



Minnesota River Weekly Update

February 4th, 2014

State and industry officials encourage farmers to sell excess propane supplies

Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner Dave Frederickson and the Minnesota Propane Association are urging Minnesota farmers with surplus propane inventory to consider selling it back to suppliers. The move is another step in addressing the shortage of propane affecting Minnesota farmers and homeowners due to the cold winter weather. Commissioner Frederickson says propane is running critically short for many Minnesotans who need it. "We hope to minimize the impact of the crisis by encouraging farmers to voluntarily make any excess propane they may have in storage available to others," said Frederickson. Minnesota Propane Association Executive Director Roger Leider says some propane suppliers in the state have been contacted by farmers and members of the commercial grain industry who want to help. Commissioner Frederickson says farmers and others with propane inventory for sale should contact their supplier.

MPCA completes 65 enforcement cases in fourth quarter of 2013

MPCA concluded 65 enforcement cases in 41 counties throughout Minnesota during the fourth quarter of 2013. Penalties from all cases totaled under \$630,000. Environmental enforcement investigations often take several months, and in highly complex cases more than a year. Fines issues are targeted to match the environmental harm, economic advantage gained or environmental corrective actions. In addition to these 65 recently completed cases, the MPCA also has 141 ongoing enforcement investigations, 15 of which were opened as new cases during the fourth quarter of 2013. For a complete summary of environmental enforcement actions and news releases can be found on the [MPCA's News Media website](#). For more information on specific enforcement cases contact Stephen Mikkelsen at (218) 316-3887.

Innvaer selected as Ducks Unlimited Conservation Partner of the Year

Stein Innvaer, assistant wildlife manager for the MN DNR in Nicollet has been selected Conservation Partner of the Year by Ducks Unlimited. Innvaer was selected for his strong partnership and dedication to wetlands and waterfowl conservation, said Josh Kavanagh, Ducks Unlimited (DU) regional biologist. Since the inception of DU's Living Lakes initiative in 2004. Innvaer has been integral to the development and implementation of many important shallow lake enhancement projects, including Rice Lake in Faribault County, Sand Lake in Sibley County, and several lakes in Blue Earth County, including Rice Lake, Perch Lake, Cottonwood Lake, Gilfillin Lake and Hobza Lake. Most recently, Innvaer helped DU begin construction of a fish barrier on the outlet of Swan Lake in Nicollet County and developed several other new projects throughout his work area. Kavanagh said DU's partnership with the DNR Nicollet area wildlife office has grown stronger over the years, due in large part to Innvaer's proactive approach to wetland and shallow lake enhancement. Innvaer has worked for DNR Wildlife since 2000, and has served as the assistant area wildlife manager in Nicollet since that time.

EPA approves Cottonwood River bacteria TMDL report

The US EPA has approved the final [bacteria TMDLs report for the Cottonwood River Watershed](#). The report was submitted by the [Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area](#). The 1,313-square-mile Cottonwood River Watershed sections of Lyon, Murray, Cottonwood, Redwood, and Brown counties. Land use is primarily agricultural, accounting for approximately 88% of the available acres. News about the neighboring Redwood River watershed bacteria TMDL report is expected in the near future.

Video series features watershed approach

The MPCA recently released a [four-part series on the "Watershed Approach,"](#) a relatively new process for gauging the health of Minnesota's waters and taking action to protect or restore them. The series covers:

- Part 1: What is a watershed?
- Part 2: How we got where are you
- Part 3: The watershed approach and 10-year cycle
- Part 4: Getting involved in the process

This series is a great tool for introducing citizens and volunteers to local watershed work, for opening public meetings on watershed projects or for sharing with students.

Watershed report highlights efforts to reduce pollution

The MPCA recently released the [2013 Minnesota Watershed Achievements Report](#), which highlights 19 completed projects, 110 ongoing projects and 16 new projects designed to reduce nonpoint source pollution (storm sewers, failing septic systems, construction site runoff, agriculture runoff, lawns, etc.) by highlighting newly awarded and active projects underway as well as successes achieved from projects completed each year for both the state Clean Water Partnership and federal Section 319 programs. Over the past 16 years, Minnesotans reported implementing an estimated 7,813 BMPs, resulting in these estimated reductions in nonpoint source pollution:

- Soil loss reduction of 22,983 tons per year
- Sediment reduction of 128, 296 tons per year
- Phosphorus reduction of 328,279 pounds per year
- Nitrogen reduction of 657,102 pounds per year

For more information about nonpoint pollutions and efforts to reduce it visit the [MPCA's website](#).

ARTICLES

[Fearing they'll 'be next,' industries unite against Obama's climate change rules](#)
Ben Goad, Jan. 30, The Hill

[Houston County could permanently ban new frac sand mining](#)
Elizabeth Dunbar, Jan. 30, MPR News

A coalition of industry heavyweights on Thursday launched what its calling a do-or-die campaign to influence the regulation of U.S. energy production.

