

New Soil Health Funding & What it Offers!

In August we received our first round of funding through the Soil Health Regional Conservation Partnership Program! This program allows us to cost share a variety of projects/practices to help you reach your land management goals! Do you want to ensure your soil stays in place? Let us introduce you to some management practice we can provide assistance with to get you started or add on to your current management plans! Field Borders play a crucial role in preventing soil loss in fields where steep slopes occur or areas where strong wind is frequent. Field borders provide a layer of protection to your fields and help make sure the field stays in the field! Field borders also provide phenomenal wildlife and pollinator habitat! No-till is another practice we can fund under a 3 year contract, Interested in starting no-till? Have you been doing no-till for less than 10 years? This program can help financially assist with converting to no-till. Do you have a cropped area you would like to convert to pasture for the next 5 years? This program can provide assistance for the planting of that too! Cover crop assistance is also available with this program, if you plan on inter-seeding this spring call us and lets get planning! Are you thinking ahead to next year? We can plan for that now too! This program provides a lot of opportunity to start the practices you may have been thinking about implementing without the large financial burden that may have been holding you back! Call us or stop in to learn more about this great program and what it has to offer!

**Field Border
filled with
grasses and
flowers**



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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WABASHA SWCD'S

MOST WANTED NOXIOUS WEED

Amaranthus palmeri or Palmer Amaranth is a common weed that is originally from arid southwestern United States but made its way up to Minnesota possibly through contaminated cotton meal and is now a common problem for farmers resulting in extensive corn and soybean loss. Palmer amaranth competes aggressively with crops. It has a fast growth rate of 2-3 inches per day and commonly reaches heights of 6-8 feet, greatly inhibiting crop growth. Yield losses have been up to 91% in corn and 79% in soybean. Just one female plant produces anywhere from 100,000 to over 500,000 seeds and remain viable for 3 to 5 years in the soil. Control is tricky, mowing alone is not effective as stalks can grow back and set seed close to the ground. An herbicide treatment of 2,4-D, aminocyclopyrachlor, aminopyralid, clopyralid, dicamba, glyphosate, glufosinate, imazapyr, imazapic, metsulfuron or sulfometuron is effective. A technique that is becoming more and more common, prescribed burn or weed torch is being used to sterilize seed on the soil.

Palmer Amaranth is a noxious weed with an eradication legal status and under MN Noxious Weed Law, it is the responsibility of the landowner to control. Cost-share for other noxious weed species is available so contact your local SWCD technician Katelyn Abts at 651-560-2045 or katelynabtsamco@gmail.com for more information.

WANTED



PALMER AMARANTH

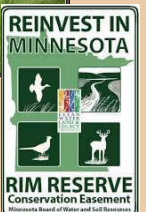
For more information on treatment and identification, scan the QR code or visit the MN Department of Health's website.



Reinvest in Minnesota Grazing/Pasture Easement

This program provides forever protection of grazed lands for Minnesota livestock producers! In order to be considered for the program you must have a grazing plan that meets NRCS standards, either one that has already been implemented, or one that has been recently completed! Proper grazing increases forage production, forage quality and animal performance. It helps producers to be as efficient as possible in using grazing forage. Cost share for the grazing plan may be available through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) through NRCS. Within the easement, cropland converted to pasture can be included and there are funds to help cost-share the planting of pasture grasses. This program provides a one-time payment of 50% of the assessed land value to forever preserve your pastures for generations. Applications with 50 acres or more and/or adjacent to public waters will be given priority.

Question? Reach out to Katelyn Abts at 651-560-2045 or katelynabtsamco@gmail.com



Nov-Dec 2025 News

- Tree Sale is On! Put your orders in today!
- The Wabasha County Well Inventory is still ongoing- submit your well to the inventory to stay informed!
- Free well tests are still available through the MN Dept of Health. Fill out an online form by either scanning the QR code below or call 651-560-2045 to fill out the form!
- Interested in planting cover crops next year? Call us to talk about signing up for cover crops in 2026 and beyond!

