



Introduction

The Nicollet Soil and Water Conservation District is a legal Subdivision of State Government organized under provisions of Minnesota Statute 103C. The District is governed by a Board of Supervisors composed of five members nominated by the voters of the County, and who are responsible for directing all District activities. The board meets monthly on the first Wednesday of the Month.

Mission Statement

“To assist the landowners of Nicollet County in efficiently and effectively using the natural resources in order to increase the productive use of the cropland, pastureland, woodland, wildlifeland, urbanland, and recreationland, while maintaining and improving the soils base, water quality, tree production, wildlife, and the quality of life in the county.”

We submit to you this annual report for 2008.

2008 Annual Report
Nicollet Soil & Water Conservation District
(507)-931-2550

www.nicolletswcd.org

District Supervisors

John H. Kral
William Hohenstein
Eldon H. Brown
Bruce Hulke
Gerald Rodning

Area of Representation

Lafayette, West Newton, Ridgely Twp.
Lake Prairie, Traverse Twp. & City of St. Peter
Belgrade, Nicollet, Oshawa Twp.
Courtland, Granby Twp.
Bernadotte, Brighton, New Sweden Twp.

District Employees

Kevin Ostermann, District Manager
Kevin.Ostermann@nicolletswcd.org

Blake Honetschlager, District Technician
Blake.Honetschlager@nicolletswcd.org

Cooperating Agencies

Board of Water & Soil Resources

Thomas Fischer, Board Conservationist

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Stephanie Mclean, District Conservationist
Marie Lynch, Technician

Nicollet County Farm Services Agency

Steve Luther, County Executive Director

Nicollet County Environmental Services

Mandy Landkamer, Department Head

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Joel Anderson, Area Wildlife Manager

Nicollet Soil & Water Conservation District
2008 Accomplishments

Tree Program

The Nicollet SWCD offered for sale different tree and shrubs species native to Minnesota. Producers purchased the trees to plant into windbreaks, urban and rural conservation, and wildlife food and habitat. Through the annual tree program the Nicollet SWCD is able to promote conservation practices and the value of forestry resources in preventing soil loss and improving water quality. The District sold over 11,000 trees, in 2008, and assisted 15 landowners with tree planting.

Cost-Share Programs

In 2008 the District emphasized the application of soil conservation practices such as: grassed waterways, water and sediment control basins, terraces, erosion control structures, animal waste control systems, and farmstead windbreaks. These practices have controlled erosion and reduced sedimentation while improving water quality. During the past year the District assisted landowners with plans and designs for different conservation practices. These Districts received funds from the State Cost Share Program and Rush River Project to complete the following practices:

- 16 Rock tile inlets installed in the Rush River Watershed.
- 3 Water and Sediment Control Basins installed.
- 2 Grade Stabilization Projects completed.
- 2 Grassed Waterways installed.
- 2 Well sealing projects completed.
- 2.0 Acres of farmstead windbreaks installed using State Cost Share Dollars.

Outstanding Conservationists

Each year, Nicollet SWCD recognizes a person(s) dedicated to implementing conservation practices and improving Minnesota's natural resources as Nicollet County's Outstanding Conservationist. They are then invited to attend the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' annual convention in December where they are recognized along with award recipients from other Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The winner of the Minnesota Outstanding Conservationist is also named at the convention. The 2008 Nicollet County nominees were John and Jason Schroeder from Schroeder Holsteins Family Farm. The Schroeder's have been very active with the Conservation District and have taken advantage of a number of different conservation programs over the years.

Environmental Education

Environmental education is an important part of our SWCD office. Classes and educational materials are offered to schools and churches across Nicollet County. 2008 activities included:

- Partnered with the MN DNR (Nicollet), Feder Seed Company, & Nicollet Public School in restoring 1.0 Acre of Prairie Grasses for educational purposes.
- Partnered with the Science Museum of Minnesota in providing groundwater demonstrations to the St. Peter Middle School Students.
- Envirothon Area 6
- Stewardship Materials for Area Churches
- Partnered with the Nicollet County Sentence to Serve Crew & Minnesota Department of Transportation on planting trees along the Minnesota River.
- This year 120 1st graders learned about different kinds of trees, the benefits of trees, and how to plant and care for trees. Each student received a tree to plant
- Career Day Presentation at South Central Technical College and Gustavus Adolphus College to 10th and 11th graders from area schools.

Wetland Conservation Act Program

The Nicollet SWCD assists cities, townships, citizens, and County departments in the administration of the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act. District staff provides technical and administrative assistance for wetland related activities throughout Nicollet County. Common activities involved with the program include tile and drainage applications as well as wetland banking. The District has continued its commitment to ensure that staff is adequately trained and updated on current wetland rules and policy. In 2008, District Staff worked on 120 landowner drainage requests.