



Summer Sunsets

Summer has sunset and already we are seeing signs of Fall ripening. Before we get too caught up in the excitement of harvest season, take a moment with us to reflect on the season past. We hope you enjoy reading about these EOT and Wadena SWCD summer highlights and see what more we have to offer in the new season.



Upcoming Opportunities



Soil Health RCPP Funding

Minnesota farmers now have an exciting opportunity to improve their land while strengthening their bottom line through the Minnesota Soil Health Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). This program provides financial and technical assistance to producers who want to implement soil health practices that build resilience, reduce erosion, and improve water quality.

Whether you're interested in cover crops, reduced tillage, or nutrient management, the RCPP is designed to support practices that benefit both your farm and the environment. Producers can sign up at their local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) office.

[Read more about this Program](#)



Summer Highlights



Irrigation RCPP Technical Workshop

This past June, EOT SWCD co-hosted the Irrigation Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Technical Training Workshop at Central Lakes College (CLC). Our team collaborated with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), MN Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR), CLC, and Sherburne SWCD to offer this training for a third summer. There were 40 attendees at this two-day workshop, which covered Irrigation Water Management, Irrigation Sprinkler Systems, and Irrigation Technology.

An \$11.2 million RCPP renewal announced this summer will support another round of upgrades aimed at irrigation water-use efficiency and improve groundwater and surface water quality. The workshop aimed to enhance the technical skills of both entry-level and experienced staff from SWCD and NRCS across our 26 District partners in preparation for this funding.



Soil Health Field Day

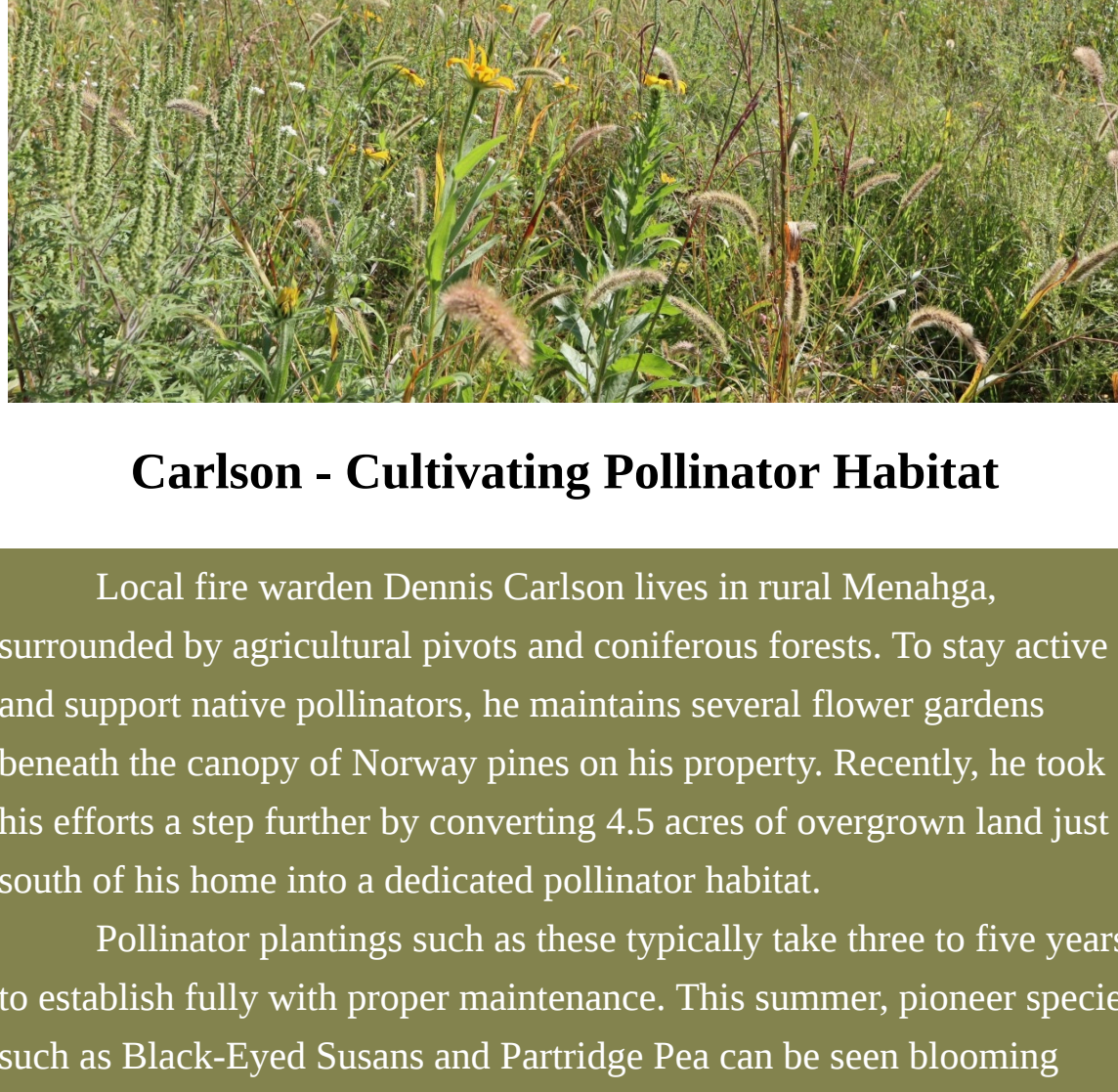
The Ron Sakry Farm, north of Deer Creek, was the location of the long-awaited soil health field day on August 19th. Organized by EOT, Wadena, and Todd SWCDs, the event attracted 45 attendees, including producers, crop consultants, and agency staff from NRCS, SWCDs, and MDA.

