

State Grants Available for Feedlot and Septic System Improvement Projects

More than \$4 million in state grants is available to local government units for projects to protect and restore water quality by improving feedlots near impaired waters and replacing subsurface sewage treatment systems (SSTS) that are identified as an imminent health threat. The grant programs were approved by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) on June 23.

"These grants will enable more landowners with feedlots near impaired lakes, rivers or streams to enhance their operations and bring them into compliance," said John Jaschke, BWSR Executive Director.

The application period will be from July 1 to August 14, 2010, and early applications will have a higher priority, Jaschke said. If there are unspent grant dollars after the initial enrollment period, a second enrollment period will be from August 15 to September 30, 2010.

Eligible feedlots must have less than 300 animal units, must be located in an impaired watershed or on riparian land, and address pollution problems. Interested landowners should contact their county feedlot officer or soil and water conservation district as soon as possible. Feedlot projects also require a cash or in-kind cash value match of 25 percent.

The SSTS grants will be targeted to low-income homeowners, and no matching funds are required.

Local governments eligible to apply for the feedlot funds include cities, counties, soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts, watershed management organizations and joint powers boards of these organizations. Counties administering the SSTS program under Minnesota Rule 7080 and cities within those counties are eligible to receive SSTS funds.

Funding sources include \$3 million from the Minnesota Clean Water Fund (one of four funds established by the Clean Water, Wildlife, Cultural Heritage and Natural Areas Amendment in 2008) and \$1.1 million from the state General Fund. In addition, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture will provide Agricultural Best Management Practices Loan Program funds for the feedlot grant program.

Additional information on these grant opportunities is available on the BWSR website:

<http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us>

Application materials will be posted on the BWSR website by July 1, 2010.

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources consists of 20 members, including local government representatives that deliver conservation programs, state agencies, and citizens. Board members are appointed by the governor to four-year terms. The board is the state's administrative agency for soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts, metropolitan watershed management organizations, and county water managers.

The BWSR mission: Improve and protect Minnesota's water and soil resources by working in partnership with local organizations and private landowners.

Kimball Corner Pasture Walk

Area Grazers Will Demonstrate Fence Building Techniques and Discuss Pasture Improvements and Rotational Grazing

Grazers Daniel and Terese Hall will be hosting a field day at Kimball Corner in Jackson County, on July 17, 2010. The tour will start at 10:30 A.M. and feature a demonstration of high tensile fence building, a pasture walk and grazing discussion.

Kimball Corner is located six miles straight east of Bergen on Jackson County Road 29. Lookup 59893 900th Street, Odin, MN on Google Maps and/or signage will be posted in the area.

Here are some of the items you will see and hear about on the tour:

- * Pasture plant species identification
- * Estimating pasture production
- * The ups and downs of bringing abandoned pasture into production
- * On Site fence building during the tour
- * Financial assistance options for implementing rotational grazing through NRCS
- * The role of pastures in the larger landscape

Bring your questions and ideas. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn from experts in the industry and to visit with other farmers/ranchers and see some ideas that may work on your farm/ranch. A noon lunch will be provided. Please pre-register no later than July 15 by calling Rural Advantage at 507-238-5449 or email kim@ruraladvantage.org. Those who pre-register will be eligible for the door prize drawing. Pre-registering ensures we will have adequate lunch available to attendees.

Meeting sponsors include the Three Rivers RC&D Council, the Minnesota Grazing Lands Conservation Association, Rural Advantage, Halls Across the Prairie, Cottonwood Area Rotational Grazing Organization (CARGO), and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

“Ginkgo Propagation” Walk-n-Talk on July 12th

Rural Advantage, Exotic Flora, and University of Minnesota Extension invite you to attend a tour of a Ginkgo propagation farm right here in Minnesota. The Walk-n-Talk will be held July 12, 2010, starting at 1:00pm. This two-hour event is free of charge and no pre-registration is required. This is an outdoor event; please dress accordingly.

