



# Renville

## COUNTY MESSENGER

CONNECTING YOU WITH YOUR COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Volume 15

Spring 2016

Issue 1

When seconds count,  
you can count on



CodeRED is an emergency notification service provided, free of charge, to all residents within Renville County through the Renville County Sheriff's Office. The County contracted with a private company in September 2015 to provide the service that is utilized in many counties across the United States. The service is designed to be a community notification system that will inform you via phone calls, text messages, emails and through social media of local situations which may immediately impact your safety. You would be notified of emergencies such as missing persons, emergency preparedness, emergency evacuation notices, travel emergencies, public health crisis and criminal activity.

For Renville County residents who still have a landline telephone, your phone number and address have been prepopulated into the CodeRED system. If an emergency notification were to be issued, you would receive a phone call on that land line notifying you of the emergency. Unfortunately, you must be home to receive that call. Because of that, the Sheriff's Office is encouraging all citizens to also sign their cell phones up with the system. It is very easy to sign up to receive CodeRED texts, emails, or calls. Simply use the "CodeRED Community Notification" link on the front page of the Sheriff's Office website, which is at: [www.renvillecountymn.com/sheriff](http://www.renvillecountymn.com/sheriff)

If you don't have internet access or have trouble navigating to the correct link, just stop in at the Sheriff's Office, which is located in the Renville County Government Services Building at 105 5th Street South, Suite 210 in Olivia to sign up. Sheriff

Scott Hable reminds us, "This emergency notification system will work only as well as the number of people we have

enrolled. If your phone is not enrolled in the system, we can't get these notifications to you. Please enroll all of your phones today." When you enroll with CodeRED, you will be asked for your address, phone number(s) to enroll, whether you want to receive general and/or emergency notifications, the method of notification that you prefer (call, text, e-mail, TDD) and whether you want your information kept private.

Emergency Notifications will only be initiated if there is an immediate risk to your health or safety. If your phone number is in the system and your geographic area is affected, you will receive an emergency notification. General Notifications can be any public safety-related alert not deemed to be an imminent risk to health or safety.

Sheriff's Office staff determines whether a situation or emergency should be broadcast using the CodeRED alert system. When a CodeRED message is broadcast, you should listen carefully, follow instructions, don't hang up until you hear the whole message as the message will not be repeated, DO NOT call 911 unless instructed to do so (as this would tie up emergency lines) and, if instructed, tune to your local radio or television station for further assistance. The Renville County Sheriff's Office conducted a test of the CodeRED system in March of this year. If you didn't receive a test message, be sure to sign all of your phones up to receive the alerts.

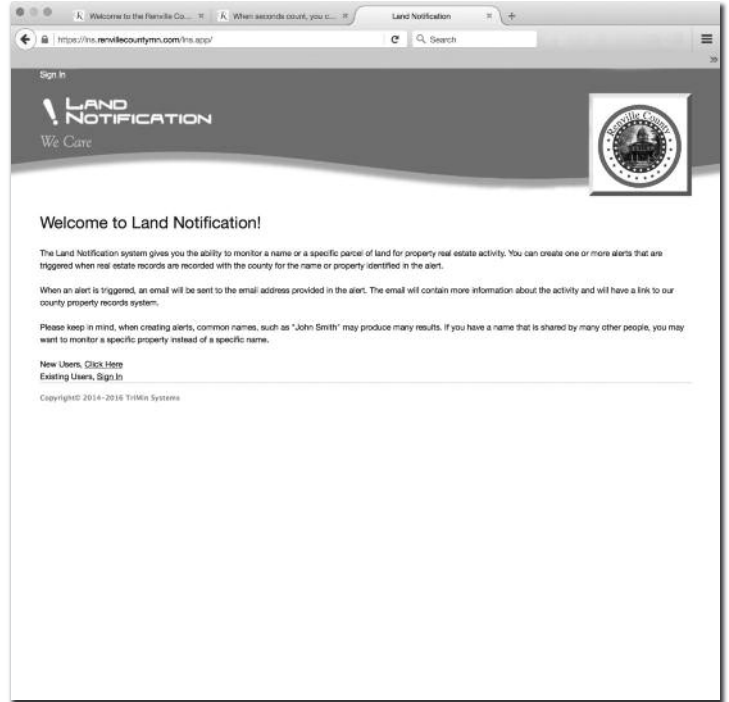
*If you haven't already signed up for CodeRED, do it today!*

# Monitor & Protect Your Most Valuable Assets

The Renville County Recorder's department has installed a Land Notification Alert System. According to Renville County Recorder, Gail M. Miller, "We are offering a free service to our citizens to help them avoid falling victim to fraud. The notification system will allow residents to be notified when a document is recorded in the Renville County Recorder's office against their name, business or property." The service creates alerts based on information provided by property owners. Each time a document is recorded an email is sent providing the owner an update of the activity." You will need to sign up to receive the notifications at <https://lns.renvillecountymn.com/lns.app> with your email address and your name. you will need an email account with Google, Yahoo, AOL or OpenID to sign up for the notifications.

The notification system is a proactive way to prevent fraud. While the county has not yet seen an instance of fraud, a person could forge signatures of homeowners on a new deed and mortgage and walk out with thousands of dollars the same day. Real estate fraud does occur in our society and property owners in Renville County will now be armed with a tool to protect their property. The system also allows potential problems to be caught early and properly corrected. Miller stated, "Our customers can now take a proactive approach to monitoring their investments, and a home is often the largest investment one will make in their lifetime."

*"Receive email alerts, stay on top of fraudulent claims, protect your most valuable assets."*



Sign up today at: <https://lns.renvillecountymn.com/lns.app>

## DRUG TAKE BACK SITES ~ DROP OFF

Unused or expired medication can pose a risk to children, family members, and the environment. It can also be misused or abused, leading to serious complications, overdose, even death.

You can dispose of unused or expired medication safely, easily, confidentially, and for free at:

- Olivia ~ County Office Building Lobby
- Bird Island ~ City Hall
- Buffalo Lake ~ Police Station
- Fairfax ~ City Hall
- Morton ~ City Hall
- Renville ~ City Hall

NO NEEDLES

Thank you!



