

Swift SWCD MONITORING PLAN FOR BUFFER COMPLIANCE TRACKING

§103F.48 RIPARIAN PROTECTION AND WATER QUALITY PRACTICES

1. COMPLIANCE TRACKING OF ALL PARCELS SUBJECT TO THE BUFFER LAW

All parcels in the county are to be reviewed within a 3-year timeframe. The SWCD will review all buffer parcels once every three years, corresponding with aerial imagery updates.

2. RANDOM SPOT CHECKS

Random spot checks will be done in addition to the tracking of all parcels within a 3-year span. These checks may be conducted via aerial photo review or on-site review depending on availability of updated aerial photos and the practice that is being checked/access to farms. A combination of both aerial and on-site review may also be used.

- a. The SWCD will conduct 30 random parcel spot checks each year outside of the scheduled area.
- b. Additionally, the SWCD will review parcels of emphasis more frequently, including:
 - Previously non-compliant
 - No-till/Conservation tillage or cover crop alternative practice plans
 - Variable width buffers (i.e. Land O' Lakes buffer tool, Decision Support Tool)
 - Other Alternative Practice Plans
 - Cost-share funded projects

3. PROCESS TO HANDLE COMPLAINTS

All complaints made regarding compliance with the Minnesota Buffer Law (Minn. Stat. §103F.48) should first be directed to the Swift County SWCD. The SWCD will review the complaint and survey the site in question to determine whether the parcel is out of compliance with the law. If the parcel is compliant, a letter will be sent from the SWCD to the individual making the complaint as to why the parcel is deemed compliant. If the parcel is deemed to be out of compliance, the SWCD will notify the landowner about their buffer being out of compliance. All notifications will be documented. The SWCD will work with the landowner to bring the parcel back into compliance. If the landowner doesn't become complaint with the law within 90 days of the complaint being filed, the SWCD will turn over the landowner's information to the County and BWSR to begin the Corrective Action Notice process.