The Ginkgo (scientific name: *Ginkgo biloba*; common names: Ginkgo, Maidenhair Tree) is a tree native to Asia which grows readily in difficult situations and is well known for its long life span, its ability to absorb air pollution, and for its health benefits. They can be seen on city boulevards and lawns throughout the United States and grow in Zones 3-8. Ginkgos are also dioecious with separate male and female plants; the male plants are much preferred.

Kun Hung, owner of Exotic Flora, will share his experiences with propagating and growing Ginkgos in the colder climate of Minnesota; he will also lead a tour of his greenhouses and Ginkgo plots. Hung feels that propagating Ginkgos in our climate is easier than it seems and that with more growers, the price of Ginkgo trees will be lowered and use as a shade tree and windbreak tree will increase.

Directions:

31830 770th Avenue – Madelia, MN 56062

From Madelia: From State Hwy 60, take the Co Rd 9 Exit to Madelia. Immediately West of the on/off ramp is Co Rd 13 (Hammond Hwy). Travel about 6 miles West on Co Rd 13. Turn right (North) onto 770th Avenue (please be careful crossing railroad tracks). Exotic Flora / Hung farm will be the first place on the right (East). If you get to the town of Grogan on Co Rd 13, you have gone too far.

MPCA Debuts Easier, Faster Web-Based Complaint System

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) recently launched its new online Complaint Tracker system. Citizens with environmental complaints can now fill out an online form available via the MPCA web site and click to send it directly to a MPCA inspector.

The MPCA receives about 1,000 environmental complaints from citizens each year. Complaints range from seeing a neighbor illegally dumping garbage to spotting a puzzling oily sheen on a lake.

“The MPCA relies on citizens to notify us of potential environmental problems, whether it’s someone dumping a mystery substance into a river or someone running a business without appropriate environmental safeguards and permits,” said Katie Koelfgen, supervisor, MPCA Air Quality Compliance and Enforcement Unit. “Speed and efficiency are important when it comes to protecting the environment. Once the MPCA knows about the problem and investigates, we’re able to take action quickly before further environmental damage is done.”

While citizens can still rely on the phone to report a complaint, the new online system eliminates the need

for messages, phone tag or repeated phone calls for more information. MPCA inspectors find the Complaint Tracker system to be user-friendly and efficient, allowing them to follow up on complaints more quickly.

The MPCA's online Complaint Tracker can be found on the MPCA's homepage at www.pca.state.mn.us. Click on "Report an Environmental Complaint" on the right side of the page.

Citizen Volunteers the Front Line in Protecting Lakes and Rivers

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is seeking volunteers for its Citizen Stream and Citizen Lake Monitoring programs. Volunteers will take to the water this summer to measure the health of Minnesota's rivers and lakes.

Monitoring the 105,000 miles of rivers and more than 12,000 lakes is a massive undertaking that requires the help of Minnesota citizens who care about water quality. Volunteers in the Citizen Stream and Citizen Lake Monitoring programs play a critical role in collecting long-term water quality data. Collecting this data is the first step in protecting or improving water quality throughout Minnesota.

The MPCA uses the information collected by these volunteers to track water quality trends and make decisions on watershed protection and restoration. Volunteer-collected data is the only information that the MPCA and its partners have for some rivers and lakes in the state.

Minnesotans who regularly visit or live on a lake or river are encouraged to join the MPCA's citizen monitoring programs. The MPCA provides equipment and training. The monitoring is easy, fun and provides a new way to learn more about the water.

Volunteers are particularly needed in the following counties: Aitkin, Anoka, Becker, Beltrami, Big Stone, Cass, Chippewa, Clay, Clearwater, Cook, Crow Wing, Dakota, Douglas, Grant, Hennepin, Hubbard, Itasca, Kandiyohi, Koochiching, Lincoln, Lyon, Mahnommen, Meeker, Morrison, Ottertail, Ramsey, Redwood, Renville, St. Louis, Stearns, Traverse, Wabasha, Wadena, Wilkin, Winona, Wright and Yellow Medicine.

