



DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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News

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Land O' Lakes Feeds Selected As Outstanding Conservationist

The Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District has announced the selection of Land O'Lakes Feeds as the district's Outstanding Conservationist of the Year. Land O'Lakes will be eligible to compete for Minnesota's Outstanding Conservationist Award to be announced at the 2003 Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts annual meeting set for November 30 – December 2 in Bloomington.

Land O'Lakes operates a feed processing plant in Inver Grove Heights and along the Mississippi River Bluff. Over the past several years a large ravine had eroded with tons of sediment being transported to the Mississippi River. With cooperation and assistance from the SWCD, Metropolitan Council, Emmons and Oliver Resources, Great River Greening, DNR, and Association of Metropolitan SWCDs, a design plan was developed to reduce stormwater impacts and provide for native plantings.

Land O'Lakes constructed a pretreatment basin, filter swale and infiltration basin designed to accommodate a 100-year storm prior to discharging to the Mississippi River through the ravine. Excavated soils for the stormwater treatment area were used to stabilize the ravine and native plantings are currently underway to vegetate the construction area.

The Land O'Lakes project stabilized a 400' x 80' x 40' ravine that was destroying one of the highest quality woodlands and river bluff areas in Dakota County. This site is adjacent to a DNR Scientific and Natural Area and a potential route for a regional trail. As such, it will receive many visitors and create additional educational opportunities.

The Soil and Water Conservation District congratulates Land O'Lakes Feeds for earning this award and commend them for their contributions towards protecting Dakota County's soil and water resources.