



**MIXED GRASS PRAIRIE TOUR
JUNE 22, 2006**

**IN COOPERATION
WITH:**

RM of Cartier
RM of Dufferin
RM of Grey
RM of Macdonald
RM of Portage la Prairie
RM of Ritchot
RM of South Norfolk
RM of Victoria
City of Portage la Prairie
Town of Carman
Town of Treherne
Village of St. Claude

The day started off with a demonstration of an abandoned well being sealed. Participants were able to see how the casing of the well was removed and how bentonite clay was placed in the hole to seal it from further contamination. This demonstration even attracted a few passer-byers! Next, it was off to a small dam project that was completed during our 2004-2005 project season. On the way to Cypress Park, the tour bus passed a backflood irrigation project that is slated for completion this fall. At Cypress Park, we were joined by a number of people from the community including students from the local school, who were there to take part in the Grand Opening of the Wetland Discovery Trail. This project has over 300 meters of boardwalk, including a floating section, which goes through the marsh land that is equipped with various



interpretative signage. This is also where the tour stopped for lunch. After lunch, the group was taken on a scenic tour through the valley leading into the Cypress River, on the other side they witnessed a presentation from Kathy Murray who is an expert on Mixed Grass Prairie. After which, the group toured a few Gully Erosion Control projects to see the devastation that severe rains and flooding could bring to an area.



CONTACT US!

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Next was a presentation from the local weed supervisor regarding the infestation of leafy spurge. Then it was off to our final stop of the day, a horse-drawn wagon ride to the Beaver Ponds to see the different minerals that the naturally flowing springs were bringing to the surface.



The day was jam-packed with a lot of information, but a good time was had by all 20 participants.

PROGRAM UPDATES!

La Salle River WPA

So far the WPA is in the process of gathering technical information from various government agencies. This information will be compiled to form the State of the Watershed report as well as the Watershed Report Card, which is tentative planned for completion in January 2007.

Wealth Woodlots Workshop

LSRBCD hosted a Wealth Woodlots Workshop in St Claude on April 11th, with over 40 participants! This program helped to answer producer's questions regarding their woodlot's value, alternatives and management.

Number of Projects

To date we have a total of 86 projects that have been applied for. So far we have 25 well sealing, 6 Well Shock Chlorination, 1 pasture pipeline plow, 3 riparian fencing, 2 alternative watering systems, 6 Water Retention, 3 rotational grazing, 7 shelterbelts, 16 grassed runways, 9 gully erosion, 1 salinity seed, 1 buffer strip, and 6 RM erosion control projects. Many of the projects will be completed in the 06-07 project season, the remainder will be completed in the 07-08 season.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- September 20—Southwest Manitoba Water Festival—Souris
- October 2—StLWMP Action Group Meeting
- October 4—Women's in Agriculture Workshop—Rathwell
- October 6—La Salle River WPA Meeting—Elie

2006 Program Menu Available at:

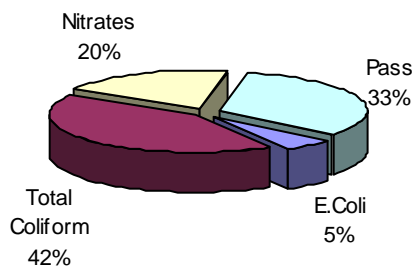
- LSRBCD Office—Holland
- All Member Municipal Offices, and
- All District Ag. Offices: Carman, Portage, Starbuck and Portage



2006 Shelterbelt project where over 750 trees were planted. Species planted were Manitoba Maple, Plains Green Ash, Colorado Spruce and Ross Caragana.

WELL WATER TESTING DAY RESULTS

**Well Water Testing Day Results 2006
Pass to Fail**

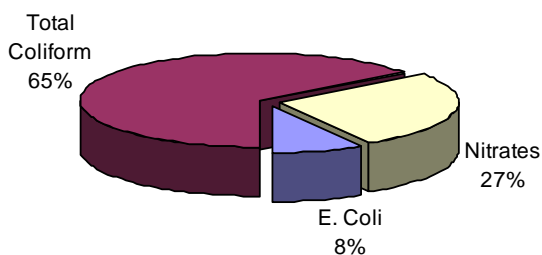


Once again, we had another successful Well Water Testing Day, with our 4th Annual Well Water Testing Day being held on June 7th. LSRBCD delivered 75 bacteria tests, 54 nitrate tests and 4 chemicals tests that were dropped off by 76 participants. Of these tests, the results show that only 33% of samples passed, leaving 67% failing.

When comparing the pass/fail percentages to previous years, we have found that on average 66% of the samples fail. Of those who fail, a vast majority is due to Coliform being present in the water sample, on average 65%, next is Nitrates / Nitrites at 27% then E. Coli at 8%.

Currently, we are planning on hosting another well water testing day next year.

**Well Water Testing Day Results 2006
Failure Results**



Top: Shows a breakdown of all samples received if they pass and why they failed.

Bottom: This graph shows the breakdown of the test that failed.