46 102N 30W 5	MRT SWCD	MT988	SWCD	1.99	5.62	3.24	2.72	3.79	
			NWS						
46 102N 30W 25	LUCKOW G	MT987	SWCD	2.83	5.29	4.44	2.44	5.75	5.44
46 102N 30W 31	INTERLAK		SWCD	2.30	5.50	2.51	1.94	4.38	3.77
46 102N 32W 7	ZEHS RI	MT985	SWCD	2.42	6.64	1.88	2.70	4.91	1.73
46 102N 33W 22	SHERBURN	217602	NWS	2.26+	5.85+	2.49+	2.76+	5.53+	1.83+
46 103N 29W 5	ROBERTSD	MT984	SWCD	2.09	4.56	3.03	4.09	3.91	2.54
46 103N 30W 4	TOOTHAKE	MT983	SWCD	2.34	5.56	4.07	3.79	3.83	2.60
			SWCD						
46 103N 31W 22	MOELLER		SWCD	2.65	5.88	3.65	3.48	3.98	2.73
46 103N 32W 6	TRIMONT	MT981	SWCD	2.55	5.87	2.64	3.31	4.67	2.42
46 104N 29W 8	PETERSEN		SWCD	2.19	6.44	3.12	3.56	3.61	2.21
46 104N 30W 31	SANDERSF	MT977	SWCD	2.14	5.24	3.77	3.47	4.50	2.96
46 104N 32W 32	TRI WSTE				5.08	2.04	3.31	4.67	2.42
46 104N 33W 6	WILSONGA	MT976	SWCD	2.22	4.26	3.66	2.57	4.16	2.54
47 119N 29W 27	DASSEL	212023	NWS	.94+	5.21+	2.40+	6.81+	2.75+	2.05+

snow in Fairmont. More seasonable air for December returned as well. In the

end the annual precipitation was close to the 1981-2010 normal. Precipitation

for 2015 at Sherburn for 2015 measured 30.16 inches, very close to normal.



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Saturday, April 30

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Knights of Columbus Hall, Fairmont

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Spouse: \$25
Ringneck (ages 1-18): \$25

Membership includes banquet ticket

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Tickets received before Monday, April 25 will be eligible for an Early Bird shotgun drawing!

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Spouse dinner and youth membership tickets available.*

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Your membership will help us buy trees for wildlife habitat, supply seed for corn and sorghum plantings in set-aside acres, furnish winter feed and support educational programs.

Value of Buffers Not Measured In Bushels

by Linda Meschke
Rural Advantage

Across the state there are many conversations and opinions evolving about the new Minnesota buffer law. The placement of buffers is driven by the need to address a broad range of water quality issues across the state. The establishment of buffers are not a cure all, but one step in a longer litany of conservation practices that will be needed to bring the waters of the state into compliance with MN water quality standards. Regardless of which side of the buffer issue your opinion lies, the value of buffers is not measured by bushels.

Buffers can be highly productive areas if designed and planned from that perspective. Many news stories have focused on the "loss" of production from buffer areas. Production from buffer areas can actually be greater by not having these areas in annual row crop. That production, though, is not measured in bushels and in our society, has not yet been effectively monetized.

Production could be measured by tons if a landowner were to plant the area to a hay or biomass crop, which many have done. A person could also measure production by the increase in pollinators and wildlife habitat if those goals were pursued. Pounds of beef [or other meat products] might be the measurement if the area was appropriate to establish pasture for grazing. Landowners could plant high value crops like grapes, blueberries, hazelnuts, elderberry, apples or hops to provide diversity, supply

ecosystem services and protect the land within buffer spaces.

At sites where runoff water flows overland to surface water, buffers produce clean water by removing sediment, pesticides and nutrients. If runoff travels through tile lines, the perennial buffer can contain drain lines running parallel to surface waters that effectively remove nitrogen from tile drain water. Production from these areas is measured by pounds of nutrient reduced, tons of sediment staying in the field, increase in carbon storage, greenhouse gas reductions or fishable, swimmable waters.

Regardless of which perennial the landowner chooses to plant in their buffer space, there is value. We should never look at it as taking land out of production, but rather changing the production paradigm within the buffer landscape. The appreciation of these values was captured by Aldo Leopold in A Sand County Almanac when he stated, "Our ability to perceive quality in nature begins, as in art, with the pretty. It expands through successive stages of the beautiful to values as yet uncaptured by language."

This language of the true value of a buffer acre is not yet spoken by landowners who invaded these spaces over time with annual crops. A strong stewardship ethic by all landowners is paramount to a collective high quality of life many in Minnesota desire. Well designed, productive buffers are an indicator of stewardship ethic.

Martin County Pheasants Forever

Our 30th annual banquet was held at the Fairmont National Guard Armory on February 14th, 2015 with "Guns and Roses" as the theme. Two hundred people attended.

"MCPF Hunters Night Out" was held October 10th, 2015 at the Fairmont Eagles with 80 people in attendance. Between the two events, Martin County Pheasants Forever (MCPF) raised over \$3000.

MCPF has partnered with the Martin County Conservation Alliance, the USFWS, and MN DNR on a number of wildlife habitat acquisitions in 2014 and 2015.

We recently purchased 208 acres of land in Man-yaska and Lake Belt townships that will be converted to a USFWS Waterfowl Production Area and will be called the Homes Lake WPA. Our local chapter donated \$11,581 to the Fox Lake Conservation League to help them purchase 85 acres of land added to the Perch Lake Wildlife Management Area. The final acquisition is the 134 acre Gruven WMA located east of Fairmont. These acqui-

sitions will provide additional wildlife habitat and hunting opportunities. Good cover and food plots help ensure pheasant survival even in severe winter conditions. Landowners with marginal and idle acres are encouraged to contact Martin Soil and Water Conservation District about enrolling their land in conservation programs such as CRP.

