Engaging the agricultural community to protect groundwater

The East Otter Tail SWCD recently hosted four meetings in west-central Minnesota focused on how agricultural producers are working to protect groundwater, the practices they would like to try in the future, and the barriers to implement those practices.

The meetings were facilitated by Freshwater Society and funded through the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. More than 90 farmers and other members of the agriculture community participated in the meetings, where they split into small groups to discuss their current practices and the impacts on groundwater quality. Participants shared stories of the great work already happening in their communities and their desire to improve fiscal and environmental stewardship. 

Click here to read more.

Congratulations to the 2018 State Envirothon Champions – Hopkins High School!

MASWCD would like to congratulate the students from Hopkins High School who placed first in the 2018 Minnesota State Envirothon! These students will travel to Idaho in July to represent Minnesota in the national competition. MASWCD is a proud longtime sponsor of Envirothon, an annual environmental education program for high school students that combines classroom learning with outdoor activities. Click here to read more.

Register now: MASWCD Leadership Institute 2018-2019

Registration is now open for MASWCD’s 2018-2019 Leadership Institute for representatives of SWCDs, Board of Water and Soil Resources, and Natural Resources.
Conservation Services.

Presented in cooperation with the University of Minnesota Extension, the MASWCD Leadership Institute is a dynamic educational experience to develop leadership skills, grow professional networks, and learn ways to implement effective conservation work across Minnesota.

Since 1996, more than 245 SWCD board members and staff have participated in this leadership program.

Space is limited – click here to learn more and register today. Registrations are due by July 17.

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**SWCDs in the news**

Soil and water conservation districts from around the state are making headlines! Check out these recent stories:

- **West Ottertail SWCD offering water testing kits** | Fergus Falls Journal
- **Column: The do-good guide to gardening** | Stillwater Gazette
- **Same resource, same message** | International Falls Journal
- **West Polk Soil and Water Conservation District – Want to know what’s in your drinking water?** | Crookston Times
- **A resource worth saving** | Brainerd Dispatch

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*If you know someone who might be interested in receiving our updates, share this sign up link.*