



Conservation News

Spring 2013

Freeborn County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD)

Halvorsens honored as 2012 Outstanding Conservation Farmers. . .

Steve and Cindy Halvorsen were recently honored at the Minnesota Association of Conservation Districts (MASWCD)'s annual convention. This event is sponsored jointly by the "Farmer" Magazine and the MASWCD. The convention was held at the Doubletree Hotel in Bloomington on Dec. 4th. The Halvorsen's attended a luncheon honoring Outstanding Conservationists throughout the state.

The program included photos and descriptions of the great work each Conservationist is doing. Our local board of supervisors chose the Halvorsens for their interest in soil conservation. They have installed water and sediment control basins, have CRP filterstrips, and have CRP farmable wetland contracts. The Halvorsens no-till 75% of their beans in the spring and limit fall tillage on



Steve and Cindy accepting their award from Paula Mohr, Farmer Magazine

bean stubble to decrease wind and water erosion to save the soil for the next generation. Steve has been farming for many years and is now joined with his son Randy on the farm.

Congratulations to the Halvorsens!

Staff:

Mark Schaezke, SWCD
District Manager

Brenda Lageson, SWCD
Office/Assistant
Manager

SWCD District
Technician, Vacant

Brian DeVetter, NRCS
Acting
District Conservationist

NRCS Soil Conservation
Tech., Vacant

Chad Billat,
Ducks Unlimited
WRP Contract Biologist

SWCD Board

of

Supervisors:

Don Kropp,
Chairman

Chris Dahl,
Vice-Chair

Dave Ausen,
Treasurer

Paul Heers, Jr.,
Board Secretary

Colin Wittmer,
Supervisor

Get the facts on tiling. . .

The early harvest, dry fall, and good crop prices have many farmers thinking about adding tile to their land. Prior to tiling, USDA participants should indicate their intention to perform any drainage activities by completing a 1026 request at FSA. A change has recently been made in Minnesota as to how these requests are serviced. All new 1026 request will receive a certified wetland determination. The Certified Wetland Determination process is much more in depth, and as a result it is

taking longer to service these requests. We recommend you submit your 1026 request 6 months prior to when you plan to start work. NRCS currently has a team devoted to decreasing this turnaround time. If you plan to install drainage improvements without a current wetland determination you need to be aware that any drainage in a high risk area could result in altering a wetland and subsequent violation of USDA wetland conservation provisions. High risk areas are any site without crop history

and cropped areas that are consistently wet (drown out spots, stunted crops, and/or delayed planting due to wetness). The 1985 farm bill legislation recognized that participation in USDA programs is a publicly funded benefit. In return for these public benefits, farmers agree to restrict their drainage activities.

For additional questions or fact sheets see your local NRCS office.



Natural Resources
Conservation Service

Check out our enclosed tree order for 2013. Please note that we are offering some select deciduous trees in pots this year on a trial basis. Our potted evergreens have been very popular in the past. Potted trees are often older and more of their roots are intact which causes them less transplanting stress. This results in less mortality and faster growth.

Winter Burn on Evergreen Trees. . .

You may start to notice browning needles, or winter burn, on evergreen trees as the winter progresses. Winter burn occurs when there is not enough moisture in the ground and the dry winter air causes the needles to dry out. Some species of evergreen trees, such as the American Arborvitae or White Cedar, are more susceptible than others. This is especially common for newly planted evergreen trees but can affect trees of any age.

There are some ways to prevent or mitigate the effects of winter burn. The most effective technique is to water the trees thoroughly during the summer and in the fall right before freeze up. You do not want to add fertilizer to your trees at this time in the fall. Fertilizing at this time can cause new growth that is not as hardy to the extremes of winter. Other methods include

covering the trees or protecting them from the wind.

Many trees with winter burn look dead but are still alive, so it's important to make sure before you dig them out and replant. You can check whether a tree is still alive by scraping the trunk with your fingernail. If there is still a little green underneath, it's still alive and may bounce back by early summer.



www.emeraldashborer.info

Emerald Ash Borer Update and Preparedness . . .

What is it? The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an insect that attacks and kills ash trees. It was first discovered in Michigan in 2002 and has since been found in many states including Minnesota in 2009. As of 2012 it has been reported in Hennepin, Ramsey, Winona, and Houston Counties, which are under quarantine. Signs of EAB infestation include abnormally dead or dying ash trees with D-shaped, 1/8 inch wide holes where the larvae exit the tree. Trees often show excessive woodpecker activity as well.

When is it coming?