MCPF will have corn and sorghum available in the spring for planting food plots. We'll also have trees and shrubs available for landowners interested in planting tree lines and shelterbelts this spring. All money raised by your local chapter (except for membership dues) stays in Martin County.

After 25 years, Brian Poppe and Dick Pooley, who have served as President and Treasurer, are handing the reigns over to Joe Maidl, MCPF President and Troy Diekmann, MCPF Treasurer.

For more information contact Brian Poppe - MCPF board member at - 235-6216. Remember - "IT'S FOR THE BIRDS!!"

LSOHC Funding

The Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) was established by the Minnesota Legislature with the responsibility of providing annual funding recommendations to the legislature from the Outdoor Heritage Fund. The Outdoor Heritage Fund, one of four funds created by the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, receives one third of money raised by the tax increase.

The Council ensures recommendations that are consistent with the Constitution and state law and that take into consideration the outcomes of, but not limited to, the Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan that directly relate to the restoration, protection and enhancement of wetlands, prairies, forest and habitat for fish, game and wildlife, and that prevent forest fragmentation, encourage forest consolidation, and expand restored prairie.

A portion of the Outdoor Heritage Fund is made available for smaller projects through the MN DNR under the Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program for projects up to \$400,000 and

through the Expedited Conservation Projects (ECP) grant for projects up to \$50,000.

DNR Partners Grants have added acres to the Caron WMA, Center Creek WMA and Perch Creek WMA. The Fox Lake Conservation League (FLCL) continues to apply for Partners Legacy Grant funding, with two additional projects funded for land acquisitions adjacent to Perch Creek WMA. The FLCL has been approved for two ECP grants, one for tree removal and one for invasive grass removal with the restoration of native prairie. A third application for wetland habitat restoration has just been submitted.

A grant submitted by the FLCL for \$1 million through the LSOHC has been recommended for funding through a bill drafted for the 2016 legislative session. The FLCL plans to use this funding to purchase a parcel adjacent to the north boundary of the Caron WMA. Additional funds are being sought to help restore wetlands and native prairie on the 100+ acre addition to the Caron WMA.



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2016 Third Crop Meetings Hosted by Rural Advantage

Monday, February 8 Homesteading
Monday, February 22 Restorative Agriculture
Monday, March 7 Pastured Livestock & Poultry
Monday, March 28 Pollinators

Knights of Columbus Hall
920 East 10th Street, Fairmont, MN
9:30 Coffee & Registration
10:00 to 4:00 each day. Lunch on your own.

For more information or to receive a brochure:
Kylie Saari at 507-238-5449
or email: kylie@ruraladvantage.org



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2016 Spring Tree Order Form

Species	Price per Bundle	# of Bundles	Cost
Bare Root Conifers - 8" - 15" (Bundles of 25)			
Black Hills Spruce	\$ 45.00		
Colorado Spruce	\$ 45.00		
White Spruce	\$ 30.00		
Ponderosa Pine	\$ 30.00		
Red Pine	\$ 30.00		
White Pine	\$ 30.00		
Eastern Red Cedar	\$ 42.50		
Cedar, Northern White	\$ 40.00		
Bare Root Small Trees-12-36" (Bundles of 25)			
Ash, Mountain	\$ 30.00		
Cherry, Black	\$ 27.50		
Cherry, Canada Red	\$ 25.00		
Chokecherry, Common	\$ 23.75		
Crab, Red Splendor	\$ 26.25		
Plum, American	\$ 28.75		
Bare Root Tall Trees - 12-36" (Bundles of 25)			
Cottonwood, Common	\$ 27.50		
Hackberry	\$ 26.25		
Linden, Littleleaf	\$ 36.25		
Maple, Silver	\$ 23.75		
Maple, Sugar	\$ 32.50		
Oak, Burr	\$ 27.50		
Oak, Red	\$ 31.25		
Poplar, Norway	\$ 31.25		
Walnut, Black	\$ 31.25		
Bare Root Shrubs - 12-36" (Bundles of 25) Unless Noted			
Buffaloberry	\$ 23.75		
Dogwood, Gray	\$ 18.75		
Dogwood, Red Osier	\$ 18.75		
Dogwood, Silky	\$ 18.75		
Chokeberry, Black	\$ 12.00		
Cranberry, Highbush	\$ 40.00		
Elderberry	\$ 26.25		
Lilac, Common	\$ 25.00		
Nannyberry	\$ 35.00		
Special Orders			
For Office Use Only			
Date Called			

Name

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City/State/Zip

Phone

Section: Township:

Mail Order and Payment to: Martin SWCD

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Species	Price per Tree	# ordered	Cost
Potted Conifers - 9" - 15" Individual orders			
Cedar, Northern White	\$ 8.75		
Spruce, Black Hills	\$ 8.75		
Spruce, Colorado	\$ 8.75		
Spruce, Norway	\$ 8.75		
Spruce, White	\$ 8.75		
Austrian Pine	\$ 8.75		
Ponderosa Pine	\$ 8.75		
White Pine	\$ 8.75		
Eastern Red Cedar	\$ 8.75		
Planting Charges			
Bare Root Trees/each	\$ 1.00		
Potted Trees/each	\$ 1.50		
Minimum Charge	\$ 75.00		
Miscellaneous			
Mats - 4'x4'/each	\$ 3.00		
Mats - 4' x 300' rolls/each	\$ 150.00		
Tubes - Bulk/foot	\$ 1.50		

The cost of these trees does not warrant free replacement and the District offers no guarantee of survival. These trees shall be used for conservation purposes only. Price and size are subject to change without notice due to stock availability. Any order under \$100 shall be paid when placing an order. Any balance shall be paid when trees are received. Upon signing below purchaser understands these conditions. Special orders must be prepaid at time of order.

