



"Helping bring YOU clean water"

**Lincoln SWCD**  
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[lincolnswcd.net](http://lincolnswcd.net)

## Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District Newsletter

### Lincoln SWCD – Board of Supervisors

Daniel Christianson, Chairman  
 Glen Sorensen, Vice Chairman  
 Conrad Schardin, Secretary  
 Joe Weber, Treasurer  
 John Boulton, PR&I

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### LINCOLN SWCD WEB SITE:

[lincolnswcd.net](http://lincolnswcd.net)

## Think Trees For 2011

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an exotic beetle that was first discovered in Michigan in July 2002, probably having arrived on solid wood packing material shipped from its native Asia. Without any natural predators or controls in North America, it has spread into nearby states, Canada, and now into Minnesota, having killed millions of ash trees along the way.

Unfortunately, wherever it has been discovered, there has been no stopping its devastation, though millions of dollars have been spent on a variety of prevention methods. The economic impact on states, municipalities, property owners, nursery operators, and forest industries has been overwhelming. Minnesota's estimated 930 million ash trees could be decimated throughout the state.

Having the information we have today, it is only a matter of time as to when, not if, the EAB will reach Lincoln County and the surrounding area. Remember in the 1970's with the beginning of the Dutch elm disease! Look at what the disease did and is still doing to the esthetics of our communities. The elm trees have been eliminated from a majority of our cities and farmsteads. Now imagine all the Ash trees gone as well. Ash trees are a large portion of the trees left standing in Lincoln County today!

Cost-share is available to plant new farmstead shelterbelts, renovate old shelterbelts, and plant living snow fences, field windbreaks and wildlife plantings. If someone was willing to pay 50 to 90% of a new vehicle for you would you buy the vehicle? Although this may not happen with a vehicle, it certainly does with trees. Cost share programs will pay up to 90%, (depending on the site qualifications) for a new tree planting.



Living snowfence planted along St Hwy 14

Remember the old saying "the best time to plant trees was 20 years ago", well hind sight is 20/20. The best time is the present. Don't wait the Emerald Ash Borer may be here soon. So be ahead of the game and be prepared. Stop in to the Lincoln SWCD office and get a plan going today.

Contact Dale at the Lincoln SWCD or call 507-694-1630 ext.3 to talk about your new 2011 tree planting. Cost-share is available on a first come basis for qualified plantings.

## ✓ Check Before You Tile, Drain, Excavate or Fill

If you are you planning on doing any tiling, ditch work, repairing some existing tile, or cleaning out an existing ditch, it is important to fill out the necessary paperwork before doing the work to ensure you are not draining and/or filling a wetland. The following must be completed prior to starting:

- Fill out a Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) form for all drainage, filling and excavating work at the Lincoln SWCD (WCA-is a state mandated program).
- Fill out a 1026 form at the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to avoid possible wetland violations with the 1985 Food Security Act. NRCS will need to review each 1026.

Depending on your project, you may also need to contact one of the following agencies to obtain their comments, permits and/or approval:

- Yellow Medicine River Watershed District (if your land is located in this watershed)
- Lac qui Parle River Watershed District (if your land is located in this watershed)
- Lincoln County Authorities such as; Highway Department or Zoning Office
- Township Boards
- MN Pollution Control Agency
- Army Corps of Engineers
- MN Dept. of Natural Resources

For more information concerning tiling, drainage, filling or excavating call 507-694-1630 x3 and ask for Dale concerning the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) or Dennis concerning the USDA Swampbuster Provisions.

## **AG Best Management Program (BMP) Low Interest Loan Program - DOLLARS AVAILABLE -**

The Ag Best Management Practices (BMP) Loan program provides low interest financing to farmers, rural landowners, and agriculture supply businesses to encourage agricultural best management practices that reduce existing water quality problems caused by agricultural activities.

Some of the eligible practices include:

- Feedlot improvements
- Upgrading manure storage basins
- Improved manure handling, spreading and incorporation equipment
- Terraces, waterways, stream bank protection, sedimentation basins, wind breaks and other practices that prevent erosion
- Conservation tillage equipment
- Repair of individual sewage treatment systems

Ineligible activities include:

- Most new construction projects
- Financing projects already completed
- Improvement for feedlots with more than 1,000 animal units
- Activities for operations that have had criminal procedures brought against them

Funding is available for the eligible practices listed above. The Ag BMP Loan Program allows local governments the flexibility needed to address specific local water quality concerns. The maximum amount any one individual can borrow at a given time cannot exceed \$100,000.