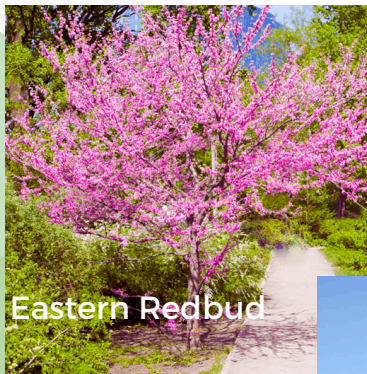


Order Trees Now!

The Wabasha SWCD tree sale is now open so get your orders in! We have a similar array of species selection from last year with a variety of conifers, deciduous and shrubby trees. Availability is limited so to guarantee that you get the trees you want, send in your order as soon as possible. If you are interested in buying potted conifers, give the office a call to see if that is an option (price ranging from \$15 to \$20 per tree). If you're looking species that is not listed so give the office a call!

Buying trees for a windbreak? The go-to tree are often conifers such as White Pine, Norway Spruce and Balsam Fir but don't forget that deciduous trees such as hackberry, oaks and hickory trees can be included in a multi-row windbreak. Put in a shrub row of lilac, hazelnut, serviceberry or America plum to shelter your newly planted trees while they establish into a functioning windbreak. Even fully grown trees benefit from a shrub row acting as the first line of defense against prevailing winds. For spacing, plan for a full-size tree. Conifers should be planted a minimum of 20ft barring *Techny arborvitae* which can be planted as close at 10ft. Deciduous trees vary but 15ft is a good number but do some research of the width and shade tolerance to determine if a wider spacing is necessary. Good spacing ensures that your trees will be healthy and last for generations.

For any questions regarding ordering trees, designing a windbreak or trees tubes, contact Katelyn Abts at 651-560-2045 or Katelyn.abts@mn.nacdnet.net.



Eastern Redbud

New Species! Check out the Eastern Redbud! Beautiful fuchsia flowers in the spring and suitable to plant under power lines.



White Pine



Red-osier Dogwood

Tree Tubes

Deer have the annoying habit of eating anything that you want to grow so invest in tree tubes to protect your trees! The price is \$3.50 for a 5ft tube and \$4.00 for a 6 ft. Place your order and receive your tubes with your tree order on pickup day!



Wabasha County 2025 Outstanding Conservationist Alan & Betsy Jostock Family & Rolling J Farm

The Jostock's run ~220 acres near Hammond. They raise beef cattle, hogs, and grow corn, soybeans, small grains and alfalfa using a reduced, no-tillage system. They also plant cover crops after their row crops. Both the no-till practice and cover crops help to keep any threat of erosion at bay. Alan has a passion for improving the land with conservation always in the back of his mind. His father Edwin, and before that his grandfather Robert, began making conservation improvements on the farm over the decades. Edwin and Robert worked with the Wabasha Conservation Office to install contour farming and strips on their farm, most still maintain alternating strips of hay or small grains.

The district recognizes a pattern of innovation that started with Robert and Edwin that is now continued and elevated with the newly married, Alan and Betsy. The Jostock's in 2015, made the transition from a 50-cow dairy to beef but have always had hogs. Over the last 40 years they have been direct marketing their beef & hogs to consumers via the Rolling J Farm of Rochester. They raise their hogs following sustainable practices contracted through Niman Ranch, where animals are humanly raised, not fed animal byproducts and no hormones/antibiotics are used. Alan has increased soil health practices over the last 8 years, and the soil health of the land has improved with his attention. An example of this can be seen in his transition to no-till. He would see a need for improvement, such as increased down-pressure on his planter and work through the challenge by making equipment modifications that fit their operation. He is now practicing no-till across their entire rotation. For cropland conservation practices, you can't do much more than this! Besides farming, the whole family is also very active in community life with local groups and organizations. The Jostock Family will be honored for their amazing land stewardship as the Wabasha Counties 2025 Outstanding Conservationist early December at the Soil & Water Conservation District's Annual Convention in Bloomington. Congratulate the Jostock's as you see them around the community!



Alan's no-till planter he modified to increase down pressure & manage residue