More information about the volunteer monitoring programs, along with lists of specific lakes and rivers that need volunteers, is available on the MPCA's Web site at www.pca.state.mn.us/cmp or by calling 1-800-657-3864.

Intensive farming may ease climate change

To many people, modern agriculture, with its industrial-scale farms and reliance on petroleum-based fertilizers, may seem a necessary evil – one that has fed a growing human population while causing untold damage to the environment. But the alternative may be worse, concludes a Stanford University study: a less-productive agricultural system would destroy even more wild land, drive up greenhouse-gas emissions and wreak havoc on diversity. The study's results suggest that further agricultural intensification will play a critical part in addressing global warming.

For the entire article, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/intensivefarming.pdf>

Job Postings:

Fillmore Soil and Water Conservation District

Title: Conservation Technician

Position Location: 900 Washington St. NW, Preston, MN 55965

Application Deadline: 4:00 P.M. Friday, July 2, 2010

Starting Salary Range: \$15.43 per hour depending on experience and qualifications

Benefits: Paid Time Off (PTO), PERA retirement plan, health insurance

Optional Health Savings Account, Health Care Savings Plan, and Deferred Compensation Plan

Position Description: The Conservation Technician performs a variety of technical duties to support the activities of the SWCD. Work involves water quality monitoring and monitoring equipment maintenance, GIS mapping and data management, development of conservation plans for state and federal programs, providing technical information and education to landowners, providing technical assistance for the District's administration of the Wetland Conservation Act, and survey/design of conservation practices. Incumbent may also assist with other duties as assigned.

Required Education and Experience: Requires a minimum of an Associate's degree (AA/AS) or equivalent from two-year college in natural resources management, environmental studies, or related discipline; or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Bachelor's degree is preferred.

Applicants must have strong written, verbal, and communications skills. Applicant must have computer skills, including knowledge of GIS, MS Excel, Word, and Access. Experience in Conservation field and/or agricultural related position is preferred. Applicant must be able to work under minimum supervision, work outdoors in all weather conditions, walk over rough terrain on a regular basis, and be able to lift up to 25 pounds occasionally. Applicant must have a valid driver's license. Wetland Delineator's Certification is a plus.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Coordinates water quality monitoring activities for assessment of streams, edge of field monitoring, and evaluating Best Management Practice (BMP) effectiveness, as well as monitoring equipment installation and maintenance, data collection and analysis and database management, maintaining GIS data and maps, and reporting to the appropriate agencies.
- Implements a variety of programs which may include, but are not limited to, Farm Bill related programs and planning, Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve Program, and State and Federal Cost-Share. Activities include program promotional activities, taking program applications, scheduling, program administration, delivery of materials, collection of data, site visits/assessments, monitoring, ensuring that equipment is properly maintained, documentation and GIS mapping of conservation practices, and reporting to the appropriate agencies.
- Provides assistance with utilizing GIS to make maps and analyze data, assists with the District's administration of the Wetland Conservation Act, and implements conservation practices by providing assistance to landowners for the reduction of soil erosion, planting native grasses, wetland management and restoration, crop rotation, tillage, contour strips, and other district programs.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

Hiring Procedure:

Applicants must submit a completed Fillmore SWCD application, resume, and cover letter for employment. Applications may be obtained at 900 Washington St. NW, Preston MN 55965, or by calling 507-765-3878, Ext 3, or at www.fillmoreswcd.org.

Applications will be evaluated based on the information supplied in the resume and SWCD application to determine if they meet the minimum job qualifications. Top applicants will be selected for interviews.

