

Blue Earth County

2013 Natural Resources Block Grant Report



**Board of Water and Soil Resources
NATURAL RESOURCES BLOCK GRANT – 2013
Blue Earth County Report**

The Natural Resources Block Grant (NRBG) is an annual base grant that partially funds programs in the Blue Earth County Environmental Services Department. The State legislature appropriates NRBG funds to two State agencies, the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), for distribution to local governments. Local governments are required to contribute cash or in-kind match to the NRBG.

Minnesota Law requires local governments to display reports on their website by March 15 each year showing how State appropriations of NRBG and local match funds were used in the previous calendar years. This report is displayed on the County website to provide information about how State NRBG funds are used in County programs during calendar year 2013. The eLINK report pages are at the end of the report.

The total 2013 NRBG was \$82,265, and the required local match contribution was \$61,924. Local match funds are generated locally with permit fees and property taxes. The County's actual costs for all five NRBG programs exceed the program costs required for the NRBG and are not shown in this report.

There are five NRBG program areas that generally align with programs in the Environmental Services Department where eight staff are dedicated to this work. A program summary of the NRBG is displayed in the following table.

2013 Natural Resources Block Grant Summary			
Program	2013 NRBG	Required Minimum Local Match	Total NRBG Program
Water Management Planning	\$10,023	\$18,187	\$28,210
Wetland Conservation Act Administration	\$18,178	\$18,178	\$36,356
Shoreland Ordinance Administration	\$3,243	\$3,243	\$6,486
Delegated Feedlot Program	\$31,880	\$22,316	\$54,196
SSTS	\$18,941	None	\$18,941
Total	\$82,265	\$61,924	\$144,189

The total NRBG has been reduced in recent years:

2009 NRBG: \$88,975
2010 NRBG: \$82,176
2011 NRBG: \$79,269
2012 NRBG: \$82,265
2013 NRBG: \$82,265

LOCAL WATER MANAGEMENT

2013 NRBG: \$10,023

Required Local Match: \$18,187

The local water management NRBG contributes little to the actual cost of water management planning and implementation in the county. The *Blue Earth County Water Management Plan 2008-2015* includes objectives and actions intended to be practical, measurable and achievable in the planning period. Although there are many partners, implementation of the current plan is mainly the responsibility of the County and the Blue Earth County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). The foundation of the plan is ongoing programs.

The NRBG was reduced in 2011 compared to previous years. The greatest reduction in the NRBG programs was from the Local Water Management program.

2009 Water Management NRBG: \$13,197

2010 Water Management NRBG: \$13,725

2011 Water Management NRBG: \$ 9,855

2012 Water Management NRBG: \$10,023

2013 Water Management NRBG: \$10,023

County staff participated in watershed projects and coordinated water planning and implementation activities with the SWCD. Even though the NRBG does not contribute to a full time staff person, the following is a summary of some of the water management plan related activities in 2013.

Grant applications

In 2013 County staff prepared grant applications, including

- DNR grant for outlet structure – prepared for County Public Works Department/City of Lake Crystal
- FY2014 CWF Accelerated Implementation – Blue Earth County and SWCD Targeting

Groundwater

In the fall following the dry summer, staff responded to groundwater inquiries from citizens concerned about low water levels and impact to wells.

Wellhead Protection

County staff met with MDH to discuss wellhead protection plans being developed by MDH for all cities in the county.

County staff attended wellhead protection work session with City of Mankato for the city's source water protection plan.

Stormwater

Reviewed and prepared comments on stormwater management plan for preliminary plat subdivision on Madison Lake.

Administration and Training

Attended eLINK training and prepared eLINK reports in January 2013 and September 2013.

Prepared and posted website report.

Staff coordinated County Board signature of FY2014 NRBG and Feedlot Performance Credit grant agreements in December 2013.

Staff prepared reports for MPCA 319 Grant to the SWCD.

Staff prepared SSTS loan reports to Watonwan and Renville counties for MPCA CWP Loans in the greater Blue Earth and Middle Minnesota watersheds.

Hazard Mitigation Plan – Riverine Erosion Hazards

Ravine, stream bank and bluff erosion along waterways in Blue Earth County impact water quality as well as dwellings and infrastructure. Water Management staff assisted the County Emergency Management Department with a special risk assessment of near channel erosion, including ravines and stream bank and bluff erosion and landslides. County staff prepared near channel erosion hazard section of County Hazard Mitigation Plan with assistance of consultant from National Center for Earth Surface Dynamics.

The Army Corps of Engineers Silver Jackets team notified the County in December 2013 that Blue Earth County was chosen as a pilot project area for developing tools to assist local government with increasing structure setbacks in shoreland areas.

MPCA Intensive Watershed Monitoring - Impaired Waters/Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)

The MPCA is in the process of assessing surface waters in Minnesota and has identified water quality impairments in virtually every watershed in Blue Earth County. The MPCA will prepare monitoring reports and Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies for each watershed.

The MPCA is using a ten year cycle to assess major watersheds in the state. Blue Earth County is located in four major watersheds.

MPCA Intensive Monitoring Schedule Comparison of Watersheds in Blue Earth County

Year Starting	Watershed	Percent Land Coverage in county	Percent of Watershed in county
2008	Le Sueur River	48.1 %	34.1 %
2013	Middle Minnesota River	23.3 %	12.8 %
2013	Watonwan River	12,2 %	10.9 %
2017	Blue Earth River	16.2 %	10.2 %
2011	Cannon River	0.2 %	0.01 %

Le Sueur River Watershed Intensive Monitoring

The MPCA started monitoring the Le Sueur River watershed in 2008. In 2012 and 2013 County staff and citizens were involved with the MPCA's "civic engagement" process and identifying "priority management zones." A significant amount of staff time was involved working together with the SWCD manager to coordinate and prepare written reports to the MPCA describing the local perspective and identification of "priority management zones" and reviewing draft WRAPs plans and meeting with MPCA staff. The MPCA and MSU Water Resources Center plan to continue the Le Sueur River civic engagement and WRAPs process into 2014. This will make the Le Sueur River intensive monitoring process a six year monitoring and planning project.

Middle Minnesota River Watershed Intensive Monitoring

County staff attended an introduction meeting to the monitoring project.

Watonwan River Watershed Intensive Monitoring

County staff attended an introduction meeting to the monitoring project.

Other Watershed Activities and Partners

Greater Blue Earth River Watershed Alliance (GBERBA)

County staff participated in the GBERBA strategic planning process in 2013.

Greater Blue Earth River Collaborative for Sediment Source Reduction (CSSR)

The Greater Blue Earth River Collaborative for Sediment Source Reduction is conducted by the National Center for Earth Surface Dynamics with funding from the MPCA, MDAS and the Minnesota Agriculture Water Resources Center. County staff attended several meetings in 2013 as a committee member representing GBERBA.

Minnesota River Board

County staff prepared comments on the Minnesota River Board reorganization at the request of the Clean Up the River Environment (CURE) president, Scott Sparlin.

Lake Associations

Met with newly-formed lake associations, the Madison Lake Association and the Crystal Waters group, to discuss their plans for projects and planning.

Other Non-NRBG activities

Worked on Wetland Management Plan and Shoreland Buffer Initiative using staff resources beyond the local water management, WCA and shoreland NRBG.

Vegetated Buffers, Minnesota Shoreland Rules and County Shoreland Ordinance

The Blue Earth County Shoreland Ordinance and Minnesota Rule, Chapter 6120, require permanent vegetation within 50 feet of the ordinary high water level for agricultural uses in shoreland areas:

“Agricultural use standards. Within 50 feet of ordinary high water level: General cultivation farming, grazing, nurseries, horticulture, truck farming, sod farming, and wild crop harvesting are permitted uses if steep slopes and shore and bluff impact zones are maintained in permanent vegetation or operated under an approved conservation plan.”

To improve management of the riparian area and begin working toward enforcing the shoreland rules buffer standards, the County and SWCD worked on a plan to work together to identify property owners out of compliance for targeted education and cost share assistance. In order to accomplish this goal, additional staff resources were needed. The County and SWCD applied for and were awarded a FY11 Clean Water Fund grant to implement this project in 2011 and 2012. As a result of project success, the County requested a one year extension to continue implementing this project through 2013. The County staff working on the Shoreland Buffer Initiative is funded without State funds. Progress reports on this grant-funded project are available in a separate report on the County website.

Wetland Protection and Management Plan

The County and City of Mankato started development of a Wetland Protection and Management Plan for the county. A BWSR Clean Water Fund grant is supporting this project, so a separate report on progress is available on the County website.

For more information about Blue Earth County’s Water Management Plan, contact Julie Conrad, 507-304-4381.

WETLAND CONSERVATION ACT

2013 NRBG: \$18,178

Less transfer to SWCD: - \$5,000

Total to County: \$12,178

Required Local Match: \$18,178

Prior to passage of the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) of 1991 more than fifty percent of the County's pre-settlement wetlands were lost due to agricultural drainage, community development and transportation. The purpose of the Wetland Conservation Act, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 8420.0100, is to:

- A. Achieve no net loss in the quantity, quality, and biological diversity of Minnesota's existing wetlands;
- B. Increase the quantity, quality, and biological diversity of Minnesota's wetlands by restoring or enhancing diminished or drained wetlands;
- C. Avoid direct or indirect impacts from activities that destroy or diminish the quantity, quality, and biological diversity of wetlands; and replace wetland values where avoidance to activity is not feasible or prudent.

Implementation of Wetland Conservation Act is the responsibility of both State and local government units (LGU). Local governments are required to administer the Wetland Conservation Act in accordance with State Rules. A Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) assists the LGU by providing regulatory and technical opinions to the LGU. The TEP consists of the Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) manager, the Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR), and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in Shoreland areas. Ultimately, the LGU is responsible for making all of the regulatory decisions for the program.

Administration of the WCA requires coordination with numerous local, State, and Federal agencies. The BWSR promulgates administrative rules for the program, participates on the TEP, and assures proper implementation by LGUs. The DNR conservation officers issue enforcement orders including cease-and-desist orders (CDO's) & restoration / replacement orders. CDO's and restoration / replacement orders are not criminal charges; however, violation of a CDO or restoration / replacement order is a misdemeanor.

Within Blue Earth County, three LGUs administer WCA. The City of Mankato administers the WCA within the city limits, the County Highway Department administers the WCA for County transportation projects, and the County Environmental Services Department administers the WCA in the remainder of the County, including municipalities.

2013 WCA Activities Report

The County Environmental Services Department has two staff positions which are certified to review / delineate wetlands. Part of their time is devoted to the administration of the WCA. In 2013 a total of 6 staff days and 58 hours were spent fulfilling the training requirements to remain certified to review / delineate wetlands.

In 2013 County staff provided wetland-related technical assistance to more than 700 landowners. Technical assistance includes answering relatively simple questions about the WCA as well as more complicated review of aerial photos.

The County worked with the SWCD on restoration orders, and the SWCD spent a significant amount of time on WCA restoration projects.

The following tables summarize the County's 2013 WCA report to the BWSR. This report does not include WCA administration in the City of Mankato nor Blue Earth County Highway Department because they do not receive NRBG funds and report activities to BWSR separately.

**Blue Earth County Report – 2013
Wetland Conservation Act Administration**

Number and Type of Applications

Type of Application	Number Approved	Number Denied	Number Withdrawn
Replacement Plan	0	0	1
Sequencing	0	0	0
Exemption	9	0	0
No-Loss	9	0	0
Boundary or Type	10	1	2
Total	28	1	2

Technical Assistance

Number of landowners for which wetland related technical assistance was provided: 751

Violations

Number of potential violations investigated: 2

Number of enforcement actions taken under local ordinance and/or did not result in DNR cease and desist, restoration or replacement orders: 3

**Blue Earth County Report – 2013
Wetland Conservation Act Administration
Exemptions**

Number and Type of Exemptions

Type of Exemption	Number Approved	Number of Square Feet
Agriculture	2	0
Drainage	4	80,945
Wildlife habitat	0	0
Federal Activities	0	0
Forestry	0	0
De minimus	3	2,260
Total	9	83,205

The WCA NRBG has remained fairly stable for many years, but the 2011 Wetland NRBG was reduced nearly \$3,000 from the previous few years.

2009 Wetland NRBG: \$20,710
2010 Wetland NRBG: \$20,710
2011 Wetland NRBG: \$17,873
2012 Wetland NRBG: \$18,178
2013 Wetland NRBG: \$18,178

For more information concerning Blue Earth County's administration of the Wetland Conservation Act, contact Stacey Feser, 507-304-4381.

SHORELAND ORDINANCE

2012 NRBG: \$3,243

Required Local Match: \$3,243

The Shoreland NRBG contributes very little to the actual cost of administering the Shoreland Ordinance. Shoreland is generally defined as the land area within 1,000 feet of lakes and 300 feet from rivers. Counties are required by Minnesota Rule to adopt shoreland ordinances consistent with State Rules. Counties receiving the Shoreland NRBG are required to submit an annual report on Shoreland Ordinance administration activities to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The 2012 report submitted to the DNR is on the following page.