For more information concerning the Ag BMP low interest loan program contact the Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District at 507-694-1630, x3.

## Yellow Medicine River Watershed Landowners

### -Opportunity for cost-share/incentive payments through Clean Water Funds – – FUNDING AVAILABLE –

The Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District has funding available for landowners in the entire Yellow Medicine River Watershed. These funds are being made available through a Clean Water Fund grant. At this time funding remains for the following cost-share/incentive programs:

**Alternative Tile Intake:** Will offer incentive funds for the replacement of open intakes with alternative intakes at 75% cost share not to exceed \$300.00.

**BMP Installation:** Will offer up to 75% cost-share to install conservation practices (best management practices) according to specs and guidelines of the Natural Resource Conservation Service. BMP's included but not limited to: Water and Sediment Control Basins, Terraces, etc.

Thirty-three percent of the sales tax revenue from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy amendment is allocated to the Clean Water Fund. Those funds may only be spent to protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater from degradation. Additionally, at least five percent of the clean water fund must be spent to protect drinking water sources. For more information or to see if your land is located in the Yellow Medicine Watershed contact the Lincoln SWCD office at 507-694-1630, x3.

## South Branch - Yellow Medicine River Watershed Landowners

### – FUNDING AVAILABLE –

Only \$45,000 remains for landowners in the South Branch of the Yellow Medicine River to take advantage of the cost-share and/or incentive payments available for the practices listed below. For more information or to see if your land is in the South Branch contact the Lincoln SWCD at 507-694-1630 x3. Dollars made available through the Yellow Medicine River Watershed District. Funds must be spent by June 30, 2011!

**Filter Strips:** We offer a one-time incentive payment of \$500.00 per acre after seeding, in addition to CRP payments for the enrollment of a 120 ft CRP Filter Strip.

**Haying Incentive:** Enroll a minimum of 200' along a qualifying watercourse for 10 years to hay and receive a payment of \$500.00 after seeding and be allowed to harvest the hay. No grazing or manure application is allowed, however commercial fertilizer is acceptable.

**Nutrient & Manure Management Plan:** In addition to the EQIP program payments, we will offer a one-time \$14 an acre payment.

**Residue Management Incentive:** In addition to the EQIP program payments, we offer a one-time \$14 an acre incentive payment for a qualifying residue management.

**Alternative Tile Intake:** Our program will offer incentive funds for the replacement of open intakes with alternative intakes at 75% cost share not to exceed \$500.00.

**Feedlot Runoff Reduction Program:** Will offer \$10,000.00 per feedlot, in addition to federal or state cost share not to exceed 75% C/S.

**Installation of Fencing:** We offer a \$1.00 p/ft to install a state or federal standard fence along a qualifying area, not to exceed 75% cost share.

**Rotational Grazing Program:** We offer a one-time payment of \$20.00 per acre, in addition to the EQIP program payments.

## **Lac qui Parle River Watershed Landowners**

**– FUNDING AVAILABLE –**

### **Grant Expires November 30, 2010!!!!**

The Lac qui Parle Watershed District Clean Water Partnership recently received a grant from the State of Minnesota Clean Water Legacy funds in the amount of \$210,000.

The grant provides incentives for installing buffer strips along the river and will pay \$50 per acre per year for a 15-year Continuous CRP contract.

Also included in this grant to reduce sediment from reaching the impaired river reaches is an incentive to replace open tile intakes in the fields. The incentive is 75% not to exceed \$400 cost-share. Each landowner can receive the incentive for up to 5 intakes. The alternative intake can be a rock intake or patterned tiling that replaces the open intake.

For more information or to see if you are in the Lac qui Parle River Watershed, please contact the Lincoln SWCD office at 507-694-1630, x3.

## **Redwood River Watershed Landowners**

**– FUNDING AVAILABLE –**

Through various clean water funding sources, funding is being made available to landowners/operators in the Redwood River Watershed to install conservation practices (best management practices) according to specs and guidelines of the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Conservation practices available for funding at 75% cost-share are Water and Sediment Control Basins and Terraces.