DNR's Clean Water Program Consultant Position

The Clean Water Program Consultant position exists to help plan, lead, and coordinate the work of the

new combined division of Ecological Resources and Waters that is funded by the Clean Water portion of the Legacy Amendment appropriations. Those duties include working cooperatively with the division's Regional Managers to provide guidance and direction to four Regional Clean Water Specialists and other regional staff who contribute to Clean Water work, to provide guidance, direction, and support to DNR's Clean Water Coordination Committee, to help link and coordinate DNR's work efforts in the Clean Water arena with the other state agencies and local partners participating in that effort, and to support DNR's role on the Governor's Clean Water Council.

For more information visit <http://statejobs.doer.state.mn.us/JobPosting/View?posting=10DNR000416>

Events:

July 9th (Friday) is **On Farm Field Day: Agronomic Management for Alfalfa-Corn Rotations**. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m (12:30 p.m. registration) in Norwood, MN. Learn about potassium management for alfalfa, dairy forage nutrition, weed management and alfalfa stand termination, starter fertilizer and nitrogen cycle. A plot tour will also be included. For more information contact Jeff Coulter at coult077@umn.edu or 612-625-1796 or Nathan Winter at wint0146@umn.edu or at 800-587-0770.

July 12th (Monday) is **Ginkgo Propagation**. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Madelia, MN. A tour of a Ginkgo propagation farm right here in Minnesota. Kun Hung will share his experiences with propagating and growing Ginkgos in the colder climate of Minnesota. Attendees will also be able to see bonsai, lotus and water lily species. For more information contact Jill Sackett at 507-238-5449.

July 15th (Thursday) is **Valuing Ecosystem Services – MN Happenings**. 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Jordan, MN. The event focuses on what we are doing to better link agriculture, the environment, and our communities in the Lower and Middle Minnesota River Watersheds and throughout Minnesota. There will be many speakers and discussions of environmental programs as well. For more information contact Jill Sackett at 507-238-5449.

July 17th (Saturday) is **Kimball Corner Pasture Walk**. 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Ordin, MN. The tour features a demonstration of high tensile fence building, a pasture walk and grazing discussion. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn from experts in the industry and to visit with other farmers/ranchers and see some ideas that may work on your farm/ranch. For more information and/or to preregister by July 15 call Rural Advantage at 507-238-5449 or send an email to kim.ruraladvantage.org

July 19th (Monday) is a **Minnesota River Board Meeting** in New Ulm, MN. Executive Committee meeting at 8:00 a.m. and Full Board meeting at 9:00 a.m.

July 20th (Tuesday) is **Direct Marketing from the Farm**. 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in Belle Plaine, MN. Join Heidi Morlock and Ann Houghton to hear about their experiences with marketing their goods directly from the farm. Other local experts will be available to answer questions on marketing, licensing and much more. For more information contact Jeff Jensen at 507-238-5449.

July 20th (Tuesday) is a **Minnesota River Watershed Alliance Quarterly Meeting** from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Max's Grill (2425 West Lincoln Avenue) in Olivia. For more information visit www.watershedalliance.blogspot.com

July 29th (Thursday) is **Ecosystem Services in the Greater Blue Earth**. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Mountain Lake, MN. A field day devoted to ecosystem services and markets. Attendees will hear about the development of CMM, visit a CMM demonstration site, and learn more about ecosystem services and market-based opportunities in the Greater Blue Earth and Minnesota River Watersheds. For more information contact Brooke Hacker at 507-345-4744 or Jill Sackett at 507-238-5449.

July 30th (Friday) is **Moths at Midnight** from 10:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. Learn about moths and observing

them.

For more information call Molly Stoddard at 218-998-4486 or email her at molly_stoddard@fws.gov

August 3rd, 4th & 5th (Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday) is **Farmfest 2010** from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Gilfillan Estate, Redwood County. For more information visit <http://www.farmshows.com/ffst/index.po>

August 18th (Wednesday) is **RiverNight 2010**. 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Harriet Island in St. Paul, MN. Join us as we honor individuals and groups have achieved great things for their lake or river. Help celebrate Minnesota's spectacular and unique waterscape with great food, great company, and a sunset cruise down the Mississippi. For more information or to request an invitation call 800-515-5253.

