

# Soil Health Funding

Soil health funding is available now! Through dollars awarded to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the agriculture counties of Minnesota now have money available to support soil health initiatives. The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) funds aim to work directly through Soil and Water Conservation District offices to apply these dollars to support local agricultural practices. Whether you are interested in dipping your toes into strip till, planting a cover crop, or just looking at what other options are available, give us a call and see if there are practices available to you to address your resource concerns. If you have any questions, please contact Matt Preis (763) 220-3434 ext. 107 or [mpreis@sherburneswcd.org](mailto:mpreis@sherburneswcd.org)



# WINTER AGRONOMY MEETING



**February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

9:00am-1:00pm

Sauk Rapids Government Center

(250 Summit Ave N, Sauk Rapids, MN 56379)



This is a free event.  
Register here!



[z.umn.edu/26WAM](http://z.umn.edu/26WAM)

## Topics to Include:

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Relay Cropping  | Nitrogen Mangement |
| Green Bridging  | Crop Rotations     |
| Pest Management | Cover Crops        |

\*Lunch will be included with a dessert and discussion to follow



## 2026 SWCD Annual Poster Contest



The Sherburne SWCD has hosted an annual conservation themed poster contest since 2016, inviting all 5th grade students in Sherburne County to participate. Each year features a new theme, introduced through an educational presentation from SWCD staff. Students then use what they've learned to create an original poster depicting the topic.

The theme for the 2026 contest is "Soil: Where It All Begins." Students explore what soil is made of, how it forms, and why soil conservation is essential to our daily lives. This year, four schools are participating, reaching approximately 570 students.

All posters will be evaluated, and the top four students will receive a monetary award.

# 2026 WINTER CONSERVATION EVENT

Tuesday, March 10, 2026 | 8:30am

### GUEST SPEAKERS



**Blois Olson**  
Fluence Media



**Tanner Tool**  
AquaSpy

Jeppe Kjaersgaard, MN Dept of Agriculture

Will Bomier, MN Dept of Agriculture



**SPACE IS LIMITED - REGISTER TODAY!**

RSVP @ [centrasota.com/calendar](https://centrasota.com/calendar)  
or scan QR code



## 2026 Fridays with a Forester – Zoom Series

Join the University of Minnesota Extension foresters to discuss some of the key issues and questions around forest and woodlands facing Minnesota landowners. These online sessions will be very informal, open to the public and free of charge. Each session will start with a brief presentation, followed by a discussion framed around participants' questions on the topic. Each zoom will be from 9 am to 10 am. The 2026 topics and presenters are listed below.

January 30: Life, death, and dinner in the forest canopy: the spruce budworm and its predators - Jessica Rootes

February 13: Stewardship strategies for resilient forests - Anna Stockstad

February 20: ParSci summary from 2025 and what's coming in 2026 - Angela Gupta & Hana Kim

February 27: Climate Ready Trees for Windbreaks and Silvopasture - Gary Wyatt, Angie Gupta and Kira Pollack

March 20: Disturbance and Woodland Stewardship - Eli Sagor

March 27: Recognizing, Preventing, and Managing Oak Wilt - Grace Haynes

April 10: Management Considerations to Enhance Forest Habitat for Birds - Peter Dieser

April 17: Get Ready for Tree Seed Collection in Spring (Scouting & ParSci) - Kira Pollack

April 24: Growing and selling wood: Production forestry on private lands. - Eli Sagor

To learn more about each topic and sign up for these zoom sessions, register at this link: <https://z.umn.edu/Fridays2026>  
Recordings from all webinars in the series will be made available on our YouTube page: <https://z.umn.edu/Fridays>  
There is no zoom on March 13 because our forestry team will be at the MN Family Woodland Conference in Collegeville, MN.



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EXTENSION

## SWCD Tree Sale

The Sherburne SWCD is holding its annual tree sale to promote tree planting in Sherburne County. In addition to tree sales, native plant kits and seed mixes are also available for purchase. Planting trees can also boost property value and conserve energy by shading homes in summer and blocking cold winds in winter. Orders will be available for pick-up during the first week of May at the SWCD office in Elk River. Stock is limited, so order early to secure popular species!

*Interested in planting trees and shrubs for pollinators and wildlife?*  
**Check out David's webinar on Beneficial Trees and Shrubs for Pollinators and Wildlife Here.**

*Want to learn more about how Terra Sorb Works?*  
**Watch Franny's video here.**

**SWCD TREE SALE**  
Spreading roots to promote a greener Sherburne County

**Accepting Orders**  
Native trees, shrubs, plants kits  
and seed mixes available.  
Order now and pick up in May.

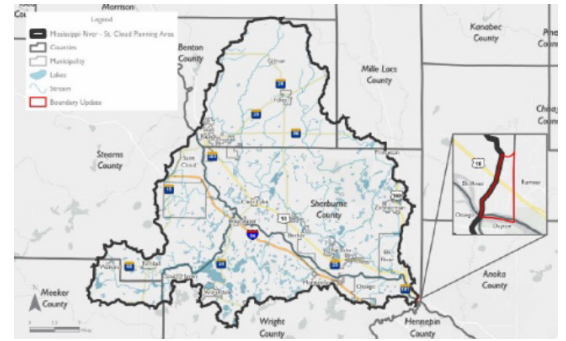
[www.sherburneswcd.org](http://www.sherburneswcd.org)

## SWCD Tree Sale

**Click here and visit our Tree Sale page for more info.**

## Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) Incentives

Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) opportunities are available in the Mississippi River – Saint Cloud watershed. These funds are capped at \$15,000 per contract at a rate of \$500/acre for new acres and \$100/acre for renewed acres. This comes in as a one-time direct payment to the landowner. All CRP types are eligible for enrollment or re-enrollment, through the Farm Service Agency (FSA) in this continuous signup period. Contracts for land enrolled in CRP are 10-15 years in length. The long-term goal of the program is to re-establish valuable land cover to help improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and reduce loss of wildlife habitat.



Under continuous CRP signup, environmentally sensitive land devoted to certain conservation practices can be enrolled in CRP at any time. Offers are automatically accepted provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements and the enrollment levels do not exceed the statutory cap. Unlike CRP enrollments under General CRP signups or Grassland CRP, offers for Continuous CRP are not subject to competitive bidding during specific periods. Contact your FSA service center at (14855 US-10, Elk River, MN 55330) to see if your land is eligible now.

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/programs/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-program/crp-continuous-enrollment>

## SWCD Calendar Events

- |               |                                                   |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Feb 16</b> | <b>Office Closed in Observance Presidents Day</b> |
| <b>Feb 27</b> | <b>Winter Agronomy Meeting</b>                    |
| <b>Mar 5</b>  | <b>Small Farms Night</b>                          |
| <b>Mar 8</b>  | <b>Daylight Saving Time begins</b>                |
| <b>Mar 10</b> | <b>Winter Conservation Event</b>                  |

Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation District

425 Jackson Ave NW Elk River, MN 55330 763-220-3434 [www.sherburneswcd.org](http://www.sherburneswcd.org)