Officials in Houston County in southeastern Minnesota are considering permanently banning new frac sand mining. County commissioners this week unanimously extended a moratorium on new sand mining through March 2015.

University of Minnesota researchers confirm new invasive fruit fly in Minn.

Jan. 30, Star Tribune

A single adult female known as the African fig fly was discovered in a bait trap in September. The trap was located in Hastings and was being used for annual monitoring of another invasive fruit fly, the spotted wing Drisophila.

Getting the details behind copper-nickel mining in Minnesota

Renee Richardson, Jan. 30, Brainerd Dispatch

Mining for copper and nickel offers to create jobs, but can it be done without causing environmental harm affecting generations of Minnesotans?

Hennepin County to push Minneapolis to begin curbside organic waste collection

Elizabeth Dunbar, Jan. 31, MPR News

Hennepin County officials plan to drop their bid to burn more garbage at the Hennepin Energy and Recovery Center in favor of pushing the city of Minneapolis to Collect resident's organic waste.

Does wolf hunt reduce livestock losses? Maybe not, lawmakers are told

Ron Meador, Jan. 31, MinnPost

This week's legislative hearing on wolf management by the MN DNR roamed all over the landscape, topically and philosophically, but for me the most interesting portions centered on "depredation conflicts."

Anne Sayers: We need to tackle water problems head on

Anne Sayers, Feb. 1, The Cap Times

"If you aren't at the table, you'll be on the menu." Never has this old saying been truer than when it comes to our current Wisconsin Legislature. And unfortunately, it's our land, air and water that are on the table.

Toolkit for farmland owners transitioning to the next generation now available

Feb. 3, AgriNews

Owners of farmland who are looking to transition their enterprise to the next generation of farmers can now turn to the Farm Transitions Toolkit, a comprehensive resource released today by the Land Stewardship Project (LSP) and the Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture (MISA).

Wind industry carries momentum into 2014 – will it last?

Dan Haugen, Feb. 3, Midwest Energy News

Although a key federal tax credit expired at the end of 2013, the U.S. wind industry is still going strong. At least for now. The American Windy Energy Association (AWEA) released its quarterly market report last week, which reported a record-breaking finish to 2013 as companies raced to qualify for the expiring federal production tax credit.

USACE to invite contractors for Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers dredging

Feb. 4, DredgingToday.com

The USACE, St. Paul District, has introduced a plan to issue an Invitation for Bid for mechanical dredging services on the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri.

EVENTS

Feb. 3 - Feb. 9

2014 Third Crop Producer Meetings, Marketing
Monday, February 3, 2014 @ 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Location: Knights of Columbus Hall, 920 E. 10th St., Fairmont, MN

Brief Description:

Agenda:

10:00 a.m. - Hazelnut Update (Jeff Jensen, Trees Forever)

11:00 a.m. - FEAST - MN's First Local Foods Show (Jan Joannides,

Renewing the Countryside)
12:00 p.m. - Lunch
1:00 p.m. - MVAC Food Hub - Building a Local Food System (Jim Gehrke, MN Valley Action Council)
1:30 p.m. - Elderberry Production in MN (Christopher Patton, MN Elderberry Cooperative)
2:30 p.m. - High Tunnel Business Plans & Enterprise Budgets (Karl Ford, UMN)

It is our hope that the topics and speakers of the 2014 Third Crop Producer Meetings will increase your interest and knowledge of third crops. We hope you will be able to join us for at least one of the four meetings. As always, if you need information regarding third crop production or market opportunities, please contact our office at (507) 238-5449.

SWROC's 2014 Winter Crops & Soils Days

Tuesday, February 4 - Thursday, February 6, 2014 @ 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location:

Tuesday - Blue Mound Banquet Center in Luverne, MN
Wednesday - Southwest Research and Outreach Center (SWROC), Lamberton, MN
Thursday - American Legion in Granite Falls, MN

Brief Description: Mark your calendars for the SWROC's 2014 Winter Crops and Soils Days! Winter Crops and Soils Days will be held at three locations. All locations will begin with registration at 9 a.m. with the program starting at 9:30 a.m. Speakers will include Dave Bau, Dr. Jeff Coulter, Tom Hoverstad, Dr. Paulo Pagliari, Dr. Mark Seeley (Granite Falls), Dr. Jeff Strock, Dr. Kelly Tillman, and Dr. Dennis Todey (Luverne Meeting and Lamberton). The program's registration fee is \$25 and includes handouts and lunch. Pre-registration is required and due Wednesday Jan. 29. A registration form is included on the Winter Crops and Soils Day Brochure.

For additional information call the SWROC at (507) 752-7372

Water Sustainability: Planning for Future Generations

Wednesday, February 5, 2014 @ 12-2 p.m.

