

Nicollet Soil & Water Conservation District  
501 7th Street, PO Box 457  
Nicollet, MN 56074  
507-232-2550

PRSR STD  
US Postage Paid  
Permit # 9  
St. Peter, MN 56082



# Nicollet SWCD News

2019

August

## BUFFER LAW COMPLIANCE



### The Nicollet Soil and Water Conservation District

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

#### District Board

John Kral, Chair  
Tim Braun, Vice Chair  
Bruce Hulke, Secretary  
Robby Gieseke, Treasurer  
Eric Annexstad, Member

#### District Employees

Kevin Ostermann  
*District Manager*

Blake Honetschlager  
*District Technician*

Eric Miller  
*District Technician*

Judy Beetch  
*Administrative Assistant*

#### 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

April Sullivan  
*District Conservationist*



Online version available @ [www.nicolletswcd.org](http://www.nicolletswcd.org)  
Email [info@nicolletswcd.org](mailto:info@nicolletswcd.org) for updates  
"Like us" on the Nicollet Soil & Water Facebook page!

## Want the local weather?

Through funding provided by Gustavus and the MPCA, we now have three weather stations open to public viewing.

Data can be accessed at [www.weatherlink.com](http://www.weatherlink.com) or by downloading the Davis Weather Link app on your mobile phone.

-Create a free account and search for the stations named:

SWCD Office, SWCD Belgrade 109-27-16 and SWCD Oshawa 110-27-24



Scan the above code with your phone camera to get the app!

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 56074. 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.



**United States Department of Agriculture  
Conservation Financial Assistance Programs:**

**EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program)**

*Continuous Sign-up - Now Accepting Applications for FY 2020 Funds*

**CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program)**

*Continuous Sign-up—Now Accepting Application for FY 2020*

For more information, contact the NRCS Office at **(507) 237-5435 x3**

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
112 5th Street, PO Box 868, Gaylord, MN 55334  
An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

## MN CREP & Continuous CRP (CCRP) Sign-Up Update

Landowners interested in setting aside marginal cropland or protecting sensitive areas once again have two options available to them: Minnesota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (MN CREP) and Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP). MN CREP and CCRP enrollment reopened on June 3 after a brief pause that began last fall.

MN CREP and CCRP applications must be received by August 23 to be considered for CRP funding this federal fiscal year. Both programs rely on the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) as a starting point, with MN CREP adding a state-funded easement administered by the Board of Water and Soil Resources to the CRP contracted acres. MN CREP is a voluntary state-federal program designed to improve water quality and habitat through permanent conservation easements. MN CREP's program goal is to protect and restore up to 60,000 acres of marginal cropland across 54 southern and western Minnesota counties using buffer strips (CP21), wetland restoration (CP23 and 23a), and drinking water wellhead area protection (CP2). Native plantings on those acres will filter water, prevent erosion and provide critical habitat for grassland dependent species. Private ownership continues and the land is permanently restored and enhanced for water quality and habitat benefits.

Landowners who enroll in CCRP enter into contracts that last up to 15 years. The USDA provides landowners with annual rental payments and cost-share assistance. CCRP pays landowners who remove sensitive lands from production and plant certain grasses, shrubs and trees that improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and increase wildlife habitat.

### Why sign up for MN CREP?



**FAIR COMPENSATION:** MN CREP combines USDA Conservation Reserve Program contract payments and Reinvest in Minnesota easement payments, covering at least 90 percent of the land's value.

**MARGINAL CROPLAND FOCUS:** MN CREP is an attractive option on land that produces lower yields because of wet ground, soil type or other challenges.

**CCRP COMPARISON:** Due to additional incentives paid through MN CREP, payments are 52 percent to 120 percent greater with MN CREP compared to CCRP.

**CONSERVATION ELEMENTS:** Enrolling land in MN CREP directly benefits water quality and creates new wildlife habitat.

**LEGACY OPPORTUNITY:** A MN CREP enrollment can help you create a legacy for future generations.

**For more information please contact:**

Eric Miller, Farm Bill Technician 507-232-2550

## DRAINAGE WATER MANAGEMENT

Agricultural drainage originally had only one purpose: to remove excess water from farm fields, allowing for crop production. Minnesota has some of the richest farmland in the world, but most of it was originally too wet to farm. As a territory and early in its statehood, Minnesota's growth was stimulated by draining the land. Today the state has thousands of public drainage systems (privately owned and publicly administrated under M.S. Chapter 103 E Drainage Law) incorporating more than 21,000 miles of ditches and an unknown number of miles of drain tile. There are also hundreds of thousands of miles of private ditches and drain tile.

Drainage still makes crop production possible. However, drainage impacts the way water, soil and other materials move in the environment. Drainage water has and is impacting hydrology, water quality and habitat. It has become clear that drainage must be managed for multiple purposes.

Multi-purpose drainage management is the management of the drainage infrastructure to reduce downstream peak flows and flooding; provide adequate drainage system capacity; reduce erosion and sedimentation; and protect or improve water quality. To accomplish these multiple purposes, it is necessary to use the best science available to define the what, where and how of best management practice (BMP) use. A number of resources are available for use by drainage authorities and their staff, landowners, local government units (LGUs), drainage engineers and drainage inspectors.

For more information on drainage management strategies, funding and resources in Nicollet County, contact the SWCD office, (507) 232-2550, or NRCS office, (507) 237-5435, in Gaylord.

*(This information was taken from the Natural Resources Conservation Service website)*

