

# Wadena County Soil & Water Conservation District

[www.wadenaswcd.org](http://www.wadenaswcd.org) | 4 Alfred Street NE, Wadena, MN 56482 | 218-632-4201

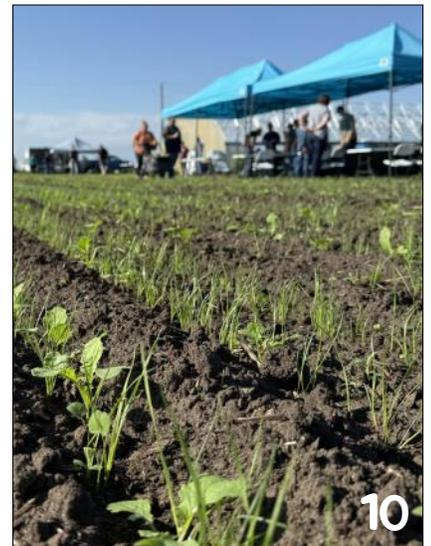
## 2025 Year In Review



**WADENA**  
Soil & Water  
Conservation District

# Table of Contents

- 03** Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program
- 04** Irrigation Scheduling Program
- 05** Agriculture Project Highlight—Cover Crops
- 06** Forestry
- 07** Equipment Rental
- 08** Agriculture Project Highlight—Fence & Watering Facilities
- 09** Supervisor of the Year & Nitrate Testing
- 10** Soil Health Field Day & Conservation Days
- 11** Redeye and Crow Wing River Watershed Updates
- 12** 2025 Intern & Reinvest in Minnesota Reserve
- 13** Alliance for Climate Smart & Bluff/Oak Creek Subwatershed
- 14** RCPP Soil Health Grant & Culvert Inventory
- 15** NRCS Programs and Staff
- 16** NRCS Project Highlight
- 17** Wetland Conservation Act & County Ag Inspector
- 18** Aquatic Invasive Species & Feedlots
- 19** SWCD Board and Staff





### Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP), which originated in 2014, is a voluntary process that certifies farming operations utilizing conservation-minded practices to protect water quality throughout the state for a duration of 10 years. Applicants undergo an in-depth examination of fields, crop rotation history, nutrient and pesticide management techniques, tillage, and irrigation practices.

In 2025, the North Central Area MAWQCP Team certified a total of 20 farming operations, including Wadena Board Supervisor, Ken Berg, who farms 301 acres within Thomastown Township. Currently, Wadena County has 16 MAWQCP certified farming operations.

The MAWQCP Team also assisted 8 area producers with their Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Grant Fund Contracts which involved various conservation practices such as pasture seeding, livestock watering facilities and pipeline, stream crossings, cover crops, irrigation water management and nutrient management with variable rate technology.

Besides achieving water quality certification within the MAWQCP, certified producers also have an opportunity to receive up to five endorsements: Climate Smart, Soil Health, Wildlife, Integrated Pest Management, and Irrigation Water Management. These achievements provide additional recognition to those who are going above and beyond to integrate conservation into their farming operations. This year, the irrigation water management endorsement was given to 2 farmers while 6 additional producers earned various endorsements for their farming operations.



Another opportunity through the MDA is the Soil Health Financial Assistance Grant where cost-share is provided for the purchase and/or retrofit of soil health equipment. This is the first and only program of its kind to reimburse equipment within Minnesota. The competitive grant allows individual producers, groups, and local government units to apply, awarding a range of \$500-\$45,000 (up to 50% cost share) for a one year contract period. In the most recent application period, August 1st to 29th of 2025, 18 producers were selected for funding within our region! Another round of funding is anticipated for the summer of 2026.

To learn more about how begin your farming operation's certification process, or become involved with one of the MDA's other funding opportunities, please contact our office.



MAWQCP producer, Ken Berg (far right), and his wife Patricia, receiving their certification sign from Jim Lahn, Area Certification Specialist and Wadena SWCD Technician, Alyson Levig.

# Soil and Water Programs

## Agriculture

### Irrigation Scheduling Program

Our irrigation scheduling program is designed to provide advice and recommend when producers turn on their irrigator(s). A technician conducts weekly field checks to gather the soil moisture status, crop water use, and crop growth stage of each field which is reported back to the producer.