Location: Ostrander Auditorium, Minnesota State University, Mankato
Brief Description: Dr. Deborah Swackhamer, Professor of Science, Technology, and Public Policy and Co-Director of the Water Resources Center at the University of Minnesota, will give a talk, "Water Sustainability: Planning for Future Generations," at Minnesota State University, Mankato in Ostrander Auditorium in the Centennial Student Union. Dr. Swackhamer is the lead author of the Minnesota Water Sustainability Framework, a first-ever, comprehensive report commissioned by the 2009 Minnesota Legislature and designed to protect and preserve Minnesota lakes, rivers and groundwater for the 21st century and beyond. This event is free and open to the public. Community members who attend can receive a free parking pass for the university pay lot at the talk.

For more information contact [Louis Schwartzkopf](#) or call (507) 387-4811 or [Monika Antonelli](#) or call (507) 389-2507.

Water Policy and Management

Wednesday, February 5, 2014 @ 6:30-8 p.m.

Location: Wildwood Branch-Washington County Library, Mahtomedi, MN
Brief Description: The trends of consistently lowering lake levels and drawing from river water to aid drought-burdened areas force us Minnesotans to face the troubling issue of where Minnesota's beloved, iconic resource is going and how to maintain it better. Join Izaak Walton League members and concerned residents for a relevant discussion on recently passed water policy legislation, and upcoming water management legislation changes. At this discussion you can learn much about water management and weigh in with your thoughts. This is a free and open event. There will be light refreshments provided.

For more information on the email [John Siekmeier](#).

Running on Empty? Managing Minnesota's Water

Wednesday, February 5, 2014 @ 6:30-8 p.m.

Location: Wildwood Branch-Washington County Library, Mahtomedi, MN
Brief Description: The trends of consistently lowering lake levels and drawing from river water to aid drought-burdened areas force us Minnesotans to face the troubling issue of where Minnesota's beloved, iconic resource is going and how to maintain it better. Join Izaak Walton League members and concerned residents for a relevant discussion on recently passed water policy legislation, and upcoming water management legislation changes. At this discussion you can learn much about water management and weigh in with your thoughts. This is a free and open event. There will be light refreshments.

For more information contact [John Siekmeier](#).

13th Annual Road Salt Symposium

Thursday, February 6, 2014

Location: University of MN Landscape Arboretum, Chaska, MN
Brief Description: The 13th Annual Road Salt Symposium will feature information about the current state of chloride in MN waters. Learn about innovative tools and new methods to maintain safe roads while repairing out waters and sustaining our resources. If your transportation department is looking for solutions, your waterways are threatened by chloride, you want to educate your citizens, or you are looking to do your part to protect our waters- you won't want to miss this symposium!

Agenda highlights include:

- Keynote features success stories from a few "teachable moments" from local transportation departments
- Virginia's initiative to recycle salt runoff
- New Hampshire's new liability legislation for certified salt applicators and property owners
- Update on the current state of chloride in Metro area waters
- Super-sized winter maintenance equipment
- New findings on chloride in our groundwater
- 2014 Environmental Leadership Award
- Attendees earn Roach Scholar Credits

Please register by Feb. 1, 2014. Cost for the day is \$125 (\$85 seniors and students) which includes a continental breakfast and buffet lunch. Entrance into the Arboretum is complimentary.

For more information and to register visit the [Annual Road Salt Symposium](#) webpage

Documentary Film Series - Jiro Dreams of Sushi

Thursday, February 6, 2014 @ 7 p.m.

Location: Treaty Site History Center
Brief Description: Please join us for the 2013-14 documentary film series. A partnership between St Peter Community and Family Education and the Nicollet County Historical Society, films are screened the first Thursday of every month at 7p.m. at the Treaty Site History Center, through May. JIRO DREAMS OF SUSHI is the story of 85-year old Jiro Ono, considered by many to be the world's greatest sushi chef. He is the proprietor of Sukiyaabashi Jiro, a 10-seat, sushi-only restaurant inauspiciously located in a Tokyo subway station. Despite its humble appearances, it is the first restaurant of its kind to be awarded a prestigious three-star Michelin Guide rating, and sushi lovers from around the globe make repeated pilgrimage, calling months in advance and shelling out top dollar for a coveted seat at Jiro's sushi bar. Admission to the film series is free for all.

For more information on the event contact the NCHS at (507) 934-2160 or email museum@nchsmn.org.

Historic Building Snowshoe Hike

Saturday, February 8, 2014 @ 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Location: Flandrau State Park, New Ulm, MN

Brief Description: Come out to Flandrau State Park for two snowshoe hikes on Feb. 8 at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Join Scott Kudelka, Minneopa Area Naturalist to learn about snowshoeing and some of the historical features found at Flandrau. At 10 a.m. there will be an hour and half hike on the park's trails to talk about the history of snowshoeing, unique characteristics of Flandrau and animal life in winter. At 1 p.m. we will take a snowshoe hike to look at some of the historical features built by the Civilian Conservation Corps and Works Progress Administration in the 1930's during the Great Depression. These two groups are responsible for some of the beautiful and unique buildings found at Flandrau State Park including the Beach House and Caretaker's Residence. Please meet at the park's Beach House. Snowshoes can be rented at the park office. Please contact them directly at (507) 233-8900. There is no charge to attend this event, but vehicles are required to have a permit (\$5/day or \$25/year) which can be purchased at the park.

