

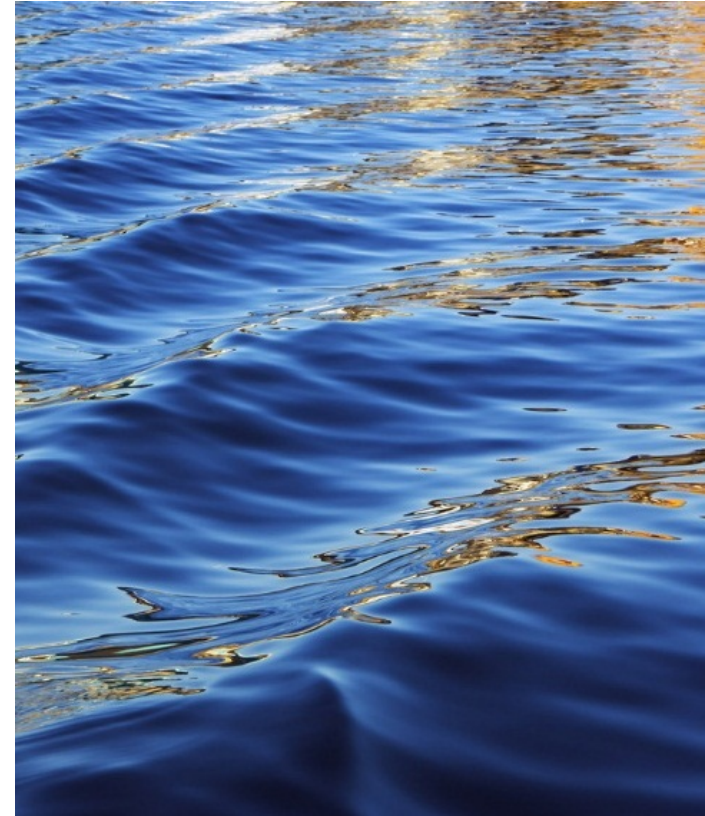


**GREAT LAKES**  
**GLLC**  
**ST. LAWRENCE**  
LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS



# GLLC Web Meeting

State and Provincial Efforts to Reduce Nutrient Inflow to the Great Lakes



MIDWEST

# Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions**  
Wisconsin Senator Andre Jacque, Chair, Task Force on Nutrient Management
- **Michigan Environmental Assurance Program**  
*Speaker - Michigan Senator Dan Lauwers*  
Moderator - Michigan Representative Rachel Hood
- **Wisconsin Producer Led Watershed Management Grants**  
*Speaker - Dr. Don Niles, President of Peninsula Pride*  
Moderator - Wisconsin Senator Andre Jacque
- **Minnesota Buffer Strip Law**  
*Speaker- Angie Becker Kudelka, Assistant Director MN Board of Water and Soil Resources*  
Moderator - Minnesota Representative Todd Lippert

# Featured Speaker



## Michigan Senator Dan Lauwers

- Majority Floor Leader, Chair of Energy and Technology Committee
- Founder of Eastern Michigan Grain, active in Soil Conservation Service, MSU extension, and commodity boards.
- [senDLauwers@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senDLauwers@senate.michigan.gov)



## Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program

Presentation By: Michigan Senate Majority Floor Leader Dan Lauwers



# What is MAEAP?

## Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program

- ▶ Voluntary, legislated certainty program that helps farmers and landowners reduce environmental pollution through education and technical assistance in applying best management practices to their specific farms.
- ▶ Four Systems to be MAEAP Verified
  - ▶ Cropping
  - ▶ Farmstead
  - ▶ Livestock
  - ▶ Forest, Wetlands and Habitat
- ▶ Provides farmers with technical assistance, educational programs, demonstration projects to implement conservation practices, and removal of potential contamination sources.

# MAEAP Verification Process

- ▶ 3 Phases of MAEAP Verification Process
  - ▶ Education
  - ▶ Action/Risk Assessment
  - ▶ Verification
- ▶ Re-Verification every 5 years

# Total MAEAP Verifications

as of April 12, 2021

- ▶ Verifications - 5,910
  - ▶ Cropping - 2,417
  - ▶ Farmstead - 2,056
  - ▶ Livestock - 993
  - ▶ Forest, Wetlands and Habitat - 444
- ▶ Reverifications - 3,025
  - ▶ Cropping - 1,279
  - ▶ Farmstead - 1,177
  - ▶ Livestock - 563
  - ▶ Forest, Wetlands and Habitat - 6

Reverification retention average: 85 to 87%





## TOTAL MAEAP ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES 2016-2021

Information collected from MAEAP verified farms used to calculate environmental outcomes:

	<u>Totals:</u>
Acres included in a nutrient plan or CNMP	1,101,508
Linear feet of buffer/filter strips	1,943,882
Acres of cover crops	213,871
Acres of conservation tillage	535,297
Acres of no-till, zone till, or grass cover	355,591
Number of gullies stabilized	3,875
Feet of livestock exclusion	311,514
Size of silage pad in acres	139
Acres of Pest Management Plans	1,271,907



**TOTAL MAEAP ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES  
2016-2021**

Sediment reduced: **1,629,547** tons

Phosphorus reduced: **2,704,718** pounds

Nitrogen reduced: **5,859,353** pounds

Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) (5-day) from silage leachate: **8,188,086** pounds

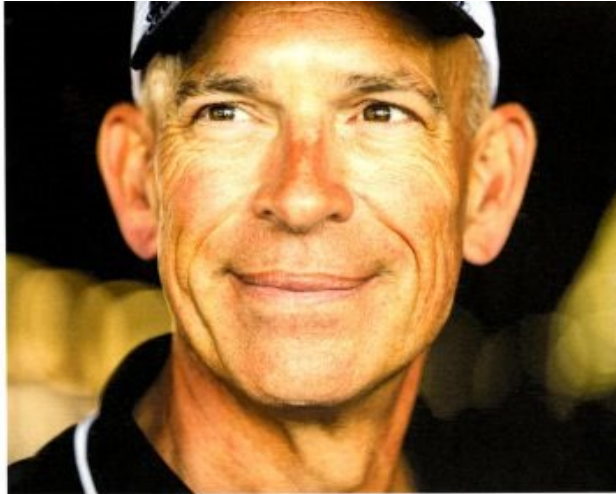
## Why is MAEAP so successful?

- ▶ Voluntary, not mandated - unlike any other state
- ▶ Self funded through fertilizer and pesticide fees
- ▶ Legislated certainties - include protection from penalties and fines in the event of accidental discharges, act of God discharges, and protections from excessive requirements if a watershed is declared impaired.

# Questions? Comments?

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- Type your question in the chat pane to be read by staff.
- Just unmute yourself and ask a question.

# Featured Speaker



Dr. Don Niles, DVM, President of Peninsula Pride

- Co-owner of Dairy Dreams LLC, 2800 cow Wisconsin dairy.
- President of Peninsula Pride Farms, a farmer led organization to bring together farmers and researchers to meet water quality.