By providing good soil moisture data, farmers are better able to apply and conserve water. This helps protect water quantity as well as water quality by limiting the amount of nitrogen fertilizers that are leached into our groundwater. This information also reminds producers when they need to irrigate so they do not experience unnecessary yield loss due to moisture stress.

This year, the Wadena SWCD helped provide assistance to 27 producers across Wadena, East Otter Tail, and Todd counties in 61 fields of either corn, soybeans, edible beans, and barley. We are also continuing to work with producers to adopt new technology for advanced water management in these counties.

### 2025 Weather Summary

This year was one of the better growing seasons we've had in recent years. This is because a majority of our work area received consistent and timely rain at important stages for crops. Luckily, the moisture then, was carried into early fall as producers started planting cover crops. Like last year, farmers were greeted by a longer, warmer autumn which paired well with the existing moisture, and caused tremendous growth in most acres planted with cover crops.





*Cereal Rye, oats, and a legume planting in Aldrich Township.*

Cover crops are forbs, grasses, or legumes planted for seasonal vegetative cover that can prevent soil erosion, increase soil organic matter, cycle nutrients, suppress weeds, provide livestock forage, and minimize compaction in annual cropping systems.

Cover crops can be an important part of a rotation as some cash crops produce limited soil cover, leaving agricultural fields almost bare until the next cropping season. Bare soil is susceptible to erosion due to a number of weather conditions such as rainfall, snowmelt, or wind.

This year, the Wadena SWCD funded 9 local producers to implement cover crops over 842.7 acres in the county. The most common cover planted was cereal rye for ease of establishment and termination while still preventing erosion and improving other soil health benefits.

## Project Details

### Practice:

- Cover Crops

### Target Waters:

- Redeye, Wing, and Leaf Rivers

### Project Implementation:

- Fall of 2025

### Components:

- Winter Cereal Rye
- Oats
- Several species mixes

### Benefits:

- Maintain or increase soil health and organic matter
- Increase water quality by utilizing excess soil nutrients
- Manage nutrients
- Improve soil moisture efficiency

### Partners:

- Landowner
- Wadena SWCD

### Watersheds:

- Redeye



*A cereal rye, oat, and brassica cover crop mix in Leaf River Township (left), a cereal rye, oat, and legume cover crop mix on a potato field in Thomastown Township (middle), and a cereal rye cover crop planting in Bullard Township (right).*

# Soil and Water Programs

## Forestry

### Forest Stewardship Planning Assistance

Are you a forest landowner interested in knowing more about trees or the health of your forest stand?

Our office has a certified plan writer, Anne Oldakowski, who can develop forest management plans to help you actively manage your private forest land in Wadena, Todd, and Otter Tail counties. These 10-year plans help landowners manage their forests for multiple purposes in order to benefit both the landowner's goals and the environment. It is a fee based program depending on the amount of acres, with the current cost being \$10/acre plus an additional \$300 to write the plan. This cost includes not only a plan, but also a walk through of your property with Anne, answers to your forestry questions, and a binder including information on managing your property with practices tied to your property's legacy.

In 2025, Anne created 13 different plans, totaling 1,400 acres.



*Anne Oldakowski reviewing a management plan with a Wadena County landowner.*

### Tree Program

In 2025, 56,675 trees were sold between East Otter Tail and Wadena counties through our tree program. Of those trees, 15,200 of them were planted by SWCD staff for 13 landowners between both counties. We also sold approximately 85 acres of native grass seed and planted 5.8 acres of it for Wadena County landowners.

