
Introducing Your Nicollet SWCD Employees:



Blake Honetschlager
507-931-2550 ext.3

My name is Blake Honetschlager and I was hired into the Nicollet SWCD Technician position, in Nicollet County, on December 1, 2005. I was born and raised in St. Peter, Minnesota, where I attended St. Peter High School and graduated in 2001. In September of 2001, I enrolled at Bemidji State University, Bemidji, Minnesota, to pursue a degree in Environmental Studies. In May of 2005, I received my BS Degree in Environmental Studies and a minor in Applied Public Policy. Over the past six months, I worked with Kevin Kuehner and Scott MacLean at the Brown-Nicollet-Cottonwood Water Quality Board in St. Peter as a Water Quality Technician. I look forward to serving Nicollet County by contributing my knowledge, skills, and education as the Nicollet SWCD Technician.



Kevin Ostermann
507-931-2550 ext.3

Kevin Ostermann has been the District Manager with the District for over 10 years. Kevin was a technician with the Steele County SWCD before joining the Nicollet SWCD. In addition to routine management duties, Kevin works with landowners on conservation projects such as Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act (WCA), State Cost Share Projects, and providing assistance to other SWCD programs and activities. Kevin grew up in Good Thunder and currently resides in Mankato with his wife and daughter.

Nicollet County Conservation Farm of the Year!



OUTSTANDING CONSERVATIONISTS OF THE YEAR

Gary & Deb Gintner

Each year the Nicollet Soil and Water Conservation District selects an outstanding conservationist. The selection for 2005 was Gary & Deb Gintner.

Gary & Deb have cooperated with the Nicollet SWCD in installing several windbreaks and have installed 3.4 acres of filter strips along their ditch that flows into the seven mile creek watershed. They also have installed nitrogen rate plots to find their optimum rates of nitrogen for their corn. The Gintners see first hand the benefits of conservation on their farm. The 5 acre wetland restoration, along with the 15 acres of native grasses provide valuable habitat for pheasants, birds, deer, and waterfowl. Buffer strips planted to native grasses have provided excellent habitat for pheasants.

CONGRATULATIONS, Gary and Deb, for your efforts in conserving our natural resources of Nicollet County. Keep up the good work!

TREE ORDER DAY

It is that time again to start thinking about the 2006 tree planting season. We will be holding our annual Tree Day on Wednesday, January 25th, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at our office located at 424 South Minnesota Ave. in St. Peter. (This is right across from the Nicollet County Courthouse).

The District will help in making recommendations on what type of trees should be planted in different soil types, spacing, wildlife plantings and tree plans for larger plantings. If you are unable to attend that day, you can mail in the order blank, included in this newsletter, to us at 424 South Minnesota Ave., St. Peter, MN 56082.

The Nicollet SWCD will be starting a quarterly newsletter available to all Nicollet County residents. If you would like your name to be included in the mailing list, please call Blake Honetschlager at the Nicollet SWCD office and provide your name and address, or mail your name and address info to 424 South Minnesota Ave., St. Peter, MN 56082 (507) 931-2550 x. 117



Nicollet SWCD News

January 2006

Who we are...what we do...

Soil and Water Conservation Districts are the cornerstone of conservation efforts. Districts are local units of government entrusted with building and directing conservation programs at the local level. The Nicollet Soil and Water Conservation District has held this role since 1962.



Nicollet SWCD Supervisors, left to right, (back row) Bruce Hulke, Eldon Brown, William Hohenstein (front row) John Kral, Gerald Rodning.

Programs Administered by the SWCD:

- State Cost Share Program
- CREP Program
- RIM Program
- Rock Tile Inlet Cost Share Program (Seven-Mile Creek)
- Education Programs

Services & Technical Assistance Provided:

- Tree Planting Design (Farmstead & Field)
- Tree Sales
- Survey & Design Assistance for:
 - Grass Waterways
 - Sediment & Water Retention Control
 - Diversions
 - Wetland Restorations
 - Terraces
 - Ag Waste Management
 - Stream bank & Lakeshore Stabilization
- CRP Conservation Plans
- CRP Wetland Restorations

Collaborating with Others:

- Nicollet County Commissioners
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Farm Service Agency
- Zone 10 - Engineering & Design Assistance
- Board of Water & Soil Resources
- National Association of Conservation Districts
- Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- Brown-Nicollet-Cottonwood Water Quality Board

The Nicollet Soil and Water Conservation District

424 South Minnesota Ave.
St. Peter, MN 56082.

Phone: (507) 931-2550 ext.3

Fax: (507) 931-3792

District Board

Bruce Hulke, *Chair*
Gerald Rodning, *Vice Chair*
John Kral, *Secretary*
William Hohenstein, *Treasurer*
Eldon Brown, *Member*

District Employees

Kevin Ostermann
District Manager
Blake Honetschlager
District Technician

St. Paul, MN, December 2, 2005 –The **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service** (USDA-NRCS) has announced that there will be funding available for the 2006 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). The EQIP program is available to help agricultural producers apply needed conservation practices on land throughout Minnesota. William Hunt, State Conservationist for NRCS in Minnesota, announced the signup dates for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) which will be held at all USDA Service Centers in Minnesota.

