Carver County Soil & Water Conservation District
80 Years
1946 - 2026



2026 Fall Newsletter

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

2026 Outstanding Conservationists: Eagle Lake Dairy

Jamie and David Zellmann, along with David's sons, Devin and Dylan, of Eagle Lake Dairy, have been selected as the 2026 Outstanding Conservationists. The Zellmann family has demonstrated exceptional dedication to conservation on their farm, which is located along the north shore of Eagle Lake.

Their long-standing partnership with the Carver SWCD began with pasture and feedlot improvements that helped protect the shoreline of Eagle Lake. More recently, they have been instrumental in advancing the SWCD's watershed-focused erosion control efforts, working collaboratively on both their owned and rented acres to install conservation practices.

Through the establishment of diversions, terraces, and water and sediment control basins, the Zellmann's have stabilized eroding fields that has significantly improved surface water management. Collectively, these projects have prevented more than 120 tons of soil loss and nutrient delivery from entering Eagle Lake and the South Fork Crow River watershed each year.

Congratulations to the Zellmann family of Eagle Lake Dairy, for being excellent stewards of the land!

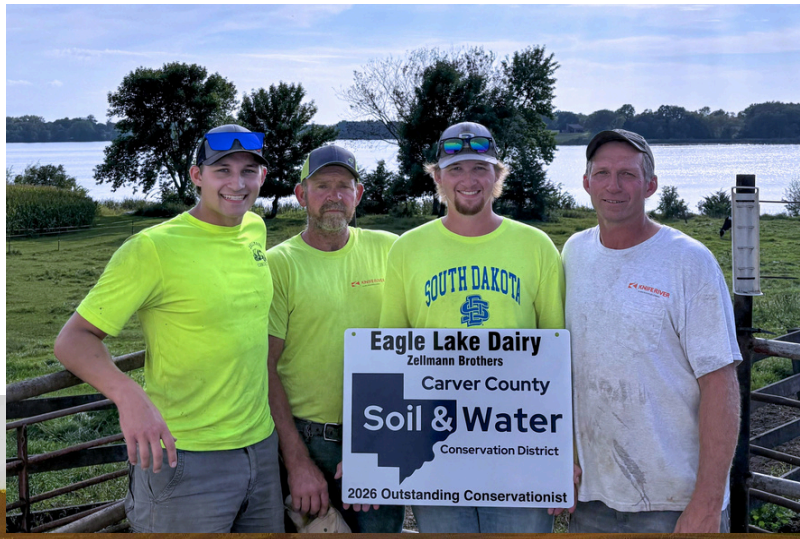
Wanous Retires after 27 Years

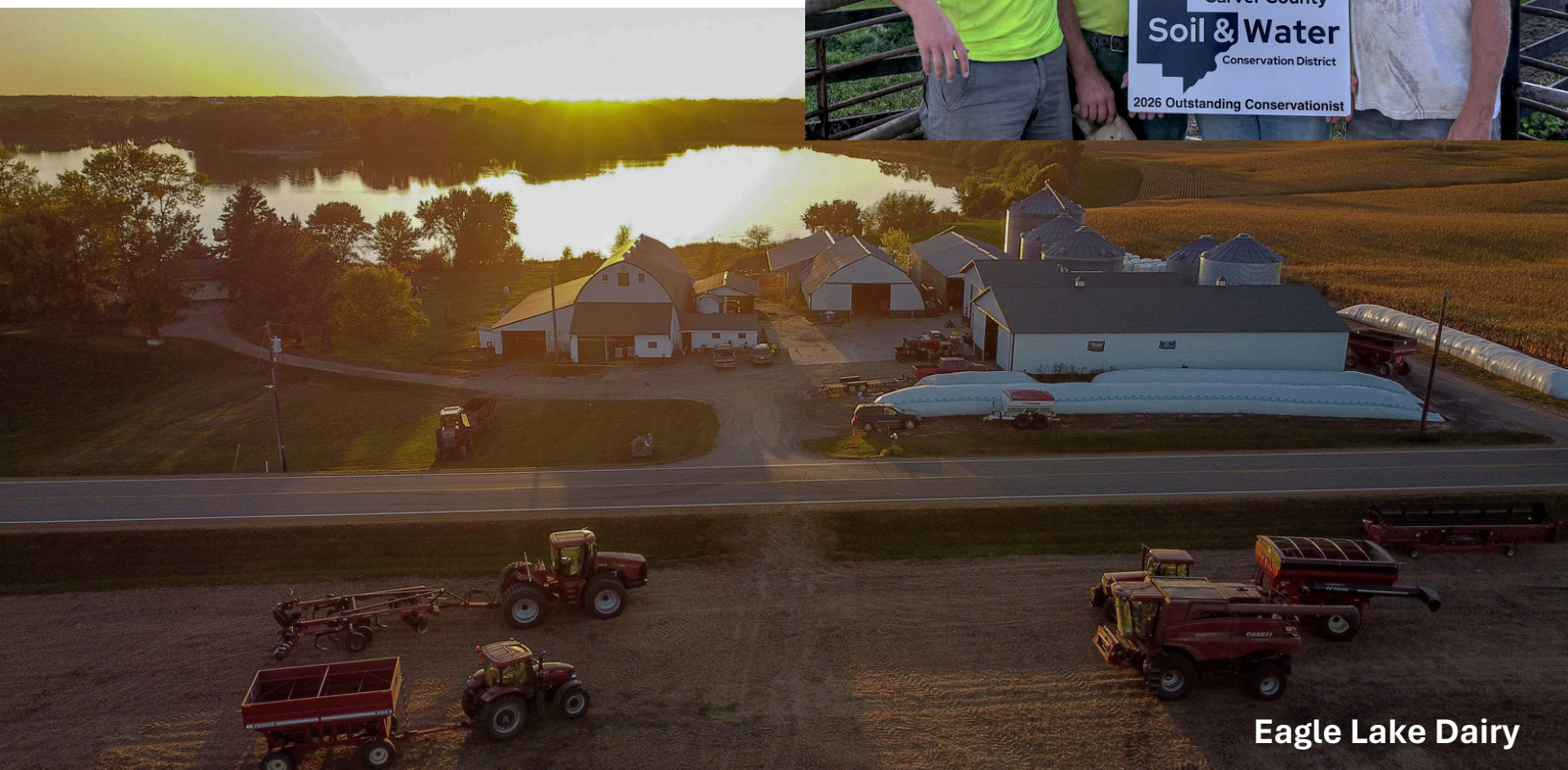
Mike Wanous, previous Manager of the Carver SWCD, has recently retired. The Board of Supervisors and SWCD staff would like to thank Mike for his dedicated service to the SWCD!

Terry Meiller, who has been a Technician with the Carver SWCD for 22 years, has been promoted as the new District Manager.

The SWCD staff will continue to support the residents of Carver County with any natural resource issues and concerns you have. Feel free to contact us by phone, email, or stop in our office.

☎️ (952) 466-5230
📧 info@carverswcd.org
📍 11360 Highway 212 STE 6, Cologne, MN 55322





Eagle Lake Dairy



Cover Crop in Corn Stubble

COST-SHARE AVAILABLE

NATIVE PLANT KIT SALES

We will again be offering the native plant kit sales for the Spring of 2027! All Plant Kits must be ordered **online** and picked up in early June. *Watch our website for more details!*

Growing Opportunities for Soil Health: Cover Crop Funding Continues for 2027

As fall harvest winds down, it's a great time to think ahead about protecting your soil and improving long-term resilience on your farm. The Carver SWCD is once again offering cost-share funding through our Soil Health and Cover Crop Program to help producers implement practices that build healthier soils and reduce erosion.

In 2027, Carver SWCD will continue to offer **$60 per acre for cover crops** and **$35 per acre for no-till** through Minnesota's RCPP Soil Health Initiative. These practices help keep living roots in the ground, improve water infiltration, build organic matter, and protect nearby waters – all while improving your field's ability to handle weather extremes.

Producers should also be aware of new opportunities through USDA's expanded Regenerative Pilot Program, which offers additional funding through both EQIP and CSP to support a wider range of soil health practices. This expansion increases the number of producers who can receive assistance for adopting or enhancing conservation systems to improve long-term farm productivity.

If you're considering cover crops or other soil-health practices, now is the time to start planning. Early coordination with SWCD staff helps ensure eligibility and gives you time to choose the best cover crop mix for your operation. Contact the Carver SWCD to discuss your fields, request an application, and explore both local and federal funding options that can help support healthier, more resilient soil for years to come.



"There can be no life without soil and no soil without life; they have evolved together."
– Charles E. Kellogg

Common Buckthorn *Glossy Buckthorn*





Fall is the Time for Invasive Buckthorn Control

Fall is an ideal time to remove buckthorn from your property because its typically the last tree to lose its leaves. This makes it easy to identify, when similar looking species have dropped their leaves. Minnesota has two species of buckthorn--common buckthorn and glossy buckthorn.

- **Common buckthorn** (left) typically grows in upland forests and grasslands and can be identified by the short thorns at the tips of its twigs and its black berries.
- **Glossy buckthorn** (right) has no thorns, and has smooth, shiny leaves, and produces red to dark purple fruit. It prefers wetter environments such as shorelines and streambanks.

There are several effective strategies for removing buckthorn from your property, and the best approach depends on the site conditions, the time available, and the resources you have. The ideal period for applying herbicide is from September through November, when the trees are moving nutrients down to their roots for winter storage. Buckthorn can also be treated during winter using an oil-based herbicide formulated for below-freezing temperatures. You should avoid treating buckthorn in the spring, as the plants are actively growing and herbicides are less effective during this period. For small saplings under 2 inches in diameter, hand-pulling or using a buckthorn wrench can be effective. The Minnesota DNR and U of M Extension offer excellent online resources with detailed information on control methods.

Once the buckthorn has been removed, it is important to seed or plant native species in its place to prevent it from taking over again. The SWCD can assist landowners with advice, or with a plan for getting buckthorn under control. We are now offering a buckthorn native seed replacement mix with our 2027 tree and native seed orders! You can order your seed packets here: carverswcd.org/product-category/native-seed-mixes/

SWCD Office Use Only
Date Received: _____ **Receipt #** _____ **Order Number 2027-**_____

Tree Seedlings – Shrubs

2027 ORDER FORM

Native Seed – Tree Tubes

Carver Soil & Water Conservation District

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone No: _____
Email Address: _____

DISCLAIMERS:

- Trees and shrubs are bare root seedlings, sold in bundles of 25 (**1** bundle = **25** seedlings).
- Pre-paid orders are accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis, while supplies last. **ORDER EARLY!** *No order cancelations after February 1.*
- All tree/shrub species and native seed mixes have photos and descriptions on our website: www.carverswcd.org/programs-services/tree-program/
- You will be notified by BOTH mail and email when the trees and seed mixes will be available for pick up. Notices are typically sent out in early April.
- Carver SWCD offers NO GUARANTEE of survival and will not issue free replacements or refunds for any species.
- All orders must be picked up on the dates listed in our notification. You can designate another person to pick up your order, if needed.

Type	Species (*Scientific Name*)	Delivery Size	Price per Bundle (*25*)	How many bundles?	TOTAL COST
Conifer	**Arborvitae, American** (*Thuja Occidentalis*)	12-18"	$65		
	Cedar, Eastern Red (*Juniperus Virginiana*)	15-18"	$65		
	Fir, Balsam (*Abies Balsamea*)	12-18"	$60		
	Pine, White (*Pinus Strobus*)	7-15"	$60		
	Spruce, Black Hills (*Picea Glauca Var. Densata*)	7-15"	$60		
	Tamarack (*Larix Laricina*)	12-18"	$80		
Deciduous	**Aspen, Quaking** (*Populus Tremuloides*)	18-24"	$55		
	Hackberry (*Celtis Occidentalis*)	18-24"	$50		
	Maple, Red (*Acer Rubrum*)	18-24"	$50		
	Maple, Sugar (*Acer Saccharum*)	18-24"	$50		
	Oak, Bur (*Quercus Macrocarpa*)	18-24"	$50		
	Oak, Red Northern (*Quercus Rubra*)	18-24"	$50		
	Oak, Swamp White (*Quercus Bicolor*)	18-24"	$50		
Medium Deciduous	**Crabapple, Red Splendor** (*Malus 'Red Splendor'*)	18-24"	$50		
	Plum, American (*Prunus Americana*)	18-24"	$50		
	Redbud, Eastern (*Cercis Canadensis*)	18-24"	$55		
Shrub	**Dogwood, Red Osier** (*Cornus Sericea*)	18-24"	$50		
	Elderberry (*Sambucus Canadensis*)	18-24"	$50		
	Hazelnut, American (*Corylus Americana*)	18-24"	$50		
	Lilac, Common Purple (*Syringa Vulgaris*)	18-24"	$50		
	Lilac, White (*Syringa Vulgaris*)	12-18"	$50		
	Serviceberry, Juneberry (*Amelanchier Alnifolia*)	18-24"	$50		
Native Seed Mix *All are 1,000 Sq. Ft. Packets*	**Buckthorn Replacement Mix** – Semi-aggressive, shade-tolerant grasses designed to revegetate wooded areas (grass species only, no forbs)		$60		
	Mesic Tallgrass Prairie Mix – Mixed grasses and wildflowers ranging 3-6' in height, for medium to clay soil.		$60		
	Pollinator Mix – Grasses, sedges, and over 30 wildflower species, for dry to mesic soil conditions. 2-3' height.		$80		
	Savanna Mix – Great mix for part-sun oak savanna and woodland edge sites with 25-50% tree cover, it contains a mosaic of colors and bloom times. Height 2-4'		$75		
Tree Tubes	(Individual tubes, includes bamboo stakes – *price is per tube)*		$5		

Return order form with your payment to:
Carver SWCD, 11360 Highway 212 STE 6, Cologne, MN 55322

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE:

For any questions, call: (952) 466-5230 | Online order link: www.carverswcd.org/store

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U.S. POSTAGE
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WACONIA, MN
PERMIT NO. 9



Tree Store now open!
carverswcd.org/store/

1946-2026: 80 Years of Soil Conservation

On November 12, 1946, a certificate of organization for the Carver County Soil Conservation District was filed with the Department of State. The governing body was made up of local farmers that included (*left to right*): Manfred Schrupp, Walter Zimmermann, Norman Nellen, Art Ottinger, and Walter Lobitz. Soil Conservation Districts were formed to heal the scars to the land left by the Dust Bowl in the 1930's. SWCDs in Minnesota operate under the authority of MN Statute 103C.

The Carver County Soil Conservation District's name was officially changed on May 14, 1959 to the Carver Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). SWCDs provide technical assistance and education to landowners, as well as cost-share funding opportunities to manage and conserve natural resources.

Originally, SWCDs worked primarily with farmers to help fight soil erosion. Today, the Carver SWCD works with landowners in rural and urban settings, Cities, Townships and other entities to protect our natural resources.

Thousands of conservation practices have been installed in Carver County over these 80 years. If you are interested in getting advice about a conservation project, contact one of our technicians today!

☎ (952) 466-5230 | 🌐 carverswcd.org



Young America Township - 1957
Contour strip cropping - a very effective erosion control practice.





San Francisco Township - 1957
Severe gullying on steep pastureland near Belle Plaine.