#### ONLINE TREE STORE

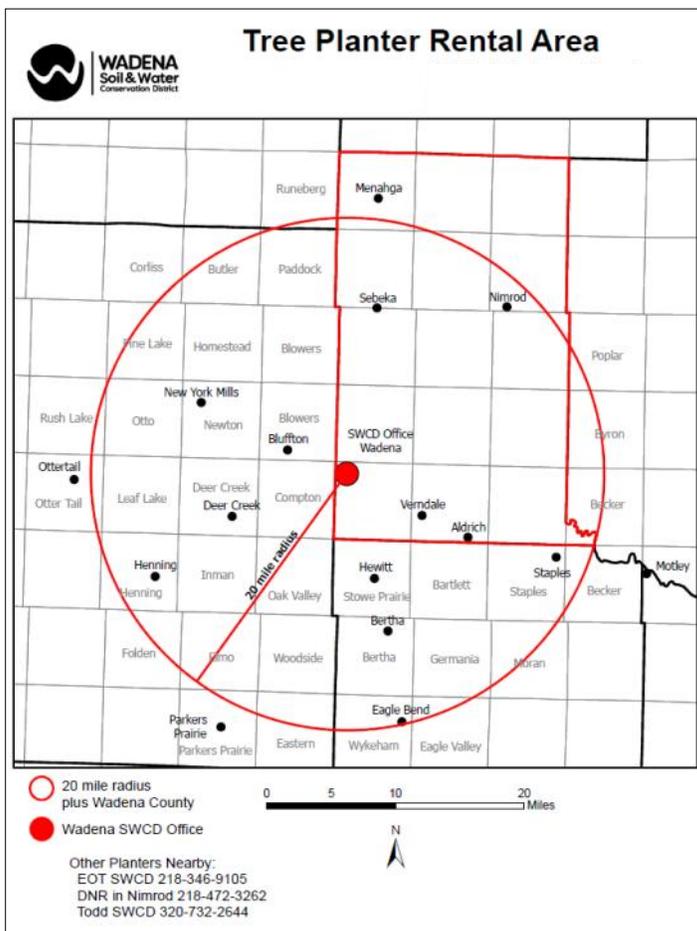
Our tree store opens each year on January 1st! See real time availability and pay with a credit or debit card on our online store. Check out our website for more details.



*Anne Oldakowski and EOT 2025 intern, Sam Kopveiler, planting trees at a project site in East Otter Tail County.*

## Equipment Rental—Tree Planter

With funding aid from the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR), we now have our own tree planter! This year, our tree rental program helped 5 landowners with their tree planting projects this spring. For more information about our planter please visit our website or call our office at 218-632-4201.



### TREE PLANTER RENTAL RATES

- \$55 per day for Wadena county residents
- \$75 per day for landowners within 20 miles of the SWCD office



## HAVE A TREE PROJECT IN MIND?

The Wadena SWCD offers free, technical assistance for developing a planting plan. Our technicians will complete a site visit and design a plan for you that contains the recommended types and amount of tree and shrub species, plant spacing, map, and cost estimates. Examples of projects include shelterbelts, living snow fence, field windbreaks, riparian buffers for water quality, and wildlife habitat plantings.

# Agricultural Project Highlight—Fence & Watering Facilities



*A completed fence corner brace assembly in Leaf River Township.*

Two beef producers in Wadena County (Leaf River and Rockwood townships), requested technical and financial assistance to incorporate new acres onto their existing NRCS grazing plans. To accomplish this, new perimeter and interior fencing, watering facilities, heavy-use protection areas, and livestock pipeline were needed on the newly acquired parcels.

Prescribed grazing improves pasture efficiencies by allowing forage to rest and re-grow between grazing periods; thus, improving soil health along with animal health and productivity. Water quality is also improved when this type of grazing is incorporated into a farming operation because an alternative water source is supplied to livestock rather than relying on sensitive, natural resources.

To date, only the Leaf River township project is completed. This plan incorporated approximately 6,200 feet of fencing and 4 watering facilities totaling \$27,818.25 which the SWCD covered 75% of with Redeye watershed funding. The fencing portion of the Rockwood project was completed this fall with the watering facility aspects scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2026. Approximately 8,900 feet of fencing was estimated for this project with the total cost predicted being \$33,575.00 which will also be cost-shared with Redeye watershed funding.

## Project Details

### Practice:

- Fence & Watering Facility

### Target Waters:

- Leaf River and Hay Creek

### Project Implementation:

- 2025 & 2026

### Components:

- Barbed Fence
- Shallow buried pipeline
- Heavy-use area protection
- Frost-free & permanent watering facilities
- Prescribed grazing

### Benefits:

- Feed and forage balance
- Livestock water quantity, quality, and distribution
- Water quality improvements

### Partners:

- Landowner
- Wadena SWCD
- USDA—NRCS

### Watersheds:

- Redeye



*Left: Frost-free watering facility on a concrete heavy-use area protection in Leaf River Township.*

*Middle: A completed fenceline in Rockwood Township.*

*Right: A completed permanent watering facility on a gravel heavy-use area protection in Leaf River Township.*

Recognized for his extensive work in advancing policy for Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), our very own board supervisor, Tom Schulz, received the 2025 SWCD Supervisor of the Year Award for Minnesota on December 2nd after being nominated by our office. The award, presented by the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD), honors a SWCD Supervisor who has demonstrated leadership and achieved significant results in the conservation of Minnesota's soil and water resources.

