

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

EXTENSION

## Cost Share Assistance for Landowners

Dawn Kier, White Earth Tribal Conservation District

Ed Musielewicz, USDA-NRCS District Conservationist – Becker County

Adam Woltjer, USDA-NRCS White Earth Tribal Liaison

Fueling the Future:

The Role of Woody Biomass for Energy Workshop

March 26, 2009

Ponsford

Sponsored by:

University of Minnesota Extension, White Earth Tribal College, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Soil and Water Conservation District – Becker County

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# Environmental Quality Incentives Program

- a voluntary conservation program from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.
- provides technical assistance, cost share payments, and incentive payments to assist crop, livestock, and other agricultural producers with environmental and conservation improvements to their operations.

# Environmental Quality Incentives Program

## Producer Eligibility

- (i) Be an agricultural producer that is engaged in livestock or agricultural production.
- (ii) Have an interest in the farming operation associated with the land being offered.
- (iii) Have control of the land for the term of the proposed contract.
- (iv) Be in compliance with the provisions for protecting the interests of tenants.
- (v) Be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation compliance provisions.
- (vi) Be within appropriate payment limitation requirements.
- (vii) Be in compliance with AGI requirements.

# Environmental Quality Incentives Program Producer Eligibility

- Producers with forest land must have one of the following:
  - A forest management plan or forest stewardship plan
  - A prior record of timber harvest or revenue from timber sales
  - Proof of capital investment on forest practices

# Environmental Quality Incentives Program Land Eligibility

- (i) Cropland
- (ii) Rangeland
- (iii) Grassland
- (iv) Pastureland
- (v) Private, non-industrial forestland

# Environmental Quality Incentives Program Funding & Ranking

- MN EQIP funds are allocated through the 91 Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) boundaries.
- Each NRCS field office used its SWCD and Local Work Group to develop a local EQIP program and determine local priorities.
- EQIP applications are scored, ranked, and funded at the local level based on local priorities and a local allocation.
- Each office may also develop funding pools to target funds to specific land uses or issues.

# Environmental Quality Incentives Program Funding & Ranking

- Based on Payment Rate
  - Established at state level
  - Based on amount per unit
  - Rates are amount participant will receive regardless of actual cost

# Environmental Quality Incentives Program Practices

## ➤ **FOREST SITE PREPARATION (ac)**

- Chemical preparation of existing cropland, grassland, sod sites
- Chemical preparation on shrub/brush sites
- Mechanical preparation on shrub/brush sites
- Mechanical preparation of existing cropland, grassland, sod sites

Forest Site Preparation should be used in conjunction with Tree and Shrub Establishment, Windbreak, Riparian Forest Buffer, Upland Wildlife Habitat Management and Restoration And Management Of Declining Habitats.

# Environmental Quality Incentives Program Practices

## ➤ **FOREST STAND IMPROVEMENT (ac)**

- Release
- Thinning

All improvements will be accomplished according to a detailed forest management plan. Payment is not authorized for pruning trees.

# Environmental Quality Incentives Program Practices

## ➤ PEST MANAGEMENT (ac)

- Animal repellent or Bud Caps
- Chemical weed control on trees
- Mechanical weed control – in & between tree rows
- Tree Shelters
- Invasive plant species – non cropland, woody & non-woody species
  
- Animal repellent or bud caps eligible as needed for tree establishment.  
Animal repellent is authorized up to 2 applications/year for first 48 mo.  
The only authorized repellants are Deer Away Big Game Repellent Powder and Plantskydd.  
Bud caps are authorized for annual installation for the first 48 months.

# Environmental Quality Incentives Program Practices

## ➤ PEST MANAGEMENT (ac) CONT.

- Mechanical weed control – between tree rows and Mechanical weed control – in tree row is authorized for weed control performed during the first 24 months after planting and as needed for tree est.
- Chemical weed control on trees is authorized for one application per year for the first 24 months.
- Invasive Plant Species Pest Management incentive payment is authorized on **NON-CROPLAND UPLAND**.
  - for up to 120 acres
  - Payment is limited to those acres on which a specific pest management action has been implemented.
  - Land enrolled under an easement for permanent cover is not eligible for this practice.
  - A detailed Invasive Plant Species Pest Management plan will be developed and implemented in order to receive the payment.
- Tree shelters are permitted with hardwood plantings only

# Environmental Quality Incentives Program Practices

## ➤ **RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT OF DECLINING HABITATS (ac)**

- Oak savanna, tree planting
- Red & white pine planting using seedlings
- Red & white pine planting using transplants
- Tree removal
- Tallgrass prairie

# Environmental Quality Incentives Program Practices

## ➤ **TREE/SHRUB ESTABLISHMENT (ac)**

- **Conifer seedlings**
  - **Hardwood planting**
  - **Direct Seeding**
  - **Conifer transplants**
  - **Short rotation planting**
- 
- Payment includes cost of seedlings and planting.
  - Solid plantings should not be more than 1000 or less than 400 trees per acre.