Signature: Date:

Tree Cost	
Miscellaneous Costs	
Sales Tax (6.875%)	
Planting (no tax)	
Total Cost	
35% Down payment	
Balance Due	

Down Payment Receipt #

Final Payment Receipt #

Check Cash (circle one)


2016 MARTIN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

OPEN HOUSE & CONSERVATION TREE ORDER DAYS

Thur, Jan. 28
8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Fri, Jan. 29
8 a.m.-5 p.m.


Sat, Jan. 30
8 a.m.-noon



The annual Martin may have. SWCD Tree Order Days/ For more informa- Open House will be held tion about our Tree Order on Thursday, Days, please January 28th, Friday, Janu- contact our of- ary 29th, and Saturday, Janu- fice 507-235- ary 30th. Stop 6680. We look for- by and visit us ward to seeing you there! at the District office in Fair- mont, located at 923 North State Street, Suite 110.

We'll have coffee, cook- ies, donuts and a chance to win a free tree! We'll also be on hand to answer any questions that you

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•Drawings for free trees

•Exhibits and brochures about trees

Ice Fishing on Fox Lake

February 20th, 2016 • 9am-3pm

East end of Fox Lake • \$10 per hole

Top 10 Fish payout based on total entries

Ice Fishing Raffle

February 20th, 2016 • 3pm

• Vexlar Sonar Unit

• 2 Person Clam

• Electric Filet Knife

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Southern MN 2016 ANNUAL BANQUET



Saturday, March 19
Sherburn Community Hall
Social, 5:00 | Dinner, 7:00

Banquet Menu
Two meat buffet

Early Bird Deadline
Purchase tickets by March 1 and be eligible for the "Early Bird Gun Drawing"

Pre-Event Raffle Tickets
Available from Southern MN Ducks Unlimited committee members

Tickets
\$40 single | \$60 Couple
\$20 Greenwing | \$250 Sponsor*
*includes 2 dinner tickets, membership & framed print.

For More Information
Doug Hartke, 507-236-1700; Matt Brown, 507-236-6163
Tim Eisenmenger, 507-764-2597

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Southern Minnesota Greenwings Annual Event

Southern Minnesota Greenwings will be holding their 24th Annual Greenwing Event on Saturday, May 14th, 2016, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. All youth are welcomed and encouraged to attend. At the time of this publication, the event will be held at the Trimont school. The cost for the day's activities will be \$15. This includes a meal, all entertainment and activities and the child's Greenwing membership.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____

BIRTH DATE: ____/____/____

Food will be served throughout the day. There will also be demonstrations, entertainment, raffles and prizes! Every child is guaranteed a door prize. They will also receive a membership card, decal and DU Magazine.

Parents are FREE and are encouraged to attend. Pre-registration is recommended. Clip out the form below and send to Southern Minnesota Greenwings 2016, PO Box 41, Ceylon,

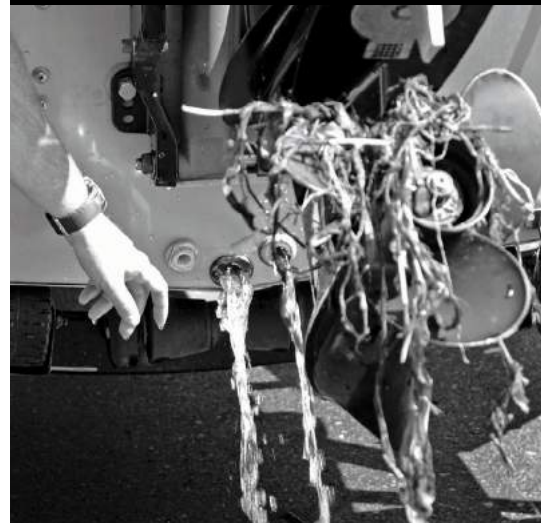
MN 56121

The Greenwing program is a critically important program of Ducks Unlimited. The goal of Ducks Unlimited Greenwing program is to install an appreciation and respect for conservation, wetlands, waterfowl, associated habitat and the outdoor world in America's youth.

Greenwing Committee contacts: Amanda Diers, 507-848-0950 or James Schimmel, 507-848-0213.

If you perceive financial difficulty in having your child(ren) participate in this event, please contact a local Greenwing Committee member for sponsorship support.

Pull the Plug on Aquatic Invaders



Actions Required by Law:

- ✓ Clean all aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other prohibited invasive species from your boat, trailer, and equipment *before* leaving a water access.
- ✓ Drain water from boat, livewell, and portable bait containers *before* leaving a water access. **Remove drain plugs and keep out while transporting boat.**
- ✓ Dispose of unwanted bait - including minnows, leeches, and worms in the trash.



mndnr.gov/ais



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2016 Highlight Tree – The Black Hills Spruce

by Rich Perrine

The Black Hills Spruce is a variety of White Spruce, and as the name indicates, it is native to the Black Hills of South Dakota. Its denser branching habit makes it a good choice for windbreaks and winter shelter for wildlife.

Needles on this evergreen are generally from 1/3 to 3/4 inch long, often slightly shorter than those of the northern Minnesota native white spruce and are generally darker green, usually lacking the white bloom that gives the white spruce its name. The blunt, four sided needles

sponsible for the nicknames of “cat” or “skunk” spruce.

The tree is monoecious (male and female flowers on the same tree). Cones 1 to 2 inches long are brown



with smooth scale margins, maturing in one season on branch tips, usually scattered in varying densities over most of the tree. By spring, most of the cones have been shed.

