



Todd SWCD Annual Report

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Todd County is a rural county covering almost 1,000 square miles, located in the geographical center of Minnesota. It is part of the transitional area where the eastern forest meets the western prairie. Six major watersheds flow through Todd County, so what occurs in these watersheds not only affects the water resources used by the citizens of the county, but other Minnesotans living along the Mississippi River corridor. The Todd Soil and Water Conservation District was organized on March 29th, 1965 by the Todd County Commissioners and was certified by the Secretary of State on April 12th, 1965. Leadership and governance is provided by a board of five locally elected Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors. The role of the elected District Supervisors is to develop policy, long range plans and budgets.



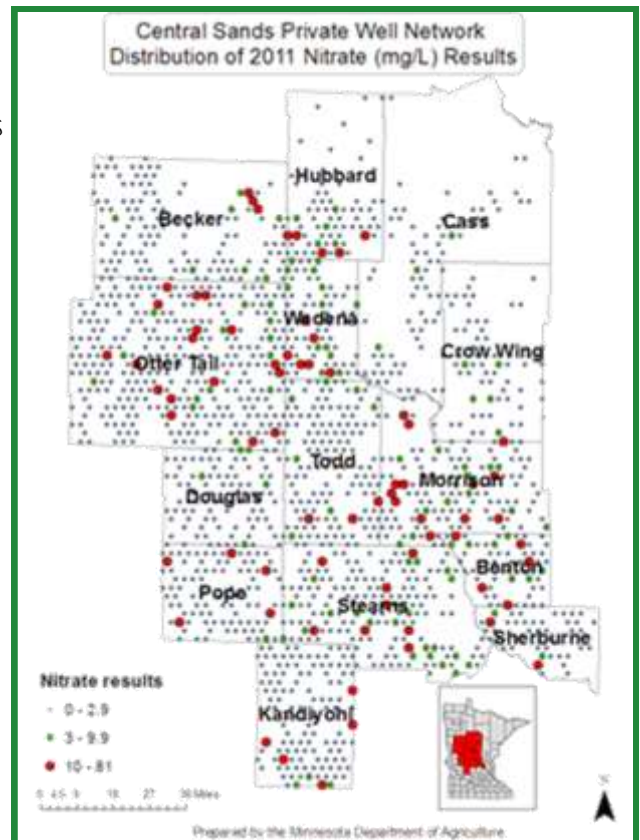
Conservation Corps Apprentice

Conservation Corps Apprentice, Robert Cress, completed a Knowledge, Attitudes and Perception (KAP) study and Lake Challenge on five Todd County Lakes: Latimer, Pine Island, Long (Burtrum), Mound, Little Birch. There were 390 surveys delivered; 150 surveys were returned (38%). The information gathered helped identify where and how people gather their information and their level of knowledge on shoreland issues.



Programs

- Coordinated 11 Todd County precipitation volunteer monthly monitor reports
- Monitored 14 observation wells for static water levels in Todd County
- Administered the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan for the Long Prairie River Watershed
- Reviewed 8 Irrigation Water Appropriation permit applications and developed Conservation Plans for 910 acres
- Provided guidance and support to the County Drainage Program
- Todd SWCD partnered with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and other Soil & Water Conservation Districts to participate in the Long Term Central Sands Nitrate Monitoring Network
- Administered the Todd County Local Comprehensive Water Plan



Wetlands Conservation Act

- 15 Exemption determinations sent to landowners
- 27 Site Visits
- Contacted with 65 wetland related Questions

Feedlot

- 345 Feedlot Re-registrations
- 5 Construction Short Forms (new buildings or expansions)
- 95 Site Visits (Assistance/Compliance)
- Contacted with 105 feedlot related questions

Tree Program

- 10,250 Trees Sold
- 3 Shelterbelt Renovations
- 1 Riparian Planting



Projects

Best Management Practices Installed

- 2 Shoreland Stabilization
- 1 Ag Waste Sediment Pad
- 5 Well Sealings
- 2 Waste Impoundment Closures
- 4 Tree Plantings
- 1 WASCoB



Public Relations & Education

- Todd County SWCD displayed conservation information at the Todd County Fair
- SWCD staff took part in the Sauk River Watershed Advisory Committee
- SWCD staff took part in the Livestock Advisory Committee
- Held Annual Feedlot meeting at The Clarissa Ballroom
- Held Grid Sampling meeting
- Presented at the Middle Sauk Water Fest
- Held 3rd Annual River & Lake Day at Shiprex in Burtrum
- Presented at the 2013 Breakfast at the Farm hosted at Twin Eagle Dairy
- The 19th Annual Enviro-Fest was held at the Dale & Marie Katterhagen farm where 185 students from eight Todd County schools participated
- Soil Health Workshop
- 2 SWCD Newsletters and 10 newspaper articles
- The SWCD sponsored 1 Private Well Nitrate Testing Clinics



Recognition & Awards



Todd Soil & Water Conservation District would like to recognize Pat & Jody Lunemann and their family from Twin Eagle Dairy, of Clarissa as the 2013 Conservation Farmer. They operate a 715 cow dairy, and farm 1,200 acres of primarily forage crops. The **Lunemann's have farmed for 30** years. The farm has been in the family since 1932.