The annual Shoreland NRBG grant amount has remained fairly constant.

2009 Shoreland NRBG: \$3,695

2010 Shoreland NRBG: \$3,695

2011 Shoreland NRBG: \$3,189

2012 Shoreland NRBG: \$3,243

2013 Shoreland NRBG: \$3,243

2013 Shoreland Activities Report to DNR

The County Zoning Administrator completed the 2013 Shoreland Ordinance Administrative Activities Report in January 2014. Permits issued in 2013 were: 35 permits for redevelopment, 9 permits for new construction, and 3 permits for grading and filling in the shore impact zone. The Board of Adjustment approved one variance for a bluff setback. The County Board approved the creation of five new lots in standard plats.

Agricultural Use Standards – Shoreland Buffer Initiative

Blue Earth County started working on compliance with the Blue Earth County Shoreland Ordinance and Minnesota Rule, Chapter 6120, requiring permanent vegetation within 50 feet of the ordinary high water level for agricultural uses in shoreland areas:

“Agricultural use standards. Within 50 feet of ordinary high water level: General cultivation farming, grazing, nurseries, horticulture, truck farming, sod farming, and wild crop harvesting are permitted uses if steep slopes and shore and bluff impact zones are maintained in permanent vegetation or operated under an approved conservation plan.”

To improve management of the riparian area and begin working toward enforcing the shoreland rules buffer standards, the County and SWCD worked on a plan to work together to identify property owners out of compliance for targeted education and cost share assistance. In order to accomplish this goal, additional staff resources were needed to provide technical assistance to landowners. The County and SWCD applied for and were awarded a FY11 Clean Water Fund grant to implement this project from 2011 to 2013. Grant funds are used to provide dedicated staff at the SWCD to work with landowners who are notified they own property that appears to lack the required buffer based on aerial photo analysis. Most of the staff working on this project is not funded by the NRBG or the Clean Water Fund grant. Progress reports on this grant-funded project are available in a separate report on the County website.

The County staff is working on a plan to continue the targeted information education phase of the project without grant funds and full staff support from the SWCD as well as enforcement options for the future.

For more information about the Blue Earth County Shoreland Ordinance and Shoreland Administration Report, contact George Leary, 507-304-4381.

**2013 ANNUAL SHORELAND ORDINANCE
ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES REPORT**



2013 Shoreland Block Grant Amount: \$3,243.00

Directions: Please answer the following questions for your county’s 2013 activities within the shoreland district. **To receive a shoreland block grant in 2014, this form must be completed by February 1, 2014.**

Planning & Zoning

1. Did your county update or amend its comprehensive plan in 2013? No
2. Do you plan to update your comprehensive plan in 2014? We are exploring some options to start the process.
3. Did your county update or amend its shoreland ordinance in 2013? No
If yes, describe the nature of the change:
4. Do you plan to update your shoreland ordinance in 2014? No
5. Does your county notify the DNR at least 10 days prior to public hearings for variances, CUPs, and ordinance amendments, and within 10 days after final decisions? Yes
6. If yes:
 - a. Who do you notify? Dan Girolamo
 - b. How do you notify them? email
 - c. What information do you provide? A description of the proposal and maps or aerial photos if applicable.

7. List the number of shoreland variances you issued in 2013:

Variance Type	# Approved with Conditions	# Approved without Conditions	# Denied
OHWL setback	0	0	2
Bluff setback	1	0	0
Expansion of nonconforming structure	0	0	0
Impervious surface	0	0	0
Development of nonconforming contiguous lots in same ownership	0	0	0
Subdivision of land not meeting lot area/width standards	0	0	0
Building height	0	0	0
Mooring spaces	0	0	0
Other (please specify)	0	0	0

8. If variances are approved with conditions, what are some examples of typical conditions?
- That an after-the-fact construction permit be obtained prior to recommencement of construction.
 - That rain gutters and downspouts be installed on the structure and the roof water redirected with buried tile to a flat area to the east.
 - That a berm and retaining wall be constructed east of the structure that will redirect storm water runoff to the east away from the ravine and bluff immediately behind the structure.