New growth twigs are pale brown to ashy-gray, without hairs. Rough leaf

scars are raised. Twigs, occasionally drooping, can produce a skunk-like odor if bruised. The bark is thin, reddish brown to gray with flaky scales that are often silvery underneath.

It is considered to be more hardy and drought resistant than the variety of White Spruce native to northern Minnesota. It prefers well drained, moist, medium to fine textured soils (loams and clays) with near neutral pH.

The Black Hills is better adapted than the northern Minnesota variety for most uses in Martin County ex-

The Black Hills is a shorter version of the White Spruce, usually not exceeding 50 feet in height as it approaches maturity at 80 to 100 years or more. Under good site conditions its early growth rate can average one foot per year, reaching nearly 20 feet in 20 years. It is a fairly rapid growing spruce, but generally slower than the pines.

The Black Hills Spruce is still one of the best species for windbreaks. It can be very effective in field windbreaks with proper spacing and pruning to give the desired snow distribution. It

ranks very good to excellent for wildlife, providing nesting, perching, insect and seed foods for birds. Spruce found where protected from the wind, make a favorite winter roosting tree for pheasants. It provides browse, escape cover, severe winter cover and seed foods for mammals and den trees for small mammals.

Although somewhat shade tolerant, it will grow much better out in the open and given plenty of room. Spruces do not tolerate contact very well. Keeping other vegetation from

growing up to and into the crown of a spruce will help to keep it healthy. Pruning off just the very lowest branches that are touching the ground may also contribute to the longevity of the tree and reduce dieback of lower branches.

Insect pests of the Black Hills include the yellow-headed spruce sawfly, spruce budworm, spruce spider mite, eastern spruce gall adelgid and Cooley spruce gall adelgid. Diseases include Dwarf mistletoe, needle rusts and root rot. It is intolerant to salt spray.



cept on wetter sites. There, the Minnesota native White Spruce is usually preferred.

has good form and color for Christmas trees and makes a good specimen tree. It



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- ✓ Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash. It is illegal to release live bait into the water, or to dump worms on the ground.







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Martin County Board of Supervisors, *left to right*: Judy Beckman, Linda Meschke, Clair Schmidt Jr., Tyler Ask, Darwin Roberts and Martin County Commissioner Liason Steve Flohrs.

Martin Soil & Water Employees



Front Row L to R: Pam Oltman, NRCS; Reggie Liddell, NRCS; Ashley Brenke, SWCD. *Back Row L to R*: Ben Cottrell, NRCS; Greg Johanson, SWCD; Rich Perrine, SWCD; Dustin Benes, SWCD.

Recommended Minimum Ice Thickness
(Rough Guidelines for New Clear Ice Only)

2" or less
STAY OFF!!

4 Inches
Ice Fishing

5 Inches
Snowmobile or ATV

8-12 Inches
Car or Small Pickup

12-15 Inches
Medium Truck

Department of Natural Resources

- When your child is near the ice, you should be near your child.
- Avoid alcoholic beverages.
- Carry two large nails to use as ice picks to pull yourself out if you fall through thin ice.
- Never drive on the ice at night.
- Avoid pressure ridges, and areas with current if you do choose to drive on the ice.
- Drive with your windows down and doors partially open to avoid becoming trapped if your car breaks through.

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Area College Student News



Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska named 260 students to its honors list for the fall 2015 semester. The list of students includes: **Mason Koeritz**, a senior from Northrop. The top 25 percent of un-

dergraduate students who complete at least 12 credit hours on the traditional A-F grading scale, receive no failing grades in the semester and earn a semester GPA of at least 3.5 qualify for the honors list.

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CHECK IT OUT!
@ the Martin County Library

'Tis the season for taxes! We have already received many questions about taxes at the library. Each year, there are changes regarding tax forms at the library. Here are a few helpful tips:

*The Minnesota Department of Revenue is no longer sending printed tax forms to the library.

*The Federal IRS is send-

ing select tax forms to public libraries, but they have not arrived yet. We do not know which forms will be included in the packets they are sending.

*We can help you print tax forms from the Internet, but please be advised that there is a charge for printing tax forms.

*AARP Tax volunteers

will be doing taxes at no charge for senior and low-income filers. This program is run out of the Fairmont library's basement and will be available the first week of February. To make an appointment, call them at 238-3107.

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WARRANTY DEEDS

Pheasants Forever, Inc. to United States of America, Meandered Lake Lot G of Holmes Lake, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, 35-102-32

Pheasants Forever, Inc. to United States of America, Pt. Lake Lot H, Govt. Lot 2, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, 35-102-32

Pheasants Forever, Inc. to United States of America, Pt. Lot G, Govt. Lots 1, 2, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Pt. Lot G, Govt. Lot 3, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, 2-101-32

John E. Larson, Sherry R.

Larson, Sherry S. Larson to Erin L. Howk, E.50; Lots 9 and 10, Block 18, Original Plat of Fairmont

Caroline E. Luhrs, Norman Luhrs to Randy C. Nelson, Roger C. Nelson, Und. 1/4 Int. S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, 18-101-32

Marcia Goossen, Marsha Goossen to Beverly J. Bottin, Jeffrey S. Bottin, Kevin L. Bottin, Shirley A. Bottin, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, 6-104-23

Barbara Goossen, Charles Goossen to Beverly J. Bottin,

Jeffrey S. Bottin, Kevin L. Bottin, Shirley A. Bottin, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, 6-104-33

John E. Goossen to Beverly J. Bottin, Jeffrey S. Bottin, Kevin L. Bottin, Shirley A. Bottin, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, 6-104-23

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Amber Holmers, Amber Schultz, Lance A. Schultz to Bernadette E. Reuter, Jacob P. Reuter, Pt. Lots 3 and 4, Pt. Lot 5 w/easement, Block 1, Lake Park Addn.

