

11360 Highway 212 STE 6 | Cologne, MN 55322 | Phone: (952) 466-5230 | carverswcd.org

Peterson Farm Named 2024 Outstanding Conservationist



The Carver SWCD board of supervisors has selected the Peterson Family Farm as our Outstanding Conservationists for 2024. The original family farm was established in 1890. Aaron (pictured) and Nichola Peterson, along with Mitch and Brooke Michaelson, are the fourth-generation currently operating the family farm. They are carrying on the traditional soybean, corn, and alfalfa operations. They have also implemented numerous conservation practices to improve water quality, and reduce erosion over the years.



In 2012, the Peterson family enrolled 191 acres into a RIM/WRP wetland easement. This project reduced runoff volumes on agricultural land, and restored two previously drained and altered wetland areas, which increased on-site detention storage. The Peterson's also promote no-till and cover crop practices with other neighboring landowners. Aaron is a board member of the group called "Friends of the Minnesota River Valley," which focuses on the health of the Minnesota River and its tributaries.

We are proud of their strong conservation ethics, and look forward to working with the Peterson family for many years to come. Congratulations again Peterson Family Farm!

Have you Noticed Plants Reblooming this Fall?

Being a flowering plant was hard work during the growing season in much of Minnesota. You might have noticed trees, shrubs, and perennials flowering at weird times, or not at all. The best example this year were many varieties of Lilacs within the landscape. Widely known as an early spring bloomer, the Lilacs started the year out normally with a bloom after which they set their buds for the following year. What followed was a cool and wet early summer which developed a common leaf blight that causes full leaf drop. Because of the leaf blight and the late summer weather stresses of hot and dry with cool periods mixed and the Lilacs become "Remontant," which is when the plants bloom a second time in one season. Fortunately, this shouldn't have a major effect on next year's bloom as there should be plenty of flower buds left for next spring. Just another example of plants having great resiliency to the wide-ranging climate of Minnesota!



Remontant lilac, Oak Grove, MN. Photo: Allan Paul Eilen

Wetland Conservation Act

For the first time since 2017, the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) announced changes to the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) that took effect on August 1, 2024. With an aim to streamline WCA, many of these edits simply change language or definitions to provide clarity with the statute. However, there are two larger changes that will affect Carver County the most.

The first is the removal of reference to the Circular 39 document from certain regular actions. Circular 39 is a common wetland guide to determine which “type” of wetland would be on a property, which helps guide Local Government Units (LGU) in their permitting regulation. The new system will be based on the Hydrogeomorphic Method (HGM) which uses physical features of the wetland to properly identify them and permit impacts to them.

The second large change to WCA is modification to the “Agricultural Activities Exemption.” Part of this exemption now uses a Certified Wetland Determination from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to determine allowance of impacts to wetlands marked as prior-converted (PC) to be exempt from requiring a replacement plan. Under this new exemption standard, a Certified Wetland Determination is only valid if it was completed after July 3, 1996. Landowners should reach out to their local USDA/NRCS to find out if there is a certified wetland determination on file for their property.

Landowners in Carver County need to also contact their local WCA LGU (location dependent) if they have a project in or near a wetland. All work planned within a wetland requires a permit from the LGU before the project can begin. Staff at the Carver SWCD are available to guide landowners through the WCA process and get them started on permitting within their respective LGU. Please contact District Technician, Tyler Polster, at 952-466-5263 with wetland or WCA questions.

(WCA Information from MN BWSR:

<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/wetlands-regulation-minnesota>)

Water Testing Information

One thing we get asked a lot is, “Where can I get my drinking water tested?” As a private well owner, you are responsible for regularly testing the water you use for cooking and drinking. The Minnesota Department of Health has a lot of good information on their website about testing your water. Check out the link below for more information:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/wells>



Conservation on Your Land



Like the weather in Minnesota, options for conservation programs on your agricultural land are always changing. Droughts, wet years, land use and ownership changes all can lead someone to re-consider how their land is being used and investigate program opportunities. Whether you are looking for a short-term option or permanent easements, there are a few different programs available that may fit your situation.

Short Term: CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) administered through the Farm Program is the most common program landowners consider for marginal farmland that doesn’t produce well, or areas they want additional wildlife habitat or hunting opportunities. The CRP program offers 10 and 15 year contracts with annual rental payments to compensate landowners for taking the land out of production. Rental rates for Carver County average around \$250-265/acre, however depending on the CRP practice there may be additional incentives to boost the rate.

Long Term/Permanent: Minnesota’s very own RIM (Reinvest in Minnesota) program is a perpetual conservation easement program. Under the RIM umbrella, the following land types are currently being targeted: floodplain and riparian land, wetlands, and filter strip/buffers. The program is suited for tillable acres that continue to drown out, or that are in an environmentally sensitive area that would be better off put into a permanent conservation program. RIM rates are based on township, but average \$7,500/acre in Carver County.