For more information on the cost-share funding available in the Redwood River Watershed, please call the Lincoln SWCD office at 507-694-1630, x3.

## **No-Till Drills Available For Fall Seeding**

The Lincoln SWCD has two 10-foot HAYBUSTER drills available for rent this fall. They are designed for no-till native grass seeding. The rental rate for the use of one drill is \$25 plus an additional \$5/acre with a minimum of \$50 for a single use. If you are interested in renting a drill contact the Lincoln SWCD at 507-694-1630, x3.

## **Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP)**

Continuous Conservation Reserve Program is a program to take land out of production for 10 to 15 years. Payments include a soil rental rate from \$110 to \$164 per acre based on soil types. There is a signing bonus of \$100/acre for new CCRP signups. Incentive bonus consist of the following: filter strips, farmable wetland program or field windbreak the incentive is 20%; for land in the wellhead protection area the incentive is 10%. Cost-share assistance is 50% with an additional 40% Practice Incentive Payment (PIP) for up to 90% of the cost to establish the practice being covered by the USDA.

CCRP eligible practices include: Riparian Buffers, Wetland Buffers, Filter Strips, Wetland Restorations, Grassed Waterways, Living Snow Fences, Field Windbreaks and Shelterbelts.

For more information on the CCRP, contact Randy Kraus at the Lincoln SWCD or call 507-694-1630, x3.

## **LINCOLN COUNTY LOCAL WATER MANAGEMENT NEWS**

### **Limited Dollars Available For Well Sealing**

The Lincoln County Water Management Task Force has a limited amount of Cost-Share dollars available to seal abandoned wells in Lincoln County. If you are interested in having your abandoned well sealed this fall, please contact Pauline at the Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) in Ivanhoe or call 507-694-1630 x3. You must contact the Lincoln SWCD Office prior to sealing your well to receive cost-share dollars. Well sealing cost-share dollars are not available to those that have already sealed their well in previous years or have sealed their well prior to our notification/approval. The well sealing must be done by a licensed contractor. Cost-share assistance is 75% not to exceed \$325.00 per well sealed and is on a first come, first serve basis.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE NEWS**

### **AVAILABLE PROGRAMS**

For more information about the following programs, contact the NRCS office at 507-694-1630, x3.

#### **EQIP – Environmental Quality Incentive Program**

Agricultural producers looking to solve natural resource problems on their farms should apply now for assistance through EQIP administered by the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). EQIP is a voluntary conservation program which provides technical assistance, cost-share payments, and incentive payments to assist crop, livestock and other agricultural producers with environmental and conservation improvements to their operations. This assistance is to help landowners install or apply structural, vegetative and management practices. Some common practices are grassed waterways, water and sediment control basins, terraces, nutrient management, pest management, no-till, strip-till, closure of waste impoundments, conservation crop rotation, tree and shrub establishment, windbreaks, native prairie seeding, prescribed burning, and rotational grazing consisting of fence, pipeline, well, water tanks, and pasture seeding.

#### **CSP – Conservation Stewardship Program**

**– DEADLINE TO APPLY IS OCTOBER 29, 2010!!! -**

The Conservation Stewardship Program is a voluntary program that encourages producers to maintain existing conservation activities and adopt additional ones on their operations. Eligible lands include cropland, rangeland, pastureland, non-industrial private forestland, and agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe. Before applying, NRCS encourages potential participants to use a self-screening checklist first to determine whether the new program is suitable for their operation. The checklist is available online at [www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/programs](http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/programs) click on the Conservation Stewardship Program and at NRCS offices. This CSP signup period ends October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Contact the NRCS office in Ivanhoe at 507-694-1630, x3 for more information.

#### **WHIP – Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program**

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program is a voluntary program for people who want to develop or improve wildlife habitat on private and tribal lands. It provides both technical assistance and cost-sharing to help establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat.

### **REMINDER!!!**

#### **USDA OFFICE LOCATION**

**312 E George St, Ivanhoe, MN 56142**

The Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service are co-located in the USDA Building with the Farm Service Agency.

**County Highway 5 across from the Bowling Alley!**