Without human assistance it might take many years or decades for the emerald ash borer to reach the ash trees located in your yard or windbreak, but once they do, mortality is fast and the infestation is thorough. History has shown that EAB catches a ride from human activities. Caution should be used when transporting firewood to reduce the spread of the EAB and other tree pests and diseases.

What can I do about it?

For existing large trees, especially yard trees, we recommend leaving them until EAB gets here. We also do not recommend pesticide applications for EAB at this time since the closest known infestation is about 100 miles away. For new trees we suggest planting various species. A more active approach if you have many ash trees would be to remove a row or every other tree and replace with a different species. When the emerald ash borer finally comes you'll have replacement tree rows already growing tall.



Potted Evergreens for a Shelterbelt



This Grassed Waterway fixed the raw gully that used to cut through this field

Cost Share Assistance available. . .

Technical and financial assistance is available for landowners who want to install soil and water conservation practices through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and State Cost Share Program. Each year our office assists landowners with installing grassed waterways, side inlet

pipes, sediment basins, and tree plantings. If you have concentrated soil erosion (gullies), need windbreaks, have issues with livestock waste, are interested in organic agriculture, or other soil and water concerns please contact our office. Staff can meet with you at your site to help determine what the best

solution will be and what cost share opportunity would work the best for your situation. To view a comprehensive list of over 70 practices offered by the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) please visit: <http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/2012/eqip.html>

Keep the soil out of the ditch and in the field with ReInvest in Minnesota (RIM) Filterstrips. . .

Many local landowners have realized how important it is to have a strip of permanent vegetation next to our surface waters not only to filter runoff but also to stabilize the banks to help prevent sediment from washing downstream. The ReInvest in Minnesota (RIM) program currently has an

opportunity for landowners to permanently protect areas adjacent to surface waters such as lakes, rivers, large streams, and large drainage ditches in exchange for an easement payment. This particular program is compatible with the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) filterstrip practice. This means your land can be enrolled into a RIM buffer easement and

you can continue receiving CRP payments for the life of the existing CRP contract. RIM buffers can be 50 to 200 feet wide and would need to include some cropland or existing CRP lands. RIM payment rates vary by township but are currently in the \$4700-5600/acre range with totals of \$7000-9500/acre possible when you include the CRP payments.



Sediment in drainage ditches is costly to remove and reduces capacity

Arbor Day is April 26

Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM)/Wetland Restoration Program (WRP) 2013 Sign up. . .

RIM/WRP is a state and federal funded permanent conservation easement program through the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). It pays landowners to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands and surrounding native vegetation on eligible land to maximize

wildlife habitat benefits. Wetland restoration on privately owned land provides benefits not only to the landowner but others as well such as enhancing wildlife habitat, reducing flooding damage, improving water quality, and enhancement of aesthetic quality to name a few. This program and restoration is especially important

in Freeborn County. Cost-share is available for restoration and easement payments are expected to go up considerably from 2012. 2013 RIM/WRP signup is anticipated to start early this spring. If interested or know of anybody who might, don't hesitate to call (507-373-5607 ext. 3) or email chad.billat@mn.usda.gov Chad Billat, WRP specialist at the Albert Lea Conservation office.



Newly restored wetland



Structure to regulate water levels in a restored wetland

NRCS Staff is Changing. . .

Two notable Natural Resource Conservation Staff changes have occurred recently. Edward Moffett, the NRCS District Conservationist, has retired after serving for 6 years here in Freeborn County. Brian DeVetter,

NRCS District Conservationist in Dodge County, is filling in for him until a replacement is selected. Brian Jensen, the NRCS Soil Conservation Technician, has recently resigned his

position to pursue a career in crop insurance. Brian has worked in this position for the last 13 years. We wish Brian and Ed the best in the years to come and thank them for their work in conservation.

Join us for an open house

on Friday, March 15th from 8 - 5 p.m. Stop in we'll show you maps/LiDAR layers, discuss tree species, explain available programs and/or practices and answer any questions you may have. (Sign up for prizes).