August 20th (Friday) is the **Agroecology Summit**. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Windom, MN. Come and enjoy speakers on the topic of "Farming for Ecological Services and Maximum Yield". Stay for lunch and tours. For more information contact Tony Thompson at 507-831-3483.

August 23rd (Monday) is **Cover Crops and Alfalfa Mulch**. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Madison, MN. Attendees will hear an explanation of Fernholz's alfalfa mulch research and will learn about utilizing various cover drops in organic or conventional agriculture systems. For more information contact Jill Sackett at 507-238-5449.

September 3rd & 4th (Friday & Saturday) is **Riverblast 2010** in New Ulm, MN (Center and Front Streets). For more information visit www.riverblast.org

September 10th (Friday) is **Waterfest** at Barsness Pak in Glenwood. An event for 6th grade students from Pope and Stevens Counties. For more information visit <http://www.popeswcd.org/>

September 14th, 16th, 21st, 23rd, 28th & 30th (Tuesdays and Thursdays for two weeks) is **Outdoor Education Days** located in the Bisek Woods near New Prague. For more information visit <http://www.scottswcd.org/>

September 16th (Thursday) is **U of M – Waseca SROC Open House**. 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Waseca, MN. Visit the Rural Advantage booth! Learn more about 3rd crops, the Madelia Model, cover crops and more. For more information contact Jeanette Williams at 507-837-5612.

September 18th (Saturday) is a **Minneopa State Park Prairie Restoration** from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Harry Meyering Center staff and individuals served invite the public to gather, sort, and scatter the seeds of wild flowers and grasses at Minneopa State Park in a project to restore areas of prairie land. For more information go to <http://www.greatermankatoevents.com/event-details.php?id=9307>

September 20th (Monday) is a **Minnesota River Board Meeting** in Montevideo, MN. Executive Committee meeting at 8:00 a.m. and Full Board meeting at 9:00 a.m.

September 22nd (Wednesday) is **Perennials for Biomass**. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Waseca, MN. Attendees will watch short videos of the biomass harvests from fall 2009. We will then drive to the demonstration site from last fall to view the re-growth of the hybrid poplar and hybrid willow after a year of growing time. Landscape position plots will also be available for viewing as well as other close by biomass plots utilizing grass species. For more information contact Dr. Gregg Johnson at 507-837-5614 or Jill Sackett at 507-238-5449.

September 23rd (Thursday) is **Conservation Day** at SWELL located in rural Cyrus. This even is for 5th grade students in Pope and Stevens Counties. For more information visit <http://www.popeswcd.org/>

October 5th & 6th (Tuesday and Wednesday) is a **Nobel Conference - Making Food Good** at Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter. For more information visit <http://gustavus.edu/events/nobelconference/2010/>

November 2010 are the **Prairie Harvest Field Days**. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Waseca, Morris and Windom, MN. Learn about research being done by Dr. Clarence Lehman and colleagues, discuss benefits of using prairie plants for renewable fuels, view the harvest plots, hear about fall 2009 results and observation. For more information contact Jill Sackett at 507-238-5449 or at sacke032@umn.edu

November 15th (Monday) is a **Minnesota River Board Meeting** in Gaylord, MN. Executive Committee meeting at 8:00 a.m. and Full Board meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Check out additional upcoming events and workshops on the Minnesota River Calendar at: <http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/calendar/index.html>

Environmental/Conservational Articles:

U of M researchers build more efficient solar cells (MinnPost). A major obstacle for developers of solar energy has been the fact that most of the energy — 70 percent or more — captured in solar cells escapes before it can be harnessed and used.