9. If variances are approved without conditions, why not? NA
10. For approximately what percent of variance inquiries in 2013 were alternative solutions found that eliminated the need for an actual variance application? That is hard to recall.
11. If alternative solutions were found, what are some typical examples?

Land Subdivision

12. List the number of lots created in 2013:

Type of subdivision	Total # of Lots Created	How many of <u>these lots</u> (shaded box) were in Conservation Subdivisions?	How many of <u>these lots</u> (shaded box) were in Resort Conversions?
PUD Plats	0		
Non-PUD or standard Plats	5	5	0
Lot Splits or admin subdivisions	0		

Permits

13. How many land use permits were issued in shoreland areas in 2013?
 - a. New construction on previously undeveloped lots: 9 (total # of permits)
 - b. Redevelopment (e.g., expansion of structures, substantial improvements, new structures added to developed lots): 35 (total # of permits)
14. How many permits for grading, excavation, filling, or soil disturbance within the shore impact zone were issued in 2013? 3 (total # of permits)
15. Do you generally inspect the work? 50%

Enforcement

16. Do you enforce the 50-foot agriculture buffer requirement? Yes
 If yes, describe 2013 activities in the space below:
 With an FY2011 clean water fund grant, Blue Earth County is working on a Shoreland Buffer Initiative in partnership with the SWCD to establish permanent vegetation in the shore impact zone. More information about this initiative is available on the county website: <http://www.blueearthcountymn.gov/index.aspx?nid=670>
17. Do you enforce vegetation management standards for non-agriculture properties? Yes
 If yes, describe 2013 activities in the space below:
 These standards are reviewed and enforced with construction permit, shoreland alteration, conditional use and variance requests. Where needed, conditions are included with the permits or resolutions.

Other

18. What shoreland-related training, guidance, or tools do your staff or Board of Adjustment need?

19. What special measures or initiatives has your county pursued to protect shorelands (e.g., vegetation restoration, advanced stormwater management practices, etc.) in 2013? Please describe below:

Contact Information

County: Blue Earth

Contact Person: George Leary Title: County Zoning Administer

E-Mail Address: george.leary@blueearthcountymn.gov

Phone Number: 507-304-4495

Any questions? Please contact: Kathleen Metzker, DNR Land Use Hydrologist, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4032. Tel. 651-259-5694. Please e-mail the completed form to Kathleen.metzker@state.mn.us. Alternatively, you may fax it to 651-296-1811 or mail it to the above address. E-mail is preferred!

STATE-DELEGATED FEEDLOT PROGRAM

2013 NRBG: \$31,880

Required Local Match: \$22,316

Blue Earth County's feedlot program is a State-delegated program for feedlots under 1,000 animal units. Large feedlots with 1,000 or more animal units require federal, Nonpoint Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits administered by the MPCA. Under the State delegation agreement, the County is responsible for implementation of feedlot rules and regulations, including registration, permitting, inspections, education and assistance, and complaint follow-up. The County receives State funding to administer the delegation agreement and is required to submit annual reports and work plans for review and approval by the MPCA. The 2013 Annual County Feedlot Officer and Performance Credit Report follows this section.

The State legislature appropriated funds to the MPCA to be distributed to delegated counties using a three part formula, including:

Number of feedlots registered in the county.

Minimum program requirements. (1) Inspect at 7% of the total number of registered feedlots; and (2) meet minimum program requirements identified in the county feedlot workplan form.

Performance credits. The amount is determined by the number of performance credits a county accumulates during the year.

The Feedlot NRBG base grant has declined since 2008, with the greatest reduction in 2011. Beginning in 2008, counties were eligible for Feedlot Performance Credit Reimbursement. The intention is to provide more support to counties doing more than the minimum required. The following table shows a comparison of the feedlot NRBG grants to Blue Earth County.

Comparison of Feedlot NRBG, County Match and Total Feedlot Grants

Feedlot Program Grants	2013 NRBG	2012 NRBG	2011 NRBG	2010 NRBG	2009 NRBG	2008 NRBG
Feedlot NRBG	\$31,880	\$31,880	\$31,880	\$34,115	\$41,373	\$45,113
Required County Match	\$22,316	\$22,316	\$22,316	\$23,881	\$28,961	\$34,681

For more information about Blue Earth County's Feedlot program, contact Mike Schulte or George Leary, 507-304-4381.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Feedlot Program
2013 Annual County Feedlot Officer and Performance Credit Report
(Data for the Period January 1, 2013 - December 31, 2013)

