
Blue Earth SWCD Monitoring Plan for Buffer Compliance Tracking



- ❖ **COMPLIANCE TRACKING OF ALL PARCELS SUBJECT TO THE BUFFER LAW.**
 - All parcels in the county are to be reviewed within 3-year timeframes.
 - Review a 1/3 of parcels each year.

- ❖ **RANDOM SPOT CHECKS**
 - Random spots checks will be done in addition to the tracking of all parcels within a 3-year span. These checks may be conducted via aerial photo review or on-site review depending on availability of updated aerial photos and the practice that is being checked/access to farms. A combination of both aerial photos and on-site will be used.
 - The SWCD will conduct 25-50 parcels on a random spot check each year outside of the scheduled area.
 - We will review parcels that were previously non-compliant more often, at least annually.
 - We will review parcels that have alternative practices and variable width buffers annually.
 - Lastly, we will review parcels that signed up for CRP as to be sure their widths stay consistent year to year.

- ❖ **PROCESS TO HANDLE COMPLAINTS**
 - The Blue Earth SWCD determines who is compliant or non-compliant in the county. Therefore, if Environmental Services receives a complaint about potential non-compliance, they will contact the SWCD.
 - Some parcels could be in a conservation program and/or have variable widths.
 - CRP/CREP
 - Land O' Lakes Buffer Tool
 - Decision Support Tool
 - Some parcels could be re-planting and appear non-compliant
 - We have told landowners if they are re-planting to notify us.
 - Some parcels have alternative practices