For questions regarding any conservation program, please reach out to our office.

new website!
CARVERSWCD.ORG



Name: _____

Address: _____

City & Zip: _____

Phone No: _____

Email Address: _____

2025 ORDER FORM

- Trees and shrubs are bare root seedlings, sold in bundles of **25**.
1 bundle = 25 trees
We do **not** split bundles.
- Pre-paid orders are accepted on a first come, first serve basis, while supplies last.
- You will be notified by mail or email in early April when the trees and seed mixes will be available for pick up.
- All trees/seed mixes must be picked up on the days listed in your notification!
- Prices include Sales Tax.
- Trees and native seed mixes photos with descriptions are posted on the website below.
- Carver SWCD offers **no guarantee** of survival and will not issue free replacements or refunds for any species.
- **ORDER EARLY!**
- **No cancelations after February 1.**

Return order form to:
Carver SWCD
 11360 Highway 212 STE 6
 Cologne, MN 55322
 P: (952)466-5230

Type	Species	Approx. Delivery Size	Price per bundle of 25	How many bundles	TOTAL COST
Conifers	Arborvitae, American	12-18"	\$60.00		
	Cedar, Eastern Red	15-18"	\$55.00		
	Fir, Balsam	12-18"	\$55.00		
	Pine, White	7-15"	\$55.00		
	Spruce, Black Hills	7-15"	\$55.00		
	Tamarack	12-18"	\$60.00		
Tall Hardwoods	Aspen, Quaking	12-18"	\$45.00		
	Maple, Red	18-24"	\$45.00		
	Maple, Sugar	12-18"	\$40.00		
	Oak, Bur	18-24"	\$45.00		
	Oak, Red	18-24"	\$45.00		
	Oak, Swamp White	12-18"	\$40.00		
Med. Trees	Crabapple, Red Splendor	18-24"	\$40.00		
	Plum, American	18-24"	\$45.00		
	Redbud, Eastern	18-24"	\$45.00		
Shrubs	Arrowwood	12-18"	\$40.00		
	Chokecherry, Common	12-18"	\$40.00		
	Dogwood, Red Osier	18-24"	\$45.00		
	Elderberry	12-18"	\$40.00		
	Hazelnut, American	12-18"	\$45.00		
	Lilac, Common	12-18"	\$40.00		
	Serviceberry (Juneberry)	12-18"	\$40.00		
Native Seed Mixes	Mesic Prairie Mix – Covers 1,000 sq. ft. <i>Medium to clay soils, 3-6' tall</i>		\$50.00		
	Pollinator Mix – Covers 1,000 sq. ft. <i>Diverse grasses, sedges, and wildflowers, 2-3' tall</i>		\$70.00		
	Savanna Mix – Covers 1,000 sq. ft. <i>Partial sun, oak savanna woodland edge, 3-6' tall</i>		\$70.00		
Tree Tubes & Stakes (<i>price is per tube</i>)			\$5.00		
Include Payment with Order. Checks payable to: Carver SWCD				Total Due	

NEW! Online ordering link: <https://www.carverswcd.org/store>



11360 Highway 212, Suite 6
Cologne, MN 55322-8020
Phone: (952) 466-5230
carverswcd.org

2025 Tree Order Form Enclosed!



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Burandt Retires after 28 Years

Robert "Bob" Burandt was elected to the Carver SWCD Board in the fall of 1996. Bob has been a valuable asset to the Carver SWCD Board, bringing his personal farming experiences and perspectives into make sound conservation decisions for the natural resources in Carver County. He helped distribute over \$1 million in cost-share funds to Carver County landowners over the years to install various conservation projects.

Bob was appointed to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) by Governor Tim Pawlenty in 2006, where he also served eight years. While serving on the BWSR Board, Bob assisted with BWSR's mission of improving and protecting Minnesota's land and water resources and meeting the state's goals for clean water, air, and abundant fish and wildlife.

Bob will be replaced by Mike Lynch, who will start his Supervisor duties in January of 2025.



We'd like to thank Bob for his service and commitment to Carver County these past 28 years!

Explore Funding Opportunities for Habitat Projects

Have you been contemplating the idea of transforming your traditional turf (grass) into a sustainable, eco-friendly landscape? If so, you're in luck! A variety of funding options are available to help turn your vision into a reality. Plus, the SWCD is here to provide technical assistance every step of the way.

The amount and type of funding you can access will vary based on your location within the county.

Let's set up a time to meet at your property so we can discuss how to bring your project to life together!

Don't miss out on this opportunity to enhance your outdoor space, while contributing positively to the environment.

Reach out to the SWCD today, and let's get started on creating a greener future.