For more information contact [Scott Kudelka](#) (507) 384-8890

Are you thirsty? A water study and celebration of Water
Saturday, February 8, 2014 @ 1-4 p.m.

Location: First United Methodist Church, Sartell, MN

Brief Description: Water is at the center of all life, but it is at risk - water quality, water cycle changes, water rights issues, world shortages, pollution and chemical spills, and the effects of mining. Minnesota lakes and river waters are risking particular peril with regard to these issues. Attend this thoughtful and engaging event discuss these topics: where we get ours and how much is available; tap v. bottled water; the water cycle; world shortages of clean drinking water. This event features *In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre*, and Douglas Wood, national best-selling children's author and naturalist.

This event is free, with a suggested donation of \$5. It is open to all ages and includes a childcare center for children under five years old. Register online [here](#) or call (320) 251-0804.

Snowshoeing the Gneiss SNA with Don Robertson
Saturday, February 8, 2014 @ 1-3 p.m.

Location: Yellow Medicine County Historical Society Museum

Brief Description: The Gneiss Outcrops Scientific Natural Area (SNA), formed approximately 3.6 billion years ago, are among the oldest known rock on the earth's surface. This SNA's significance steadily increases as other outcrops along the Minnesota River are exploited for granite mining, housing and recreational use. These pyramid outcrops along the Glacial River Warren Valley rise to about 50 feet above the general levels of the land, revealing parallel bands of gneisses. Granite gneiss is light-colored, pink to red; the less common hornblended-pyroxene gneiss is darker, ranging from gray to black. This afternoon trip is lead by CURE board member Don Robertson. Robertson has lived most of his life in the Minnesota River Valley and is a certified Master Naturalist. Participants will need to register in advance, space is limited. A limited amount of snowshoes are available if you don't have a pair to use. Let us know if you need a pair when registering. The outing is ending weather conditions. Free for CURE members and \$5 for non-members.

For more information contact [Peg](#) or call Dixie 1(877) 269-2873.

Feb. 10 - Feb. 16

Crop Nutrient Management Conference
Tuesday, February 11, 2014 @ 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location: Verizon Wireless Center, Mankato, MN

Brief Description: Fertilizer and livestock manure are important assets to agricultural production in Minnesota. Managing nutrients efficiently reduces the financial and environmental risks faced by crop producers. At the conference crop producers and ag professionals will hear about the latest nutrient management research and technologies that promote nutrient efficiency and protect water quality. CCA credit will be available.

Due to support of financial sponsors, there is no registration fee for this event.

Registration is requested, however, for planning purposes.

For more information on sessions and to register visit [Crop Nutrient Management Conference](#) page on MDA's site

Our water in a Changing World -- Climate Change and the Urban Watershed
Thursday, February 13, 2014 @ 7-8:30 p.m.

Location: Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Paul

Brief Description: Please join FMR and the Science Museum as Patrick Hamilton, Director of the Global Change Initiatives Program at the Science Museum of Minnesota, and Sarah Hobbie, professor of Ecology, Evolution and Biology at the U of M, discuss the intersection of climate change and local water quality issues. Mr. Hamilton and Prof. Hobbie will present you with a wealth of fascinating information, spanning topics from changes in growing seasons and urban heat islands, to new stormwater management issues and tree species suitable for the future. This event is free, but registration is required.

For more information and a link for registration visit the [Friends of the Mississippi River website](#).

Restorative Agriculture: A Way Forward
Thursday, February 13, 2014 @ 6 p.m.

Location: Bluestem Bar, 2610 Lyndale Ave S, Minneapolis, MN

Brief Description: Join Bluestem Bar as they will be hosting the first in its Salon Series with authors Paula Westmoreland and Lansing Shepard, authors of *This Perennial Land* to explore restoring sustainability and resiliency in our food system. The theme of the salon is *Not the Rural Minnesota You Used to Know*. Westmoreland and Shepard will discuss restorative agriculture and the quiet revolution happening on the land. With the audience, they will explore current trends and how conditions are changing. Each evening includes a farm-to-table meal with organic, vegan or gluten-free selections from French Meadow Bakery and Café and Bluestem Bar's menu. \$24 for dinner or \$40 for dinner and signed copy of book.

For more information contact [Katherine](#) or call (612) 767-3443.

