



# Agriculture Program Update

*June, 2024*

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# Introduction

In 2024, CLFLWD agriculture programs include:

- Inter-agency efforts
- Technical assistance
- Farmer-led Council
- Priority cropland rental
- Grant funded projects



A strip-till machine demonstrated at a local field day





## Inter-agency efforts

- WCD, Chisago SWCD, and Isanti SWCD will be sharing a new soil health specialist, funded by the state soil health Phase 1 funding.
- LSCP Agronomist position still being filled.
- Chisago SWCD recently completed soil health survey, including responses from District residents.
- Upcoming field days:
  - September 18<sup>th</sup> – Chisago field day
  - September TBD – Washington field day (Hugo)



Expanded vegetative buffer and hay planting, installed with technical assistance from WCD and CLFLWD.



## Technical Assistance

Address resource concerns and assist in conversion to conservation farming practices.

- Partnership with WCD, CSWCD
- Two ag site visits this year
  - Gully erosion, sediment runoff
- No-till Magazine Subscriptions
  - 12 area farmers subscribed
- Two area farmers have purchased no-till equipment in the last year.



A wetland buffer put in place with technical and financial assistance. This prairie planting replaced row crops in an area of high groundwater sensitivity.





## Farmer-led Council

The CLFLWD Farmer-led Council is made up of farmers who own or operate land in the District. The Council provides input on District policies and assists in outreach.

- Spring meeting had six attendees
- Next meeting will be held in July



Aidan Read speaking with two Farmer-led Council members at the equipment workshop in Scandia, hosted with LSC partners. Photo LSCP.



# Priority Cropland Rental

## Bone Lake Field

- 30 acres, three year agreement - renewable
- Reductions:
  - 3.68 lb/yr P
  - 86 tons/yr sediment
- Ongoing management
  - Restart production (Hay or row crops as demonstration site)
  - Soil testing



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Chisago County, Minnesota







# Priority Cropland Rental

## Castlewood Field

- 48 acres, ongoing annual agreement
- Reductions:
  - 6.1lb/yr P;
  - 142 tons/yr sediment
- Ongoing management:
  - Rebid for next year
  - 2024 inter-seeding
  - Soil testing







## Bone Lake Field - 2024



East side of field – amended with lime and seeded in 2017



North west section – amended with wetland soils and reseeded 2021





## Castlewood Field

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May 2020 – CLFLWD photo.



After 1<sup>st</sup> cutting in 2023

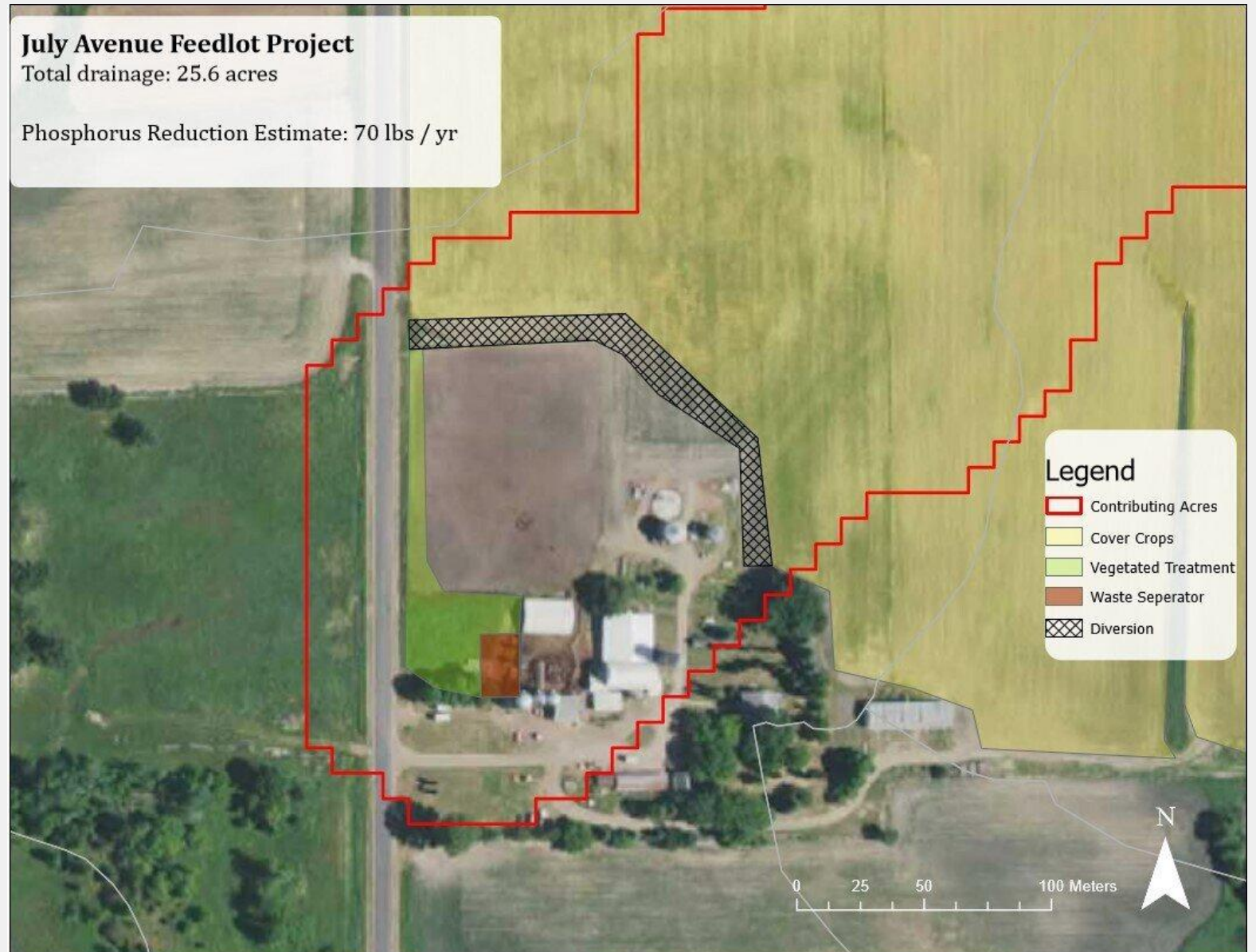




## Grant Funded Projects: July Ave

### 2024 Clean Water Fund Grant

- Install BMPs including:
  - Cover crops
  - Runoff diversion
  - Waste separator







# Questions



2024 site visit: Field edge gully erosion – Nielsen Lake (Olson Farm)





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## Aidan Read

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