

HAYED BUFFER PROGRAM

Sponsored by the Sauk River Watershed District

Program Purpose:

To reduce the impact of soil erosion and stormwater runoff on water quality by reducing sediment, phosphorous, nitrogen and fecal bacteria loads to streams, lakes and wetlands.

Program Summary:

- ◆ Program is intended to encourage landowners to establish buffer strips along vulnerable surface waters as an effective means of reducing levels of sediment and other pollutants in surface water.
- ◆ Program was developed to increase enrollment on priority riparian areas utilizing cash incentives and a minimally restrictive program.
- ◆ The "Hayed Buffer" program was tailored by a Farmer-led Council which guided the SRWD in the development of its program policy, application and payment rate.



Program Terms:

- Width of buffer must have a **minimum width of 50 feet.**
- Program offers **75% cost share** to establish the 50 foot buffer.
- Installed buffer **may be mowed/hayed twice a year** from June 15 through September 1.

Eligible Projects:

- Cropland or pasture land adjacent to perennial streams, intermittent streams, public ditches or private ditches.
- Buffer has a minimum width of 50 feet (15.2 m). This applies to both sides of the waterbody if part of the same parcel and where applicable.
- Land is located in the priority subwatersheds (HUC12) listed in the SRWD 2014-2023 Comprehensive Plan and Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS).
- Must show a direct improvement to water quality and overall stream health .
- Landowner is willing to commit to a 10 year contract.
- Landowner is willing to maintain the buffer for 10 years.

To Participate:

- For Stearns County residents, contact the Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District office at 320-251-7800 ext. 3
- For Todd County residents, contact the Todd County Natural Resource Conservation Service Office, Farm Bill Biologist at 320-732-6618 ext. 3
- For Douglas County residents, contact the Douglas County Soil and Water Conservation District office at 320-763-3191 ext.3
- For Meeker County residents, contact the Meeker County Soil and Water Conservation District office at 320-693-7287
- Contact the Sauk River Watershed District at 320-352-2231

