

Nicollet Soil & Water Conservation District
501 7th Street, PO Box 457
Nicollet, MN 56074
507-232-2550

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Nicollet SWCD News

August 2025

The Nicollet Soil and Water Conservation District
501 7th Street
PO Box 457
Nicollet, MN 56074
Phone: (507) 232-2550

District Board
Don Hermanson, Chair
John Kral, Vice Chair
Eric Annexstad, Secretary
Tim Braun, Treasurer
John Luepke, Member

District Employees
Kevin Ostermann
District Manager

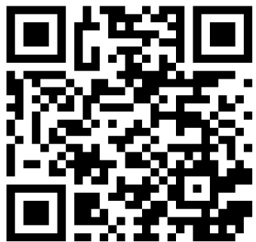
Blake Honetschlager
District Technician

Mackenzie Bratsch
District Technician

Judy Beetch
Administrative Assistant

Sibley & Nicollet Safe Drinking Water for Private Well Users Program

FREE Well Test Kits



Call or scan for more information

REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (RCPP) FUNDING AVAILABLE

Funding has become available through RCPP for soil health practices. This funding opportunity is countywide and will be distributed on a first come, first served basis. There will be flat rate cost-share available for cover crops (\$45/acre for single species, and \$60/acre for multiple species mix) and Strip Till/No Till (\$35/acre).

BENEATH THE SURFACE

DIGGING DEEPER INTO SOIL HEALTH



When: Wednesday, August 20, 2025
Where: Lafayette Community Center
540 7th Street
Lafayette, MN 56054
Time: 9:00 am - 11:00am

Join Us!

Dig deeper into soil health with Soil Health Specialist Stephanie McLain and Soil Health Coordinator Rebekah Veldboom. We will discuss the logistics of cover crops and no-till/strip-till. Learn from two local producers about timing, cost efficiency, equipment, and services available.

Guest Speakers:

- ✓ Stephanie McLain, NRCS
- ✓ Rebekah Veldboom, South Central TSA
- ✓ Keith Hartmann, Local Producer
- ✓ Mike Anthony, Local Producer

For more information call 507-702-7077 or email tara.obrien@sibleyswcd.org

Drone Seeding DEMO



Friday, August 15th, 2025

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM (drop-ins welcome)

Scan QR code to open google maps!



1.25 miles west of High Island Dairy, then half a mile south on 405th Ave

Interested in learning more about drone seeding cover crops?
Check out our seeding demonstration to watch how it can be done!

For more information: Call 507-232-2550 or email mackenzie.bratsch@nicolletswcd.org

This newsletter is published by the Nicollet Soil and Water Conservation District, 501 7th St., Nicollet, MN 56074 and USDA NRCS, 1160 S. Victory Dr., Mankato, MN 56001. For more information regarding this newsletter, contact (507) 232-2550. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Board Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. Agenda posted on the website one week prior.



Office Hours:
Monday-Friday
8:00am-4:00pm

Natural Resource Conservation Service
Phone: (507) 345-7418

Brandon Berndt
District Conservationist
Jessica Beske
CST Lead



Online version available @ www.nicolletswcd.org
Email info@nicolletswcd.org for updates
"Like us" on the Nicollet Soil & Water Facebook page!



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Lower Minnesota River West
HICWD McLeod Nicollet Sibley



GRANT SUCCESS IN THE LOWER MN RIVER — WEST WATERSHED



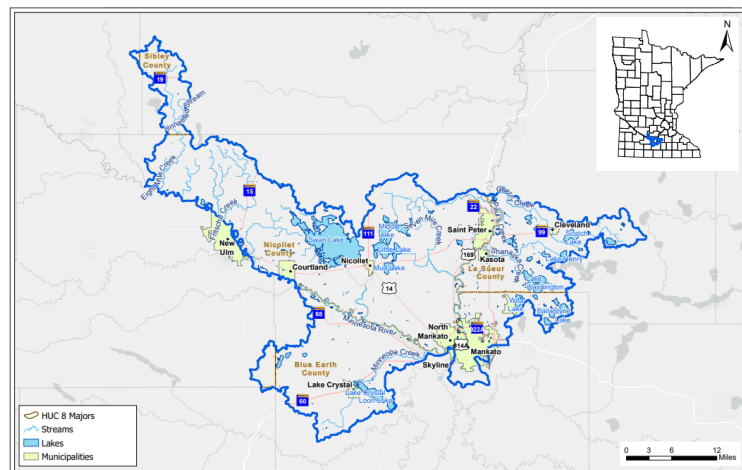
The Lower Minnesota River – West Watershed is celebrating a major milestone in its ongoing efforts to improve water quality. Thanks to the first in a series of grants, local conservationists and landowners are making significant strides toward healthier soil, cleaner water, and a more resilient landscape. Through strong partnerships and a shared vision for conservation, the watershed secured \$821,617 in state funding along with \$149,174.51 in Federal/landowner matches. This grant, funded by the Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment money, focused on high-impact conservation practices across the watershed such as; water and sediment control basins (WASCOBs), grade stabilization structures, cover crops and no-till/strip-till. These practices are designed to impact both water quality and quantity flowing to major tributaries such as High Island Creek, Rush River and the Minnesota River. The grant's success is rooted in strong regional collaboration. The Lower MN River – West Partnership spreads across parts of McLeod, Nicollet, Renville, and Sibley counties. LGU staff and local stakeholders have used a science-based, targeted approach to identify and prioritize projects that provide the best bang for the buck. The One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) framework has helped align funding with the watershed's top resource concerns. "Having this grant allowed us to work directly with landowners and get a lot of quality projects on the ground," said Joel Wurscher, District Manager of Sibley SWCD. "Support from state and federal programs is critical, but it's the commitment from the landowners in the watershed that really drove the success of the grant." With momentum building, the watershed is well-positioned to continue improving water quality through a second state grant. To learn more about cost sharing opportunities, contact your local SWCD office today!