Dawn Weseman, John B. Weseman to Brittany Ann Lutz, James Richard Lutz, Jr., Lots 14 and 15, Block 17, Morgans Addn., Sherburn

Dale B. Keck, Shirley J. Keck, to Dale B. Keck and Shirley J. Keck Revocable Trust, Dale B. Keck, Trustee, Shirley J. Keck, Trustee, Lots 1, 2, 3, Block 8, Original Plat Welcome

Dale J. Strauser, Atty.-in-fact, Evelyn D. Strauser to Cody Theobald, Pt. SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, 13-103-29

Metlife Home Loans LLC to Isaac B. Lewan, Pt. NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, 15-104-32

Dagmar V. Howe, Gary L. Howe to Brandi Opheim, Elizabeth Opheim, Lot 6, Block 3, 3rd Ext. Wards Central Addn.

QUIT CLAIM DEEDS

Rabbe Ag Enterprises to Farmers State Bank of Trimont, Pt. N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, 5-104-32; Pt. Lots 11, 12, Block 12, Original Plat Ormsby

Mary L. Stoneback to Kevin Stoneback, Pt. SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Pt. SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, 3-102-30; Pt. W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Pt. SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, 10-102-30

Lorena E. Zeitz to Lorena

MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE
CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME
Minnesota Statutes Chapter 333
Read the instructions before completing this form. Filing fee: \$50.00. Note: An Annual Renewal is required to be filed once every calendar year, beginning in the calendar year following the original filing with the Secretary of State. The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable consumers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.
1. List the exact assumed name under which the business is or will be conducted. (Required) GENE'S CLEANERS. 2. Principal Place of Business: (Required) Street Address (APO Box by itself is not acceptable) 112 E BLUE EARTH AVENUE, FAIRMONT, MN 56031 USA. 3. List the name and complete street address of all persons conducting business under the above Assumed Name, OR if an entity, provide legal corporate, LLC, or Limited Partnership name and registered office address: (Required) Name: GENE'S CLEANERS, Street: 112 E BLUE EARTH AVENUE, City: FAIRMONT, State: MN ZIP 56031. Name: 4. I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath. Signature (Only one nameholder or an authorized agent is required to sign) TIMOTHY MCCLINTOCK Date 01/08/16 Email Address for Official Notices. Enter an email address to which the Secretary of State can forward official notices required by law and other notices: momclintock@yahoo.com Entities that own, lease or have any financial interest in agricultural land or land capable of being farmed must register with the Department of Agriculture, State of Minnesota, Department of State, FILED JANUARY 8, 2016, Steve Simon, Secretary of State

E. Zeitz Living Trust, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Pt. NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, 25-103-32

Gail E. Anderson, Margaret M. Anderson to Lori T. Sweetney, Und. 1/2 Int. Lot 3, Block 2, Webers Addn.

Ardys Manzey, Ronald H. Manzey to Ardys Manzey, Ronald H. Manzey, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, 30-102-32; Pt. SW $\frac{1}{4}$, 19-102-32; E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, 30-102-32

TRUSTEE DEEDS

Darrel Leiding, Trustee, Kathy J. Meixel, Trustee, Elda M. Leiding Irrevocable Trust to Dwayne Maday, Roberta Maday, Lot 7, Block 1, Cardinal Addn.

Caroline E. Luhrs, Norman Luhrs, Caroline E. Luhrs Trust to Randy C. Nelson, Roger C. Nelson, Und. 3/4 Int. S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, 18-101-32

Steven E. Buckmeier, Vernon R. Buckmeier Revocable Trust to Steven E. Buckmeier, Vernetta R. Turner, Lot 4, Block 11, Lake George 2nd Addn.

Delphine F. Hanson, Trustee, Hanson Family Revocable Trust, Milton H. Hanson and Delphine F. Hanson Family Revocable Trust, to Jason McLellan, Lot 4, Block 2, Lake George Addn.



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Truman Public Schools is looking for Paraprofessional Substitutes and Teacher Substitutes. Truman Schools is not part of Teachers On Call. Individuals who wish to be considered for these positions must complete an application form. The form is available to be picked up at the district office during normal school hours or it can be faxed or emailed to you. Contact Shirley Rohman at rohman@truman.k12.mn.us or call 507-776-2111. 37-2tc-7

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Family Ministry Coordinator

Fairmont United Methodist Church is seeking a 3/4 time Family Ministry Coordinator. The Coordinator will work with the church ministry staff team, an existing Youth Advisory Council of adults and youth, and Christian Education Committee to plan and coordinate an effective family ministry.

We are looking for an outgoing and enthusiastic individual with a strong Christian faith, good organizational and leadership skills, who enjoys working on a ministry team with other church staff. This position will be 30 hours per week. Fairmont is a county seat in southern Minnesota that has a wide array of recreational activities among a chain of five lakes, as well as new businesses coming to town. Our church has had steady growth with a long-tenured senior pastor and a Director of Christian Education.

A detailed job description and application form can be found on our website at www.umcfairmont.org.

Applications should be received by March 15, 2016 and can be picked up at the church at 119 E. 2nd Street, Fairmont or email your resume to umcfmtconnie@gmail.com.