Entenza's new ad pushes clean energy agenda (MinnPost). One of the core messages -- perhaps the core message -- of Matt Entenza's campaign for the DFL gov nomination has been that clean energy industries can be the key to economic growth for Minnesota. Now he's made it the topic of his latest TV ad.

PUC approves hydropower contract (New Ulm Journal). The New Ulm Public Utilities Commission approved Tuesday a 10-year contract to purchase power from the Western Area Power Administration, which administers hydroelectric power supplies generated by federal government projects along the Missouri River.

Improved ethanol methods increase energy yield (Star Tribune). Advances in how efficiently corn can be converted to ethanol have led to an improvement in how much energy is squeezed from corn, according to a study released Monday by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Sierra Club blesses Dakota's energy savings (Star Tribune). Dakota County knows its compact fluorescent lights from its incandescents. It not only knows what a carbon footprint is, but is dedicated to reducing it.

Headed north, in search of remnant caribou herd (Pioneer Press). This summer, Rob Kesselring is in search of caribou.

Not a brand of coffee, but a famous group of caribou known as the Beverly herd that roams the tundra of the Canada provinces of Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Bird census will shed light on state's breeding pairs (Star Tribune). A male red-winged blackbird fluttered dominantly around Springbrook Nature Center's marshland on a recent morning, singing "conk-a-reeeee" to the tune of "keep out."

Migrating to disaster (Star Tribune). A time bomb is ticking for Minnesota's loons and many other iconic birds that spend part of the year here before migrating south each fall.

St. Paul, Minneapolis team up to draw 'green' jobs (Pioneer Press). St. Paul and Minneapolis leaders Tuesday announced a new initiative to attract so-called green jobs to the Twin Cities.

Mark Andrew's environmental firm GreenMark takes the field (Star Tribune). Three years into an entrepreneurial foray into the greening of America's professional sports, former politician and communications consultant Mark Andrew is starting to make some green.

Prior Lake battles zebra mussel invasion (Star Tribune). Early last year, a young boy found a group of distinctive shells on the shoreline of Prior Lake.

[At the edge of the Boundary Waters, miners probe for copper, nickel](#) (MPR). A new partnership between an Ely, Minn., company and a mining giant in Chile has spurred progress on copper and nickel exploration in northern Minnesota.

[Cell tower despoils BWCA, conservation group alleges in lawsuit](#) (Pioneer Press). Expand cell phone service in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness? Perhaps.

[Park officials offer 14 options for trail through Edina](#) (Star Tribune). The sprawling, much-loved metro trail system is finally at Edina's door.

[Are electric vehicles the way of the future?](#) (MPR). Four people working to make electric cars a reality gathered recently at the Commonwealth Club of California to discuss the challenges and promises of electric vehicles.

[Video: Are we loving our lakes to death?](#) (Star Tribune). Since 2005, land use boards in Cass and Crow Wing counties allowed hundreds of homebuilders to break rules aimed at preserving the state's most valuable resource, our lakes.

[Forty years later, one wetland is still roadless](#) (MPR). Back when 83-year-old Bill Bryson was growing up on a farm in southern Minnesota, wetland drainage was a way of life.

[Iron Range mine fined for violating air quality permit](#) (MPR). A mine on Minnesota's Iron Range is being penalized for failing to adhere to its air quality permit.

[Efficiency push must be done seriously](#) (Mankato Free Press). How many government employees does it take to screw in a light bulb?

[Klobuchar: BP needs to pay for Minn. wildlife threatened by oil](#) (MPR). U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar met Friday with Twin Cities wildlife experts to talk about ways to try to protect migratory waterfowl from the gulf oil spill.

[Dems try to tie Paulsen to BP](#) (Pioneer Press). Jim Meffert, the Democrat challenging U.S. Rep. Erik Paulsen in the 3rd Congressional District, is trying to associate Paulsen with embattled oil giant BP.