## Renville County Law Enforcement Services



The Renville County Sheriff's Office provides a full range of law enforcement services for all unincorporated areas of Renville County. Additionally, they provide contracted law enforcement services for the cities of Bird Island, Morton and Sacred Heart.

The "24 hours a day, 7 days a week" staff is always happy to help in any situation. With an unwavering commitment to public safety, they are proud to also serve those who they protect. They operate with a strong community-oriented policing philosophy and strive to form and maintain alliances with other emergency services agencies as well as with the citizens of Renville County.

In addition to providing law enforcement services, the Renville County Sheriff's Office hosts a 911 Dispatch Center as well as operates a full-service, 72-bed jail facility. They strive to provide the very best public safety service to all of our residents.

**Renville County Sheriff's Office:**  
**105 S. 5th St., Suite 210, Olivia, MN 56277**  
**Emergency: 911 • Non-Emergency: 320-523-1161**  
**Jail: 320-523-3600**

Renville County  
2015 **911**  
Calls

8% Increase over 2014

85% From Cell Phones  
Steady increase since 2012



# Renville County Commissioners and Administration Appreciate

*the work of all county employees and wish to recognize employees who have reached their 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, and 40 years of service and those employees who retired in 2015.*

## 5 years

*David Distad*, Environmental Health Specialist  
*Gregory Erickson*, Transit Bus Driver  
*Jenny Erickson*, Custodian  
*Veronica Esquivel*, Jailer/Corrections Officer  
*Michael Knapper*, Jail Program Director  
*Stephanie Malvin*, Dispatcher  
*Elida Reyes*, Office Support Specialist  
*Lori Swezey*, Home Health Aide  
*Ronald Thomson*, Patrol Deputy  
*Jered Weber*, Maintenance Worker  
*Sandra Zuhlsdorf*, Social Worker

## 15 years

*Jacqueline Garberich*, Transit Bus Driver  
*Julie Kohout*, Administrative Assistant  
*Stacey Larson*, Public Health Nurse  
*Robin Schwer*, Dispatcher/Support Specialist

## 30 years

*Susan Klinghagen*, Claims Specialist  
*Rachel Schneiderman*, Transit Director  
*Kevin Sing*, Public Works Superintendent  
*Laurie Thielen*, Public Health Nurse

## 20 years

*Scott Hable*, Renville County Sheriff  
*Renee Hannah*, Administrative Assistant  
*Heidi Morse*, Eligibility Worker  
*Sandra Zens*, Recording Technician

## 35 years

*Barbara Honzay*, Eligibility Worker  
*Joan Okins*, Eligibility Worker  
*Mark Schulte*, Chief Mechanic

## 10 years

*Steve Bombeck*, Maintenance Worker  
*Jane Olinger*, Community Support Technician  
*Glen Rodel*, Transit Bus Driver  
*Laurence Stratton*, Assistant County Attorney

## 25 years

*Karen Serbus*, Eligibility Worker  
*Nancy Stahnke*, Eligibility Worker

## 40 years

*Gail Kopel-Bute*, Deputy Auditor/Treasurer

## Retirees:

*Linda Goblirsch*, Deputy Registrar; *Christina Hettig*, HRA/EDA Director; *Elaine Johnson*, Jail Administrator; *Meg Kubesh*, Public Health Nurse; *Sharon Lidbeck*, Paralegal; *Rachel Schneiderman*, Transit Director; and *Barb Trochlil*, County Assessor

Thank  
you

## COUNTY PHONE NUMBERS

Administrator	320-523-3710	Central Community Transit	800-450-7964	RRRSWA/Recycle	320-523-8002
Assessor	320-523-3645	Heartland Community	320-523-1842	Sheriff	320-523-1161
Attorney	320-523-2661	Action Agency Inc.	or 877-523-1842	Veterans Service	320-523-3763
Auditor/Treasurer	320-523-2071	Hospital	320-523-1261	Water Planning & HHW	320-523-3706
Court Services/Probation	320-523-3663	HRA/EDA	320-523-3812	<i>County Commissioners:</i>	
Court Administration	320-523-3680	Human Services	320-523-2202	Randy Kramer, District #1	320-365-3094
Environment & Community		Landfill/Solid Waste	320-523-1505	Bob Fox, District #2	507-557-8265
Development	320-523-3768	License	320-523-3612	Paul Setzepfandt, District #3	320-365-3270
Extension	320-523-3713	Public Health Nursing	320-523-2570	John Stahl, District #4	320-523-1283
Hawk Creek	320-523-3666	Public Works	320-523-3759	LaMont Jacobson, District #5	320-765-2578
Central Community Transit	320-523-3589	Recorder/Abstractor	320-523-3669		



# Public Health Services 1916-2016

Renville County is proud to be the first Minnesota County to have established a county public health nursing service in 1916 and the first to be funded by county tax dollars. 2016 marks the 100th anniversary of the service and promotional events are being planned throughout the year.

The first nurse in Renville County was Dorothy Motl. She was one of the first pioneers in the public health nursing field. She was in Renville County from 1916 until 1918. Jill Bruns, Public Health Director, notes "Many of the basic issues and challenges encountered by Public Health one hundred years ago are quite similar to today."

Not only did Motl introduce a new service to Renville County, but she also braved innumerable hardships to reach families. With her black bag slung over a shoulder, she sloshed through mud during rainy seasons and broke trail on snowshoes in winter. She warmed her cold hands at rustic stoves. Highways were not always ribbons of concrete, but pitted and rutted which at times became so primitive that Motl left her temperamental automobile to continue on foot.

Motl had to cope with a confusion of foreign tongues and customs, with ignorance of disease and prejudice, and with Old World superstitions. Before she could nurse, Motl had to win the confidence of skeptical patients and relatives.



*"Ready for Calls" Dorothy Motl, R.N., Red Cross County Nurse, 1922  
(Photo Courtesy of the Jackson County Historical Society)*

This was not always easy.