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WILD MASCOT - Nordy, the Minnesota Wild hockey team's mascot, entertained and signed autographs Saturday at the Martin County Arena. Nordy was part of the Fairmont Hockey Association's "Hockey Day" where the Mites, Bantams, Pee-wee's, Girls 12U and the high school varsity teams played eight games. *Courtesy fairmontsports.com*

25 YEARS AGO IN THE PHOTO PRESS

WEEK OF

JANUARY 30, 1991

Fairmont's first Winter Carnival was to be held in February with events for all ages. Kicking off the festival would be tours of the Opera House restoration, The Lakeside Ramblers Dixieland Band. Warren Nelson and the Lost Nation String Band would be followed on Saturday with snow golf, volleyball in the snow and a snowmobile icekhana and sleight rides, all at Heritage Acres. Several other events were scheduled.

Superintendent of the Mail Dean Dwyer of the Fairmont Post Office was pictured with 25 packages from the Fairmont American Legion Post and Auxiliary, being sent to Martin County servicemen in Saudi, Arabia who were part of Desert Storm deployment.

Freda Yahnke of Fairmont was winner of the 1981 Pontiac Catalina given away at Militello Motors 4th Annual Indoor Used Car Sale. Owner Denny Militello presented Freda the car keys.

The Martin County Humane Society was formed in 1991 to help provide humane care for homeless and injured pets. Another function was to create public awareness of the problem of pet overpopulation. The society was relying on volunteer foster homes to shelter adoptable pets. Because of the few foster homes, the society was limited to the number of animals it could help.

50 YEARS AGO IN THE PHOTO PRESS

WEEK OF

JANUARY 30, 1966

Lasker's Clothing Store, after 51 years on North Avenue, was sold to Jeremy G. Kurtz who planned to keep the Lasker name for the firm, and to keep the same employees, Cecil Levy, Mrs. Otha Gray, Mrs. Charlotte Gellert and after-school salesman Tom Gallagher.

Civic Summer Theatre named new officers at their annual meeting and revised the by-laws to increase the number of directors from six to nine. New officers were Robert Brodt, president; Marlin Gratz, vice president; Robert Gallagher, secretary, and Elizabeth Woodward, treasurer. New directors were Brodt and Mrs. James Fitch of Fairmont, Mrs. Don Peterson of Truman and Richard Dahl of Swea City.

A 250-foot tower was being built to translate TV signals from KROC-TV in Rochester, giving Fairmonters another NBC channel.



CELEBRATION TIME - Cardinals Alyssa Feters celebrates her third-period goal that got by Morris Benson Area's goalie Abbey Hoffman. The Cards downed the Storm 5-2 last Saturday.



FIRST TIMER - Cardinals #12 Tanner Dewar scored his first varsity goal as teammate Ethan Lubenow looks on. The Cards defeated Morris Benson Area 3-0 Saturday at the Martin County Arena. *Photos courtesy gregabelphotography.com*

Fairmont Area Elementary to Hold Cheer Clinic

Fairmont Area Elementary School will hold a cheer clinic on Saturday, January 30th from Noon to 4:00 p.m. at Fairmont Elementary in the main gym.

The clinic is for any K-6 student who wants to learn to become a cheerleader. The clinic will focus on: cheers, pom routine, motions, jumps, stunts, tumbling and making new friends!

Future cheerleaders will perform on Friday, February 5th during halftime at the Fairmont Area Girls Varsity basketball game.

Attendees will receive

a light lunch, t-shirt, poms and cheer list. There is a charge for this clinic.

For more information, contact Deb Heinrich at 507-236-3287.

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LOOSE BALL - Cardinals Cassidy Krusemark wrestles the ball away from Blue Earth Area's Shayna Stevermer. The Cards edged the Buccaneers 49-46 last Friday night. *Courtesy fairmontsports.com*



REJECTED - Cardinals Walker Tordsen rejects Blue Earth Area's Bailey Olson's layup attempt. The Cardinals defeated the Buccaneers 54-38 last Friday night. *Courtesy gregabelphotography.com*

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Grace Lutheran Church Boy Scout Troop 56

45th annual Pancake breakfast

Sunday, February 7 • 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Grace Fellowship Hall



Pancakes are All You Can Eat served with sausage or ham, syrup & butter, juice, milk or coffee.

Advance tickets: \$5/person; \$15/family.
Tickets at the door: \$6/person; \$16/family;
kids under 6 eat FREE. Support the Scouts!



Karis and I have noticed that the bird population on our farm has been pretty steady throughout the year over the past few years. The best way to tell is by the amount of bird food we purchase to feed them. Between the birds,



our barn cats and our dog, Snickers, we have a pretty good food bill to pay each year. Every morning when I go out to "do chores", which is just going out to feed the cats, check the bird feeder and feed and water the dog, I tell Karis I am going out to "feed the starving hoards". We have about 10 cats in the barn, so whenever they hear me coming their way with food, they come flying out the barn door and have this big procession to meet me, and then follow me into

the barn to wait for the day's parcels of food. Snickers is getting older (she is about 12 or 13 years old - pretty good for a Black Lab!) so she usually just waits in her dog house for me to come in the corn crib and put some food in her dish. If it is cold that day, she may just stay in

her warm doghouse and not even come out right away to eat the food. Every once in a while, if I am around home for a while, I will hear a growl and maybe some hissing coming from the corn-crib. That usually tells me that one or more of the cats have ventured too close to Snicker's dog food and she is letting them know who is "the king of the domain". I usually get a grin on my face when that happens because I know that the cats have already eaten their own food

and for some reason they think that they are entitled to some of the dog food also.

