



Soil and Water CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Lyon Soil and Water
Conservation District



CALL OUR OFFICE TO RENT **Seeding Equipment**



Products & Dimensions:

7.5' TRUAX 7512 No-Till Drill (left)
SSB 10' Brillion Seeder (right)

Rates:

\$50 for the first acre (or minimum payment), then \$15 for every acre after

Rules:

1. Renter is responsible for finding a tractor and operator for our equipment
2. SWCD will complete an inspection of the equipment to ensure field readiness prior to the rental
3. \$500 Damage Deposits are required. Cost of repairs due to neglect or carelessness will be deducted form deposit
4. Renter is responsible to make necessary adjustments in the field as needed
5. Renter must NOT exceed 20 mph maximum tow speed
6. Renter must clean out equipment compartments or be charged a \$50 cleaning fee upon return (ex. mud, excess seed and other debris)
7. \$100 late fee will be charged if seeder is not returned when scheduled
8. \$100 pick-up fee if SWCD has to pick up the seeder after use

Soil Health State Cost-Share

Are you interested in implementing soil health practices on your land? Lyon SWCD has funding set aside specifically for soil health. All practices must follow the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide and our contracts will be 3 years minimum.

These practices include but are not limited to:

1. Reduced Tillage (Strip-till/No Till)
2. Cover crops (Multi-species or single species)
3. Conservation Crop Rotation
4. Conservation Cover

Stop in at the Lyon SWCD office to discuss options on your land if you're interested! Funding will be ranked according to the Lyon SWCD Nonstructural Conservation Practice Cost-Share Policy.

SAVE THE DATE

Hwy 14 Tour-CLASIC February 2025

FREE LUNCH PROVIDED

Feb 18th: Torey's Restaurant - Owatonna

Feb 19th: SW Research & Outreach Center - Lambertton

Feb 20th: Lake Benton Community Center - Lake Benton

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS and TOPICS:

Andy Linder- The Economics of Soil Health

Ryan Gibbs- Personal Soil Health Journey with an Emphasis on Compost

To register scan the QR code:



or go to
<https://www.mnsoilhealth.org/events/2025-02/>



Emerald Ash Borer Update

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an invasive beetle that has been spreading throughout eastern Minnesota since its discovery near St. Paul in 2009. EAB lay their eggs on ash trees. Once hatched, the larvae feed on the phloem of the tree creating S-shaped channels just beneath the bark. These channels disrupt the transport of soluble organic compounds made during photosynthesis, effectively girdling the tree from its food and causing death. Millions of ash trees have already been killed across the Midwest, eastern United States, and Canada. Minnesota has the highest volume of ash trees in the U.S. and unfortunately all ash trees are susceptible to EAB. As a result, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) had placed a quarantine on all infested areas of EAB to help slow the spread.

Quarantine Information:

Marshall in Lyon County has been designated as a quarantine area for EAB. It is illegal to move ash logs, tree waste, wood chips, mulch and/or firewood from any EAB quarantine area without a MDA certificate.

What Can You Do?

1. Don't transport Firewood: Use locally sourced firewood or buy certified MDA firewood.
2. Cut Down & Replace or Treat: Consider contacting a certified tree inspector to discuss the best course of action for your tree. Lyon SWCD would be happy to assist you with coming up with a game plan.
3. Watch for Signs of EAB: Look for wood pecker damage, bark splits or visible larvae tunneling under the bark and report any findings to **Report A Pest 1(888) 545-6684**

For more Information visit:

<https://mnag.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=63ebb977e2924d27b9ef0787ecedf6e9>

On September 24th & 25th, we and 10 other Soil & Water Conservation Districts around the area, held the 30th Annual Environmental Fair! We had a total of 1,560 students and 29 different schools from all around the Southwest Minnesota Area. We had 23 different educational sessions to send the students to.

A few of these sessions were:

- “**Bugs Below Zero**” presented by SMSU Biology Professor, Alyssa Anderson (Fig. 1)
- “**Water**” & “**Dinosaurs**” presentations by staff of the Science Museum of Minnesota
- “**Prescribed Burns**” presented by Josh Peterson of Native Resource Preservation and Rebecca Thompson of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (Fig. 2)
- “**Remarkable Reptiles**” presented by James Gerholdt (Fig. 3)
- “**Petroglyphs**” presented by staff of the Jeffer’s Petroglyphs History Museum in Comfrey, MN

We could not have done this without the help of our presenters and the support from our local schools. We also want to send a **HUGE** thank you to the Lyon County Parks Department for making sure the Fairgrounds were ready for us. Thank you also to Lyon County Commissioners, Todd Draper & Gary Crowley, for stopping out to support this event and for recognizing all the work we put in to make this event happen!



Figure 1. Identifying aquatic insects



Figure 2. Controlling the fire



Figure 3. Mr. Gerholdt with a snake hanging on him



Partner Updates

NRCS Programs

Lyon County NRCS is accepting EQIP, RCPP & CSP applications year-round even if the deadline has passed. If you have areas of erosion or grazing practices you’d like to implement please stop by or call the office, sooner the better. Spring & Summer are the best times to do field visits and plan your conservation practices. Stop in the office and see Kelly, Hailey, or Owen for more information.

Lyon County NRCS Field Office Staff

Kelly Heather, Team Lead – Manages NRCS staff, resources & programs for Lincoln, Lyon & Yellow Medicine Counties.

Cell phone: 507-774-2206

E-mail: kelly.heather@usda.gov

Hailey Bornitz, District Conservationist – Manages all NRCS conservation programs in Lyon County.

Cell Phone: 507-706-3896

E-mail: hailey.bornitz@usda.gov

Owen Colline, Agronomist – Works full time with NRCS conservation programs. Nutrient & Pest Management practices are his specialty.

Cell Phone: 507-318-6683

Email: owen.colline@usda.gov

Mark Peper, Pheasants Forever – Farm Bill Biologist– Assists with programs that provide habitat to upland wildlife such as CRP, CREP and RIM.

Office: 507-537-1401 ext. 3

Email: mark.peper@usda.gov or
mtpeper@pheasantsforever.org





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ATTENTION: Lyon County Feedlot Owners –

Registration Update: If you have not re-registered your feedlot in the last 4 years, you will receive a feedlot registration form in the mail. Please complete this registration form and return it to Courtney Williams or Blake Giles with the SWCD. Online registration is open for producers, but an account must be set up to do so.

Inspection Update: 2025 Inspections will begin soon. Producers will be asked to be on site.

- Sites 100 animal units (AU) or more are **required** to test manure **every 4 years** to remain in compliance. Manure sampling kits are available at all times through the Lyon County Conservation Office.
- Sites 100 AU or more are **required** to provide land application records at the time of inspection for all manure applied on cropland.
- Sites 300 AU or more are **required** to provide a full manure management plan that includes: manure tests, land application records, soil tests, site maps etc.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Lyon County Feedlot Officers, Courtney or Blake at 507-532-8207 x3.

Staff Spotlight

He's bacckkkk! Mark Peper is back in the Lyon County Office as the Farm Bill Biologist for Pheasants Forever. He works on easement programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), and Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM). He enjoys hunting and hiking in his free time. His favorite part of working in Lyon County is visiting with landowners and helping them improve their property for wildlife habitat.

A fun fact about Mark is he has a BS in Forest Resource Management from University of Missouri-Columbia. **GO TIGERS!**

If you see him around the county, feel free to say hello and you'll hear his friendly Missouri accent!