As a Public Health Nurse, Motl imposed quarantines for such diseases as scarlet fever and mumps. She fought influenza outbreaks and constantly tested for tuberculosis.

Besides fighting outbreaks of disease, Motl spent an enormous amount of time teaching. She taught area women how to effectively preserve food so it would not be spoiled before the family needed it. She taught families how to care for the sick and aging in the home. She visited pregnant women and mothers with newborns, teaching basic cares and parenting. She taught women how to prevent the transfer of infectious diseases.

Part of her job was to visit the over 50 rural schools twice a year in Renville County. She had to examine the children for health problems, keeping long lists of children's statistics. Motl noted malnourishment and

illnesses in the schools and fought to get pasteurized milk delivered in bottles to the schools so that children had better nutrition and could be more attentive to their lessons.

In 1917, the Renville County superintendent of schools, Amelia Bengston, noted, 'By the opening of the next school year, children three years behind in their grades (due to poor vision) came back wearing glasses; boys and girls who were dull and undernourished because their molars were decayed and could not grind food, had been cared for by dentists; crippled children had been cured in hospitals; enlarged tonsils, that had been poisoning little bodies, had been removed; protruding teeth had been put back into place; and homely children had been given shapely profiles.'

Motl reported that in the month of September alone, she had checked 345 pupils and detected 245 problems. A total of 98 were referred to physicians, 57 to eye doctors, and 101 to dentists. Ten were treated by the nurse. Motl made 39 home visits to consult with parents, made 34 other home visits, gave 46 talks to school classes, 7 talks to teachers, and inspected 30 schools.

*Renville County continues the proud heritage of providing Public Health Services. For more information, call 320 / 523-2570.*

**Renville  
County**

500 E. DePue Ave.  
Olivia, MN 56277

Phone: 320-523-3710

Email: [saraf@renvillecountymn.com](mailto:saraf@renvillecountymn.com)

Web site: [www.renvillecountymn.com](http://www.renvillecountymn.com)

ECRWSS

**Postal Customer**

PRSRT STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
EDDM RETAIL





## 2016 Renville County Community Events



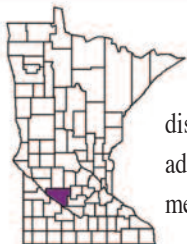
<p>April 16th</p> <p>May 7th - 8th</p> <p>June 8th</p> <p>June 8th - 12th</p> <p>June 15th - 19th</p> <p>June 23rd - 26th</p> <p>July 2nd - 4th</p> <p>July 4th</p> <p>July 6th - 10th</p> <p>July 11th - 17th</p> <p>July 15th - 17th</p> <p>July 18th - 24th</p> <p>July 19th</p> <p>July 22nd - 24th</p> <p>July 25th - 31st</p> <p>August 5th</p> <p>August 10th - 12th</p> <p>August 13th</p> <p>August 14th</p> <p>September 18th</p> <p>November 12th</p> <p>November 18th - 20th</p> <p>December 1st</p> <p>December 4th</p>	<p><b>Spring Garden Party, Morton</b></p> <p><b>MN River Valley Scenic Byway Garage Sale</b></p> <p><b>Chamber Golf Classic, Olivia Golf Club</b></p> <p><b>Sugar Beet Days, Renville</b></p> <p><b>Island Days, Bird Island</b></p> <p><b>Days of Thunder, Fairfax</b></p> <p><b>Polka Fest Days, Bird Island</b></p> <p><b>Independence Day Celebration, Morton</b></p> <p><b>Danube Fun Days, Danube</b></p> <p><b>Corn Chaff Days, Hector</b></p> <p><b>Summerfest, Sacred Heart</b></p> <p><b>Buffalo Lake Days, Buffalo Lake</b></p> <p><b>4-H Golf Tournament, Olivia Golf Club</b></p> <p><b>Catfish Derby Days, Franklin</b></p> <p><b>Corn Capital Days, Olivia</b></p> <p><b>Renville County Relay for Life, Olivia</b></p> <p><b>Renville County Fair, Bird Island</b></p> <p><b>KMS Memorial Ride, Franklin</b></p> <p><b>Czech Heritage Festival, Bechyn</b></p> <p><b>Hector Fly-In, Hector Municipal Airport</b></p> <p><b>Holiday Happenings, Hector</b></p> <p><b>Beneath the Village Wreath, Morton</b></p> <p><b>Unforgettable Christmas, Hector</b></p> <p><b>Old Fashioned Christmas, Bird Island</b></p>
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**For more information regarding these events visit [www.renville.com](http://www.renville.com) or call the Renville County HRA/EDA office at (320) 523-3656**





# You're invited to discover the *unexpected* in Renville County



Renville County is known for its rich farmland and vast prairies and we are proud to be deeply rooted in agriculture. Come discover the unexpectedness of Renville County starting with an adventure in the Minnesota River Valley. We are more than what meets the eye!

Explore the outdoors in Renville County for abundant wildlife, breathtaking river valley views, rustic and historic parks, memorable sunsets, incredible granite rock formations, excellent bird watching, scenic Minnesota River, friendly people and much more. The unexpected adventures await you.

Find more information about Renville County Parks at [www.renvillecountymn.com](http://www.renvillecountymn.com) or call 320-523-3768 (Environment & Community Development)



# HOUSING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWS

105 South 5th Street, Suite 318 • Olivia, MN 56277 • (320) 523-3812 • [www.renville.com](http://www.renville.com)

Spring 2016

Issue 1

Volume 15

## Are you on Google ?

It's not news to anyone that the internet drives business. An online presence is imperative in today's global marketplace and getting a basic entry online can be simple and quick. One great place to start is *Google*. An online search will often provide a location map pointing to a business along with general contact information. When you search for your business does *Google* find you? Is your map location correct? Would you actually be able to find your business location if you were new to town or just traveling through the area? If you answered no to any of the above questions you can easily correct it. The simple truth is that people need to be able to find you online! The saying is that, "if it doesn't exist on the internet, it doesn't exist." We know you are here, and that you exist, now let's confirm it on *Google*!

