

THE CONSERVATION DIRT

BENTON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2024 SPRING NEWSLETTER

Planting Season

With planting season on the horizon, here are a few ways that Benton Soil and Water Conservation District can help you prepare:

- soil testing
- nutrient management
- manure spreader calibrations
- grazing plans
- irrigation management
- and more!



Stop in to see us or call at (320)-968-5300 ext. 3!



This Issue:
Planting Season

Fertilizer Storage

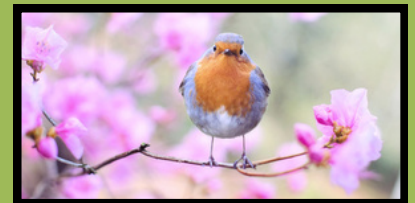
Buffer Law

Wetland Conservation Act (WCA)

SCORE Grant

Upcoming Events

Tree Pick-up



Contact Us:

**14 2nd Ave W
Foley, MN 56329
(320)-968-5300 ext. 3**



SERVING BENTON COUNTY





Fertilizer Storage

Liquid Fertilizer

Bulk liquid fertilizer can contaminate soil, surface water, and groundwater if a storage tank or pipe leaks. Farmers must get an MDA permit if they're storing more than 6,000 gallons of liquid fertilizer.



Dry Fertilizer

Dry fertilizer can also leach into the environment if it is placed on the ground and mixes with snow and rain. Farmers storing any amount of dry bulk fertilizer on the farm must get an MDA bulk storage permit as well.



Minnesota's Buffer Compliance Law



The state of Minnesota requires perennial vegetative buffers of up to 50 feet along lakes, rivers, and streams and buffers of 16.5 feet along ditches. These buffers help filter out phosphorus, nitrogen and sediment. The deadline for implementation for buffers on public waters was November 1, 2017. The deadline for public ditches was November 1, 2018.

Buffers are an important conservation practice for helping keep water clean, they 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.

Please contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District for more information and requirements regarding the Minnesota Buffer Law.
(320)-968-5300 ext. 3



16.5' buffer along a public ditch in Benton County.



Wetland Conservation Act



The Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act formally began in 1994 and created the “no net” loss policy for wetlands. The law provided for mitigation of drained or filled wetlands, allowed local units of government administrative authority, and authorized BWSR to adopt rules and acquire permanent easements for type 1, 2 and 3 wetlands. The law also changed the term DNR used for wetlands to public water wetlands.

The Wetland Conservation Act (WCA), wetlands must have 3 qualities:

1. Hydric (wet) soil types
2. Be inundated or saturated by surface water or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support a prevalence of hydrophobic vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions
3. Under normal circumstances, support a prevalence of hydrophytic vegetation.

There are many types of wetlands and Benton County can help you decipher which kind you may have on your property. Contacting the county before a proposed project or property purchase will help ensure your property is in compliance.



Common Wetland Projects

It can be very difficult to identify wetlands and the wetland regulations can be quite complex. Some examples of projects that could potentially affect wetlands include:

- Filling a low area of a residential lot for a building, driveway, or lawn.
- Tiling wet areas of cultivated fields.
- Digging a pond in a low area.
- Cleaning out an old ditch or improving an existing ditch.
- Adding fill for a crossing of a stream or wet swale.
- Adding fill to create a recreational path through a low or wet area.



SCORE Grant - Pharmaceutical Waste

This program is designed to accept unused medication from citizens and prevent pharmaceutical pollution in our water. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) partners with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to conduct lake and stream surveys every five years looking for Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products (PPCPs), Endocrine Active Components (EACs), and other chemicals. The PPCPs and EACs can cause male fish to have endocrine system abnormalities, indicated by their production of vitellogenin, a protein normally produced only by female fish in egg development.



The MPCA provides Benton County with funds from SCORE (Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment). Benton SWCD in partnership with Benton County Sheriff's Office, Sauk Rapids Police Department, and City of Rice Police Department started a pharmaceutical waste collection program to utilize some of these funds.

Pharmaceutical disposal boxes are located:

- **Benton County Sheriff's Office in Foley**
- **Sauk Rapids Police Department located in the City of Sauk Rapids Government Center**
- **Rice City Hall/Police Department.**

Accepted: household-generated pharmaceutical wastes, including all expired, unwanted, or unusable prescriptions, narcotics, or over-the-counter medications used by family members or pets. Leave medications in their original container, place the container(s) in a sealed, clear plastic bag, and remove names and other identifying information. Leave the name of the medication on the container however, if you don't have the original container, place the pharmaceutical in a clear, plastic bag and write the name of the medication on the bag. **Drop off is free and completely anonymous—no ID is required.**

The following are NOT accepted:

- No needles, syringes, lancets, thermometers, etc.
- No medications from pharmaceutical businesses
- No mercury-containing medical devices
- No bandages, glucose meters, medical tape, etc.



Upcoming Events

We Are Water - Art in Motion Holdingford, MN



- Exhibit at Art in Motion April 25 - June 17, 2024
- Nitrate Clinic at Art in Motion (May 15th, 2024)
- Joint Field Day with Morrison and Stearns SWCD (June 2024)

WE ARE WATER



Minnesota
Humanities
Center

Benton SWCD Tree Pick-up

THURSDAY APRIL 25TH – TREE PICKUP 7AM – 7 PM

FRIDAY APRIL 26TH – TREE PICKUP 7AM – NOON

PICK-UP LOCATION:
430 Broadway Ave S
Foley, MN 56329



“ CONSERVATION TIP:

Make sure to water during the morning or night hours to minimize water usage.



Salix bebbiana