Agriculture and conservation have always been the backbone of the Wadena County native's personal and professional career. Schulz was sworn in as a SWCD supervisor over 50 years ago on January 20, 1975, and since then, has continuously strived to accomplish the same primary goal: applying conservation to the land.

"As a landowner, you're receiving expert-level technical assistance on any project when you walk through the door of any SWCD," Schulz said. "Plus, the personal interaction along with an interest in wanting what is best for your land is the kind of 'boots on the ground' aid that is provided to everyone who works with us."

Overall, Schulz has continuously provided valuable ideas and opportunities for SWCDs to consider in advancing conservation and strengthening their districts in order to protect Minnesota resources for future generations.

To learn more about Schulz's story check out our blog on our website: [wadenaswcd.org](http://wadenaswcd.org)

## Supervisor of the Year



From left to right: Chuck Rau, MASWCD president; Kyle and Tom Schulz



Nicole Lundeen, SWCD Watershed Planner and Coordinator, providing nitrate results from clinics hosted in 2024.

## Nitrate Testing

Did you know nitrate-nitrogen is a common contaminant found in many wells throughout Minnesota? Shallow wells, dug wells, and wells with damaged or leaking casing are the most vulnerable to nitrate contamination. It is recommended to test your drinking water supply on a regular basis.

One way to test your water is by coming to our office! The Wadena SWCD offers, free walk-in/drop-off nitrate testing during normal business hours, with available results in minutes.

Another opportunity is through our nitrate clinics, which we offer every summer. This year, the Wadena SWCD conducted two nitrate clinics in Verndale and Menahga. At these clinics, landowners are asked to bring at least one-half cup of water in a either a clean plastic or glass container after allowing the water to run 5 to 10 minutes. From these clinics, approximately 21 water samples were tested.

# Education and Outreach

## Soil Health Field Day

This summer, the Wadena and East Otter Tail (EOT) SWCDs hosted a field day for local farmers called The Future of Tillage: A Strip Till Event. This field day was a collaboration between both SWCD districts, as well as Alyssa Scheve, the shared soil health specialist with EOT, Todd, and Wadena Counties. The Minnesota Soil Health Coalition and Anna Cates from UMN Extension were also present to teach during the event.

The 20 participants at this event learned about the benefits of roots for building and maintaining soil health as well as soil aggregate stability testing. They also heard from farmers actively practicing strip till and observed a live demonstration on how to plant into strip till.

This field day sparked great discussions, with farmers asking questions and learning from each other to further their knowledge on strip till practices and learn how to adapt tillage machinery for this purpose. From this field day, 44% of participants said they were moderately or very likely to try out strip till in their operation, and several participants noted that this was "very informative" and a "very good event."

Thank you again to all the producers who attended this field day!



Above: Farmers look on at the strip till demonstration.  
Below: Anna Cates discusses the benefits of roots for soil health during a break out session.