After a quick search it was discovered that the EDA was on *Google* but the information wasn't correct. After watching a *Google* video, we were able to create a professional Gmail account for the department, claim the business, and make the updates. Once we received our verification code in the U.S. mail from *Google* we were able to finalize our updates online.

You can watch the *Google* video at: [www.en.advertisercommunity.com/t5/Videos/How-to-add-or-claim-your-business-on-Google/ba-p/475991#](http://www.en.advertisercommunity.com/t5/Videos/How-to-add-or-claim-your-business-on-Google/ba-p/475991#) to get your business on *Google*, claim your business or update your information.

If you would like additional assistance in getting on *Google* or editing your business on *Google*, please contact Susie at 320-523-3837 or by email at [susiel@renvillecountymn.com](mailto:susiel@renvillecountymn.com)



*Renville County Historical Society*  
441 N Park Dr, Morton, MN 56270  
WEBSITE: [renvillecountyhistory.com](http://renvillecountyhistory.com)  
E-MAIL: [info@renvillecountyhistory.com](mailto:info@renvillecountyhistory.com)

Located in Morton, MN the Museum Grounds consist of six buildings sharing the history of Renville County, its people, towns, churches, schools and more.

- Main Museum: exhibits areas, research library & gift store
- Schoolhouse Dist. 36: country school
- Schoolhouse Dist. 28: exhibit area
- Heritage Building that houses the 1869 log cabin & exhibits
- Machine Shed with farming exhibits
- St. John's Church built in 1891, remodeled in 1907, moved to Museum grounds 1997.

Come on over to Morton and visit the Museum and learn of the rich history Renville County has to share.

**Hours:** June to Aug, Tues-Sat 10am-4pm  
Sept to May, Mon-Fri 10am-4pm

## Brain Gain Lunch and Learns

Ben Winchester, Research Fellow for the Extension Center of Community Vitality has been doing research on rural America. While there is a brain drain of 18-25 year olds leaving their small towns there is also a migration of 30-49 year olds to rural America. These 30-49 year olds bring with them degrees, spouses, children and professional connections. The story of rural America is rich with positive trends occurring under the radar. Learn how these important positive changes have been occurring and call us to rewrite the narrative of rural community change. You are invited to join the discussions on Brain Gain in Rural Minnesota!

- May 4 Rural Entrepreneurship and the Quest for an Empowered Rural Economy
- June 1 Great Plains Opinions and Attitudes

Noon -1pm webinar, 1-2pm group discussion Renville County Government Center, 105 S. 5th St., Olivia  
RSVP for each webinar you plan to attend at least one day prior to the webinar to allow for enough seating. Contact the Renville County Extension Office at 320-523-3713.

Find more information on the Brain Gain at: [www.extension.umn.edu/community/brain-gain/](http://www.extension.umn.edu/community/brain-gain/)



## NEWS FROM OUR NEIGHBORS

### BUFFALO LAKE ~ Sweet Home

Bakery held their Grand Reopening February 19 & 20. New owners are Jeff and Julie Ufkes. Hours are Tuesday-Friday 6:30am-4:00pm and Saturday 6:30am to 12:00pm. Stop by for their Daily Specials. We are excited to have the bakery open again on Main Street.

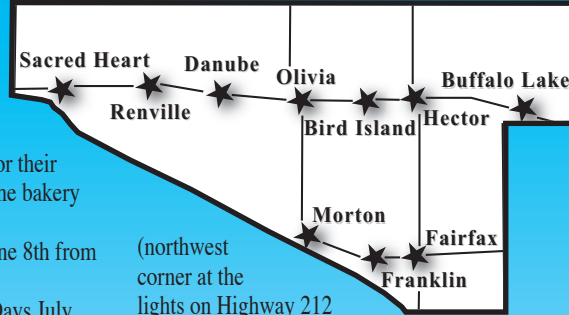
Bloodmobile will be in Buffalo Lake June 8th from 1:00- 7:00pm at the community center.

Mark your calendars for Buffalo Lake Days July 18th-24th.

**RENVILLE ~ Renville Sugar Beet Days** are scheduled for June 8th – 12th.

**MORTON ~ River Valley Groom and Spa** is now open in Morton! This full service pet grooming shop owned and operated by Miranda Fuller also offers pet supplies, accessories and treats. River Valley Groom and Spa is located at 440 West 2nd street in Morton Wednesday-Friday 8am-6pm. Call Miranda at 763-587-1374 to schedule an appointment.

**OLIVIA ~ Olivia** welcomes two new businesses to town. They are Mac's and the Back 40! Mac's is a hardware, building supply and tool store located at 1829 W Lincoln Ave (west of Subway). Mac's is open M-F 7:30 am-6pm, Saturdays 8am-5pm, Sundays noon-5pm. The Back 40 restaurant opened in January, located at 102 N 9th Street in Olivia



(northwest corner at the lights on Highway 212 and 9th street) open

Monday-Saturday 10am-8pm. Additional information and their full menu is available on Facebook.

### HRA/EDA STAFF MEMBERS

Susie Lang, HRA/EDA Development Coordinator  
Carrie Tersteeg, Administrative Assistant  
Ron Louisiana, Maintenance  
Housing Contacts: Amanda Hillmer, Pat Dingels

### HRA/EDA BOARD

Joel Harmoning, Chair, District 2  
Deb Lingl, Vice-Chair, District 3  
Mark Thiesse, Secretary-Treasurer, District 4  
Sandy Housman, District 1  
Janette Wertish, District 5  
Blair Anderson, Board at-Large  
Wendy Schwint, Board At-Large  
Randy Kramer, Ex Officio

## Centennial Apartments

161 2nd Avenue East • Franklin, MN



### One Bedroom Apartments Rent Based on Income

*Waiting List Open*

#### Family Size

1

2

#### Income Limits

\$34,000

\$38,850



Amenities Include:  
Quiet Atmosphere  
Community Room  
On-Site Laundry  
Elevator  
Smoke-Free Building

Call Amanda or Pat at  
(507) 637-4004 for more information.

Visit our website at [www.renville.com](http://www.renville.com)

## Would Your house like a little TLC?



Do you need a new furnace, or maybe some insulation or windows? Those are just some of the eligible improvements under the Renville County Homeownership Program.

