



Fall 2017

Lower Souris Watershed Committee Inc.

An Update from your Watershed Committee

(306) 452-3292



"Promoting economic, environmental and social balance to sustain and improve the watershed for future generations"

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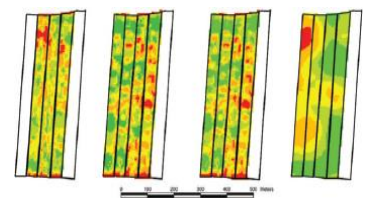
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www.lowsouris.com



Soil Testing Benefits the Environment and the Pocketbook

With harvest 2017 well underway, soil testing should be considered immediately once the crop is in the bin. This helps to ease the time crunch if you normally soil test in the spring and provide a longer window to analyze the results and make the best decisions to maximize your fertilizer dollars.

Regular soil testing has many benefits in nutrient management planning, not only for determining nutrient needs for next year's crop, but also for monitoring changes in nutrient levels over time and potentially reducing the hit on the pocketbook and impacts on the environment by only applying what is needed and not doing a blanket fertilizer application across the field. Also, in a dry year such as this, some of the nutrients may not have been completely utilized or have been displaced making it difficult to estimate how much is left.



There are the 4 R's for Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) for fertilizer application:

Right Product – choosing the appropriate product needed for the intended goal.

Right Place – proper placement of fertilizer can improve a crop's utilization and reduce losses to the environment

Right Time – proper timing of application has specific advantages under certain conditions

Right Rate – applying the proper rate optimizes crop production and helps the environment by reducing excessive application of fertilizer in areas of the field where it may be lost through leaching or denitrification.

Variable Rate Fertilizer (VRF) Application involves the development of prescription zone maps based on unique soil characteristics, then using variable rate equipment to target application rates to maximize crop production and reduce the risk of nutrient loss to the environment. Soil testing is an important part of a variable rate fertilizer (VRF) plan. The soil test itself is only as good as the samples that were taken. A good VRF plan should include fertility management zone maps based on satellite imagery, fertilizer recommendations based on nutrient response curves, reliable soil sampling and analysis, agronomic recommendations based on the producer's goals, access to mapping and record keeping capabilities, and an economic check to calculate the return on investment.

Cost-share funding opportunities are available upon approval through the Farm Stewardship Program for consulting services for creating the initial zone maps, VRF equipment, upgrading and more. Contact Karmen at 306.452.7953 for more information.

INSIDE:

- ~ Shoreline Naturalization Program
- ~ Lower Souris Pasture Assessment Workshop update
- ~ Clean Farms recycling program



SEEKING SHORELINES FOR NATURALIZATION PROJECTS

Shorelines are one of the richest environments on earth, but they are also among the most vulnerable. Habitat loss and degradation, water quality impairments, and increasing pressures from shoreline development can threaten our lakes and rivers, making it a priority for environmental stewardship and restoration.

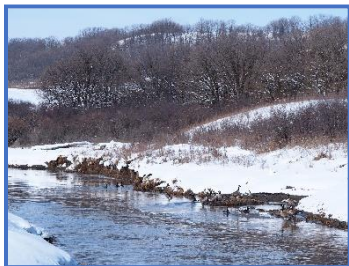
Planting native vegetation, such as trees, shrubs, ground cover, grasses, aquatic plants and wildflowers are both beautiful and useful. Native species have evolved to withstand regional environmental conditions and are preferred by local wildlife for shelter and food.



Planting native vegetation along your shoreline is beneficial to the local system and will stabilize your shoreline from erosion.



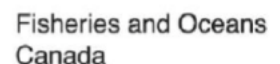
Lower Souris Watershed Committee is very pleased to now offer a shoreline naturalization program to waterfront property owners! This program is designed to help landowners of shoreline properties to create a natural shoreline by planting a selection of native trees, shrubs, wildflowers, groundcovers, and grasses suitable for their property, and will also include the opportunity to include rain gardens, butterfly gardens and bird houses.



This program is an easy step-by-step process that works with landowners to restore the areas of their shoreline that aren't necessarily used for water access with natural vegetation. The plants chosen help reduce soil erosion, improve water quality by filtering runoff, and are essential to providing habitat!