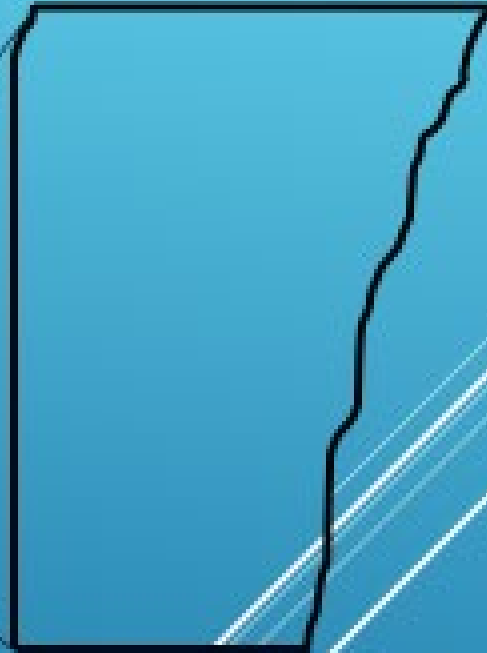
<https://peninsulapridefarmsinc.org/>

- donniles@Dairy-dreams.com

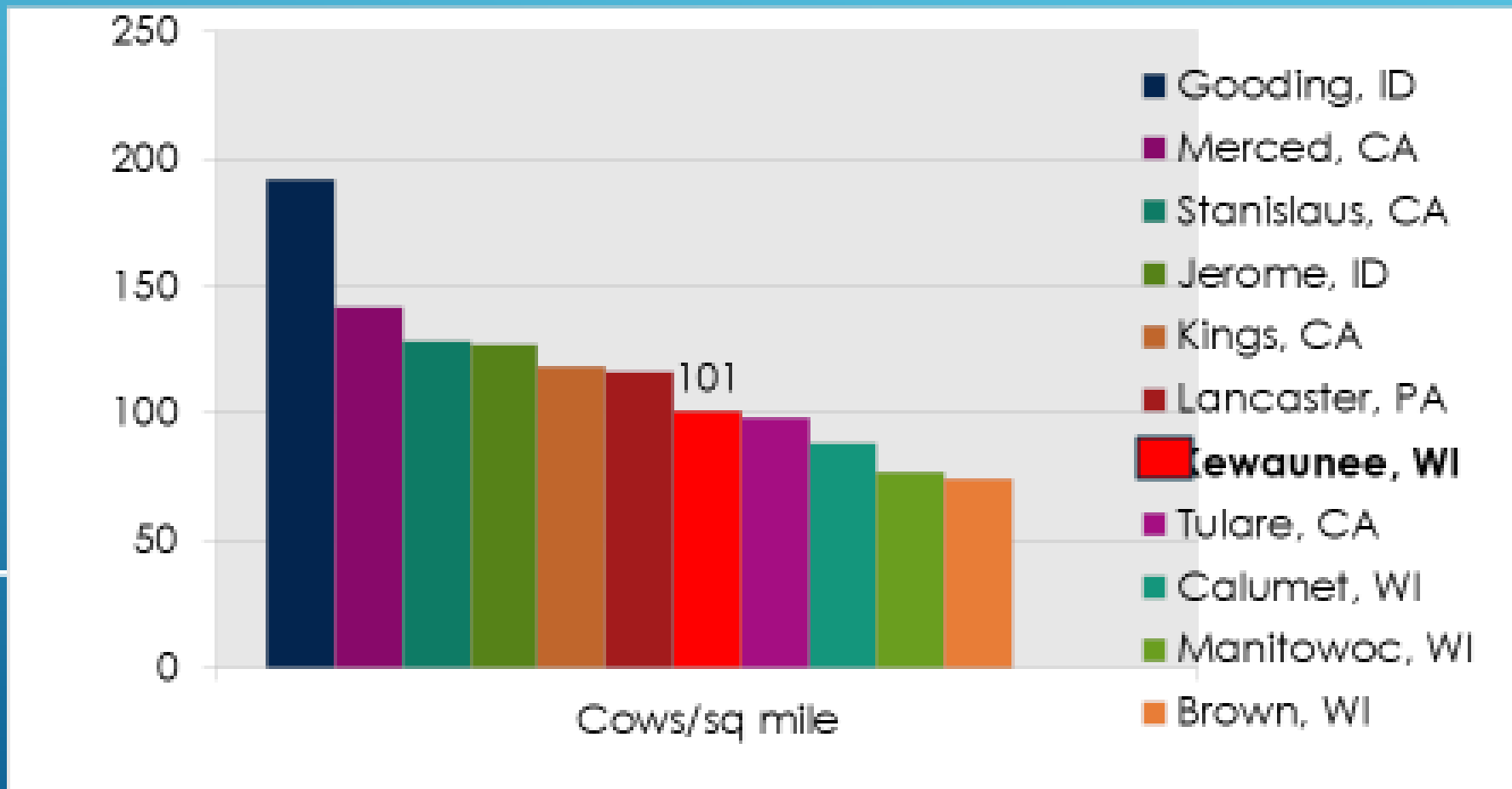
# PENINSULA PRIDE FARMS

## CHALLENGES AND CHANGES IN THE MIDWEST DAIRY EPICENTER

Don Niles DVM- Dairy Dreams, Pagel's Ponderosa,  
High Plains Ponderosa Dairy



USA-

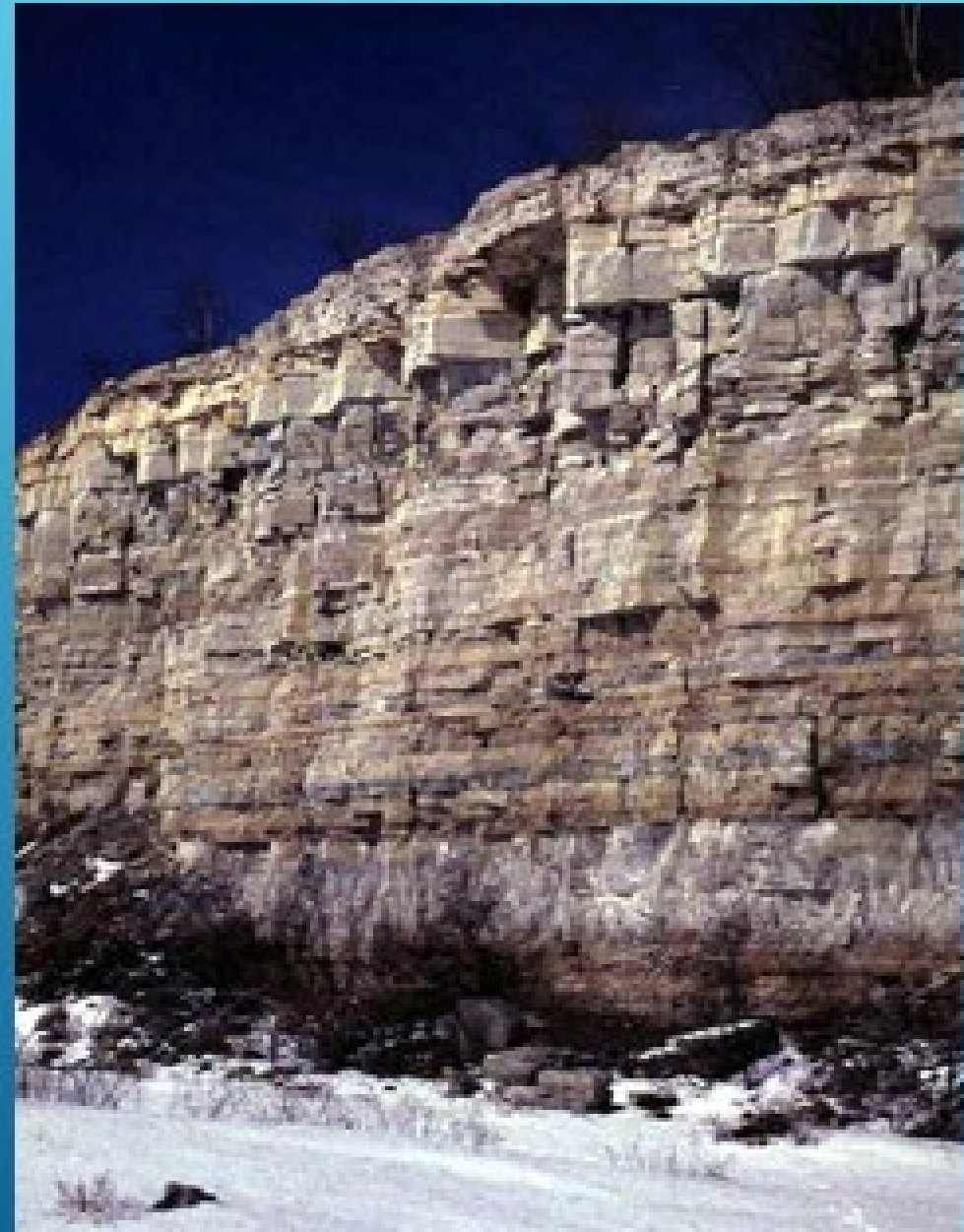




# SILURIAN DOLOMITE AQUIFER



# SILURIAN DOLOMITE AQUIFER



# Brown Water Events in Northeast Wisconsin



- Groundwater recharge, especially spring snow melt, can generate brown water events
- Several outbreaks associated with these events e.g., EHEC, Campy
- This well is code compliant, 123 ft deep, cased to 63 ft

# WE NEED TO ACCEPT AND ACKNOWLEDGE OUR SHARE OF THE PROBLEM

- ▶ Clearly, we are not the whole cause of the water contamination, but we are a significant contributor
- ▶ It is our responsibility to creatively and energetically protect our land, animals and neighbors. That's our job
- ▶ It is ok to not have all the answers, but it is not ok to stop trying



# PENINSULA PRIDE FARMS

A secure future for farmers and our neighbors



PENINSULA  
PRIDE FARMS

## WHO WE ARE

- Farmer-led, not-for-profit organization in Kewaunee and southern Door counties
- Farmers, businesses, agencies focused on improving surface and ground water quality





PENINSULA  
PRIDE FARMS

## MEMBER FARMS VARY IN SIZE

- 46 dairy and crop farmers
- Dairy sizes, 60 to 6,000 cows
- 34,755 cows – 50% of area COWS
- 69,737 acres – 50% of tillable acres



Mark and Lisa Schmidt family, Casco, Wis.



PENINSULA  
PRIDE FARMS

## GOALS FOCUS ON IMPROVEMENT

- Define issues, set goals and determine how to measure progress in protecting surface and ground water
- Evaluate member farms to craft individual plans for continuous improvement
- Assist farmers in meeting voluntary standards recommended by state workgroup for sensitive fields





## WE AIM TO PROTECT LAKES, STREAMS

- Focus on surface water
- Improving soil health
- Reducing phosphorus loss





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# WE WANT SAFE DRINKING WATER



- Focus on ground water
- Reduce pathogens
- Reduce loss of nitrogen



**PENINSULA  
PRIDE FARMS**

“We will empower farmers with knowledge, training and shared experiences. And we will demonstrate how the agricultural community is committed to doing its fair share in making improvements.”