Homeowners in Renville County may qualify for a no-interest loan of up to \$5,000 for half the cost of their home improvement project.

Downpayment assistance also available to first time homebuyers.

For more information email Susie at [susiel@renvillecountymn.com](mailto:susiel@renvillecountymn.com) or call (320) 523-3837.

Renville County  
HRA/EDA

### Maximum incomes

1 person \$41,450  
2 people \$47,350  
3 people \$53,300  
4 people \$59,200  
5 people \$63,950  
6 people \$68,650  
7 people \$73,400  
8 people \$78,150



## Renville County FARMERS' MARKETS

### Buffalo Lake Area Farm & Flea Market

Saturdays 8:00am-12:00pm

June 11th through the fall

Buffalo Lake City Park Hwy 212

For more info: Doug 320-389-1006

### Fairfax Farmer's Market

Tuesdays 4-6pm Mid June - September

1st Street S.E. off Hwy 19 Fairfax

For more info: Sara 507-426-7222

### Hector Farmer's Market

Wednesdays 3-6pm

July through the fall

Highway 212 & Co RD 4

(South Central Grain & Energy C- Store)

For more info: LaVonne 320-848-2195

### Olivia Farmer's Market

Thursdays 1:30-5:30pm

July 14th through October

City Parking Lot, 9th Street & Fairview

(2 blocks south of the stoplight, South of F & M Bank)

For more info: Cathy 320-522-1043

### Morton Farmer's Market

Days & Times will Vary, Please Call for Schedule

Mid June through the fall

City Hall Parking Lot (Downtown Morton on HWY 19)

For more info: Shirley 507-697-6912

\*\*\*\*An assortment of items available includes a variety of Minnesota Grown garden fresh produce from the rich black soil of Renville County. A large assortment of fresh breads, baked goods, canned & pickled items, homemade mittens, crafts, jams, jellies, flowers and lots of vegetables.





# Renville 150th Anniversary ~ 2016

CONNECTING YOU WITH YOUR COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## Renville County Agriculture by the Numbers

A national collection of agriculture census data began in the late 1800's at a county level by the US Department of Commerce and was transferred to the US Department of Agriculture in 1977. Some of the data collected includes the number of acres in farms, the average size of farms, the number of farms in a county along with the number of acres planted in various crops including Corn, Wheat, Oats, Soybeans and Sugar Beets.

## Number of Acres in Farms

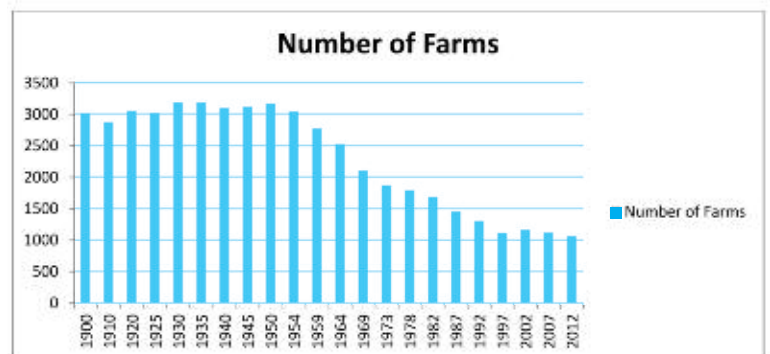
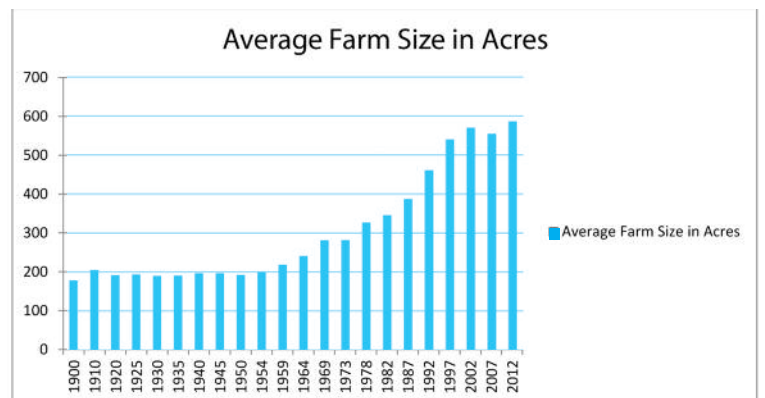
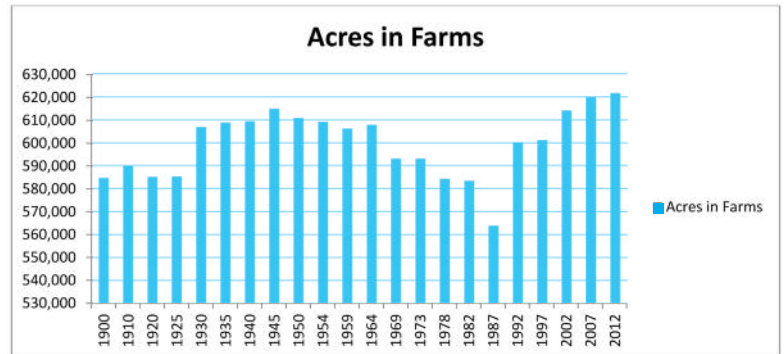
According to current agriculture census data, Renville County land area is approximately 632,000 acres. From the first census reported in 1900, there were 585,000 acres farmed in the county. The acres farmed increased in 1930 to 607,000 acres and continued around that level until 1969. From 1969 to 1987 the number of acres in farms dropped to an average of 584,000 acres and then began a steady climb to 621,000 acres reported in 2012.

## Average Farm Size

The average size of farms in Renville County was reported to be 179 acres in 1900 and continued in a range of 192 to 200 acres until 1959 when it increased to 219 acres. The next sizeable increase occurred in 1969 to 282 acres and then in 1978 to 327 acres. Steady increases were reported in the average farm size with 388 acres in 1987, 466 acres in 1992, 570 acres in 2002 to 586 acres by 2012.