[Here's a new class at U: It's oil spill 101](#) (Star Tribune). An uncappable deep-sea oil gusher will provide a teachable moment 2,000 miles upstream this fall.

[Developer starts work at former Carriage Hills site](#) (Star Tribune). Amid an unprecedented housing slump, one of the biggest U.S. homebuilders has begun its development of a former golf course in Eagan.

[State to ask 3M to pay for environmental damage](#) (MPR). The state will ask 3M to pay for environmental damage due to contamination from the company's operations in Cottage Grove.

[St. Paul awards \\$1M to relieve parking pinch caused by LRT](#) (Star Tribune). The St. Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority on Wednesday approved \$1.3 million in forgivable loans to businesses along University Avenue for fixing up parking lots in anticipation of the Central Corridor light-rail line.

[North Mpls. cyclists feel left out of bike sharing program](#) (MPR). For nearly two weeks, thousands of people have been riding bright green bicycles around parts of Minneapolis.

[Chiller of an idea becomes a killer for lake weeds](#) (Star Tribune). Two years after Eden Prairie's Anderson Lakes were drained in an experiment with natural weed control, rain is finally filling them up again and early results are encouraging.

[Weeds clog Minnesota lakes earlier this year](#) (MPR). The weeds on Lake Calhoun have grown so thick

this year that it almost looks as if the Minneapolis lake has islands.

[190,000-acre land deal leaves legacy of questions](#) (Star Tribune). Michael Kilgore does not want any distractions -- including what he calls baseless accusations of conflict of interest -- when a once-in-a-lifetime deal is finalized next month to preserve nearly 190,000 acres of forest in northern Minnesota at a cost of \$36 million to taxpayers.

[Slow down to speed up saving the environment \(and money\)](#) (Star Tribune). With the Gulf of Mexico in shambles and all the talk about saving energy, where are all the "green" people voluntarily willing to go back down to a speed limit of 55 miles per hour?

[Recklessly ignoring raw milk's danger](#) (Star Tribune). There's a dangerous sense of superiority shared by Minnesotans who buy raw milk and serve it to their families.

[Feedlot owner fined for polluting waterways](#) (Star Tribune). A Todd County cattle farmer who allowed manure-tainted sediment and runoff to pollute nearby streams and rivers was fined \$45,000 by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency this month.

[We're losing our waterways -- just follow the for-sale signs](#) (Star Tribune). What supreme irony. On the front page of the Star Tribune is an article about losing our lakes to ill-conceived development, with an accompanying graphic on our state's impaired lakes and rivers ("Losing our lakes," June 20).

[St. Croix bridge plan evaluation slogged down by Gulf oil leak](#) (Star Tribune). The ongoing oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico will delay a new federal government evaluation of the proposed St. Croix River Crossing bridge.

[Checking on wetland health](#) (Star Tribune). Waders? Check. Traps and nets? Check. Leeches, beetles and mayflies? It's time to find out.

[Report: Ag research too focused on food production](#) - http://www.twincities.com/business/ci_15401044 (St Paul Pioneer Press). American farmers are producing more food than ever, but agricultural research is too focused on increasing production and needs to do better at considering consequences such as water and air pollution, according to a report issued today by a federal advisory group.

If you gave me several million years, there would be nothing that did not grow in beauty if it were surrounded by water. - Jan Erik Vold

The Minnesota River Watershed Alliance (Watershed Alliance) is an organized network of citizens, public agencies, and private organizations dedicated to communicating the benefits of an ecology healthy Minnesota River Watershed to others and are actively working towards its improvement and protection. We meet four times a year and encourage landowners and recreational users of the river to be part of the effort. For more information on the Watershed Alliance:
<http://www.watershedalliance.blogspot.com>

Please register at the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance's bulletin board at <http://mail.mnsu.edu/mailman/listinfo/mrwa> to receive regular updates on what is happening in the Minnesota River Watershed.

Thanks,

Scott

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