Feb. 17 - Feb. 23

Conservation Tillage Conference

Tuesday, February 18 - Wednesday, February 19, 2014

Location: Holiday Inn and Suites, St. Cloud, MN

Brief Description: Conservation tillage is the focus of the ninth annual University of Minnesota Extension Conservation Tillage Conference and trade show. This conference emphasizes proven farm experience and applied science. Straight from the trenches, learn how heavier, colder soils aren't necessarily the challenge they're made out to be. And, what have long-time no-tillers and reduced-tillage farmers learned that could spare you the same lessons? Conference highlights include: weed species shifts and control; nutrient management in high-residue systems; strip till strategies straight from veteran farmer practitioners; subsurface drainage options; proven crop strategies for your system to anchor nutrients, manage soil moisture extremes and provide free nitrogen; soil health improvements with reduced till systems; climate trends and soil resiliency; vendor sessions: learn about new equipment, products and technology.

For more information on featured speakers, program agenda and the trade show visit the [9th Annual Conservation Tillage Conference website](#) or email [Jodi DeJong-Hughes](#) or call (320) 815-4112

Minnesota's Waters: Status & Challenges
Wednesday, February 19, 2014 @ 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Location: Webinar

Brief Description: Dr. Deborah Swackhammer, Professor of Science, Technology and Public Policy in the Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs and Co-Director of the University of Minnesota Water Resources Center.

For more information visit the [Minnesota Association of SWCDs website](#).

An Evening with Teddy Roosevelt, America's Conservationist President

Saturday, February 22, 2014 @ 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Location: Springbrook Nature Center, Fridley, MN

Brief Description: Explore America's outdoor heritage with Adam Lindquist's portrayal of Teddy Roosevelt as he brings to life the origins of the conservation movement in America. During his presidency, Roosevelt created the US Forest Service, established 51 federal bird reservations, 150 national forests, and 5 national forests, protecting nearly 230 million acres of land. Discover the amazing story of how our 26th president came to be known as the "conservationist president," leaving a legacy of environmental protection that remains to this day. Springbrook will begin a series of programs featuring a lively and educational presentation followed by a casual catered meal. The presentations are geared towards an adult audience interest in nature, environmental issues, conservation and outdoor heritage. The evening presentations will be followed by a meal where attendees can gather with friends, family and others that share their passion for the outdoors.

For more information and to pre-register call the nature center at (763) 572-3588.

Five Senses Hike

Sunday, February 22, 2014 @ 7-8 p.m.

Location: Minneopa State Park

Brief Description: Go stomping through the snow at Minneopa State Park on a Five Senses Snowshoe Hike. We will go for a hike through the woods and along the Minneopa Creek Valley down to the confluence with the Minnesota River using no artificial light source. On the route we will stop a number of times to talk about how we use our five different senses (hearing, taste, sight, touch and smell). We will be out for about an hour and please dress appropriately. Night present a whole new world to most of us. Very few of us spend extended periods of time in the dark and some people may even become fearful to the night. As humans we are constantly trying to reduce the fun of being outside after dark. Please meet at the group campground area on the campground site of Minneopa State Park. Snow shoes can be rented at the park by calling (507) 389-5464 or stopping at the office.

For more information email [Scott Kudelka](#) or call (507) 384-8890

Managing the Uncertainty of Specialty Crops

Sunday, February 23, 2014 @ 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Location: South Central College, North Mankato, MN

Brief Description: As with other businesses, fruit and vegetable growers must deal with changing consumer demands and expectations, but fruit and vegetable producers must also work around unpredictable weather conditions, changing insect pests and increased disease pressure. In this workshop led by Thaddeus McCamant, Specialty Crops Instructor with Central Lakes College, growers will learn key decision making components to start or expand their business. Topics included in this day long workshop are:

- Marketing issues: recent changes in consumer demand for direct market fruit and vegetables
- A work calendar for the growing season: Paying attention to every step when growing your crop in order to reach your financial goal
- Investment in equipment: What is the return on investment for different types of equipment?
- How to avoid burnout: Tales from the field

*Registered farms will received college credit for this workshop

For information and to register visit the [Managing Uncertainty of Specialty Crops events page](#). Other dates are available Feb. 9, 2014 in Brainerd, MN and Feb. 16 in Anoka, MN.

Feb. 24 - Mar. 2

2014 3rd Crop Producer Meetings: Scaling Up

Monday, February 24, 2014 @ 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location: Knights of Columbus Hall, 920 E. 10th St., Fairmont, MN

Brief Description:

Agenda:

9:30 a.m. - Registration and coffee

10 a.m. - Growing Grapes in Southern MN; Leslie Curry, Lone Oak Tree Vineyard -Amboy

10:30 a.m. - Taking the High Row (struggles & successes in running a CSA); Judy Harder, Jubilee Fruits & Vegetables - Mountain lake

11:30 a.m. - Produce Locker Concept; Linda Meschke, Rural Advantage

Noon - Lunch

1 p.m. - Selling Successfully at Farmer's Markets; Kathy Zeman, MN Farmer's Market Association

2 p.m. - Selling Local Foods to Institutions: What are they looking for? Ryan Pesch, University of Minnesota Extension