## Number of Farms

According to the 1900 census, Renville County reported there were 3,013 farms. For the next 55 years the number of farms in the county averaged 3,100. In 1959 the number of farms in the county dropped to 2,771 with a steady decline in the number of farms reported every five years. By 1987 the number of farms in the county had dropped to 1,455 – half of the 1900 census figure. As of the 2012 census there were 1,061 farms reported.



## Corn Acres

Renville County farmers were engaged in growing corn by the early 1900's. Corn acres increased steadily through the teens and twenties and reached 148,744 acres by 1925. From 1925 to 1940, the number of planted acres of corn averaged 145,000. The trend of acres planted in corn jumped in 1945 to 183,000 acres and fluctuated higher and lower until 1992 when the number of acres was over 200,000. From that point the number of corn acres has steadily risen to a reported 285,000 in 2012.

## Wheat Acres

History tells us that the crop first grown by the early settlers in Minnesota was wheat. In 1920, Renville County's census report reflects that there were 105,385 acres planted in wheat. The number of wheat acres planted in the County dropped to half in 1925 and continued at that level until 1945 when there were 30,578 acres in wheat reported. In 1954 a drop in wheat acres continued to an all time low in the twentieth century of 3,500 acres. Wheat acreage began to climb in 1959 to 17,850 acres and reached a high of 54,866 acres in 1982. Just five years later, in 1987, a downward trend started and descended to 3,400 acres by 2012.

## Oats Acres

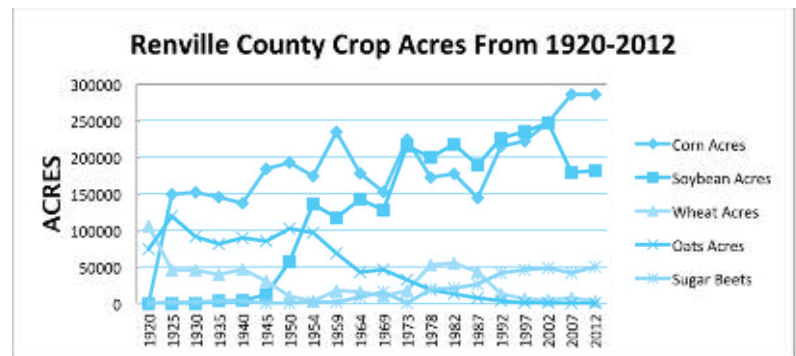
Oats were planted early in Renville County and were used for feed and bedding for horses and other livestock. The first time oats appeared in the county's agriculture census was in 1920 with a total of 74,000 planted acres. The number of acres jumped in 1925 to nearly 120,000 an all time high for oats. From 1930 to 1954 oats planted in the county averaged about 95,000 acres. A decline in oats started in 1959 at 68,000 acres and continued on to 19,000 acres in 1978. The decline continued through the 1980's and 90's to 1,373 acres in 1997. The last census report of 2012 showed an all time low of 300 acres.

## Soybeans

In the 1930's and 40's, as tractors replaced horses, the need for oats declined so farmers switched to planting soybeans. Soybean acres reached 57,295 in 1950. By 1973, soybean acres were 215,000 and were as high as 246,244 in 2002 and were reported at 181,306 in 2012.

## Sugar Beets

Sugar beets were grown throughout Renville County's farming history. At one time, beets were harvested and taken to a processing plant in Chaska. The Chaska plant was slated to close in 1971, so the Southern Minnesota Beet Growers Association formed a cooperative and decided to construct a sugar processing plant in Renville County. The formation of the coop and the construction of the processing plant created a growth in the number of sugar beet acres reported to nearly 20,000 by 1978. The number of beet acres more than doubled by 1992 to 42,000 acres and were reported in 2012 to be approximately 50,000 acres.



## Today Renville County Ranks:

- **Number 3 in Minnesota Total Agricultural Production**
- **Number 2 in Total Crops**
  - **Number 3 in Corn**
  - **Number 1 in Sweet Corn**
  - **Number 10 in Soybeans**
  - **Number 5 in Sugarbeets**
- **Number 10 in Livestock**
  - **Number 3 in Sheep and Lambs**
  - **Number 8 in Poultry**
  - **Number 10 in Hogs**



# 2016 Renville County Recycling Schedule

- ▼ Bird Island / Renville / Sacred Heart
- ◆ Danube / Olivia
- Buffalo Lake / Fairfax / Hector
- Franklin / Morton
- ★ Holiday - NO SERVICE

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					★ 1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

JULY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**RRRMRF FACILITY ADDRESS:**

907 W Bridge Street  
 Redwood Falls, MN 56283  
 Phone: 507-637-1800 or 320-523-8002  
 General Information Email: info@rrrswa.com  
 Website: www.renvillecountymn.com/services/RRRMRF

For curbside collection & recycling cart issues,  
 contact West Central Sanitation: 1-800-246-7630

Redwood and Renville Counties become Single Stream Recycling counties. Residents no longer have to sort recyclable materials such as glass bottles, plastic, paper, newspapers, cardboard and aluminum into separate bins, bags or bundles. All recyclables can now be mixed together in one convenient 95 gallon container.

**ALL ITEMS MUST BE EMPTY, CLEAN AND RINSED (CONTAINERS)**

**Plastic Containers:** #1 thru #5 (excluding caps) No larger than 5 Gallons. Must be removed from bags - No Styrofoam - No loose bags - No toys, pools, siding, PVC pipe, etc.

**Glass:** Clear, green and brown bottles and jars (food and beverage containers only.) No light bulbs, mirrors, ceramics or dishes. Must be empty and clean - Do Not remove labels.

**Steel and Aluminum:** Food and beverage cans aluminum foil and pie pans, aerosol cans. No food remaining - empty and clean. No need to remove labels on food cans.

**Paper:** Newspaper, magazines, paperbacks, catalogs, junk mail, phone books, envelopes (including windowed) paper egg cartons.

**Shredded Paper:** place shredded paper in a light colored plastic bag and tie shut. Do Not bundle or tie - place in cart loose.