Name of County:	Blue Earth County				
Contact Person:	Michael Schulte				
Phone No.:	507-304-4381				
E-mail Address:	michael.schulte@blueearthcounty.mn.gov				
Signature:	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 60%;"></div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 30%;"></div> </div> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">(Signature of County Board Commissioner) (Date)</p>				
All data must be entered in accordance with the Annual CFO Report Guidance Document. Except where identified all questions in this report address those sites required to be registered.					
		No.	*PC	PC Total	
Registration	1 - Feedlots in shoreland with 10 - 299 AU:	38			
	2 - Feedlots outside shoreland with 50-299 AU:	150			
	3 - Non-NPDES sites ≥300 AU:	100			
	4 - Feedlots with NPDES permits:	58			
	5 - Total:	346			
	6 - Feedlots with 10 AU or more in shoreland:	48			
	7 - Feedlots with 10 AU or more that are both in shoreland and in a Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWSMA):	0			
	8 - Feedlots with 50 AU or more that are in a DWSMA and are not in shoreland:	0			
	No. of Sites Inspected	9 - Feedlots inspected with 10 - 99 AU:	15	0.75	11.25
		10 - Feedlots inspected with 100 - 299 AU:	30	1.25	37.5
	11 - Non-NPDES sites ≥300 AU inspected:	30	1.5	45	
	12 - NPDES sites inspected:	5	1	5	
	13 - Total feedlots inspected required to be registered:	80			
	14 - Feedlots that were inspected and found not in compliance with water quality discharge standards:	1			
	15 - Feedlots not required to be registered that were inspected as the result of a complaint or referral:	0	1	0	
	16 - Feedlots required to be registered that were inspected as the result of a complaint:	3			
Land Application Inspections	17 - Non-NPDES sites ≥300 AU (or >100 AU located in a DWSMA) where a Level I land application review was conducted and the determination was **NC.	2			
	18 - Non-NPDES sites ≥300 AU (or > 100 AU located in a DWSMA) with land application records where a Level II review was conducted and the determination was compliance:	0	2	0	
	19 - Non-NPDES sites ≥300 AU (or > 100 AU located in a DWSMA) with land application records where a Level II review was conducted and the determination was **NC:	0	2	0	
	20 - Feedlots where a Level III land application inspection was conducted and the determination was compliance:	6	1	6	
	21 - Feedlots where a Level III land application inspection was conducted and the determination was **NC:	0	1	0	
Specialty Inspections	22 - Feedlots constructing (new or modifications) where 2 or more on-site producer contacts and/or inspections were done:	6	1	6	
	23 - Feedlots with OLAs where 2 or more on-site producer contacts and/or inspections were done:	0	1	0	
	24 - Feedlots with an interim permit where 2 or more on-site producer contacts and/or inspections were done:	0	1	0	
	25 - Feedlots inspected with 10 AU or more in shoreland:	11	0.25	2.75	
	26 - Feedlots inspected with 10 AU or more that are both in shoreland and in a DWSMA:	0	0.25	0	
	27 - Feedlots inspected with 50 AU or more that are in a DWSMA and are not in shoreland:	0	0.25	0	
*PC = performance credits **NC = non-compliance ***RTC = return to compliance					

