

Nicollet Soil & Water Conservation District
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Nicollet SWCD

2021

July

2021 Nicollet SWCD Board



L to R: Eric Annexstad, Tim Braun, John Kral, Bruce Hulke, Don Hermanson

The Nicollet Soil and Water Conservation District

501 7th Street
PO Box 457
Nicollet, MN 56074
Phone: (507) 232-2550

District Board

Bruce Hulke, Chair
Eric Annexstad, Vice Chair
Tim Braun, Secretary
Don Hermanson, Treasurer
John Kral, Member

District Employees

Kevin Ostermann
District Manager

Blake Honetschlager
District Technician

Eric Miller
District Technician

Judy Beetch
Administrative Assistant

Join the NRCS Team

At the U.S. Department of Agriculture's **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**, we need people who are committed to action. People who want to apply their education and experience to make sure that all of us enjoy the benefits of productive soil, clean water, clean air and abundant wildlife that come from a healthy environment. NRCS offers career opportunities in Natural Resources and Conservation. Our Conservation Careers include Soil Conservationists and Soil Conservation Technicians, Engineers, Soil Scientists, Rangeland Management Specialists, Biologists and many more. NRCS also hires in the fields of finance, human resources, public and legislative affairs and other professional fields aimed at supporting NRCS to meet its mission. More information about NRCS Careers can be found at www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/careers/.

Current NRCS job advertisements can be found on www.USAJobs.com. Alerts can be set to notify you when new positions have been advertised!

Office Hours:
Monday-Friday
8:00am-4:30pm
Please call ahead to schedule an appointment.

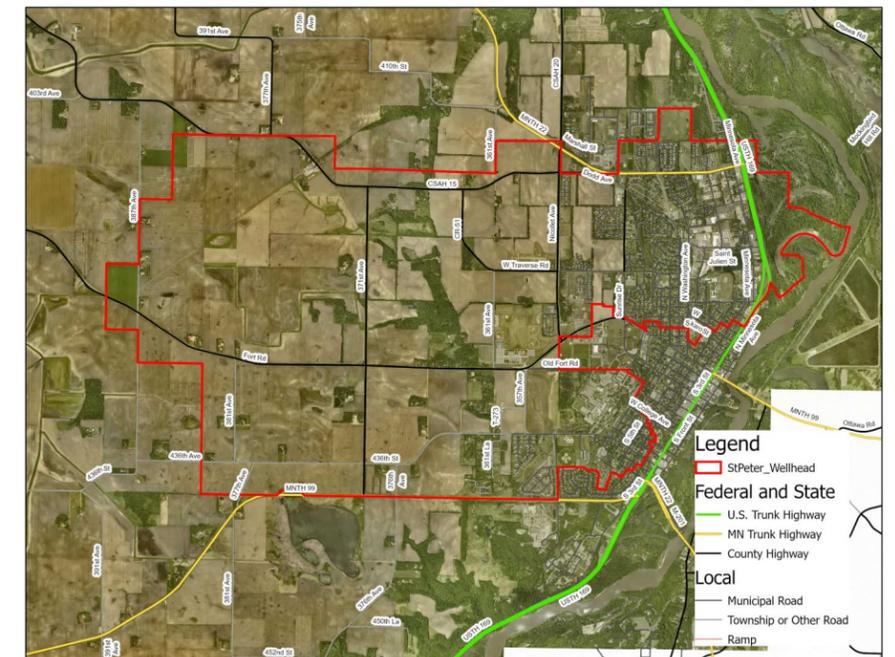
Natural Resource Conservation Service

Phone: (507) 237-5435 ext. 3
Jacob Stich
CST Lead

Mike Hemmen
Civil Engineering Tech

Gilbert Vera

Project 33 – Drinking Water 2021 – Clean Water Fund Grant



Nicollet SWCD and the City of St. Peter have teamed up to apply for, and successfully receive, a 2021 Clean Water Grant, in the amount of \$374,625.00. The grant will allow Nicollet SWCD and the City of St. Peter to work directly with landowners in the Drinking Water Supply Management Area, to install practices that reduce groundwater pollution. Practices will include Cover Crop Incentives, Nutrient Management Incentives, Structural Practices (Terraces, Water Control Structures, Alternative Intakes), Nutrient Management Plans and Drainage Water Management Plans. Funds are available to landowners in the Wellhead Management Area. Interested landowners can call Blake Honetschlager or Eric Miller with the Nicollet SWCD for more information. (507) 232-2550.

This newsletter is published by the Nicollet Soil and Water Conservation District, 501 7th St., Nicollet, MN 56074 and USDA NRCS, 112 5th St, Gaylord, MN 55334. For more information regarding this newsletter, contact (507) 232-2550. **USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.**

Board Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. Agenda posted on the website one week prior.