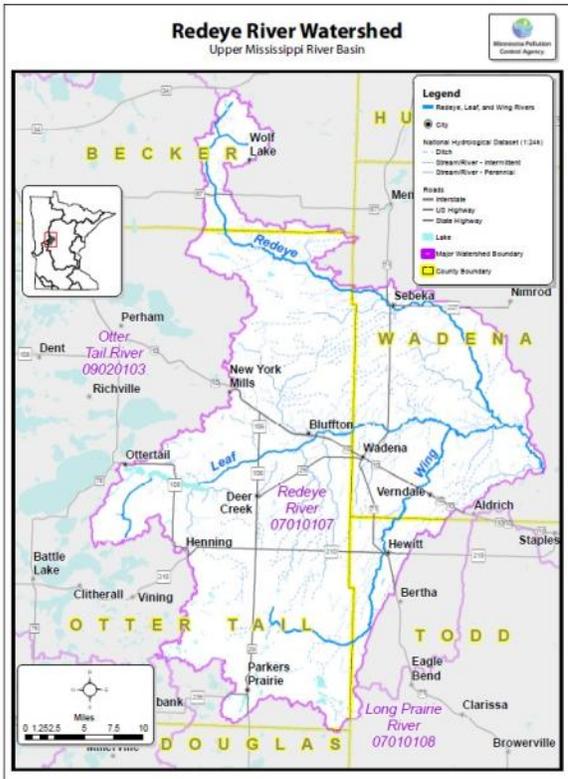


## Conservation Days

Each year, the Wadena SWCD hosts Conservation Days for area 5th and 6th graders at Old Wadena Park and Campground. This year, students rotated between eight different stations, learning about Nature, Old Wadena History, Water, Trapping, Forestry, Soils, Insects, and Wildlife. Our presenters included office staff, local conservation officers, the National Trappers Association, and NRCS staff, among others. From the two-day event, approximately 280 students across five area schools participated to learn about local natural resources outside the classroom. Thank you to all who make this educational event possible!



## Redeye River Watershed



The Redeye River One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) is on year five of implementing projects on the ground to improve water quality in the watershed. In 2025, the implementation team went through the Board of Water and Soil Resource’s (BWSR) Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP) which assessed the performance of local units of government responsible for the conservation of water and related land resources. These assessments occur when the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP) has reached the 5-year plan evaluation checkpoint. The Redeye Watershed final PRAP report is located on our website.

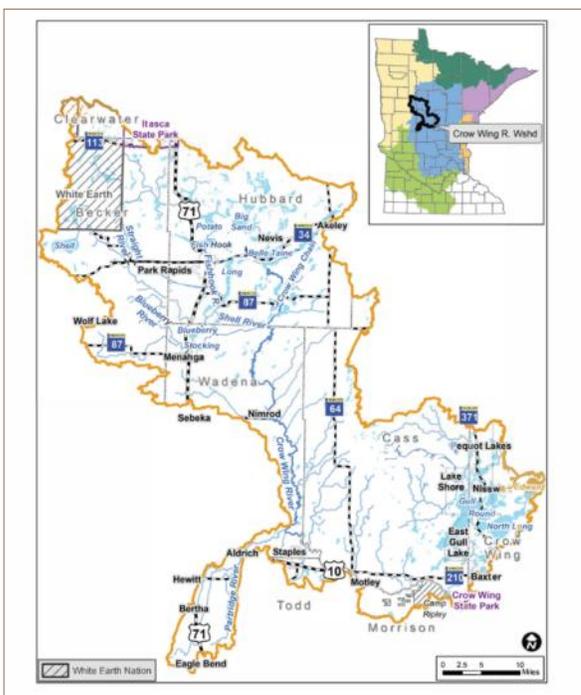
This year, Redeye Watershed funds assisted in implementing:

- 8 cover crop contracts on a total of 834 acres
- 2 forest stewardship plans on a total of 198 acres
- 1 fencing, watering Facility, heavy use area protection, and livestock pipeline on 40 acres (Grazing Plan)
- 1 irrigation water management contract on 51 acres (irrigation scheduling)
- 1 well sealed
- 2 ag waste pit closures



These accomplishments were made possible by neighboring SWCDs and federal agencies partnering together to provide information to landowners concerning potential projects in the Redeye Watershed.

## Crow Wing River Watershed



The Crow Wing River One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) was approved in April 2025 to start implementing projects in the watershed. Priorities in the plan will address water quality concerns and the overall protection of water resources which is reflected in the plan’s vision statement. Over half (52%) of Wadena County is covered by the watershed.

Wadena 2025 Projects:

- Mailed 101 postcards targeting shoreline restorations on Blueberry and Lower Twin Lakes
- 1 cover crop contract on 8.7 acres
- 1 forest stewardship plan on 157 acres



# SWCD Updates

## 2025 Summer Intern

This year, we hired Connor Adams as our 2025 summer intern, who assisted our staff with shoreline restorations, irrigation routes, culvert inventorying, and numerous other day-to-day responsibilities.

Connor is a sophomore at Bemidji State University majoring in Wildlife Biology. He plans on working in the natural resource conservation field in some capacity after graduation.

Thank you, Connor, for all your hard work this year!



## Reinvest in Minnesota Reserve

Reinvest in Minnesota Reserve, or RIM, is a Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR) program that compensates landowners for enrolling land into permanent conservation easements. The land in this program remains in private ownership and landowners retain their tax responsibility for the acres. Overall, these easements are critical in Minnesota's effort to improve water quality by reducing soil erosion, phosphorus and nitrogen loading, and improving wildlife habitat on private lands.

