



MEDIA ADVISORY

www.bwsr.state.mn.us ● Toll-free and TTY: 800-627-3529

Bemidji — Brainerd — Duluth — Fergus Falls — Mankato — Marshall — New Ulm — Rochester
Central Office: 520 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul, MN 55155

For release: July 16, 2012

Contact: Jennifer Maleitzke, 651-215-9008 (office); 651-315-5082 (cell)

Buffers for wildlife and water Legacy media event

WHO: Participants include representatives from the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage and Clean Water Councils, Pheasants Forever, local governments and the Board of Water and Soil Resources

WHAT: Buffers for wildlife and water media event—David and Jeanette Stottrup have 162 acres in Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts that will expire over the next five years. Join us to learn why the Stottrups are enrolling 43 acres of that land in the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Riparian Buffer Easement program, and how the program will protect nearby water quality and enhance wildlife habitat.

WHEN: Thursday*, July 19, 2012
Open house from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

*If you are unable to attend on July 19, there will be a media availability session on Friday, July 20 from 9:00-9:30 a.m.
Conference code phone number: 888-742-5095; Code number: 9901147487

WHERE: David and Jeanette Stottrup's Farm (driving directions attached; site map on page 2)
58415 US Highway 12
Litchfield, Minnesota 55355

HOSTS: Board of Water and Soil Resources, Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Pheasants Forever

QUICK FACTS:

- More than \$10 million is available in the RIM Riparian Buffer Easement program, beginning July 19. To apply, contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District.
- The RIM Riparian Buffer Easement program is the only program funded through both Outdoor Heritage and Clean Water Funds (from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment).
- The program targets creating native plant buffers on riparian lands adjacent to public waters through the purchase of permanent conservation easements. Buffers prevent sediment from entering lakes, rivers and streams, enhances fish and wildlife habitats and protects groundwater and wetlands.
- Nearly 823,000 acres (60 percent) of Minnesota conservation lands enrolled in the federal Conservation Reserve Program will expire in the next five years. The RIM Riparian Buffer Easement program is one tool to begin addressing these expiring contracts.

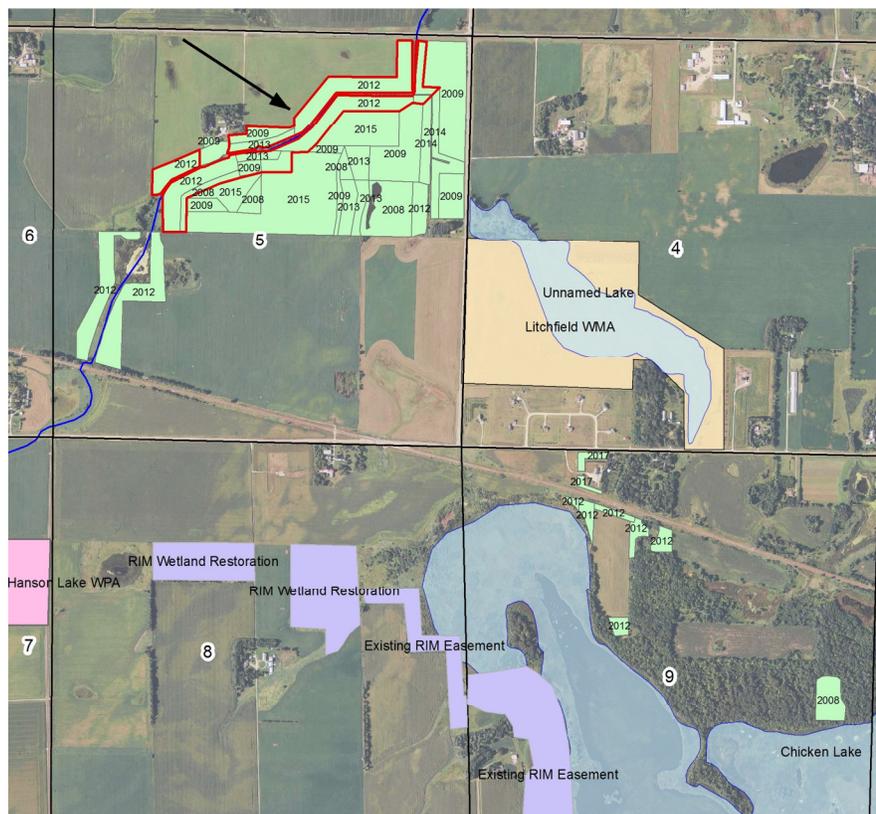
58415 US Highway 12, Litchfield, Minnesota: David and Jeanette Stottrup's Farm

This specific site is located next to a wildlife management area and near multiple waterfowl production areas and public waterways.

Landowner David Stottrup says water isn't a resource that is appreciated enough and believes we need to better protect our water quality.

"I like planting trees along waterways and don't feel we have to use every acre to produce corn," Stottrup said. "This program keeps the land productive."

Enrolling these acres in the RIM Riparian Buffer Easement program will prevent sediment from entering nearby lakes and streams and will enhance wildlife and fish habitats.



Legend

Stottrup Easement	2007 CRP (expiration year shown)	Public Waters Basins
Section Line	USFWS Waterfowl Production Areas	Public Water Watercourse
RIM Easements	Wildlife Management Areas	Public Ditch

Why enroll in the program?

"The RIM Riparian Buffer Easement program offers another option for landowners to target conservation practices and serve as an investment for the long term health of their farm. By enrolling in the program, landowners are compensated to provide plant diversity and keep valuable soil in place."

—LeAnn Buck, Executive Director, Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

"We know that native grasses established in riparian buffer areas provide quality bird nesting habitat and also important winter survival cover for pheasants and other species when the snow arrives."

—Joe Duggan, Vice President, Pheasants Forever

"Vegetated buffers adjacent to our lakes, streams and waterways are one of the best practices we have to achieve clean water. Healthy water is directly tied to the way we manage our land, and buffers are an effective measure to stabilize shorelines and treat water naturally as it runs off the land."

—Keith Hanson, Chairman, Clean Water Council

"Native plant buffer zones are imperative to protect wildlife habitat areas, especially near water. This program offers the opportunity to get buffers on the ground in the many places where they are needed."

— Wayne Enger, Member, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council