Freshly Constructed WASCOB.

MINNESOTA RIVER — MANKATO ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN

The Minnesota River – Mankato Watershed One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) is well underway. This watershed has representatives from Blue Earth County, Blue Earth Soil and Water Conservation District, Le Sueur County, Le Sueur Soil and Water Conservation District, Nicollet County, Nicollet Soil and Water Conservation District and the cities of: Lake Crystal, Mankato, North Mankato, and St Peter. The watershed just wrapped up the internal review period and is preparing for public review this winter. After public review and approval by the policy committee, the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP) will be submitted to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for approval. Once approved, there will be funding available for both structural and non-structural projects within the watershed. Preference will be given to projects within higher priority areas to ensure progress is made to best address the issues within our watershed.



Please stay tuned for future funding opportunities within our watershed & reach out to Nicollet SWCD with any questions. To stay informed on our county's 1W1Ps, please refer to the links on our website.

NRCS BOUNDARY REORGANIZATON

Minnesota NRCS has reorganized and adjusted team area coverage to best meet our producers needs. As part of this reorganization, Nicollet County is now part of the Mankato Team which includes Blue Earth, Faribault, Le Sueur and Waseca counties. Mankato Customer Service Team Lead is Jessica Beske. She provides oversight and support for the expanded service area. Brandon Berndt will be taking over District Conservationist duties for Nicollet County and can be reached in Mankato as well. Their team is committed to maintain strong relationships with landowners, partners and SWCD staff while continuing to deliver high quality conservation planning and technical assistance in Nicollet County.

Contact:

Jessica Beske

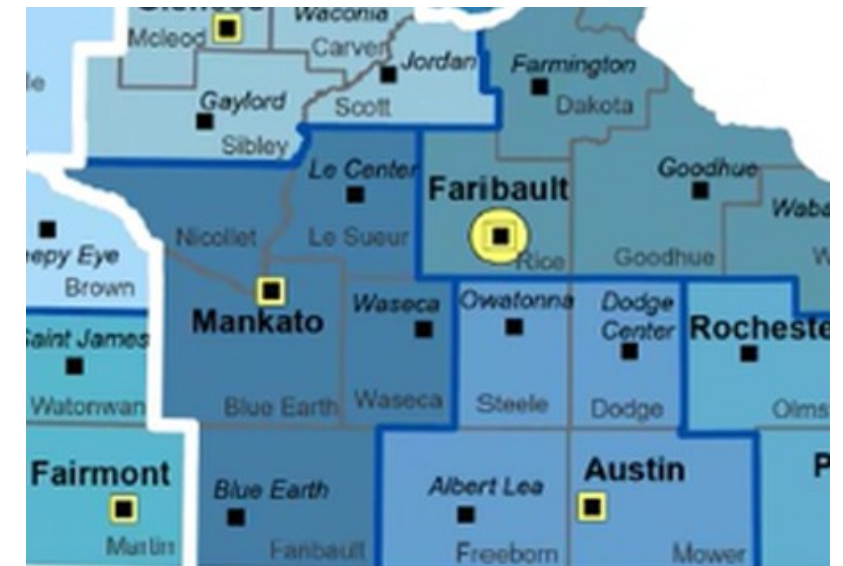
Customer Service Team Lead
Jessica.beske@usda.gov

Brandon Berndt

District Conservationist
Brandon.berndt@usda.gov

Address: 1160 S. Victory Drive
Mankato, MN, 56001

Phone: (507) 345-7418



PEER-TO-PEER MENTOR PROGRAM

Farmers Helping Farmers

NICOLLET
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



CONNECT & LEARN

Are you looking to adopt Cover Crops? No-Till? Strip-Till? Already implemented them, but have questions? The Peer-to-Peer Network offers a unique opportunity to connect with and learn from local farmer mentors for FREE!

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE

Have you integrated soil health practices into your operation? You could be paid to share your experience with fellow farmers.

Join the Network >>>

For more information: (507) 232-2550

AREAS OF MENTORING

- Conservation Tillage
- Cover Crops
- Crop Rotations
- Crop Diversity
- Equipment selection and modification
- Nutrient Management