Karis knows that whenever I come across something that is John Deere and I don't have it in my collection yet, I usually end up drooling over the item (and maybe sometimes end up buying it!). When I saw that they were making bird houses that looked like a small barn that was in John Deere green and yellow, I just couldn't resist getting that for hanging in the tree outside our kitchen window. The birds were busy feeding off of the new bird feeder last weekend and later on even a couple squirrels tried to get in on the action. It is always fun to watch all the activity around a bird feeder whenever you put fresh food out. And it is even better now that they have a green and yellow feeder to eat out of. There are many different items that have a "John Deere influence" around our farm. It has been ingrained into my life since I was just a wee little boy (I received a John Deere pedal tractor from my grandfather on my first Christmas). Growing up on the farm, I learned to drive green machinery, went once a year to "John Deere Days" at the Sherburn theater (they were given by Swanson Implement of Sherburn when I was growing up), and collected the green and yellow farm toys. It was always in-

teresting when the Hagen clan would get together for hay baling or straw baling years ago because about half of the cousins were "red" and the other half "green", so the stories and comparisons were always being made. Those were fun times and I remember the "ribbing" going on between family fondly.

There are a few events coming up in the next week that I wanted to make sure you were aware of. On Friday, January 29th, there will be two retirement open houses in Fairmont. The first one is at First Farmers & Merchants Bank, where there will be an open house for Dennis Trushenski from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. That same day, there will be an open house at the Martin County Library in Fairmont for Laura Walker, who is retiring. The open house will be from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. On Sunday, January 31st the Granada Fireman's Relief Association will have a pancake breakfast from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Granada High School Cafeteria. They will be serving pancakes, sausage, biscuits and gravy and a beverage for a charge. Also on that day down in Ceylon, the Ceylon American Legion and Auxiliary will have a Shrimp Dinner at Nassen-Detert Post #529. Serving will be from 10:30

What's Cooking

with Kathy Lloyd

Bavarian Dinner

Today's recipe is one I would definitely call comfort food. I have put the whole business in a crock pot after browning the steaks and onion. I find that cube steaks tend to be on the tough side and cooking them long and slow takes care of that. I also add a couple of carrots because Pa Lloyd isn't fond of cabbage. If you are unable to find onion gravy mix, the plain beef gravy mix works.

Bavarian Dinner:

- 3-4 beef cube steaks
- 1 Tbsp oil
- 1/3 cup chopped onion
- 2 1/2 cups water
- 2 envelopes onion gravy mix
- 2 Tbsp brown sugar
- 2 Tbsp white vinegar
- 1 tsp caraway seed
- 2 medium potatoes peeled and cubed
- 2 wedges of cabbage

In skillet brown cube steaks in oil, add onion and cook until tender, combine water, gravy mix, brown sugar, vinegar and caraway seed, pour over steak and simmer 15-20 minutes. Cook potatoes and cabbage in salted water 6-8 minutes, drain. Arrange potatoes and cabbage on platter, top with steak, pour gravy over all.

a.m. to 12:30 p.m. They will serve shrimp, baked potato or French fries, green beans, garlic toast, bars and a beverage for a charge. Ceylon Girl Scouts will be helping with the meal. Proceeds go toward the programs of Post #529.

Have a great week!

Drive safely - visit a shut-in or family member - Eat, Play, Shop Local - take care of the animals!

- Jeff

oto LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

On January 22nd, 2016 I met with the Board of Directors of the Sons of Norway in Minnesota, about starting a lodge in Fairmont and discussed the rules and regulations that have to be met. I also shared with them about what the community would like from the Sons of Norway.

Here is a summary of the meeting:

On March 29th we will be holding an information meeting. At the conclusion of the informational meeting, if we have 40 members signed up, we will be holding an Institutional meeting May 10th at which time we would become a lodge.

We'll have to select a Steering Committee between March 29th & May 10th to setup all the legal things need to be done.

We have selected a temporary name: English version "5 waters lodge" it was selected for Fairmont, but the final name will be decided by the members of the lodge.

One of the goals for Fairmont is the youth. We would also support Fairmont Triathlon, Language camp (Northern MN or WI) Cooking & Baking Contest, Adopt a School (work with school). In addition, we would build a

Ginger Bread houses and display at Snowball parade along with bringing in Norwegian dancers.

Another idea brought up for fund raisers would be to have Abbleskibers or "Danish pancakes."



We'll work with Fairmont Chamber and Fairmont realtors to do something like a Welcome Wagon, but with a different name because of trademark.

If anyone has any questions, please call me.

Leonard Worth,
Fairmont: 763-552-0857

A handful of seniors trickled into the Knights of Columbus hall on January 18th to help pack hundreds of coleslaw containers. Then another 23 seniors replaced them, as they donned the Fairmont Dollars for Scholars blue visors and hats along with aprons and food service gloves and served chicken dinners to more than 400 customers. We had an incredible showing

of help and great attitudes from the class of 2016 as we held our annual chicken dinner fundraiser. We raised about \$1,300 for scholarships!

Thank you so much to our community for so faithfully supporting us and our students year after year. Thank you also to the Knights for helping the evening run so smoothly and to the Fairmont Sentinel, Fairmont Photo Press,

KFMC, First Farmers and Merchants Bank, Wells Federal Bank, Olson Rental, Cyndi Johnson, and Dawn Petrowiak and other church staff who helped us get the word out about the event. Thank you to Lori Stubbe and Lisa DeBoer of the Pizza Ranch for the great food and the planning logistics. An especially huge thank you to the students who served, including Anagha Komaragiri and Lauren Carlson (Dollars for Scholars student representatives), and dinner coordinator Nancy Backer, student recruiter Mary Granheim, and the rest of the board who served.

Liz Wheeler
Fairmont Dollars for
Scholars secretary

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Beverages

For more info: 235-5719
www.bowlmor-lanes.com
BOWL MOR LANES

617 S. State St. Fairmont, MN

Relativity

Saturday, January 30
7:30 pm

Playing originals, top 40,
classic & folk rock. Fairmont natives: Sandy (Toby) Morin
Jensen, Linda Morin Wilson, & Mike Hildebrandt, a MN
Rock & Country Music Hall of fame fiddle player.