This year, Wadena SWCD assisted with the administration and implementation of an easement along the Crow Wing River, totaling 48.5 acres on 2,500 feet of shoreline.



## Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture

In 2024, Wadena SWCD was one of the eight selected in Minnesota to participate in the Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture Pilot Program being led by Virginia Tech University. This pilot program provided incentives to reward farmers and ranchers for adopting climate-smart agricultural practices. The goals of the pilot program were to enhance agriculture productivity, benefit producers, and improve climate resilience. Enrolled participants will receive \$100 per acre or animal unit by voluntarily implementing practices that



*A pasture/hayland planting in Wadena Township.*

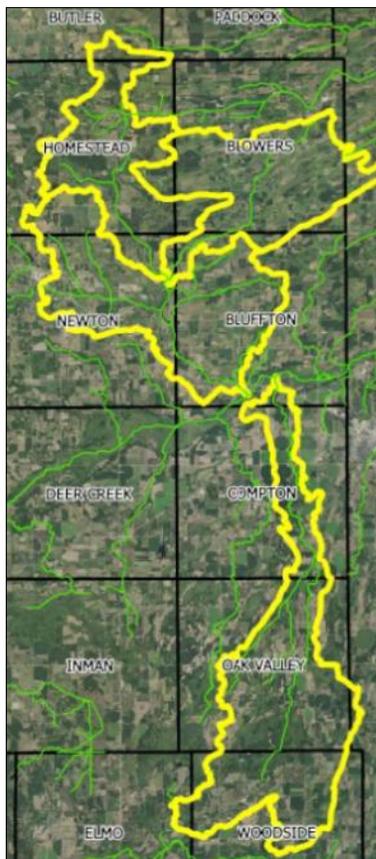
### Project Tally

- (3) Conservation Crop Rotation
- (1) Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till
- (20) Cover Crop
- (1) Nutrient Management
- (7) Pasture and Hay Planting
- (4) Prescribed Grazing

sequester

carbon, improve soil health, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and improve water quality conservation.

Overall, **36 conservation practices** were implemented throughout Wadena County through this program, covering **3,786.43 acres!** Thank you to all who participated and were patient as we worked through the program's hiccups.



## Bluff/Oak Creek Sub-watershed

The Wadena SWCD currently has funding available to address water resource concerns within the Bluff/Oak Creek Sub-watershed as it is impaired with E.coli bacteria. This subwatershed is located in the Redeye Watershed.

Producers in this sub-watershed are eligible for up to 50% cost-share to install best management practices to help improve water quality. Contracted projects must be maintained for the duration of 3-10 years, depending on the practice, and are reimbursement based—requiring estimates and invoices prior to payments.

This year, cost-share funds have helped install:

- One Heavy Use Protection Area on 283 acres

This grant is in cooperation with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and will expire in 2026.

# SWCD Updates

## RCPP Soil Health Grant



Strip-till in Otter Tail County.

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 funding opportunity allows SWCD staff to provide financial and technical assistance to producers who want to implement conservation 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. Contact our office for more information.

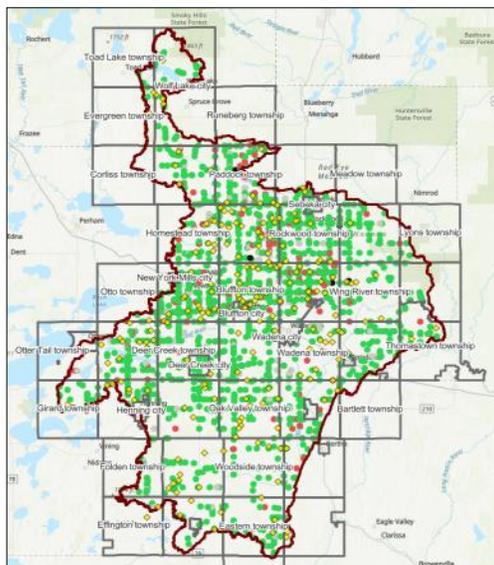


Natural Resources Conservation Service

## Culvert Inventory

Over the past two years, staff from the East Otter Tail and Wadena SWCDs have completed a physical inventory of culverts located along public roads within the Red Eye River Watershed. This project was supported through funding from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and fulfills a priority action identified in the Red Eye Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

For this project, SWCD staff drove and surveyed roads throughout the watershed using GPS equipment and digital mapping tools. At each culvert, staff recorded GPS coordinates, invert elevations, culvert size and type, and the general condition. This work was done to support local road authorities in planning maintenance, identifying undersized or failing structures, and coordinating replacement needs across jurisdictions.



undersized or failing structures, and coordinating replacement needs across jurisdictions.