3 p.m. Growing Greens in Winter - Deep Winter Producer's Association; David Fleugel, SW Regional Sustainable Development Partnership - Morris

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Innovations in Cover Cropping

Thursday, February 24, 2014 @ 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Location: Chatfield Lutheran Church, 304 Fillmore St. SE, Chatfield, MN

Brief Description: Cover crops take the spotlight during a workshop starting at 10 a.m. and ending in a light lunch at the Chatfield Lutheran Church. "Innovations in cover cropping" will focus on soil building, livestock feed, insurance issues, and grazing possibilities of cover crops with Canton dairy grazier Olaf Haugan, Sarah Carlson of Practical Farmers of Iowa, and Minnesota grazing specialists John Zinn of NRCS and Dean Thomas, Fillmore County SWCD. There will be a light lunch, a free-will donation will be welcome.

For more information contact LSP's David Rosmann at (507) 523-3366.

Central Minnesota Farm Show

Tuesday, February 25 - Thursday, February 27, 2014

Location: River's Edge Convention Center, 10 South 4th Avenue, St. Cloud, MN

Brief Description: The Central Minnesota Farm Show is held annually in St. Cloud. The show begins the last Tuesday in February and runs for three days. Sponsored and organized by the Farm Show Committee of the St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce, the show boasts over 300 booths and 180 exhibitors. Attendees come from all over the state to meet with vendors who represent businesses in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and the Dakotas. Exhibits are expected to be open with staff on the premises each day from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. The Show is free and open to the public. 10% of the annual revenue from the Show is used to support agriculture in Central Minnesota, such as Dairy Day held in Sauk Center, area seminars and expo's.

For more information on the event call (320) 251-2940.

Mar. 3 - Mar. 9

2014 3rd Crop Producer Meetings: 3rd Crop Production

Monday, March 3, 2014 @ 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Location: Knights of Columbus Hall, 920 E. 10th St., Fairmont, MN

Brief Description:

Agenda:

9:30 a.m. - Registration and coffee

11 a.m. - Growing Local Fruit; Thaddeus McCamant, Specialty Crops Management - Central Lakes College - Staples

Noon - Lunch

1 p.m. - Wearing Many Hats: Production & Marketing at Living Song Farms & MN River Garlic Festival; Jerry Ford, MN Garlic Festival

2 p.m. - Building a Resilient Food System; Reginaldo Haslett-Marroquin, Main Street Project - Northfield

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Mar. 10 - Mar. 16

Annual Ag Show

Tuesday, March 11 - Wednesday, March 14, 2014

Location: Civic Center in Willmar, MN

Brief Description: The Willmar Ag Show, sponsored by the West Central Ag Sales Association, features all agriculture exhibits including crop inputs, material handling, machinery, building, swine, and dairy equipment as well as free seminars.

For more information on the event or to register as an Ag Show exhibitor email the [West Central Ag Sales Association](#) or call (320) 231-1470. To learn about West Central Ag Sales Association visit their [website](#).

Building from Success: New Models Emerging

Thursday, February 13, 2014 @ 6 p.m.

Location: Bluestem Bar, 2610 Lyndale Ave S, Minneapolis, MN

Brief Description: Join Bluestem Bar as they will be hosting the first in its Salon Series with authors Paula Westmoreland and Lansing Shepard, authors of *This Perennial Land* to explore restoring sustainability and resiliency in our food system. The theme of the salon is *Not the Rural Minnesota You Used to Know*. Westmoreland and Shepard will discuss restorative agriculture and the quiet revolution happening on the land. With the audience, they will explore current trends and how conditions are changing. Each evening includes a farm-to-table meal with organic, vegan or gluten-free selections from French Meadow Bakery and Café and Bluestem Bar's menu. \$24 for dinner or \$40 for dinner and signed copy of book.

For more information contact [Katherine](#) or call (612) 767-3443.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

ASSISTANT REGIONAL WILDLIFE MANAGER	
Department:	Fish & Wildlife/Region 3, MN DNR
Closing Date:	February 6, 2014
Location(s):	St. Paul, MN
Who May Apply:	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities:	This position exists to serve and assist the citizens of Minnesota to conserve, manage and use their wildlife, public land and water resources by leading, directing and supervising the wildlife staff and programs in the Central Region (23 County area extending from the North Morrison County line to Iowa along the Mississippi drainage where approximately 70% of the state's 5.3 million residents live). This position will assist the Regional Wildlife Manager with the administration, development, coordination, integration and implementation of Section of Wildlife Programs and policies; directly supervise the Area Wildlife Managers at Little Falls, Sauk Rapids, Cambridge, and the Mille Lacs major unit; supervise the Roving Habitat

Crew Leader; supervise the Habitat Contract Administrator; and serve as Acting Regional Wildlife Manager, as assigned.