Freeborn County SWCD Spring 2013 Tree Order Form

1400 W Main Street, Albert Lea, MN 56007
507-373-5607 Ext. 3 or FAX 507-373-7654
email: brenda.lageson@mn.nacdn.net
www.freebornswcd.org



Name: _____ Date Ordered: _____
 Address: _____ Phone: _____
 City, State, ZIP: _____ Check# /Cash: _____
 Email Address (to receive district newsletters and tree updates): _____

Order bare root in multiples of 10 or 25 no minimum order for pots					Order bare root in multiples of 10 or 25 no minimum order for pots				
<i>Native Evergreens</i>	Size	Price ea.	Qty.	Total	<i>Non-Native Evergreens</i>	Size	Price ea.	Qty.	Total
Arborvitae, Am.: bare root	12-18"	\$1.50			Spruce, Black Hills: bare root	12-18"	\$1.50		
Arborvitae, Am.: 2 gal. pot	18-24"	\$10.50			Spruce, Black Hills: 1 gal. pot	15-18"	\$7.50		
Cedar, Eastern Red: bare root	9-15"	\$1.50			Spruce, Black Hills: 2 gal. pot	24-30"	\$11.50		
Pine, Red: bare root	7-15"	\$1.50			Spruce, Colorado: bare root	12-18"	\$1.75		
Pine, White: bare root	7-15"	\$1.25			Spruce, Colorado: 1 gal. pot	15-18"	\$7.50		
Pine, White: 1 gal pot	15-18"	\$7.50			Spruce, Norway: bare root	7-15"	\$1.25		
Pine, White: 2 gal pot	18-24"	\$11.50			Spruce, Norway: 1 gal. pot	15-18"	\$7.50		
Spruce, White: bare root	7-15"	\$1.25			Spruce, Norway: 2 gal. pot	18-24"	\$10.50		

Order in multiples of 10 or 25					Order in multiples of 10 trees or 25 shrubs				
<i>Native Deciduous Trees - bare root</i>					<i>Non-Native Deciduous Trees & Shrubs - bare root</i>				
Basswood (American Linden)	3-4'	\$2.50			Cherry, Nanking*	2-3'	\$1.25		
Birch, River	2-3'	\$1.50			Crabapple, Red Splendor	3-4'	\$1.25		
Cherry, Black*	3-4'	\$1.25			Honeysuckle, Arnolds Red	18-24"	\$1.00		
Chokecherry, Common*	2-3'	\$1.25			Lilac, Chinese	18-24"	\$1.50		
Hackberry	2-3'	\$1.25			Maple, Sugar*	2-3'	\$1.50		
Maple, Red (Rubrum)*	2-3'	\$1.50			Oak, Pin*	2-3'	\$1.50		
Oak, Bur*	2-3'	\$1.25			Poplar, Norway	3-4'	\$1.25		
Oak, Red*	2-3'	\$1.25			Walnut, Black*	2-3'	\$1.50		
Plum, American*	2-3'	\$1.50			Willow, Hybrid	2-3'	\$1.50		

**Deciduous trees now available in 2 gallon pots, ranging from \$6.50 to \$9.00*

Order in multiples of 25					Other				
<i>Native Shrubs - bare root</i>	Size	Price ea.	Qty.	Total		Price ea.	Qty.	Total	
Arrowwood	18-24"	\$1.25			Tree Mats (one per tree) 3' x 3'	ea.	\$1.50		
Cranberry, Am. Highbush	18-24"	\$1.50			Fertilizer Packets	ea.	\$0.20		
Dogwood, Redosier	18-24"	\$0.95			4' Tree Tubes	ea.	\$3.00		
Hazelnut, American	18-24"	\$1.50							
Nannyberry	18-24"	\$1.50							

Subtotal	
Sales Tax 7.375%	
Total	
Less Deposit	
Balance Due	

Order by February 28th for best selection



- 🌲 The SWCD sells good quality trees, but offers no guarantee of survival or availability of items ordered.
 - 🌲 Our stock is limited to what our wholesale suppliers can provide.
 - 🌲 A 20% deposit is required on all orders over \$50.00 with the balance due at the time of pick-up.
- Make checks payable to Freeborn County SWCD.**
- 🌲 We will contact you when the orders are ready to be picked up, generally around the 3rd or 4th week of April.