Welcome Emma—County Extension Educator

Agriculture is a major industry in Nicollet County with crops and livestock accounting for the largest percentage of on-farm incomes. Due to the significant impact agriculture has on the local community and economy, Nicollet County and the University of Minnesota Extension work together in support of local Extension Education in Agricultural Production Systems.

Extension provides a broad range of education and informational resources to the public. You may not know that the Master Gardener program is through Extension, and your county Master Gardeners are trained to provide research-based information as well. University of Minnesota Extension works to provide research-based information to help solve the critical issues of the farm, yard and garden. This education is provided in several ways. A few of the outlets for education includes educational programs, technical assistance, publications and media.

Extension offers numerous workshops. Land rent meetings, private pesticide applicator training, field days and a series of dairy events are some programs that take place in our area every year. We add events as needed, so if you have a need for a specific kind of workshop or training, please let us know.

If you would like to stay informed of our upcoming Extension Events here in Nicollet and Sibley counties, you can sign up for an email newsletter, Nicollet and Sibley County Ag News, by contacting Emma Severns to add you to the recipient list. Another way to access resources is by visiting or contacting your county Extension office. Come with questions or suggestions. We encourage the public to share topic ideas and insight on how to improve Extension workshops and resources provided.

Contact Emma Severns, Nicollet and Sibley County Extension Educator for assistance related to agriculture, horticulture or natural resources. Master Gardeners can answer horticulture inquiries as well. The Nicollet County Extension Office is located in St. Peter (507) 934-7828. Contact Emma by email at sever575@umn.edu



Fields to Fish Habitat

In April, the Seven Mile Creek Partners had the opportunity to interview DNR staff, while they stocked 300 adult brown trout in Seven Mile Creek County Park. Stocking took place the day before the trout fishing opener. Gustavus student, DeAnna Giles, worked with Nicollet SWCD and Great River Greening staff to turn the interview into a video, available to view at 7-milecreek.org. This and other videos discuss opportunities for practices that can be implemented on the field, and in the stream, to improve fish habitat, water quality, and the farm's bottom line. One of the opportunities is seed distributors' prioritization of eastern Nicollet County, for new perennial and cash cover crops, Kernza® and winter camelina. Great River Greening is hosting a series of field days in the coming months, to talk with farmers about these new crops and introduce them to buyers in the area (including breweries and bakeries). If interested in learning more or attending these field days, please email Brad Gordon, bgordon@greatrivergreening.org



United States Department of Agriculture Conservation Financial Assistance Programs:

CRP (Conservation Reserve Program)

Ongoing-visit with FSA or NRCS

CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program)

Continuous Sign-up Now Accepting Applications for FY 2022 Funds

EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program)

Continuous Sign-up-currently accepting for FY 2022 Funds

WRE (Wetland Reserve Easements) Continuous Sign-up

For more information, contact the Sibley/Nicollet NRCS Office in Gaylord: (507) 237-5435

Natural Resources Conservation Service
112 5th Street, PO Box 868, Gaylord, MN 55334

CREP Overview

July 2nd, 2021 marked the end of the first and only CREP batching period in 2021. Nicollet County had four applications that were submitted for consideration. In total, there were 166.74 acres submitted for enrollment in 2021. Over 1,389 acres have been enrolled in the CREP program since 2017. Most of the interest has been from landowners and producers located within the flood plain of the Minnesota River. Nicollet SWCD has submitted 25 CREP applications since 2017, with all applications being funded. Twenty-one of the applications were for CP23, flood plain wetland restoration, while the other four were for CP23a, wetland restorations (non-flood plain). It is unknown at this time where the CREP program will go in the future, as the state was nearing the end of the allocated funds available for the program. Nicollet SWCD will continue to meet with and discuss potential projects with interested landowners and operators. Other programs available to landowners include; Wetland Banking and the USDA-NRCS Wetland Reserve Program. If you are interested in discussing easements or establishing native grasses on your property, please reach out the Eric Miller at the Nicollet SWCD office. eric.miller@nicolletswcd.org

**Watch for the 2022 Tree Order Form
in our January Newsletter**

NWQI

In 2020, Nicollet Soil and Water Conservation District (Nicollet SWCD) applied for funding, and was selected for the planning phase of the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI), for the Roger's Creek Watershed. Roger's Creek is located northwest of the city of St Peter, and the City of St Peter Drinking Water Supply Management Area. During the planning phase, Nicollet SWCD staff will complete a watershed assessment, and develop a six-part report analyzing and categorizing the characteristics of the watersheds, identifying the key issues and areas of concern. Once completed, the assessment report will be submitted to the United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS). If selected for NWQI designation, landowners in the Roger's Creek Watershed, and the St. Peter Wellhead, will be able to apply for additional funding for conservation projects. Additional funding will be available through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) with NRCS. Contact Eric Miller for more information.



**Online version available @ www.nicolletswcd.org
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