Advance tickets \$8 at Hy-Vee and Red Rock;
\$10 at the Door (Students \$5)

**RED ROCK
CENTER**
FOR THE ARTS
501c3 non profit org

222 E. Blue Earth Ave.,
Fairmont • 507-235-9262
redrockcenter.org



Ceylon Legion & Auxiliary SHRIMP Dinner

Sun., January 31
10:30 am-12:30 pm

\$10 Adults; \$5 Kids Under 12
Menu: baked potato or fries,
green beans, garlic toast & bars

Take outs available.
Proceeds to help Post #529
Ceylon Girl Scout Troop #33405 will help.

Dinner Dance
Annual Fundraiser 2016

★ Saturday, January 30th, 2016 ★
Knights of Columbus Hall ★ 920 E 10th St
★ Appetizers: 5:30 p.m. ★ Dinner: 6:30 p.m. ★ Dance 7:30 p.m.
★ Formal/Semi-Formal Attire ★

★ Main Entrees: Stuffed Pork Chop and Salmon ★
★ Entertainment By: Elegant Affairs of Mankato ★
★ KC Raffle Tickets ★ Live Auction Gift Baskets ★
Prepared Especially By Each Class

Pick Up Tickets @ St. John Vianney School or Call: 235-5304

DAILY MENU SPECIALS

Mon - All Day: BBQ Pork - \$5.95
Tues - All Day: Burger Basket - \$5
Commercials - Full: \$7.25; Half: \$5.25
Wed - 5-8 pm: Taco Night -3 Tacos/\$6.95
or 1 Giant Burrito/\$6.95
Thurs - All Day: 60¢ Wings - dine in only
Fri - All Day: Cod Dinner - \$6.50

Daily Happy Hour:
Drink Specials
2:30 pm-5:30 pm

Daily: \$5 Hot Dogs, Chips,
and Beer or Soda
\$5 Appetizers after 9:00 pm

Fridays at 5:30 p.m.: Meat Raffle!

Open 11 am Monday through Saturday

The BLAZER
Bar and Grill

106 E. 1st Street
Fairmont
507-238-2349

Dell Lutheran's 33rd Annual Scandinavian Smörgåsbord

Sun., Feb. 7 • 1-5 p.m.
\$16 Donation - Adults
\$5 Donation - Under 10 Years Old
All proceeds support Mission Projects

MENU

Lutefisk-Potatoes-Klub-Corn
Norwegian Meatballs-Romgrot
Lefsa-Kringla-Norwegian Rice
Homemade Buns-Rosettes

BAKE SALE: sponsored by Dell
Women. Bake Sale proceeds support
Dell Women's budget.

VALET PARKING

DELL LUTHERAN CHURCH • Frost, MN
From I-90 Frost Exit, go 1 1/4 mile south
and 1/2 mile east
dellfreechurch.org • We're on Facebook

Where our desire is to know Christ
and make Him known.

Militello Motors

THIS SALE ABSOLUTELY ENDS SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6th!

'15 CHRYSLER 200C AWD! 15K miles, Sunroof, heated leather, Nav... \$24,852 or \$359/mo* 72mo 3.99%	'14 RAM 1500 REGULAR CAB 4X4, express pkg, 5.7 hemi, tow pkg includes mirrors and brake control... \$24,918 or \$359/mo* 72mo 3.99%	'14 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY LIMITED Loaded, sunroof, tow, blu ray player, Nav... \$29,995 or \$439/mo* 72mo 3.99%	'14 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SXT DVD! Power seat, doors and liftgate only 15k miles! \$19,995 or \$279/mo* 72mo 3.99%	'15 JEEP CHEROKEE LATITUDE 28 mpg! All wheel drive, 5/100K warranty \$23,879 or \$339/mo* 72mo 3.99%
'12 DODGE JOURNEY SXT AWD, heated seats, new tires, 27K miles, clean 1 owner trade. \$17,995 or \$249/mo* 72mo 3.99%	'11 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO 1 owner Jeep trade, current body style, 0300 hp and 26 mpg hwy! \$19,995 or \$279/mo* 72mo 3.99%	'12 BUICK REGAL Premium 1 pkg, sunroof, heated leather 33 mpg! \$14,779 or \$199/mo* 72mo 3.99%	'11 CHRYSLER 300 TOURING Only 25K miles, save thousands on factory demo! \$16,995 or \$239/mo* 72mo 3.99%	'13 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN CREW Touring susp, rear camera, heated seats 1st & 2nd row, safety sphere group. \$18,752 or \$259/mo* 72mo 3.99%
'08 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY LIMITED Heated leather, Nav, Tow pkg., only 75K miles! \$11,631 or \$226/mo* 48mo 2.99%	'08 CHRYSLER ASPEN AWD, 4.7L V8, 7 pass, rear heat and air. \$9,995 or \$189/mo* 48mo 5.99%	'05 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO 4x4, 100k miles. \$7,995 or \$141/mo* 48mo 5.99%	'98 FORD F-150 SUPER CAB 4x4, XLT décor, 150k miles... \$4,995 or \$139/mo* 24mo 9.99%	'09 KIA RIO LX New tires, 120k miles, very economical transportation! \$3,716 or \$79/mo* 24mo 9.99%



Militello Motors

Jeep

1029 N. State Street, Fairmont, MN • 238-4444 • 1-800-733-0587

*Payments based on \$2,000 down plus tax & lic. With approved credit. www.militellomotors.com