Evergreens		Deciduous Trees	
<u>Arborvitae, American, Thuja occidentalis</u> – Height of 40 – 50'. Also known as Northern White Cedar. Pyramid shaped tree with flat, soft green scale-like needles. Excellent windbreak tree for home sites. Susceptible to drying out in dry, cold winters so water well.	<u>Cedar, Eastern Red, Juniperus virginiana</u> – Height of 40 – 50'. Native to IA. Sharp green scale-like needles. Good for wildlife. Tolerant of most light and soil conditions.	<u>Maple, Red, Acer rubrum</u> – Height 40-70'. Native to MN. Saw toothed lobed leaves. Shade tolerant, grows in very wet to dry conditions, moderately fast growing. Leaves can turn red, yellow or orange in fall.	<u>Maple, Sugar, Acer saccharum</u> – Height of 60-80' Produces dense, oval crown and bright fall colors ranging from yellow to orangish red. Slow-growing, needs well-drained, loamy soils. Not tolerant of wet soils. Shade tolerant. Used to make maple syrup.
<u>Pine, Red, Pinus resinosa</u> – Height of 50 - 80'. Also known as Norway Pine. Long needled, pyramid shaped tree. Prefers well-drained, sandy soils. Popular Christmas tree species. Needs up to 20' spacing to avoid overcrowding of lower branches.	<u>Pine, White, Pinus strobus</u> – Height of 80 - 100'. Fast growing, tallest conifer species in MN. Needles in groups of 5. Pyramid shaped when young, broadening with age. Prefers sandy or silt loam soils, but will tolerate a wide range. Needs at least 20' spacing to avoid overcrowding of lower branches.	<u>Oak, Bur, Quercus macrocarpa</u> – Height of 70-80+'. Has simple lobed leaves and produces acorns. Good for wildlife. Tolerates a variety of soil types. Long-lived but slow growing initially.	<u>Oak, Red (Northern), Quercus rubra</u> – Height of 60-80+'. Simple lobed, bristle-tipped leaves. Red or brown fall leaf color. Good for wildlife. Prefers deep, rich soils, intolerant of drier alkaline soils. Long-lived and fastest growing oak. <u>Oak, Pin Quercus palustris</u> - Similar to red oak but likes drier and acidic soil.
<u>Spruce, Black Hills, Picea glauca var. densata</u> – Height of 40 – 50'. Native to Black Hills, SD. Strain of white spruce. Slow growing, conical tree with dark green needles. Hardy and more drought resistant than White Spruce.	<u>Spruce, Colorado, Picea pungens</u> – Height of 50 – 100'. Native in Rocky Mountains region. Dense conical tree. Prefers moist soil but can do well in dry sites, and is intolerant of shade. Slow-growing. Susceptible to Cytospora canker and diseases.	<u>Plum, American, Prunus americana</u> – Height of 12-25'. Fast growing small tree. Fragrant white flowers are followed by edible fruits, yellow or red in color suitable for jellies. Quite adaptable. Thicket forming.	<u>Poplar, Norway, Populus deltoides x nigra</u> – Height up to 80+'. Grows very fast and tall. Good for windbreaks when used as a temporary species. Short lived. Norway is best adapted of the poplar species.
<u>Spruce, Norway, Picea abies</u> – Height of 80 – 100+'. Native to Europe. Pyramidal tree with drooping branches. Fastest growing, and tallest species of spruce.	<u>Spruce, White, Picea glauca</u> – Height of 40 – 80'. Native to north central U.S. and Canada. Bluish needles. Prefers fertile soils and is tolerant of most light conditions. Good for windbreaks and winter wildlife cover.	<u>Walnut, Black, Juglans nigra</u> – Height of 50-60+'. Native to IA. Fast growing. Leaves are pinnately compound and produce a hard shelled nut. Good for wildlife. Prefers moist well-drained soils.	<u>Willow, Hybrid, Salix matsudana/alba</u> , Large tree up to 75'. Single stemmed tree good for windbreaks. Avoid planting near other willows and in areas where uncontrolled spread is possible.
Shrubs		Deciduous Trees Continued	
<u>Arrowwood, Viburnum dentatum</u> – Height of 6-10'. Native of eastern and mid-western U.S. Produces cream colored flowers followed by small blue or purple fruits. Favors moist but well-drained soils of varying pH. Good food source for wildlife.	<u>Cranberry, American, Highbush, Viburnum trilobum</u> – Height 10 – 16'. Produces white flowers and red edible fruit, with excellent fall color. When planted as a hedge, makes a good snow catch/screen in the winter. Good for wildlife. Tolerates a variety of soils.	<u>Birch, River Betula nigra</u> - Height of 40'-60'. Fast growing, but short lived. Tolerates wet areas. Shade intolerant. Light reddish brown bark with yellow leaves in the fall.	<u>Cherry, Black Prunus serotina</u> - height of 30-60' and moderately fast growing. Prefers well-drained sites. Is moderately tolerant of shade and drought. Produces small fruits in late summer.
<u>Cherry, Nanking, Prunus tomentosa</u> - Height 6-10'. Tolerates wind and dry soils. Dense twigs make good screen. Needs full sun. Produces fruit for wildlife.	<u>Dogwood, Redosier, Cornus sericea</u> – Height of 8-10'. Fast growing native shrub. This shrub has bright red stems and produces clusters of white fruit. Good for wildlife. Prefers moist sites.	<u>Chokecherry, Common, Prunus virginiana</u> – Height of 15-20'. Produces edible reddish-purple or black cherries that ripen in late summer. Needs well drained soils. Pruning may be necessary. Excellent plant for wildlife food & cover.	<u>Crabapple, Red Splendor, Malus "red splendor"</u> – Height and spread of 15-25'. Leaves are green or reddish, flowers are white or pink followed by fruits ¼" to 1" in diameter. Full sun. Quality food source for wildlife.
<u>Hazelnut, American, Corylus americana</u> - Height of 3-10'. Shade tolerant. Produces edible nuts eaten by birds and mammals. Variable fall color. Can reproduce by suckering.	<u>Honeysuckle, Arnold Red, Lonicera tatarica</u> - Height 10-12'. Large round headed shrub. Has pink flowers that are replaced with orange berries which are eaten by birds. Tolerates drought and pH ranges	<u>Hackberry, Celtis occidentalis</u> – Height of 30-60+'. Tall, wide spreading crown. Has a scaly or warty bark. Produces dark purple fruit. Grows best in well drained, moist soils. Excellent cover and food source for wildlife. Intermediate shade tolerance.	<u>Basswood, (American Linden), Tilia americana</u> – Medium to large tree desirable as a landscape tree for its large stature, shade and aromatic flowers. Prefers well-drained loamy soils. Produces creamy-white flowers with small nutlets on a hanging stalk.
<u>Nannyberry, Viburnum lentago</u> – Height of 10-20'. Fast growing. Glossy leaves with cream flowers followed by blue-black berries. Tolerates wide range of soils and pH. Attractive for shiny foliage and red fall color.	<u>Lilac, Chinese, Syringa x chinensis</u> - Height of 8-12'. Large, round-headed shrub. Profuse bloomer, with purple flowers in May. Prefers well-drained soils and full sun for best flowering effect.	<u>Tree Tubes</u> , A plastic, vented tube which protects hardwood trees and some shrub seedlings from animal browse, mower and spray damage. Stakes are not provided; any 5' stake will work along with zip ties.	<u>Tree Mats</u> , A permeable woven plastic that greatly reduces weed competition, reduces maintenance time, and increases soil moisture. Comes with 5 anchoring staples.