Titled "The Future of Tillage," the event featured a live demonstration of planting corn in a strip-tilled field. Participants learned about enhancing soil health through improved soil cover, minimizing disturbance via strip tilling, and using cover crops to maintain living roots. Session leaders from the University of Minnesota Extension and the Minnesota Soil Health Coalition provided valuable insights, and the day ended with a producer panel discussion.

For more information on implementing soil health practices such as strip till and cover crops, contact your local SWCD, where dedicated staff can assist with technical and financial opportunities.

[Contact EOT SWCD](#)

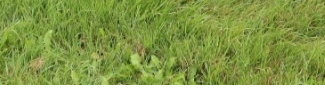
[Contact Wadena SWCD](#)



2025 OTC Conservation Tour

The biennial Otter Tail County Conservation Tour was held on September 5th, bringing together county staff, local and state elected officials, and conservation partners to showcase the SWCDs' efforts to protect and improve natural resources across the county. East and West Otter Tail SWCDs co-hosted the event, which featured a variety of conservation projects, from agricultural best management practices that reduce erosion and improve soil health to shoreline restorations that protect lakes and streams.

SWCD staff illustrated how these projects are planned and implemented in partnership with landowners, highlighting both the environmental and economic benefits to the community. This opportunity opens the door to conversion with area leadership, using firsthand experiences to underscore the importance of ongoing support for conservation programs and the partnerships that make them effective.



Folks Worth Mentioning

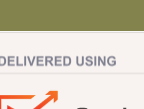


Schulz - Celebrating 50 Years

Agriculture and conservation have always been central to Tom Schulz's (pictured left) professional and personal life. Initially, Schulz aimed to become an agriculture teacher when life took unexpected turns that led him back to Evergreen Lane Farm, the family farm established in 1888 as a dairy operation. There, he was a part of implementing contour farming, a soil conservation practice.

Schulz's success in soil health piqued the interest of NRCS and the Wadena SWCD, who approached Schulz, asking him to consider joining the SWCD Board. Schulz was officially sworn in as a Wadena SWCD Board Supervisor on January 20, 1975, and has strived to continuously accomplish the same primary goal: to apply conservation to the land. Cheers to 50 years, Tom! Thank you for your service and leadership.

[Read more about this story](#)



Carlson - Cultivating Pollinator Habitat

Local fire warden Dennis Carlson lives in rural Menahga, surrounded by agricultural pivots and coniferous forests. To stay active and support native pollinators, he maintains several flower gardens beneath the canopy of Norway pines on his property. Recently, he took his efforts a step further by converting 4.5 acres of overgrown land just south of his home into a dedicated pollinator habitat.

Pollinator plantings such as these typically take three to five years to establish fully with proper maintenance. This summer, pioneer species such as Black-Eyed Susans and Partridge Pea can be seen blooming throughout the season. Interested in planting your own pollinator habitat? Check out the buttons below or contact your respective SWCD for more information on how to get started!

[I want to do this!](#)

[Can I start small?](#)

Westad - Outstanding Conservationist

The Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) annually presents the Outstanding Conservationist Award for significant achievements in implementing conservation practices and improving Minnesota's natural resources.

This year, EOT SWCD has nominated **Al Westad** in recognition of his strong cooperation with our team and commitment to conservation, including pasture improvement, cropland management, integrated pest management, and livestock and manure management. He also demonstrates community leadership through membership in the Sustainable Farming Association (SFA) and the Land Stewardship Project.

Thank you, Al, for your outstanding work in conservation!

Thank you for taking the time to read about the conservation happening in your area! Our team is passionate about being a technical resource for you and your communities across East Otter Tail and Wadena. We hope you will share this with neighbors, family, and friends.

Kindly,
East Otter Tail SWCD
& Wadena SWCD

[Website](#)

[Staff Page](#)

[Programs](#)

[Website](#)

[Staff Page](#)

[Programs](#)

Be sure to follow us on Facebook!

EOT SWCD

Wadena SWCD

You are receiving this newsletter due to your previous engagement with your local SWCD. If you no longer wish to receive the SWCD Quarterly Newsletter, please use the unsubscribe option below. Thank you!

[If you would like to unsubscribe, please click here.](#)