Conservation practices installed include: Manure storage, concrete and earthen, roof gutters, compost bedding storage, infiltration ponds for silage leachate and

feedlot runoff/storage water, earthen and concrete diversions, feedlot abandonment, pond closure, nutrient management, and a fencing & seeding project to exclude livestock from a ditch system. The **family hosted the 2013 Todd County Breakfast on the Farm. "At Twin Eagle Dairy, we believe cows and nature can peacefully co-exist" stated Pat.**

Twin Eagle Dairy was named the Todd County Outstanding Conservationist and at the Annual MASWCD Convention, they were named as the Area 2 winner.

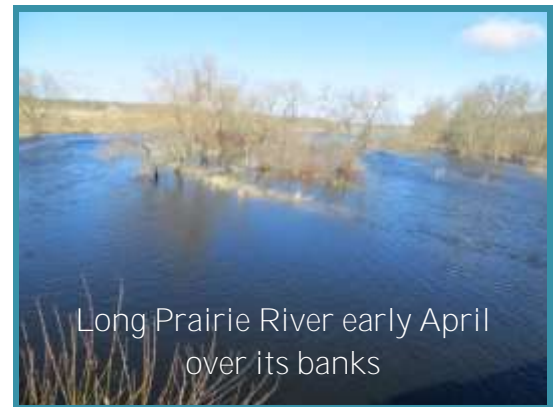
The Central Minnesota Credit Union was chosen to be the 2013 Todd SWCD Stewardship Award Recipient due to their outstanding support and assistance of the AG BMP Low Interest Loan Program. This program has assisted many Todd County livestock producers with low interest loans to help them get their feedlots into compliance and improve their operations. They have also donated funds and supported with their presence at our annual Todd County Feedlot meetings. Their staff has been great to work with and the livestock producers have been very satisfied with the loan process. Their organization knows how important livestock are to the economics of Todd County.



Other News & Happenings

- MPCA Watershed Approach

- **Redeye River Watershed** (2011): This watershed previously had no listed impairments. After two years of monitoring was completed, the Wing River south of Hewitt has a pending Fishes Bioassessments Impairment (meaning it **doesn't support a fish community**) and north of Hewitt the Wing River has a pending e.coli impairment.
- **Crow Wing River Watershed** (2010): This watershed also had no previously listed impairments, but after the two year assessment, the Partridge River now has a pending e.coli impairment.
- **Long Prairie River Watershed** (2011): The Long Prairie River had a dissolved oxygen (DO) impairment since 2006; the new monitoring confirms that the river is still impaired for low DO levels. New impairments in this watershed include: Eagle Creek and Moran Creek for e.coli and Harris Creek for Biological Macroinvertebrate Bioassessments Impairment and Venewitz Creek for a Fishes Bioassessment Impairment. Lake Latimer will also be listed for excess Nutrients.



Long Prairie River early April over its banks

“But man is a part of nature, and his war against nature is inevitably a war against himself.”

— Rachel Carson

Little Partridge River Water Monitoring Site



- Long Prairie River Monitoring was conducted from April—August of 2013 every two weeks.
- Venewitz Creek Culvert Inventory: Culvert elevations along the entire creek were taken to determine if they were the cause of a fish impairment.
- Partridge River Water Monitoring was conducted four times to try to determine an e.coli source causing the impairment.
- SRF Low Interest Loan Program
 - 3 Ag Waste Systems totaling \$166,975.87
 - 1 Septic System totaling \$10,210

Partners

West Central Technical Service Area Engineers

- 6 Site Visits
- 6 Site Surveys
- 15 Preliminary Projects Designs
- 6 Final Project Designs
- Provided Construction Oversight on 4 Projects



Tri-County Irrigation Technician

11 Todd County fields were enrolled this year into the program. Wade the technician works with farmers to monitor the weather and soil moisture to give them a second opinion on whether they should irrigate or not.

Pheasants Forever

Pheasants Forever has hired Sabin Adams as the Farm Bill Biologist serving Todd County. The position is a partnership between the Todd County SWCD, NRCS and Pheasants **Forever Chapter. Sabin's position was created to educate and assist farmers and** landowners in conservation programs to establish habitat, filter strips and stream buffers. Sabin will be able to help landowners find the right program and funding to meet their personal habitat and land use goals.

NRCS		2 VTAs	Data is unofficial and has not been reviewed
3 CSP Contracts		4 Ag Waste Storage Facilities	
20 EQIP Contracts		298 Cover Crop Acres	
2725.3 Certified Nutrient Management Acres		92 Acres of Prescribed Grazing	
733.2 Certified Pest Management Acres		1 Ag Energy Plan	
1 Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan		3 Seasonal High Tunnels	
244.4 Certified No-Till Acres		3 Stream Crossings	
49.6 Acres Tree Planting		92 Irrigation Water Management Acres	
2 Water & Sediment Control Basins Installed		45 General CRP Signup Contracts	
3 Livestock Waste Pond Closures		2 Continuous CRP Signups	

SWCD Board

Norman Krause

Kenneth Pesta

Dale Katterhagen

Leland Buchholz

Tom Williamson

County Commissioners

Mark Blessing

Gary Kneisl

Rod Erickson

David Kircher

Randy Neumann

SWCD Staff

Tim Stieber – Division Director

Sarah Katterhagen– Office Coordinator

Greg Ostrowski– District Technician

Ed Uhlenkamp– WCA/Feedlot Technician

Amy Warnberg– Water Planner

NRCS Staff

Russell Kieenschmidt–District Conservationist

Darlene Drayna–Soil Conservation Technician

Grant Pearson–Nutrient Management Specialist

Justin Lindner– Soil Conservationist

Kelsey Kircher– Administrative Assistant

To view the 2013 SWCD Board Meeting Minutes, visit the Todd County website
