



Rice Soil and Water Conservation District

1810 30th Street NW, ❖ Faribault, MN 55021

Phone: (507)332-5408

Fax: (507)332-9892

Drainage Ditch Inspector's Report for 2014

The following is a report on the activities of the public ditch systems in Rice County. For the past five years, Rice SWCD has contracted with Rice County to perform the duties of ditch inspection. In that time, many systems have undergone sediment removal and brush removal. Three systems have gone through the redetermination of benefits process, and several others are in the process now. With recent prices for crops at record highs, the demand for maintaining these systems has been strong. This year, prices have fallen significantly, but work to keep the systems in good repair will continue.

We hired Scott's Helicopter Service to perform brush control on several systems this year. In addition, I was able to spray many other ditches from the ground using the ATV sprayer. The ATV, sprayer, and trailer were all stolen during the Labor Day weekend in 2014. As of the end of the year, the ATV and sprayer have been replaced, and the trailer has been ordered.

Below are specific activities that took place on drainage systems. In addition to the work listed, most systems also require regular communication with landowners on various concerns they have about their ditch.

Work done to specific systems

CD 4: Spot sprayed for brush control.

CD 6: No activity.

JD 6: Obtained quotes for tree removal and repairing the lower end of the system. Assisted with the redetermination of benefits process, inspected for buffer compliance.

CD 7: No activity.

CD 9: Completed a clean out of the lower end and seeded the ditch banks. Some shaping is still needed in the spring. Also did some spot spraying for brush control.

CD 11A: No activity.

CD 12: Inspected part of system and did some spot spraying.

CD 13A: Spot sprayed for brush control.

CD 14: Working with JHS to develop plans for repair of Spur 1. Did some spot spraying.

CD 15: No activity.

CD 17: Working with JHS on repair plans. Planning for a redetermination of benefits.

CD 19: Repaired surface inlet.

CD 20: Inspected and spot sprayed system.

CD 22: No activity.

CD 23: Inspected an area on the Rohlfesen farm that has severe erosion. Working on repair solutions.

CD25: Spot sprayed part of system. Repaired culvert crossing by Hatch Lake.

CD 26: No activity.

CD 29: No activity.

CD 30: Spot sprayed brush.

CD 31: No activity.

CD 32: Spot sprayed brush. Repaired two cut banks that were damaged from spring flooding. Used FEMA funds to cover most of the repairs.

CD 33: No activity.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven R. Pahs
District Manager, Rice SWCD