**For more Information Contact:
Tyler Fewings at (306)452-3292
www.lowersouris.com**

***Shorelines are the ribbon of life,
providing habitat, including shelter and
food for over 90% of wildlife.***



The Lower Souris Watershed Committee Hosts Pasture Health Assessment Field Day

On Thursday July 27, 2017, the Lower Souris Watershed hosted 40 people at a Pasture Health Assessment Field Day south of Wapella. Rachel Turnquist, the Regional Forage Specialist in Moose Jaw, led the group through the process of doing health assessments in these different areas, along with Lorne Klein, Regional Forage Specialist out of Weyburn.



At the lotic riparian site along the Pipestone Creek, Rachel explained that riparian areas are the lands adjacent to water bodies where the soils and vegetation are influenced by the presence of water. The group discussed the functions of a healthy riparian area such as reducing the amount of sediment and nutrients in runoff, forage and wildlife habitat, stabilizing stream banks, and slowing water flow.



Performing health assessments is important in pasture management to determine if what you're doing is having a positive or negative effect on pasture health. Common key indicators of pasture health include the amount and types of plants present, the presence of noxious weeds, the amount of bare soil, evidence of soil erosion, plant structure, the amount of litter, as well as shrub and tree growth and regeneration along water ways and around wetlands, and evidence of human impacts. From there, management practices can be considered

to improve pastures in poorer health or to maintain healthy pastures. Assessments should be done in the same place and at the same time each year to ensure consistency. Taking reference pictures is a good idea, as well as recording the pasture management occurring at that time as well.

Dennis Lonsdale from Sharpe's Soil Services discussed the use of soil testing in determining what may be lacking in your soils to maximize pasture productivity and to keep all the soil microbes working at their best.



Karmen Kyle then discussed cost-share funding opportunities available to producers through the Lower Souris Watershed such as Growing Forward 2's Farm Stewardship Program and the Farm & Ranch Water Infrastructure Program. Tyler Fewings, Lower Souris Watershed Co-ordinator, explained the agricultural plastics program for twine and wrap, and discussed the grain bag roller available to producers.

The Lower Souris Watershed Committee would like to thank Sharpe's Soil Services for sponsoring the snacks and drinks for the afternoon, Rachel Turnquist, Lorne Klein and Dennis Lonsdale for sharing their expertise with us, Glen and Dawn Ekert for hosting this event, and the everyone who joined us for the afternoon of learning and great discussions.

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RM of Moosomin # 121
RM of Martin #122
RM of Silverwood # 123
RM of Kingsley #124
RM of Chester #125
RM of Willowdale #153
Town of Redvers
Town of Moosomin
Town of Wapella



COMING EVENTS

District #1 Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association Meeting

October 23, 2017
Whitewood Legion Hall
Call 306.585.2333 or check out
saskbeef.com for more information

Certificate in Regenerative Soil Systems - class

November 1-3
Saskatoon, SK
Contact daryl@integritysoils.com
for more information & to register

Western Canada Conference on Soil Health & Grazing

December 5-7
Edmonton, AB
www.absoilgrazing.com

**Return your unwanted or
obsolete pesticides and
livestock medications!**



CleanFARMS, in partnership with the Canadian Animal Health Institute, will be operating collection programs for both obsolete pesticides and livestock medications in 2017.

What products are usually accepted?

- Obsolete or unwanted agricultural pesticides (identified with a Pest Control Product number on the label).
- Livestock medications that are used by primary producers in the rearing of animals in an agricultural context (identified with a DIN number, Ser. Number or Pest Control Product number on the label).

Pick Up Dates in the Lower Souris Watershed (accepted from 9:00-4:00 at each site):

Broadview

Mon. Oct. 23
Hometown Co-op
696.3038

Moosomin

Tues. Oct. 24
Sharpe's Soil Services
435-3319

Carnduff

Wed. Oct. 25
Crop Protection Services
482-3881

For more information, contact 1.877.622.4460

Did you seed forages this year?

Financial assistance may be available to help with seed and establishment costs to convert annual crop land to perennial forages

up to \$35/eligible acre

Contact Karmen at 306.452.7953 for more details and to apply for these programs and more