**Cardboard:** (folded flat), paper bags, boxboard (e.g. cereal, cracker, pasta and shoe boxes.) No frozen food or refrigerated food boxes. No packing foam - No waxed cardboard.

**PLASTIC BAGS**  
Knot it, Bag it

Put only full bags of clean knotted plastic bags in the Mixed Recycling bin.

**NO LOOSE BAGS!**

# Upcoming E-Waste & Appliance Collections

## Redwood and Renville County Residents

### MAY - OCTOBER

First Wednesday of Each Month

2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

LOCATED BEHIND THE  
REDWOOD COUNTY MUSEUM

MAY 4TH, 2016

JUNE 1ST, 2016

JULY 6TH, 2016

AUGUST 3RD, 2016

SEPTEMBER 7TH, 2016

OCTOBER 5TH, 2016

### ELECTRONICS:

**FREE:** CPUs, Computer Mouse, Cell Phones, Radios, Keyboards, VCRs, Speakers, iPods, Cameras, GPS Units, CD Players, MP3 Players, etc.

**COST: \$8.00:** TVs, Laptops, Anything with a screen or monitor

**\$4.00:** Scanners, Printers, Copiers and Fax Machines

### APPLIANCES:

**FREE:** Washers, Dryers, Dehumidifiers, Grills, Fans, Water Heaters, Vacuum Cleaners, Water Softeners, Household Refrigerators, Stove / Ovens, etc.

**COST: \$50.00:** RV Refrigerators



**Redwood/Renville Regional  
Material Recovery Facility**

**PHONE:** (320) 523-8002

**WEBSITE:** [renvillecountymn.com/services/RRMRF/index.php](http://renvillecountymn.com/services/RRMRF/index.php)

SAVE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE! ~ SAVE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE!

# 2016 RENVILLE COUNTY CLEAN-UP

## Renville County Landfill & HHW Facility

32877 County Road 4, Olivia

Tuesday, June 7th

Wednesday, June 8th

Time: 7:30 am - 5:30 pm

*Notice: Clean-Up will be held at the Landfill & HHW Facility ONLY.  
Collections WILL NOT be held at other sites*



### ~ ITEMS TO BE COLLECTED AND FEES ~ (FEES ARE PER ITEM)

<u>County Resident</u>	<u>Business/ Non-Resident</u>
----------------------------	-----------------------------------

**TIRES:** Including tires with rims

Car \$1	Car \$5
Truck \$5	Truck \$10
Tractor front \$5	Tractor front \$10
Tractor rear \$10	Tractor rear \$25
Heavy equip. \$20	Heavy equip. \$50

**APPLIANCES:** \$3 (County Resident) / \$6 (Business/Non-Resident)

Including refrigerators, stoves, dishwashers, water heaters, washers, dryers, dehumidifiers, air conditioners, freezers, microwaves, etc. (RV Refrigerators \$25/\$50)

**ELECTRONICS/COMPUTERS:** \$4 (PER ITEM) (County Resident) / \$8 (PER ITEM) (Business/Non-Resident)

Items with a screen/monitor (Including TVs, monitors, laptops)

**OTHER ELECTRONICS:** \$2 (PER ITEM) (County Resident) / \$4 (PER ITEM) (Business/Non-Resident)

(Including hard drives, fax machines, stereos, printers, etc.)

**FLUORESCENT BULBS:** Free (County Resident) / 50¢ per bulb\* (Business/Non-Resident)

Please box large quantities.

**BALLASTS:** Free (County Resident) / \$4 (Business/Non-Resident)

**RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES:** Free (County Resident) / Free (Business/Non-Resident)

Including Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cd), Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH), Lithium Ion (Li-ion), and Small Sealed Lead (Pb).  
Dispose of alkaline batteries in the garbage.

\*Free bulb disposal for Renville County businesses. Please box large quantities.

### LANDFILL & HHW Facility CAN ACCEPT

- General household garbage for a fee.
- Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) from RESIDENTS ONLY. HHW includes paint, stains, pesticides, aerosols, mercury thermometers, and cleaners. There is no-cost for residents to dispose of HHW. Businesses should contact the HHW facility for information on disposal options.
- Recycling items including glass, paper/newspapers/magazines, cans, plastic containers #1 thru #5, and flattened cardboard.

### ITEMS THAT **WILL NOT** BE ACCEPTED:

- Clothes left in washers or dryers and food left in refrigerators or freezers.
- Wastes the HHW Facility cannot accept such as explosives, radioactive wastes, unknown chemicals, or hazardous waste from businesses.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE RENVILLE COUNTY LANDFILL & HHW FACILITY AT (320) 523-1144 OR RENVILLE COUNTY WATER & HHW MANAGEMENT AT (320) 523-3760 OR VISIT WWW.RENVILLECOUNTYMN.COM

**A fishing trip may last a day,  
but zebra mussels can live  
in a lake forever.**



© Engstrom Underwater Photography

**Do your part to protect Minnesota's waters  
by following the state aquatic invasive species laws**

**You must...**

- **Clean** visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels and other prohibited species from watercraft, trailers, and equipment before transporting from any water access.
- **Drain** water from bilge, livewell, motor, ballast tanks, and portable bait containers before leaving water accesses or shoreline property.
- **Keep** drain plug out and water-draining devices open while transporting watercraft.

**You may not...**

- **Transport** aquatic plants, water, or prohibited invasive species such as zebra mussels or Eurasian watermilfoil.
- **Dump** live bait into state waters, on shore, or on the ground.
- **Launch**, or attempt to place, watercraft, trailers or equipment with aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or prohibited invasive species into any state waters.

**Additional recommended precautions, not required by law ...**

**Spraying** with high-pressure water, **rinsing** with very hot water, and/or **drying** boats and water-related equipment for at least five days is advised to remove or kill hard-to-see aquatic invasive species before moving to other water bodies. **Dispose** of unwanted bait in trash.