### **2019 PPF Farmer practices 33 members:**

- 18,697 acres of conservation tillage practices (either strip-till or no-till planting)
- 73,398 acres covered by nutrient management plans (NMPs)
- 10,124 acres of cover crops
- 6089 acres with low disturbance manure injection (LDMI)

### **2020 PPF Farmer practices 38 members:**

- 21,426 acres of conservation tillage
- 83,072 acres of NMPs
- 18,654 acres of cover crops
- 4,032 acres of LDMI



**PENINSULA  
PRIDE FARMS**

**“The Door County Peninsula  
can have both safe, clean water  
and a thriving agricultural community.”**



## Questions? Comments?

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# Featured Speaker



Angie Becker Kudelka, Assistant Director, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

- 20 Years Experience in Conservation Leadership
- Degrees in Environmental Resource Education, Sociology and Non-Profit Leadership
- [angie.beckerkudelka@state.mn.us](mailto:angie.beckerkudelka@state.mn.us)



# Minnesota Buffer Law & WQ Certification Program

Angie Becker Kudelka | Assistant Executive Director for Strategy and Operations

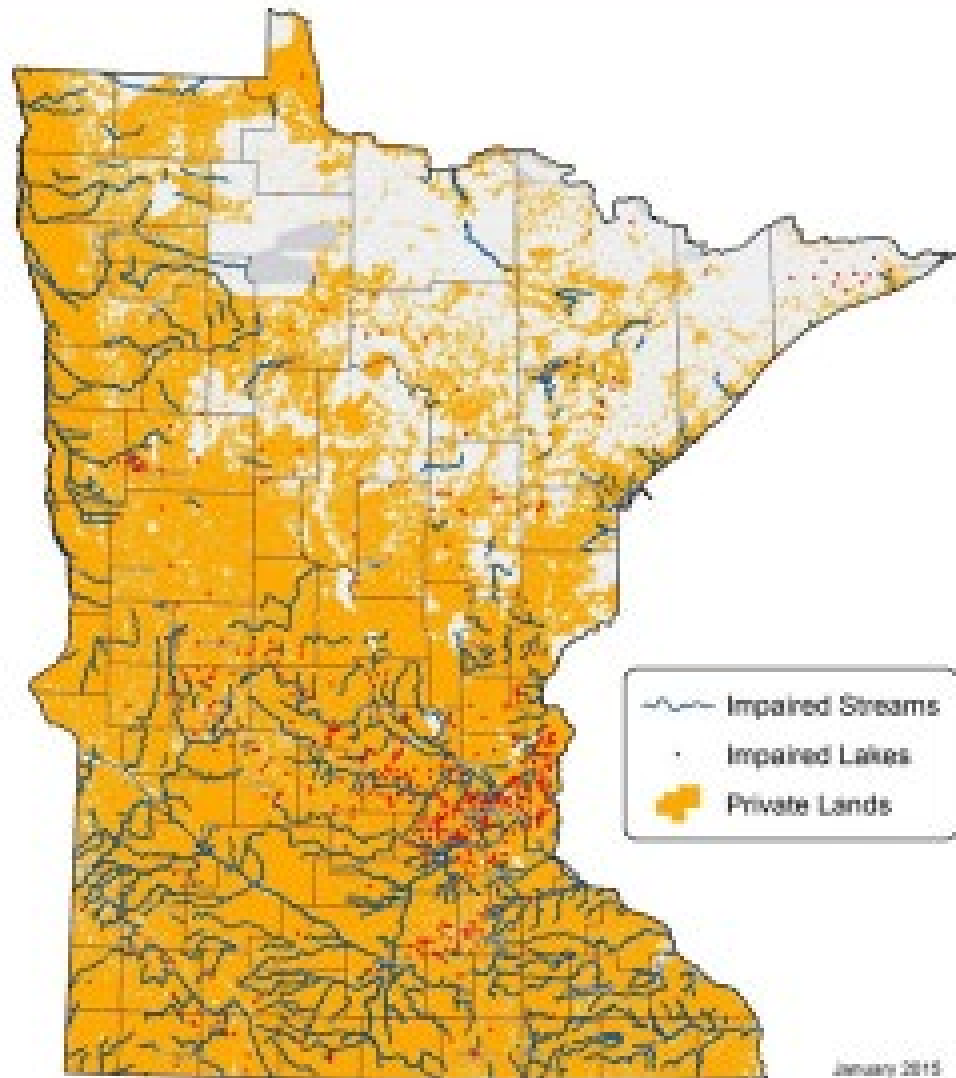


# BWSR mission



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

# BWSR Business model



Private lands

Small executive branch agency of conservation professionals

Local government delivery system

On-the-ground results

# 2015 Governor Initiative

## Benefits of buffers



# Riparian Protection Law

- 50 foot average (30' min)  
Public waters
- 16.5 foot minimum  
Public Drainage Systems
- Perennial Vegetation



