



Watershed districts hosting free drainage seminar *Districts partner to offer informative, innovative drainage event*

AUSTIN, Minn. – Friday, March 15, 2013 – Two of the foremost experts in the field of drainage law and conservation drainage research will speak at a free seminar for local agricultural producers Thursday in Austin.

Rinke Noonan attorney Kurt Deter, who has decades of experience in drainage law and covers the state litigating drainage law, will speak along with Gary Sands, a University of Minnesota associate professor and engineer who has done extensive research on conservation drainage as it applies to agricultural sustainability. Sands will discuss how conservation drainage practices can improve water quality and provide economic benefits to ag producers.

Cedar River Watershed District and Turtle Creek Watershed District are co-hosting the drainage seminar from 9 a.m. to noon on Thursday, March 21, at the Holiday Inn in Austin. Local ag producers are invited to attend the seminar to hear updates on drainage activity trends locally and throughout the state of Minnesota, as some areas have experienced subsurface tiling increase by more than 600 percent in the past several years.

“Drainage is a significant cog in the wheel of the current farm economy boom,” CRWD Administrator Bev Nordby said. “We’ve seen the effects locally as well.”

Seminar speakers also will discuss innovative conservation practices developed to reduce nitrate in drainage tile lines. Extensive research has been done, and experts are finding new ways to clean water in drainage tiling while making the land more productive.

Other opportunities for water quality improvement are being offered by the Mower County Soil & Water Conservation District, which is contracted by the CRWD Board of Managers to operate the watershed district.

“The Clean Water Fund has been a successful tool for funding a wide range of projects,” said Nordby, also district manager for the Mower County SWCD. “The SWCD wants to put your tax dollars to work in Mower County.”

The Cedar River and Turtle Creek Watershed Districts are special-purpose government units charged with improving water quality and reducing flood damage. They also focus on drainage issues, and the Turtle Creek Watershed District manages public drainage systems.

Who: Local agricultural producers.

What: Free drainage seminar on local and statewide trends as well as innovative conservation practices. Two experts in drainage law and conservation drainage research will speak, among others.

Where: Holiday Inn in Austin.

When: 9 a.m. to noon Thursday, March 21.

Why: Cedar River Watershed District and Turtle Creek Watershed District are offering the event to better inform local ag producers.

Contact

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