Core Activities

- Supervision: Supervises supervisors, professional, and technical staff in part of the Region, including hiring, performance evaluation, training, work direction, and applying appropriate discipline.
- Administration: Direct, implement, and evaluate budgets and operational plans at the regional level in accordance with departmental, divisional, and regional goals.
- Resource Protection: Direct, administer, and promote the coordination and integration of Wildlife programs for land acquisition and habitat protection for wildlife species.
- Wildlife Habitat Management: Direct and monitor habitat enhancement, reviewing applications/permits, and collaborating on inter-divisional projects, reporting violations, and testifying as an expert at hearings.
- Customer Service: Direct and monitor information efforts by serving as Wildlife Regional representative, accepting and soliciting interviews from the media, responding to public inquiries, monitoring subordinate's public responses, informing local legislators of projects, assisting Regional Manager with public input meetings for season setting, and collaborating on intra/inter-agency projects. Promote and establish community partnerships with citizens, private organizations, and other DNR disciplines to preserve, restore, and manage ecosystems.

For more information and how to apply visit www.career.state.mn.us Posting # 14DNR0000859.

FIELD HYDROGEOLOGIST	
Department:	Ecological & Water Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Closing Date:	February 6, 2014
Location(s):	St. Paul, MN
Who May Apply:	Only current MN DNR employees
Responsibilities:	This position exists to assist with hydrogeological investigations to support county geologic atlas development. In particular, this position will carry out or assist with field work in the following areas: water chemistry sampling, geophysics, surveying and ground water level monitoring. This position may also assist other work units or work groups to carry out field work such as well installation and maintenance. This position will process and evaluate the data collected in the field, enter data in appropriate electronic formats, and create reports as directed. For more information and how to apply visit www.career.state.mn.us Posting # 14DNR000060.

MAPPING PROJECT HYDROLOGIST	
Department:	Ecological & Water Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Closing Date:	February 6, 2014

Location(s):	St. Paul, MN
Who May Apply:	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities:	<p>This position exists to provide technical analysis and interpretation of groundwater and geologic data and to prepare maps, map plates, reports, and other materials illustrating hydrogeologic characteristics and geologic sensitivity to pollution.</p> <p>The mapping project hydrologist will design and carry out field data collection activities to characterize the hydrogeology and geologic sensitivity of a project area. The field data collection will include sampling water wells for chemical and isotope analysis, assisting geophysical data collection under the direction of program geophysics staff, and acquiring other field data in support of atlas projects. The hydrologist will research, compile, plot, and analyze data from a variety of sources using appropriate methods, tools, and software and use the data collected and analyzed to develop interpretive maps, map plates, technical reports, and other materials for publication.</p> <p>This position will require significant travel to complete field data collection tasks. Overnight travel of up to four consecutive days extending over several weeks will be required periodically throughout the year. Extended work days and some weekend work may be required.</p> <p>For more information and how to apply visit www.career.state.mn.us Posting # 14DNR000061.</p>

LE SUEUR WATERSHED COORDINATOR

Department:	Blue Earth County SWCD
Closing Date:	February 7, 2014
Location(s):	Mankato, MN
Who May Apply:	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities:	<p>The LeSueur Watershed Coordinator will work directly with landowners to assist with the coordination and implementation of conservation programs such as Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) and State Cost Share.</p> <p>Coordinate and assist with educational programs and presentations. Assist other staff with the development of grant applications to further facilitate implementation of water quality projects. This position will have a special focus on resource concerns in the LeSueur River Watershed and will handle landowner contacts on a daily basis.</p> <p>For more information and how to apply visit Blue Earth SWCD's website.</p>

NR SPECIALIST - ECOLOGICAL SVCS

Department:	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Closing Date:	February 11, 2014
Location(s):	Fergus Falls, MN
Who May Apply:	Only current MN DNR employees

Responsibilities:

DURING FIELD PERMIT SEASON, APPROXIMATELY APRIL TO SEPTEMBER, WORK HOURS MAY ROUTINELY REQUIRE LONGER WORK DAYS.

This position will assist the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Specialist -Senior for the Division of Ecological and Water Resources Northwest Region. The incumbent will conduct or assist with assessments of aquatic ecosystems; analyze and communicate assessment results; and provide technical assistance involving invasive species prevention and management activities to DNR programs and to our customers.

Job duties include:

- Provide technical assistance to DNR programs and staff whose work responsibilities involve prevention and management activities related to aquatic invasive species.
- Monitor populations of selected aquatic invasive species in the region, tabulate collected data, and provide data to central database and for program reports.
- Manage populations of selected harmful invasive species in order to help prevent their spread within the state, and to reduce the impact of those species on water recreation, industry, and natural ecosystems.
- Assist in the preparation and delivery of invasive species information and public awareness efforts to educate and inform the public so that they may help prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species. This includes being an information clearinghouse for the region related to prevention and management of invasive species

For more information visit www.career.state.mn.us posting # 14DNR000067.