EQIP is a competitive and very popular program in Minnesota. Producers will receive up to 50 percent cost-share while Certified limited Resources Farmers may receive up to 90 percent to implement conservation practices.

The EQIP sign-up period in Minnesota will begin on December 15, 2005. Applications will be scored and ranked on a locally prioritized, statewide environmental ranking worksheet. The sign-up for EQIP concludes on January 31, 2006.

EQIP is a competitive program with the most cost-effective and environmentally beneficial projects selected for funding. To apply for funding, landowners in Nicollet County should schedule an appointment with the NRCS office in St. Peter.



Yamika Stokes,
District Conservationist
507-931-2550 xext3



f o r
County

For more information on conservation practices and/or the Nicollet County EQIP signup, contact the NRCS in St. Peter at

Rural Box Holder
Rural Route #

Nicollet Soil & Water Conservation District
424 South Minnesota Ave.
Saint Peter, MN 56082
507-931-2550

2006 TREE PROGRAM
NICOLLET SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
424 SOUTH MINNESOTA AVE. ST. PETER, MN 56082
PHONE: (507) 931-2550 ext.3
QUALITY NURSERY STOCK FOR CONSERVATION

CONIFER TRANSPLANTS

Minimum Orders by 10's

No.	Species	Size	Cost	Total Cost
___	Black Hills Spruce	8"-12"	1.25	_____
___	Colorado Spruce	12"-18"	1.25	_____
___	Norway Spruce	7"-15"	1.25	_____
___	Norway Pine	7"-15"	1.00	_____
___	White Pine	8"-12"	1.00	_____
___	Ponderosa Pine	8"-12"	1.00	_____
___	American Arborvitae	12"-18"	1.25	_____

CONIFER POTTED

Minimum Orders by 5's

No.	Species	Size	Cost	Total Cost
___	Black Hills Spruce P	15"-18"	6.50	_____
___	Colorado Spruce P	15"-18"	6.50	_____
___	Norway Spruce P	15"-18"	6.50	_____

DECIDUOUS SEEDLINGS

Minimum Orders by 10's

TALL TREES

No.	Species	Size	Cost	Total Cost
___	Black Walnut	12"-18"	.90	_____
___	Green Ash	2'-3'	.90	_____
___	Hackberry	18"-24"	.90	_____
___	Norway Poplar	2'-3'	.90	_____
___	Silver Maple	18"-24"	.90	_____
___	Sugar Maple	18"-24"	.90	_____
___	Red Maple	18"-24"	.90	_____
___	Red Oak	18"-24"	.90	_____

SMALL TREES

___	Amur Maple	18"-24"	.90	_____
___	Crab, Red Splendor	18"-24"	.90	_____
___	Nanking Cherry	18"-24"	.90	_____

SHRUBS

___	Freedom, Honeysuckle	12"-18"	1.20	_____
___	Villosa Lilac	12"-18"	.90	_____
___	Dogwood Redosier	2'-3'	.90	_____
___	Am. Highbush Cranberry	12"-18"	.90	_____

___	TOTAL NO. TREES	TOTAL COST	_____
		SALES TAX (6.5%)	_____
		TOTAL COST	_____
		25% Down Payment	_____
		AMOUNT DUE	_____

NO. _____ (OFFICE USE ONLY)

DATE _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

IMPORTANT NOTICE

If trees will be used for government programs please let our staff know.

**TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA
PLANT A TREE**

Trees will be distributed at our office in April. We will notify you by mail or phone. The cost of trees does not warrant free replacement and the District offers no guarantee of survival. **The trees must be used for conservation purposes only.** Payment in full must be made on all orders of \$40.00 or less at time of ordering, 25% down payment on orders over \$40.00 at time of ordering with balance due when stock is picked up.

**Make checks payable to the
NICOLLET SWCD**

**Upon signing below, purchaser
understands these conditions.**

SIGNATURE

If unable to attend Tree Order Day on January 25th, 2005. Please mail this order form, along with payment to: Tree Order Day, 424 South Minnesota Ave., St. Peter, MN 56082.