**FREEBORN COUNTY SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCD)
1400 W MAIN STREET
ALBERT LEA, MN 56007
507-373-5607 EXT. 3
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MAIL EXPEDITORS

VISIT US ON THE WEB
www.freebornswcd.org

Tree Order Deadline is Feb. 28th!

See you at our Open House March 15th

**FREEBORN
CONSTRUCTION INC** 

Complete Competent Construction Work
Aggregate Production • Site Development • Underground Utilities • Ditch Work
DENNIS HAUGEN • BRAD HAUGEN
507-373-4434
FAX : 507-373-2104 • PO Box 56 • Albert Lea, MN 58007
www.freebornconstruction.com
Email: brad@freebornconstruction.com



MORREIM DRAINAGE, INC.
Water Management Specialists



Land Drainage
Conservation Construction
Septic Systems • Road Boring
Backhoeing • Consulting
Wild Life Ponds

Phil Morreim
Cell: 507-330-1889
Mark Morreim
Cell: 507-383-6550

71610 263rd St., Albert Lea, MN 56007 Home: 507-373-1971
Office: 507-826-3449 Home Fax: 507-373-0422
Fax: 507-826-3482 E-mail: philmorreim@msn.com

LAND STRUCTURES
Synthetic



Sediment Basins
Terraces - Waterways

Fish & Wildlife Ponds
Wetland Restoration

Lynn Sorensen
507-863-2189
66451 • 275th Street Alden, MN 56009

Dale Grotsun
507-863-2335
56009

Cell #507-383-6370 



LOVERINK DRAINAGE INC.
200 ZUYDER ZEE AVE S • HOLLANDALE MN 56045

- COMPLETE SEPTIC SERVICE - MPCA LICENSED (INSPECT-PUMP-DESIGN-INSTALL-MAINTAIN)
- ELECTRIC EEL SERVICE
- PROFESSIONAL BACKHOE SERVICES
- FARM DRAINAGE -- PLOW, TRENCH
- WILDLIFE PONDS & PLOTS
- LAND SCULPTING

 SINCE 1953

LEE LOVERINK
MOBILE: 507-473-0200
OFFICE: 507-256-4111