HYDROLOGIST

Department:

Minnesota Department of Health

Closing Date:

February 13, 2014

Location(s):

St Paul, MN

Who May Apply:

All qualified job seekers

Responsibilities:

This position is located in the Source Water Protection (SWP) Unit of the Drinking Water Protection (DWP) Section within the Environmental Health (EH) Division.

This position exists to assist with special projects designed to determine the extent of contamination in groundwater supplies used for drinking and to provide guidance to Department staff for protecting drinking water sources.

Job responsibilities include:

- Designing technical studies to collect and interpret water quality data;
- Supporting state, county, and local efforts to understand water quality;
- Interpreting and presenting groundwater quality data so it can be understood by decision makers and the general public; and,
- Providing environmental review for projects that may affect wellhead protection areas.

For more information visit www.career.state.mn.us posting # 14HEAL000032

SUMMER INTERN

Department:	Heron Lake Watershed District
Closing Date:	February 17, 2014
Location(s):	Heron Lake, MN
Who May Apply:	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities:	<p>This position is that of Summer Intern for the Heron Lake Watershed District (HLWD) and the North Heron Lake Game Producers Association (NHLGPA) in the counties of Nobles, Jackson, Murray, and Cottonwood. It provides assistance in all aspects of water quality improvement efforts outlined in grant work plans in a manner consistent with the intent of the HLWD Overall Plan. The individual holding this position is an employee of HLWD.</p> <p>MAJOR DUTIES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor water quality at select stream and lake sites. 2. Contact landowners and conduct best management practices site inspections. 3. Perform annual artificial nest inspection and survey. 4. Complete daily journal of activities. 5. Bi-monthly activity report. Provide newsletter articles as needed. 6. Develop detailed report of projects and activities completed, with photographs. Computer and writing skills are necessary. 7. Assist with goose banding in cooperation with Department of Natural Resources staff. 8. Water level readings – Duck Lake, South Heron Lake, and East and West Graham. 9. Organize all digital photos by project type. 10. Assist HLWD staff with rain garden and shoreline project installation. 11. Assist Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District (O-OWD) staff with water quality and flow monitoring within the O-OWD. 12. Assist Natural Resources Conservation Service staff with project design and installation. 13. Attend HLWD and NHLGPA meetings. 14. Present summary of summer activities at August board meeting. 15. Complete evaluations: self, program, and personnel. 16. Answer telephone calls. 17. Work with the public in a polite and courteous manner. 18. Other duties as assigned. <p>For a complete job description and application form, please contact Jan Voit at (507) 793-2462, or visit www.hlwdonline.org</p>

NR PROGRAM SUPV SR - FISH HATCHERY

Department:	Fish and Wildlife/Central Office, MN DNR
Closing Date:	February 20, 2014
Location(s):	St. Paul, MN
Who May Apply:	All qualified job seekers

Responsibilities:

This position supervises statewide fish hatchery operations as well as directs and manages the statewide hatchery program and special aquaculture projects, including supervision of fish hatchery supervisors.

Core Activities:

- Plan and coordinate the operation of hatcheries to achieve production quotas by evaluating existing facilities and production practices, assigning production goals for each hatchery, making adjustments in production as they arise from management, designing and implementing new projects, and evaluating the success of new plans, programs, and projects.
- Direct the State's hatchery system to obtain maximum benefits from resources by developing plans and budgets; adjusting production capacities to meet management needs; determining stock requirements for statewide programs; arranging fish/egg transfers and exchanges; developing and implementing special projects; developing disease control policies; and monitoring hatchery programs through reports, meetings, and on site review. Work closely with the management staff to ensure accurate and approved stocking requests are submitted and that the associated databases are kept current.
- Administratively supervise a unit/section to ensure the effective allocation of human resources by interviewing, selecting staff affirmatively, assigning, scheduling, directing, evaluating work performance, recommending achievement awards, training new supervisors, and administering necessary disciplinary action on subordinate staff.
- Plan for and develop new fish production facilities and improve the state's present system to meet statewide stocking needs by reviewing equipment and facility needs, establishing project priority, designing new facilities, obtaining funding, and overseeing design and construction.
- Conduct regularly scheduled work group meetings for hatchery personnel to collaboratively discuss issues, solve problems, disseminate information, and give direction.
- Disseminate current information on hatchery techniques and practices so that the hatchery system remains modern and efficient by conferring with other professionals from other jurisdictions, participating in conferences, reading the scientific literature on hatcheries, and designing training sessions for hatchery employees.
- Provide leadership, encourage creativity and exploration of new methods, encouraging teamwork, encouraging supervisor participation in areas outside normal duties, and keeping supervisors informed about current developments within the Division.
- Disseminate information on fish production practices to the public to enhance understanding of the section's policies and programs by responding to inquiries, giving advice, and making presentations.

For more information and how to apply visit www.career.state.mn.us Posting # 14DNR000045.

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 Basin.