# Dawn L. Kier

White Earth Ag/Wetlands Dept.  
WE Tribal Conservation District

The background of the slide is a solid blue color. In the lower half, there are several decorative elements consisting of concentric circles, resembling ripples in water. These ripples are in a lighter shade of blue and are positioned in the bottom right and bottom center areas of the slide.

# Tribal Conservation District

- Established October 11, 2005 by resolution passed by WE Tribal Council
- Working on establishing our 7<sup>th</sup> Generation Plans
- Interim Board, consists of WE NRD employees, WELRP, Anishinaabe Center, WE Tribal and Community College, Sah Kah Tay Indigenous Preservation Society

# WE NRD & NRCS

- Ag Dept. handles ag. leases & production, prairie & wetland restoration
- NRCS provides cost share on projects the WE NRD completes
- Ag/ Wetlands Manager is able to provide info to Tribal members on NRCS programs
  - EQIP
  - WHIP

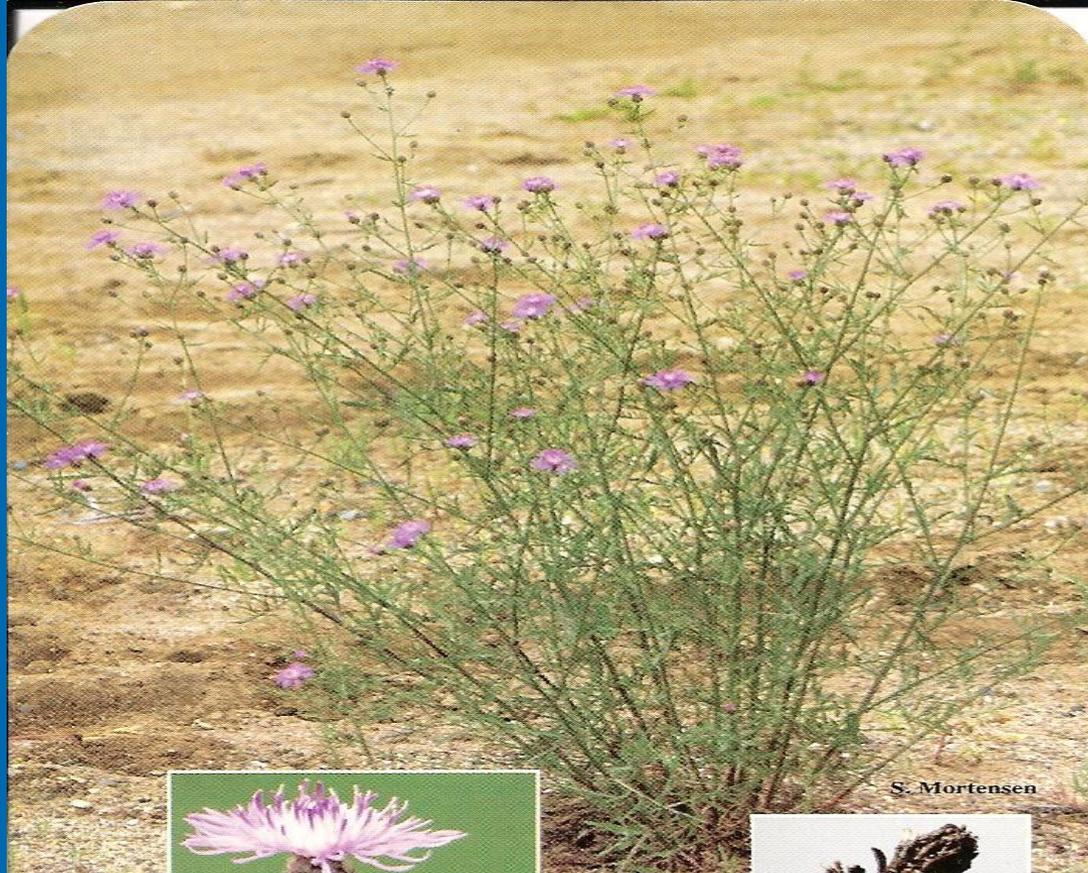
# Noxious Weeds Program

- Works to eliminate invasive species on Tribal Lands
- Eventually will be able to provide assistance through the Tribal Conservation District
- Biggest Problems
  - Spotted Knapweed
  - Buckthorn

# Spotted Knapweed

- VERY aggressive invasive European Flower
- Dominates in sandier soils (Eastern ½ of Reservation).
- Can be found just about anywhere due to traffic
- Possible Carcinogen





S. Mortensen



S. Mortensen



S. Mortensen



Ohio State



B. Edsall

# Buckthorn

- Non native, very aggressive shrub/tree
- Identification: late fall, early winter when all leaves are off trees the buckthorn leaves will still be green
- Habitat that keeps soybean aphids over winter.



# Questions ??

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