Using this information, a web-based map was developed to share the results of the inventory with townships and other road authorities. We do want to note that there are likely additional culverts that were not located due to being buried, obscured by vegetation, or positioned in less visible areas.

Left: Tanner Schmitz (EOT staff) recording a culvert elevation in the Redeye Watershed. Right: Screenshot of created culvert inventory map.



## Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)



The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program designed to assist producers with promoting agricultural production while addressing natural resource concerns. With EQIP, landowners receive technical and financial assistance to install conservation practices to optimize environmental benefits on their property. In 2025, 14 new contracts were enrolled, treating 2,031 acres across Wadena County. Conservation practices implemented within these contracts included high tunnel systems, pasture/hayland plantings, feedlot, irrigation, cover crops, wildlife, and nutrient management.

## Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a voluntary conservation program that helps agriculture and forest producers maintain their existing conservation practices while also adopting additional conservation activities on their land. This program is great for land with multiple uses and/or resource concerns needing improvement as CSP provides financial and technical assistance over a 5-year period, giving landowners time to implement activities and enhancements.

This year, 1 new contract was enrolled, treating 1,430 acres throughout the county. Check out the highlights on the next page!

## Meet our team!



## INTERESTED IN AN NRCS PROGRAM?

Stop by our office to sign up and begin the planning process of your next project, today!

*From left to right: Sunnie Fenstermaker, Administrative Support Assistant; Joshua Hanson, District Conservationist Team Leader; and Ivan Reinke, District Conservationist*

# NRCS Project Highlight



*(Left): Completed brush management to improve habitat and remove the invasive species, Buckthorn, from the understory riparian area. (Right): An American Plum tree (row) planted for wildlife habitat.*

Soil health, grass, water quality, and wildlife habitat improvements are being completed on a Wadena County producer's farm through the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). This whole farm program offered by the USDA NRCS can assist farmers in planning and installation of a variety of practices that improve observed resource concerns.

In 2024, NRCS worked with the landowner to arrange the planning portion of the 5-year project along with ordering the necessary seeds and plants. This year and beyond, are reserved for practice implementation. The producer's farm contains cropland, pastureland, and associated ag land requiring multiple conservation practices to be applied in order to address erosion, soil health, and wildlife habitat resources concerns. So far, cover crops, grazing improvements, brush management, and tree and pollinator plantings have all been completed.

For the remaining years, the producer will continue to incorporate cover crops on their agricultural fields, improve grazing management, and maintain their tree and pollinator plantings as well as their brush management areas.



*Left: Turnip, radish, and oat cover crop mix planted to increase plant diversity on cropland.*

*Right: Emerging pollinator species that will improve feed and reproductive habitat.*

## Project Details

### Practices:

- Cover Crops
- Grazing Management
- Tree & Shrub Establishment
- Pollinator Habitat
- Brush Management

### Project Implementation:

- 2024 –2029

### Components:

- Turnip, Radish, Oat cover crop mix
- White Spruce, Red Pine, Red Maple, Oak, American Plum, and Crabapple trees
- Buckthorn removal

### Benefits:

- Increased plant diversity on cropland
- Tree plantings for wildlife habitat
- Invasive species removal for habitat improvement

### Partners:

- Landowner
- USDA—NRCS



### Watershed:

- Redeye

## Wetland Conservation Act (WCA)

The Wetland Conservation Act is a law enacted in 1991 that strives to protect and restore Minnesota's wetlands. It regulates draining, filling, and some excavations that take place in wetlands across the state. In 2025, we helped 17 landowners with their work around wetlands.

If you are planning some dirt work and think it may impact a wetland, call our office *before* you start digging!



*From left to right: Pond in Rockwood Township, and two separate private ditches in Lyons Township.*

## County Agriculture Inspector

In 2025, Wadena was one of 13 municipalities chosen to receive additional grant funds for noxious weed management from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA). This funding was made available to Wadena townships and the county highway department for wild parsnip or leafy spurge management on a first come, first served basis. Recipients could request cost share of up to \$1,000 to either spray or mow these noxious weed populations in accordance with the MDA's timing recommendations.