# When

NOVEMBER 2017

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

- Practices installed on Public Waters
- Compliance waiver for Financial Assistance until 2018

NOVEMBER 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

- Practices installed on Public Ditches



Home > Ecological and Water Resources (Waters) > Water Management >

## Division of Ecological and Water Resources (Waters)

- Main page
- Contact us
- Permits
- Publications
- Water education (Project WOT)
- Water Statutes and Rules
- External links
- LakeFinder
- Recreation Camps

## Buffer Mapping Project



### Minnesota's Buffer Protection Map

Buffer Map

Statewide Data Layer

Minnesota's buffer law establishes new perennial vegetation buffers of up to 50 feet along rivers, streams and ditches that will help filter out

#### Common

Click on open  
Click again to

What are Public

How will Public

Why aren't all



#### Buffer Map Legend

##### Lakes, Reservoirs, and Wetlands

- 50-ft Buffer
- Needs Field Review

##### Watercourses

- 50-ft Buffer
- 10.5-ft Buffer
- Needs Field Review
- Potential trout stream delisting and buffer map removal
- Public Water watercourse removal per Commissioner's Order

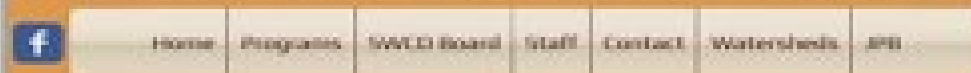
##### Tribal Lands

- Red Lake

# How... Local Assistance



## Goodhue SWCD



### Free Drill Use for Buffers!

In 2016 the Goodhue County SWCD Supervisors adopted a local drill program for landowners interested in seeding down buffer areas next to streams and ditches. The SWCD will provide the use of the drill and provide a ground waterway seed mix to your site for free. Landowners will need to provide a 450-500hp tractor to pull the drill. We ask

### No-Till Drill Sign Up

Please fill out the form below and email it back to us. We will contact you when the drill is in your area. Remember, you will need to provide a 450-500hp tractor to pull the drill.

## Examples of Buffers Going In



Marshall County



Chippewa County



Otter Tail County



Cottonwood County



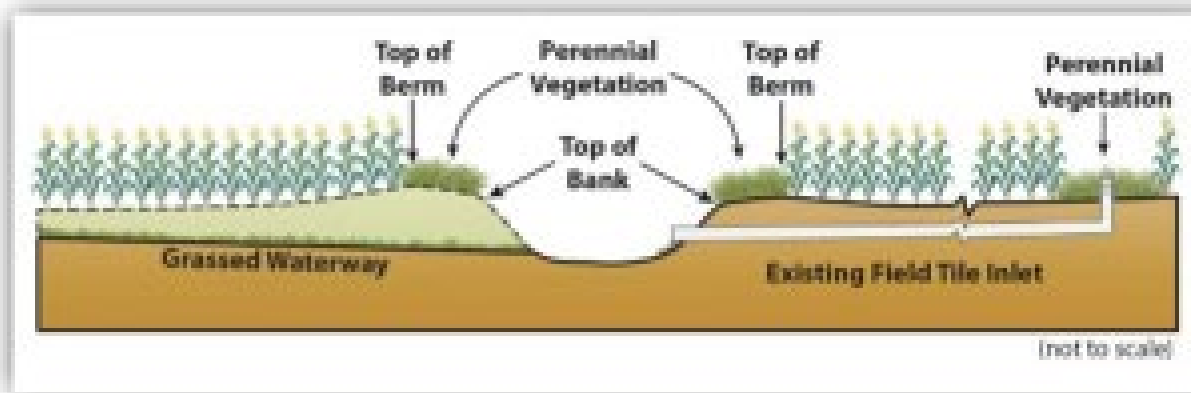
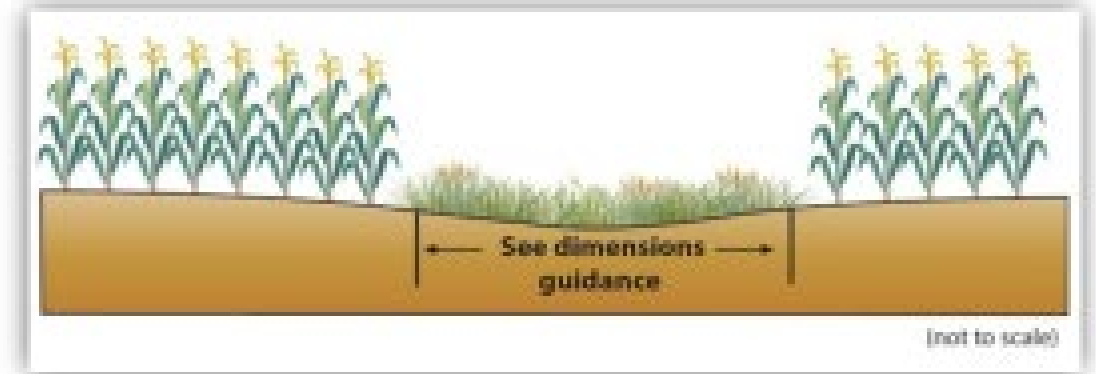
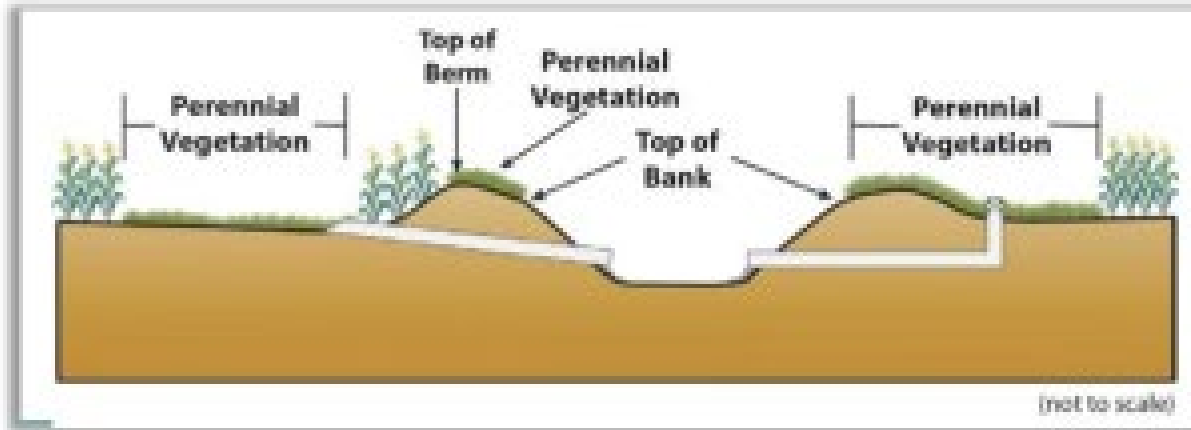
Mower County



