

HERON LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT

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August 2010 - Special Issue

WHAT IS CONSERVATION TILLAGE?



Conservation tillage is a system of reduced tillage, leaving increased residue from the previous crop in the field from harvest through planting. This results in a natural recycling of crop residues, due to organisms too small to be seen with the naked eye feeding on the stalks and leaves. Recycling crop residue increases organic matter as well as soil productivity. Conservation tillage can reduce soil erosion by 90%. Soil erosion is one of the top pollutants in the Heron Lake watershed. Keeping the soil on the ground reduces the amount of dirt, pesticides, and nutrients entering lakes and streams. When that happens there is increased oxygen levels for fish and less algae in the water. The conservation tillage system can reduce labor, equipment costs, and fuel use, particularly when no-till, one type of conservation tillage, is used.

CONSERVATION TILLAGE PLOT FIELD DAY

In 2005, through a Natural Resource Conservation grant, a conservation tillage research and demonstration plot was established to help compare the long-term feasibility of various conservation tillage systems in southwestern Minnesota. The tillage methods used include strip-till, one-pass, no-till, chisel plow, ridge-till, and chisel plow with an alternate fertilizer program. Data is being collected to determine soil types, stand counts, residue percentages, yield results, and economic comparisons. Our first Field Day was a huge success with over 100 people attending.

You are invited to attend the **Field Day** at the conservation tillage demonstration plot on **Thursday, August 26, 2010**. Registration will begin at **5:15 p.m.** A pork loin supper will be served free of charge. The plot is located 1/2 mile east of Highway 60 on Jackson County Road 20 (2 miles northeast of MnSP). In case of rain, the field day will be held at the Mark Pietz homestead at 39852 240th Street, Lakefield, MN. Conservation tillage machinery will be on display and representatives will be available to answer questions. Pre-registration would be appreciated for planning purposes. Please call the HLWD office at 507-793-2462 or email hlwd@roundlk.net.



AGENDA

- 4:45 p.m. - Registration
- 5:00 p.m. - Welcome and Introductions
- 5:05 p.m. - Liz Stahl, U of M Extension
- 5:20 p.m. - Joe Bassett, Dawn Equipment
- 5:35 p.m. - Joel Poppe, NRCS
- 5:45 p.m. - Kevin Kimberley, Kimberley Ag Consulting
- 6:10 p.m. - Supper

Pork Loin Supper - served free of charge.

Project made possible by:

- Heron Lake Watershed District
- Fairland Management
- North Heron Lake Game Producers Association
- Alba Grain
- Vern Uit de Flesch
- University of Minnesota Extension
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

SPEAKERS



Joe Bassett - Dawn Equipment

Joe Bassett graduated from the University of Iowa with a Bachelor of Science (BS) from the Department of Physics in 2003. There he learned traditional machine tool and fabrication skills as a machine shop apprentice. In 2004, he designed the first generation Pluribus Strop till unit, which eventually redefined what is possible with row crop tillage devices. Joe has developed the swirl devices, which is likely the first explicitly soil fluid dynamic tool of its kind. He also designed the GroundFX Row Cleaner, which was the first commercially available real time remotely adjustable ground engaging tool. In 2009, Joe designed the Anhydra Universal Fertilizer Applicator, a tool that can apply dry, liquid and ammonia at the same time. This machine opened new possibilities in 20 inch strip till, as well as in the precision application of manure. Joe has been awarded four United States patents, with numerous others pending.



Joel Poppe - NRCS

Joel Poppe grew up in Sherburn, MN on a livestock and grain farm. He attended the University of Minnesota (U of M), Crookston and the U of M, St. Paul and graduated with a BS degree in Soil Science. After graduation he began working for the Soil Conservation Service (now the Natural Resources Conservation Service - NRCS) in Minnesota. He has worked in Itasca, Olmsted, Fillmore, and Jackson Counties and has been in Jackson County since June of 1981. He and his wife, Dory, have operated the Poppe Pumpkin Patch and Park just north of Lakefield for the last 12 years.



Liz Stahl - U of M Extension

Liz Stahl received a BS degree in Ag Education with a minor in Agricultural Economics and an MS degree in Agronomy/Weed Science from the University of MN. Her experiences include working at a farmer's cooperative as an agronomist, as a research agronomist with a major seed company for six and a half years and working with a non-profit organization in alternative crops. She joined U of MN Extension in 2004 as an Extension Educator in Crops and is based out of the Worthington Regional Extension Office. Her research and education efforts include conservation tillage, pesticide safety education, weed science, and corn and soybean management.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: KEVIN KIMBERLEY



Kevin Kimberley is dedicated to sharing his extensive background, lifelong experience, interests and contributions in farm management/operations and state-of-the-art farming practices with producers, agronomists and engineers through seminars and individual meetings.

Articles regarding Kevin's insights and advice have appeared in agricultural publications in print and online including, Successful Farming, Corn and Soybean Digest, The Progressive Farmer, Cooper Seed's Blog, Farm and Ranch Guide, Farm Industry News, Iowa Farmer Today, Top Producer and more. Not to mention Kevin's appearance on Successful Farming on RFD TV, filmed on location in Maxwell, Iowa.

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ASSISTANCE
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HERON LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT

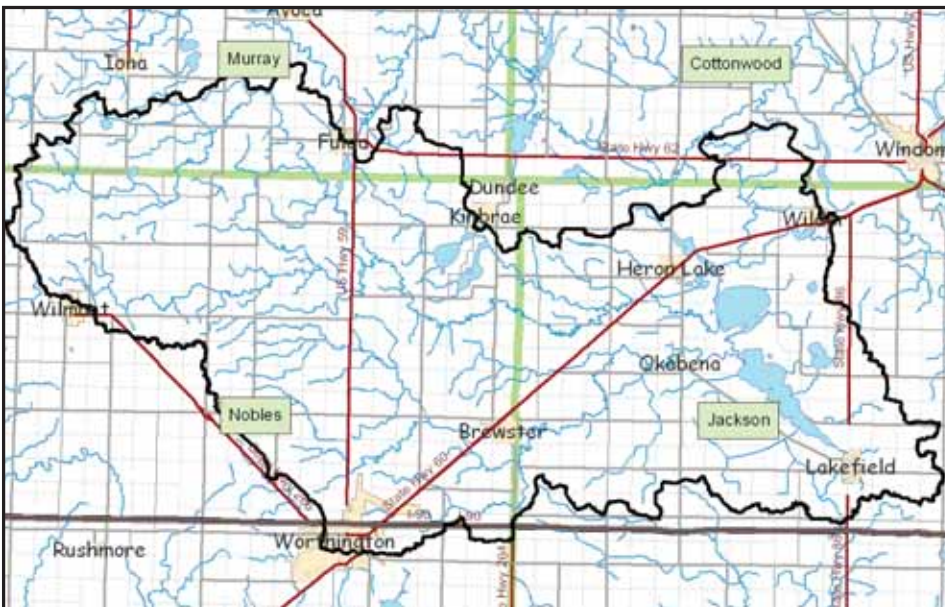
WHAT'S HAPPENING?

**Tuesday, August 17, 8:00 p.m.
HLWD board meeting
HLWD office**

**Thursday, August 26
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Conservation Tillage Field Day**

Note that the HLWD board meeting dates and times are tentative. Please contact the HLWD office for the exact date and time.

Funding for the newsletter is provided by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency through an EPA Section 319 Grant. Please contact us with your questions or concerns! Telephone 507-793-2462; Email: hlwd@roundlk.net



MAP OF THE HERON LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT