



Scene in Rice County
Rice County residents will soon have new recycling containers, allowing single stream (mixed material) recycling. For more information, read this article and visit the Solid Waste Department web site at www.co.rice.mn.us/waste.

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Coming to a Curb Near You in August: Single Stream, Mixed Materials Recycling

No more sorting? Bottles can be placed with cans and paper? And cardboard can go in, too? That's right. Beginning August 4, Rice County is switching to a form of recycling known as single stream or mixed material, in which recyclables can be combined. Why? It's simple:

- The easier you make it for people to recycle, the more likely they are to do it.
- More recycling means less reusable solid waste heading for rapidly filling landfills and more revenue from recovered materials.
- Using a single, larger recycling container and collecting every other week with a truck similar to the one used to pick up trash means reduced fuel usage.

"Rice County has a fairly high recycling rate now, probably in the top ten in the state," notes Solid Waste Director Mike Cook. "But there's much more that can be done. We believe going to single stream recycling could increase household recycling volume by an additional 25 to 50 percent."

Cook and other county officials have spent the last year visiting mixed-materials recycling

facilities. "The technology is amazing," he notes. "Materials are tipped out and screened into different categories using everything from blasts of air and water to magnets and rotating disks that flip large flat objects to one side. Finally, workers do a final sort."

The County Board of Commissioners reviewed proposals from five recycling companies before settling on Allied Waste Systems in Minneapolis, which will pay the county \$35 per ton for the materials collected. Now Cook is working out details with the trash haulers serving the county's different communities. The haulers will be responsible for telling their customers the exact schedules for recycling collection, but it will occur at least every other week on the same day as garbage pickup. Rice County will post a calendar on its web site that will show the weeks that collection will occur. In some areas, garbage haulers may offer weekly collection; please check with your hauler for specific details.

[See Single Stream Recycling, page 2](#)

Minnesota Goes "Code Ready"

New Campaign Designed to Help Minnesotans Prepare for Disasters

Be prepared. Public health officials think this is a good idea for more than Boy and Girl Scouts. That is why Rice County is participating in Code Ready, an initiative by the Minnesota Departments of Health and Public Safety to help Minnesotans prepare for any hazard.

Each year, thousands of Minnesotans are affected by tornadoes, floods, fire and other emergencies that can have a lasting impact on both lives and property. Code Ready not only educates Minnesotans about the importance of preparing for disasters, it gives them the tools they need to prepare.

"This campaign is not just about awareness, it's about action," said Minnesota Public Safety Commissioner Michael Campion. "We want Minnesotans to understand the importance of being prepared and take steps to

actually get prepared." Anyone who has seen pictures of the devastation that tornadoes wreaked in Hugo, Minn., and Parkersburg, Iowa, in May will recognize the wisdom of this course of action. 2008 is already the deadliest tornado year in the United States since 1998, and it seems on track to break the U.S. record for the number of twisters in a year, according to the National Weather Service. This year's storms also seem to be unusually powerful.

Guiding You Through the Process

One major element of the campaign is www.codeready.org, a web site that helps people build a customized emergency plan and kit of emergency supplies.

[See Code Ready, page 3](#)

On the Web

County Extension: Connecting Education and Research to Citizens and Communities

Rice County links with the University of Minnesota to provide trained staff in the areas of youth development (4-H), nutrition education, agriculture, natural resources and home horticulture. Educational programs are offered in group settings, one-on-one contacts, mass communications, distance learning, self-learning opportunities and collaborative efforts including families, youth, seniors, food producers, communities and organizations. Learn more about area services at the Extension web page: www.co.rice.mn.us/extension/index.php

Do you have questions about insects in your home landscape? Do you need information on food preservation or cleaning mildew from homes and clothes? Do you have questions about Minnesota production agriculture? You'll find answers at INFO-U, a free online public service at www.extension.umn.edu/info-u/ Subject areas include:

- Trees, water quality, wildlife
- Families, babies and pets
- Farming and small acreage
- Family and farm finances
- Flowers, fruits, vegetables, lawns and indoor plants
- Indoor environment, housing, clothing, yard, garden
- Nutrition, food and health

A significant portion of the information is available in Spanish, Somali and Hmong as well as English. You can find advice on everything from "còmo mantener su tierra saludable" (how to keep your soil healthy) to "xuuquqda ijaartaha iyo masuliyadiisa" (renter rights and responsibilities) and "nrog tsev kawm ntawv txhawb koj tus me nyuam txoj kev kawm" (working with your child's school).

Produced quarterly by
Graffics Design and
Ashmore Ink.

Single Stream Recycling Comes to Rice County

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How It Will Work

"We expect to begin mixed materials collecting in August," says Cook. Haulers will provide each rural household with a 65-gallon wheeled cart, bright blue with a yellow lid, to hold combined materials; contracted vendors will deliver carts to customers in town. If a new cart doesn't arrive by August 4, residents can put mixed recyclables into the current 20-gallon totes after that date.

The new containers will be paid for by raising the county's annual solid waste management fee, part of county taxes, from the current \$18 to \$26. "Write your address on it when yours arrives," Cook recommends. "That will make it easier to identify if it blows down the street or goes astray." The carts belong with the residence, Cook notes, and should remain there. They are under warranty and will be replaced without cost if they are defective. If you need to replace a cart, they can be purchased from your hauler or the county at cost.

What happens after you put everything in the cart? Materials will be collected at least every other week, taken to the Rice County Recycling Center and Landfill as in the past, and then trucked from there to a recovery facility in the Twin Cities.

What materials can go into the recycling cart? The same ones as before – **plus** pop, cereal, cake and cracker boxes, magazines and catalogs, junk mail and corrugated cardboard that fits into the cart. Cans, bottles and jars should be rinsed clean before being recycled, to eliminate food waste, but it is not necessary to remove the labels from them. Plastic caps should be removed and thrown away, and newspapers should be clean and dry. **All recyclables should be placed, loose, in one container. Do not put them into bags.**

What should not go in? Remove the plastic wrappers from cereal boxes before recycling them, and do not deposit plastic bags (those can be recycled at a number of area grocery stores). Carts found to contain these items, garbage or food waste will not be collected.

For more information, see the online recycling and disposal guide at the Solid Waste Department web site, www.co.rice.mn.us/waste, which has other useful resources, such as:

- What to bring to the Recycling Center
- Hazardous waste
- Landfill
- Demolition
- Problem materials
- Community compost and yard waste
- Waste reduction and other ideas

Are you looking to discard an old appliance, pesticides or paint? Dispose of them responsibly at the Recycling Center and Landfill, located between Northfield and Faribault, one mile east off Highway 3 on 145th Street. Summer road work has made getting to the center a little more difficult. Cook recommends that people take Co. Road 9 to Highway 3 when coming from the west and Co. Road 29 to Highway 3 when coming from the east.

Free paint and other useable items are also available at the facility. Hazardous Waste Building hours for households are every Wednesday, 7:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m., and the second and fourth Saturdays, 7:30–11:30 a.m.

Every Little Bit Helps

Every little bit makes a difference. Just consider these facts from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Recycle on the Go web site (www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/conserves/onthe-go/benefits/index.htm)

- Recycling aluminum uses less than 5 percent of the energy used to make the original product.
- Recycling just one aluminum beverage can saves enough energy to run a 100-watt bulb for 20 hours, a computer for three hours or a TV for two hours.
- Producing new plastic from recycled material uses only two-thirds of the energy required to manufacture it from virgin raw materials.
- Five two-liter recycled PET bottles produce enough fiberfill to make a ski jacket; 36 recycled bottles can make one square yard of carpet.
- Producing glass from virgin materials requires 30 percent more energy than producing it from crushed, used glass.
- Recycling one ton of glass saves the equivalent of 10 gallons of oil.
- Recycling steel cans uses between 60 and 74 percent less energy than producing them from raw materials.
- One ton of recycled steel saves the energy equivalent of 3.6 barrels of oil and 1.49 tons of iron ore.
- Producing recycled paper requires about 60 percent of the energy used to make paper from virgin wood pulp.
- Recycling one ton of paper saves 17 mature trees, 7,000 gallons of water, three cubic yards of landfill space, two barrels of oil and 4,100 kilowatt-hours of electricity (enough to power an average American home for five months).

Code Ready: Be Prepared for Emergencies

Continued from page 1

Does your family have a plan on how to stay in touch in the event of an emergency? Are your important documents and medical information easily accessible? Is there an emergency car kit in your vehicle? Have you put together an emergency preparedness kit?

After visitors to codeready.org answer these and other questions, they are directed to “create a plan” and/or “build a kit.”

Creating an emergency plan will allow you and your family to act quickly and effectively in future emergency situations. The screens will guide you through a three-step process of gathering the information necessary for a plan specific to you, your family, your pets and where you live. That is why you will be asked to enter your name, address and details on your medical history and contact information. None of this information is saved on the web site or in a database. It is retained only for the duration of your visit. Once you have created your plan, you will need to save your plan to your computer, print it or e-mail it to yourself or others to retain a copy.

Because household members may not be together when an emergency occurs, it is a good idea to decide on two meeting locations,

Ready Rice County

Disaster can strike anytime, anywhere, without warning. Are you and your family prepared? Visit www.codeready.org or stop at the Rice County Public Health Booth in Building #2 during the fair. There you can play the “Wheel Game,” win some prizes, and learn about Ready Rice County. Get tips on how to make an emergency plan and put together an emergency supply kit. Preparing in advance is your best protection. Rice County Public Health can help you make that happen.

one in your neighborhood and one further away, if you cannot meet at home. You should also identify a contact person who lives nearby, as well as one who lives outside of Minnesota. After you decide who these people are, it is important to talk with them about their role in your emergency plan.

After you have a plan in place, you should build an emergency preparedness kit. The Code Ready site will walk you through that process as well, helping you and your family identify the food, water and supplies that you’ll need for future emergency situations. After you answer a few questions about your household, you can print customized shopping lists for three-day, one-week and/or one-month supplies of food and water. You can also print a plan for determining quantities of food and water for one year.

The customized shopping lists are intended only as general guidelines for food and water storage in your Code Ready kit. Food amounts are based on servings from five basic food groups. When you print your shopping lists, other useful lists will also print, including a pet shopping list, a supplies checklist and a medication checklist.

With Code Ready, Minnesota becomes one of the first states in the nation to develop an all-hazard preparedness campaign with a substantial presence in outdoor, radio and print advertising, on the web and in communities statewide. Advice is provided on preparing for everything from weather emergencies and utility breakdowns to animal or human disease outbreaks and chemical incidents.

For more information about Code Ready, visit www.codeready.org.

Code Ready Tip:

Keep a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio in your Code Ready kit (along with extra batteries) to hear emergency broadcasting.

County Profile



Lisa Holling

Support Staff, University of Minnesota Extension Office in Rice County

Lisa Holling, the sole support staff in the University of Minnesota Extension Office in Rice County, received the Dean and Director’s Distinguished Extension Support Staff Award. Given annually to one support staff person in the field and one on campus, it is the highest honor that Extension bestows on an employee.

Holling, who is noted for her high level of productivity, creativity and innovation, has worked for Rice County for 28 years, the last 23 in the Extension Office. She is often the initial contact for citizens calling or stopping into the Extension Office and has provided primary support for 4-H and youth development programs throughout her career and to all programs in the office for the past four years.

For the entire week of the Rice County Fair, she moves the Extension Office from the Government Services Building to the fairgrounds. “Rice County’s 4-H program is strong right now with over 300 kids involved in it,” Holling told the *Northfield News*. “The fair is so fun, it’s great to see the kids so excited and proud of the projects they’ve completed and have on display during the fair. I now see parents of 4-H kids at the fair who were in 4-H when I first started this job.”

Holling lives in Waterville with her husband, Troy. They have three children, Kelsey, Kayla and Kyle.

County Departments at the Fair

Several Rice County departments will have booths at this year’s fair. Be sure to stop by and visit with staff members from:

- Attorney’s Office
- Extension Office
- Public Health
- Sheriff’s Office
- Social Services

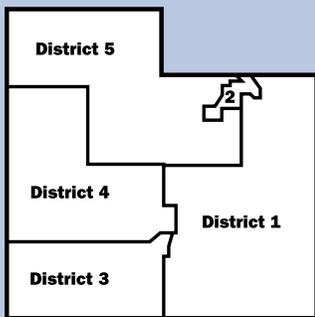


Visit our booth
at the Fair!
July 15–20, 2008

Licensed Providers: Please stop by our booth for a free token of our appreciation for your care of adults/children in Rice County.

For more information about Rice County Social Services, contact Cheryl Marek at **507-332-6115** or www.co.rice.mn.us

Contacts



Rice County Board of Commissioners (as of January 1, 2007)

District 1

Jake Gillen
507-334-5746
jgillen@co.rice.mn.us

District 2

Galen Malecha
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District 4

Steve Bauer
507-334-9700
sbauer@co.rice.mn.us

District 5

Jim Brown
507-744-4500
jbrown@co.rice.mn.us

www.co.rice.mn.us

Phone Numbers

General Information 507-332-6100
Toll-Free Numbers (do not dial "1" or area code)
 From Northfield 645-9576
 From Lonsdale 744-5185

Rice County Standing Meetings

Board of Commissioners

Meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month as a Committee of the Whole/Work Session, 8:30 a.m., Commissioners' Room, Rice County Government Services Building.

Meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month as a Regular Board, 8:30 a.m., Commissioners' Room, Rice County Government Services Building.

Planning Commission

Meets the first and third Thursdays of the month, 7:30 p.m., Commissioners' Room, Rice County Government Services Building.

Board of Adjustment

Meets the second and fourth Mondays of the month; 7:00 p.m., Commissioners' Room, Rice County Government Services Building.

Community Corrections Advisory Board

Meets the third Thursday of even-numbered months (February, April, June, August, October, December), 3:30 p.m., Rice County Government Services Building.

Community Health Services

Citizens' Advisory Committee

Meets the fourth Wednesday every other month (January, March, May, July, September, November), 6:30–8:00 p.m.; call 507-332-6111 for location.

Emergency Medical Services Provider Council

Meets quarterly, 7:00–9:00 p.m.; call 507-332-6119 for meeting date and location.

Mental Health Advisory Council

Meets the fourth Wednesday of the month, 12:00 p.m. (noon), Friendship House, located at 212-B Central Avenue, Faribault.

Rice County Departments

Administrator Gary Weiers
507-332-6101 gweiers@co.rice.mn.us

Assessor Paul Knutson
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Attorney Paul Beaumaster
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Auditor/Treasurer Fran Windschitl
507-332-6104 fwindschitl@co.rice.mn.us

Community Corrections Director James Haas
507-332-6106 jhaas@co.rice.mn.us

Court Administrator Robert Langer
507-332-6107 robert.langer@courts.state.mn.us

Economic Development Director Deanna Kuennen
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Extension Educator Brad Carlson
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Highway Engineer Dennis Luebbe
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Human Resource Manager Kerie Anderka
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Information Technology Director Sherry Hiller
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Parks/Facilities Director Joe McGough
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Planning & Zoning Director Julie Runkel
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Public Health & CHS Director Mary Ho
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Recorder Marsha DeGroot
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Sheriff Richard Cook
507-332-6010 rcscook@co.rice.mn.us

Social Services Director Mark Shaw
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Solid Waste Director Michael Cook
507-332-6833 mcook@co.rice.mn.us

Veterans' Services Officer Amy Lindsay
507-332-6117 alindsay@co.rice.mn.us

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Rice County
REPORT



2008 Rice County Fair Calendar

TUESDAY, JULY 15

Exhibits & Barns – All Day
 Midway Open – 5 p.m.
 Fair Queen Coronation – 7 p.m.
 Super Cross Racing – 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16

Exhibits & Barns – All Day
 Midway Open – 3 p.m.
 Barn Dance in Barn #3 – 6:30 p.m.
 Kids' Pedal Tractor Pull – 6:30 p.m.
 Enduro Auto Races – 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 17

Exhibits & Barns – All Day
 Midway Open – 12 p.m.
 Amazing Hula Hoopsters – 5:30 p.m.
 The Whitesidewalls – 6:30 p.m.
 Ultimate Bull Riding – 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 18

Exhibits & Barns – All Day
 Midway Open – 12 p.m.
 Concertina Jam Festival – 3 p.m.
 National Truck & Tractor Pull – 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 19

Exhibits & Barns – All Day
 Midway Open – 12 p.m.
 Cannon Valley Saddle Club Show – 9 a.m.
 Bluegrass & Gospel Music Festival –
 12:45–10 p.m.
 Monster Truck Nationals – 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 20

Midway Open – 1 p.m.
 Amateur Talent Contest – 12 p.m.
 Working Stock Dog Trial – 1 p.m.
 Demolition Derby – 4:30 p.m.

PLUS MUCH, MUCH MORE!

135th Annual Rice County Fair

Rice County Fairgrounds, Faribault, Minnesota

www.ricecountyfair.net

July 15–20, 2008

Entertainment Lineup

Beer Garden Entertainment

Tues., July 15	Johnny Holm Band
Wed.–Thurs., July 16–17	Killer Hayseeds
Fri.–Sat., July 18–19	Mister Peabody
Sun., July 20	Minn. Sesquicentennial Decorated Cake Contest

Bruce Sellner Memorial Midway Stage

Tues., July 15	Sherwin & Pam Linton and the “Cotton Kings”
Wed., July 16	Elvis
Thurs., July 17	The Whitesidewalls
Fri., July 18	Sheltered Reality
Sat., July 19	Bluegrass & Gospel Music Festival
Sun., July 20	Amateur Talent Contest

Cannon Stage

Thurs., July 17	Peter & Paul and the Wendinger Band
Fri., July 18	Jeff Thompson
Sat., July 19	Bluegrass & Gospel Music Festival

Grandstand

Tues., July 15	Super Cross Racing
Wed., July 16	Enduro Auto Races
Thurs., July 17	Ultimate Bull Riding
Fri., July 18	National Truck & Tractor Pull
Sat., July 19	Monster Truck Nationals
Sun., July 20	Demolition Derby



Every Day – Free Events on the Fairgrounds

Don Otto “The Diving Fool” (3 shows daily)
 Kids’ Exotic Petting Zoo – Zoo Tran
 Reptile and Amphibian Discovery Zoo
 Mitchell Marionettes **... and much more!**

DRAWING PARKING GIVEAWAY!

**\$1,300 Cash Drawings
plus Two Grand Prizes:**

Win one of two casino trips to Treasure Island
(Red Wing) and Grand Casino (Hinckley)

Drawings Held Every Day (Cannon Stage)

Tuesday: 10:15 p.m.
 Wednesday–Saturday: 5 p.m. and 10:15 p.m.
 Final Drawing/Grand Prizes – Sunday: 3 p.m.
(must be present to win)

Special Attractions at the 2008 Rice County Fair

It's time for the Rice County Fair – some of the most exciting days of the summer! Every year, members of the Fair Board work hard to bring different events and exhibits to the fair. We've scheduled kids' activities at the log cabin, butter and soap making, a coloring contest at the school plus four weddings in the church on the grounds on Saturday.

Admission to the Rice County Fair is free! You will be able to see more than 100 commercial exhibits, lots of animals, and exciting entertainment all week long. Here is a preview of just some of the free entertainment. Be sure to check the full schedule published just prior to the fair.

Don Otto "The Diving Fool" will perform three shows daily. Internationally acclaimed acrobatic comedian Don Otto, a former diving and trampoline champion, performs a fun-filled, high-flying comedy diving act. Squeaky clean fun for all ages!

For the first time at the Rice County Fair, we're holding an old-fashioned barn dance, sponsored by KCHK Radio. On Wednesday in cattle barn #3, the **Cory Miller Fun Thyme Band** from Rochester will play polka music, 6:30–9 p.m.

Don't miss the **Salsa Contest** on the Cannon Stage on Wednesday, starting at 6:30 p.m. Sponsored by Faribault Foods, two classes of salsa (prepared and fresh) will be judged.

Also on Wednesday, it's **Elvis** – live at the fair! He'll perform two shows on the Sellner Memorial Stage at 5 and 8 p.m.

At 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, the **Amazing Hula Hoopsters** perform a one-hour show on the Sellner Memorial Stage. This family of young people from Hutchinson, Minn., has a fun-filled, action-packed show that will make you laugh.

Then stick around for a fabulous performance by **The Whitesidewalls**.

The always popular group performs on Thursday, 6:30–10:30 p.m.

On Saturday, listen to the **Bluegrass & Gospel Music Festival**. Five groups (Blue Wolf, Cedar Valley Bluegrass, Platte Valley Boys, Sawtooth Bluegrass and String Fever) will perform nine straight hours of bluegrass and gospel music on two stages: Midway Stage, 1–10 p.m., and Cannon Stage, 12:45–7:30 p.m. Bring along a comfortable chair if you plan to stay for the day.

Please remember: NO pets, roller skates, inline skates, skateboards or bikes are allowed on the fairgrounds. (There are exceptions for service animals and pets allowed for exhibition, demonstration or show.) Please help ensure the safety of all our visitors.

Enjoy the 2008 Rice County Fair!

Stroll the Midway! Over 30 Thrilling Rides!

**GOLD STAR AMUSEMENTS
Passport to Fun!**
Unlimited Rides for the Entire Fair
\$45⁰⁰

Advance Sale Only
Sold at the Rice County Extension Office,
Nelson's and Hy-Vee

Ride Specials & Schedule

Tuesday, July 15 – Open 5 p.m.
Power 96 Radio Night
8 Rides for \$9.60

Wednesday, July 16 – Open 3 p.m.
Thrill Day! – Reduced Prices

Thursday, July 17 – Open 12 noon
Senior Day, Day Care Day
Special Senior Citizen and Day Care Prices

Friday, July 18 – Open 12 noon
Kids' Day – 12–5 p.m.
(Special Kids' Arm Band Price = \$15)

Saturday, July 19 – Open 12 noon
Family Day – 4–10 p.m.
(Special Family Arm Band Price = \$22)

Sunday, July 20 – Open 1 p.m.
Amateur Talent & Latino Day
(Special Arm Band Price, 3–9 p.m. = \$22)