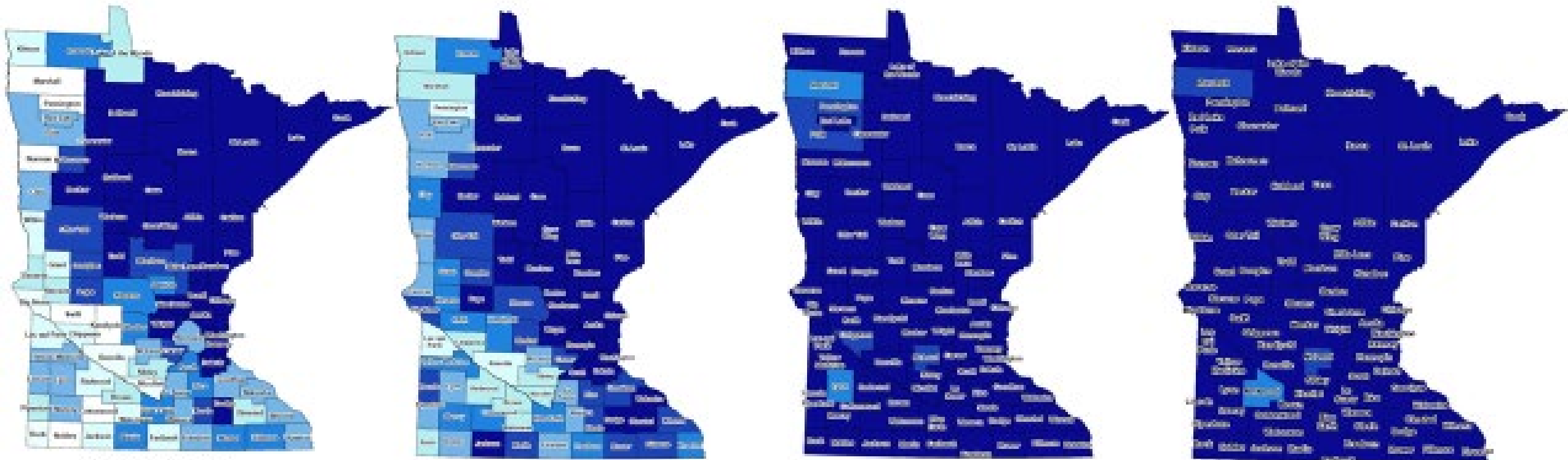
Wilkin County



# Alternative Practices



## BUFFER COMPLIANCE ALL WATERCOURSES



JANUARY 2017

JANUARY 2018

JANUARY 2020

MARCH 2021

Compliance







# Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program



- MAWQCP is a voluntary program that offers producers:
  - Recognition
  - Financial/Technical assistance
  - Regulatory certainty (applied to Buffer law)
  - Branding/Marketing opportunity
  - Check-up/Validation for growers
- Implemented by Minnesota Department of Agriculture
- Whole-farm planning for water quality
- Pairs producers with professionals to develop **site-specific** solutions for risks to water quality



# Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program



As of 4-19-21

**1,049** certified producers

**751,119** certified acres

- » 2,113 new practices
- » 112,710 tons of soil saved per year
- » 49,562 pounds of P prevented per year
- » 40,842 CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent tons reduced per year

Endorsements:

Soil Health, Wildlife, Climate Smart  
Integrated Pest Management



# For additional information

Buffer Law:

<http://bwsr.state.mn.us/minnesota-buffer-law>

Ag Water Quality Certification Program:

<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/environment-sustainability/minnesota-agricultural-water-quality-certification-program>

Angie Becker Kudelka, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

[angie.beckerkudelka@state.mn.us](mailto:angie.beckerkudelka@state.mn.us)

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# Remember to Register

**Nutrient Management II Friday May 7, 10:00 CT | 11:00 ET**

**Featuring Ohio, New York and Ontario**

reviewing H2Ohio, Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning  
and Lake Erie Demonstrating Sustainability programs

**Great Lakes Commission Blue Accounting Friday May, 21, 10:00 CT | 11:00 ET**

Featuring web testing of the new information service to track the region's progress toward shared goals for the Great Lakes. Hundreds of different entities - across eight states and two provinces - currently invest billions of dollars in restoring and maintaining the Great Lakes, but until Blue Accounting, there hasn't been a way to measure the effectiveness of these efforts.

Thank you to our sponsors!

# TheJoyceFoundation



Fred A. and Barbara M.  
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CHARLES STEWART  

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MOTT FOUNDATION

# About the GLLC

- The GLLC is a binational, nonpartisan group of state and provincial lawmakers from the Great Lakes region.
- Organized around the principle of assuring that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River continue to provide a plentiful source of clean, affordable water to the region's residents, businesses, and industries.
- Legislators may enroll at [bit.ly/GLLCmember](https://greatlakeslegislators.org) (case sensitive). This link is available on the GLLC website:  
<https://greatlakeslegislators.org>.

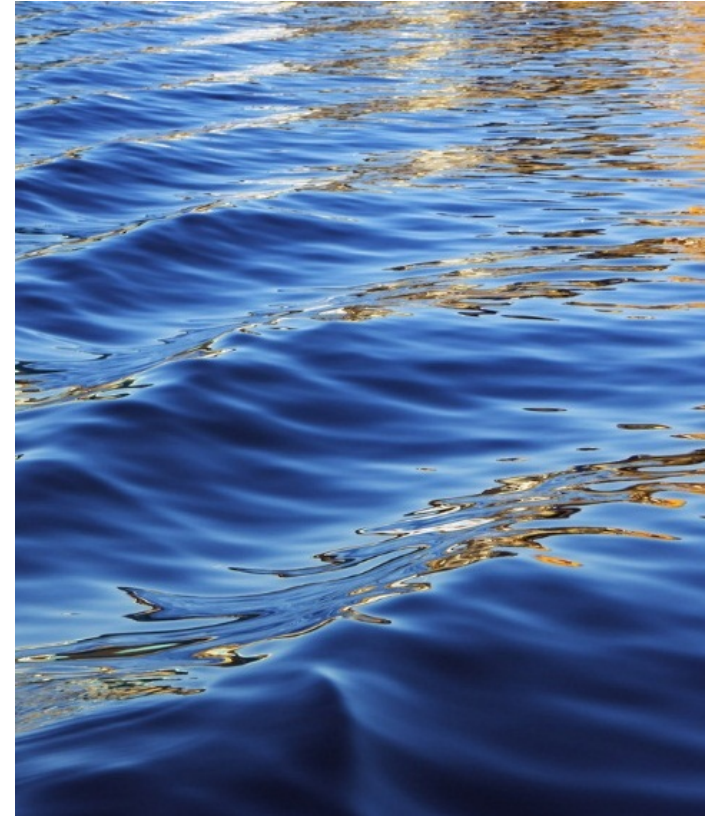


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State and Provincial Efforts to Reduce Nutrient Inflow to the Great Lakes



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