From this funding, 4 contracts were made and approximately 45 acres of wild parsnip were sprayed between September and October! Thank you to everyone able to participate in this funding opportunity!

It's important to remember that the Minnesota Noxious Weed Law requires land owners to control all noxious weeds on your property! If you need help with identification or managing a population, contact our office. For more information on Noxious Weeds, please visit the MDA Noxious Weed List webpage.



*Pictured above is Leafy Spurge (top) and Wild Parsnip (bottom)*

We offer Pesticide Applicator testing through the Minnesota Department of Agricultural (MDA). To schedule an appointment, please call 218-632-4201.

# County Programs

## Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

Inspectors were stationed at Blueberry, Spirit, Stocking, and Lower Twin Lake accesses from May through September to conduct watercraft inspections. Inspections typically take 5-10 minutes, consist of survey questions, and help educate anglers and recreationists on where and how to Clean, Drain, Dispose, and Dry their water-related equipment. These actions are essential in removing plants and vegetation to help ensure spreading invasives are not transported to other waterbodies within Minnesota.



A detailed summary report based on survey responses can be found on our website. The report includes the total number of inspections, number of out-of-state boaters, and percent of recreationists arriving from known infested waters among other totals and percentiles. These results are based on the amount of uploaded surveys from the tablets inspectors are given at the start of the season.

This year, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources also listed Lower Twin Lake as being infested with zebra mussels. This is currently the only lake within Wadena County to have zebra mussels. Lower, Twin, Blueberry, and Stocking Lakes have known faucet snail infestations.

Lake Name	Total Hours	Total Inspections	Total Entering	% Entering	Total Existing	% Exiting	Drain Plug in On Arrival	% Drain Plug in on Arrival	Out of State	% From Out of State
Lower Twin	222	152	88	57.9%	71	46.7%	0	0.00%	22	14.5%
Spirit	296	153	106	36.3%	54	35.3%	4	2.6%	10	6.5%
Blueberry	284	326	185	56.7%	141	43.3%	0	0.00%	29	8.9%
Stocking	217	188	137	72.9%	53	28.2%	1	1.5%	10	0.5%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1019</b>	<b>819</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>63%***</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>39%***</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>8.7%***</b>

*\*MN Drain Plug Law: When leaving a water of the state, a person must drain water-related equipment holding water and live wells and bilges by removing the drain plug before transporting the water-related equipment. [Sec. 84D. 10 MN Statutes]*

*\*\*\*Percent totals are based off the overall total inspections*

*A snapshot of the Wadena County 2025 AIS Watercraft Inspection Summary Report*

## Feedlots



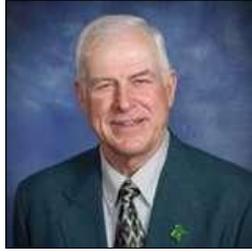
In 2025, we inspected five randomly chosen feedlots within Wadena County, completing our required 7% yearly inspections. We also helped 49 sites reregister their feedlots.

As a reminder, every feedlot in Wadena County is required to be registered by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Landowners must register as a feedlot if they own 50+ animals units or keep their animals in a bare lot, for any portion of the year. Registration forms, as well as manure test kits, are always available in our office.

# Wadena SWCD Board of Supervisors



Ken Berg  
Secretary



Tom Schulz  
Vice Chairman



Jerry Kern  
Public Relations



Brett Dailey  
Treasurer



Bruce Juntunen  
Board Chairman



Wadena SWCD Board Meetings are open to the public and held every 3rd Monday of the month at 7:30am. Check out our website for more information.

## Soil & Water Staff

District Manager: Darren Newville

Asst Manager/Forestry Tech: Anne Oldakowski

District Technician: Alyson Levig

District Technician: Savanna Anderson

Administrative Secretary: Chantal Tougas

Water Planner/Watershed Coordinator: Nicole Lundeen

WADENA  
Soil & Water  
Conservation District

4 Alfred St NE  
Wadena, MN 56482

218-632-4201  
www.wadenaswcd.org

## Our Mission

*The Wadena Soil and Water Conservation District seeks to achieve and maintain the highest quality and quantity of natural resources possible through wise stewardship for now and the future within the limits of human and financial means available.*