[www.mndnr.gov/invasives](http://www.mndnr.gov/invasives)



**mndnr.gov**



**STOP AQUATIC  
HITCHHIKERS!**



# Water Protection and Management

Volume 15

Spring 2016

Issue 1

## Manure Management Plans and Recordkeeping



All feedlots greater than 300 animal units must have a current Manure Management Plan on file. The exception is when manure is applied by a licensed Commercial Animal Waste Technician, then a Manure Management Plan is not required. In addition, any feedlot with 100 animal units or more is required to maintain manure application records.

Manure Management Plans and manure application records must be available for review at the time of a feedlot inspection. If you need assistance developing a Manure Management Plan, need a manure application recordkeeping form, or have any questions, please contact the Renville County Environment and Community Development office at (320) 523-3768.

## NEW BUFFER REQUIREMENTS Conservation Programs Available

The new buffer initiative establishes requirements for perennial vegetation along rivers, streams, and public ditches. Buffers hold soil in place, use up nutrients, filter pollutants, and help maintain ditches by preventing fill-in due to runoff and wind erosion. Following public review and comment, the MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will establish and maintain maps of each county that indicate the waters that are subject to the buffer requirements. The maps will help landowners to identify whether or not they need to create a buffer and how wide it would need to be.

When maps become available, the Renville County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) can provide assistance to landowners to identify the width required for a buffer or help to select an alternate water quality practice. Buffers are currently required to be installed on Public Waters by November 2017 and on Public Drainage Systems by November 2018.

Maps are tentatively scheduled to be available this summer;

*"New Buffer Requirements" continued on back*



## Unwanted Medication? What to do with unused or expired drugs.

Expired or unwanted over-the-counter or prescription medications have traditionally been disposed of by flushing them down the toilet or sink. Studies show that this can cause contamination to our lakes and streams as most municipal wastewater treatment systems cannot remove medications from the wastewater. This can be harmful to fish and other aquatic wildlife, as well as a problem for our own drinking water quality. However, keeping unused medication in the home can result in accidental poisoning of children or having the medication misused, abused, or stolen.

Rather than "flushing," Renville County residents can safely dispose of unused or expired prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, animal drugs, and illegal drugs at a medication disposal box. A disposal box is located in the lobby of the main entrance to the Renville County Government Services Center in Olivia and is available 24 hours a day. Disposal is free. The medicine should be kept in the original container. Remove the person's name and other personal information, but leave the name of the drug and other content information on the bottle or package.

For questions or information on other disposal locations in Renville County, please contact the Renville County Sheriff's Department at (320) 523-1161.

## Low-Interest Loan Programs for Well and Septic Improvements



Renville County administers several low-interest loan programs to assist property owners with upgrading or replacing a failing septic system or loan funds for repairing or replacing a damaged, noncompliant, or contaminated well.

*"Low-Interest Loan Programs" continued on back*

*“New Buffer Requirements” continued from front*

however, landowners can contact the Renville County SWCD office at any time to discuss options to install buffers or alternative water quality practices. Programs currently available include the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program. Specific program requirements include:

**Criteria for a CRP buffer:**

- Contract length of 10-15 years.
- Average CRP payment rate is \$250 per acre (dependent on soil types).
- Signing Incentive Payment (SIP) is \$100 per acre.
- Minimum of 33 feet wide.
- No acre minimum.
- Requires cropping history.
- Protects sensitive areas that include perennial and intermittent streams, lakes and wetlands, wells, drainage ditches, grassed waterways, sinkholes, surface tile inlets, etc.

**Criteria for a RIM buffer:**

- Perpetual easement.
- RIM crop payment rate ranges from \$7,000 to \$9,000 per acre.
- Minimum of 50 feet wide average, maximum of 700 feet wide.
- Minimum acre requirement for easement (varies with sign-up).
- Can include crop and non-crop acres.
- Must be adjacent to public waters, streams, ditches, and lakes, excluding wetlands.



To stay updated on changes to the new buffer requirements, both the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and the MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR) have provided information on their websites:

MN Board of Water and Soil Resources  
[www.bwsr.state.mn.us/buffers](http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/buffers)

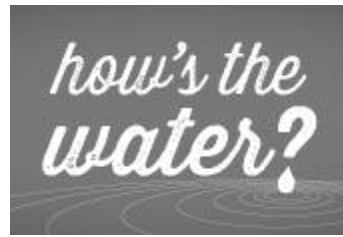
MN Department of Natural Resources  
[www.dnr.state.mn.us/buffers/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/buffers/index.html)

For additional local information or if you are interested in learning more about conservation programs available, please contact the Renville County SWCD at (320) 523-1559.

*“Low-Interest Loan Programs” continued from front*

Loan terms are for 10 years with an interest rate of 3%. The loan amount is added to property taxes as a special assessment with payments due twice a year with property taxes. Loans for new building sites or already completed repairs or installations are not eligible. The application process is simple, and the loan can be paid in full at any time.

For more information on low-interest septic or well loans, please contact Renville County Water & HHW Management at (320) 523-3760.



The MN Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) website has a feature called, "How's the water?" This feature provides a snapshot of water

quality in Minnesota and covers topics that include lakes, rivers and streams, wetlands, groundwater, pollutants, and what the MPCA is doing. A mapping feature allows you to zoom in and find information on each of the major 80 watersheds in Minnesota.

To be able to prevent and address problems in lakes and streams, the MPCA relies on information about the water resources, potential and actual threats, options for addressing the threats, and data on how effective management actions have been. One of the MPCA's water quality monitoring efforts is conducted through a Watershed Approach. This approach involves intensively monitoring stream and lake water conditions in each major watershed on a rotating basis. Approximately eight watersheds are monitored each year over a 10-year period. Once all of the watersheds have been evaluated the process begins again.

Along with the Watershed Approach, the MPCA developed a process to identify and address water quality issues in each of the major watersheds. This process is called the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) and involves local partners and citizen participation. Each of the four major watersheds located in portions of Renville County are in various phases of the WRAPS process. These watersheds include the Crow River, Hawk Creek, Middle Minnesota River, and High Island Creek.

For more information on the Watershed Approach, WRAPS process, or to access "How's the water?" visit the MPCA's website at [www.pca.state.mn.us](http://www.pca.state.mn.us) and search under the "Water" heading or contact your local watershed organization.