All data must be entered in accordance with the Annual CFO Report Guidance Document.				
		No.	*PC	PC Total
Permitting	28 - 30-day construction/expansion notifications received:	0		
	29 - Interim permits issued for feedlots with < 300 AU:	0	2	0
	30 - Interim permits issued for Non-NPDES sites ≥300 AU:	0	2	0
	31 - Short-Form permits issued for Non-NPDES sites ≥300 AU:	4	1	4
	32 - Short Form (≥300 AU) or interim permit revisions conducted:	0	1	0
	33 - Public meetings held for construction/expansion to >500 AU:	5	2	10
Emergency Response	34 - Pollution events where an emergency response was conducted:	0	2	0
Production Site Scheduled Compliance	35 - Feedlots <300 AU in shoreland where a partial environmental upgrade was achieved in the current year:	0	2	0
	36 - Feedlots <300 AU in shoreland where a complete environmental upgrade was achieved in the current year:	0	2	0
	37 - Feedlots <300 AU not in shoreland where a partial environmental upgrade was achieved in the current year:	0	2	0
	38 - Feedlots <300 AU not in shoreland where a complete environmental upgrade was achieved in the current year:	1	2	2
	39 - Non-NPDES feedlots ≥300 AU where a complete environmental upgrade was achieved in the current year:	0	2	0
Land Application Scheduled Compliance	40 - Non-NPDES sites ≥100 AU where Level 1 land application **NC was found and ***RTC was documented:	0	1	0
	41 - Non-NPDES sites ≥300 AU (or > 100 AU located in a DWSMA) where Level II land application **NC was found and ***RTC was documented:	0	2	0
	42 - Feedlots ≥100 AU where Level III land application **NC was found and ***RTC was documented:	0	2	0
Owner Assistance Goals	43 - Workshops or trainings hosted and/or co-sponsored by the CFO (Maximum PC credits = 10; please describe on Supplemental Form):	1	2	2
	44 - Feedlot owners attending feedlot producer workshops, training events or information meetings:	50		
	45 - Mailings to feedlot owners: (Please describe newsletters/mailings on provided on Supplemental Form.)	1		
	46 - Feedlot articles placed in local newspapers: (Please list article title(s) on the Supplemental Form.)	0		
Staffing Level and Training	47 - FTEs (Full Time Equivalents) supplied by the CFO:	1		
	48 - FTEs supplied by other county staff, including administrative and support, assigned by the county to the feedlot program:	0		
Please use whole numbers and decimals (such as 1 or .25 or 1.25) to record FTE values.	49 - FTEs supplied through contract to other LGUs:	0		
	50 - Total No. of FTEs positions that supported county program:	1		
	51 - CFO-training hours: (Enter total training hours earned; the Excel formula will deduct 18 hours required training; PCs earned will be zero for total hours earned ≤ 18.)	39.5	0.25	5.375
	52 - New CFO in-office mentoring units provided (List location & dates on Supplemental Form):	0	3	0
	53 - New CFO on-site mentoring events provided (List location & dates on Supplemental Form):	0	2	0
EAW	54 - EAW (environmental assessment worksheets) petitions received:	0		
	55 - EAWs prepared by the county:	0	4	0
Air Quality Notifications	56 - Notifications received from feedlot owners claiming air quality exemptions:	5		
Enforcement Actions Taken	57 - Letters of warning issued:	2		
	58 - Notices of violation issued:	1		
	59 - Court actions commenced:	0		
Other Program Activities	60 - Feedlots where a FLEval/MinnFARM was conducted:	0	1	0
	61 - Meetings with other local government and producer groups: (Please provide meeting details on Supplemental Form.)	0		
	62 - Feedlot Ordinance Revisions: (Please describe ordinance revision and/or adoption proceedings on Supplemental Form.)	0		
Total Credits				136.875

SUBSURFACE SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS (SSTS)

2013 NRBG: \$18,941

Required Local Match: None required

The SSTS NRBG contributes little to the actual cost of administering the local program. The SSTS NRBG is the only NRBG program that has increased significantly since 2011. The 2013 SSTS NRBG was nearly twice the amount of recent years.

2009 SSTS NRBG: \$10,000

2010 SSTS NRBG: \$ 9,931

2011 SSTS NRBG: \$ 9,931

2012 SSTS NRBG: \$18,941

2013 SSTS NRBG: \$18,941

In the Environmental Services Department, three staff positions are certified SSTS inspectors whose time is partially devoted to administering the SSTS program.

Counties are required to submit to the MPCA a construction report showing the number and type of systems installed and tank report of number of septic tanks each contractor installs. The Minnesota Legislature passed a law in 2003 requiring SSTS installers to submit a fee of \$25 to the MPCA for each septic tank. In order to verify that each installer submits the correct fees to the MPCA, the MPCA also requires counties keep records of all the tanks installed by each SSTS installer and report to the MPCA.

2013 SSTS Annual Report Summary

The following table summarizes SSTS construction between 2008 and 2013 as reported to the MPCA by the County.

**2008-2012 Summary
Subsurface Sewage Treatment System
Report to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency**

Year	Replacement Residential	New Residential	Other	Total
2008	94	45	4	143
2009	71	35	6	112
2010	83	28	5	116
2011	97	18	14	129
2012	98	37	15	150
2013	112	27	6	151

Sewage Ordinance Section of the County Code

Beginning in 1996 the *Sewage Ordinance Section of the County Code* contained new SSTS compliance “triggers” intended to increase compliance. Since 1996 these compliance triggers have increased rates of compliance in the County. The compliance triggers included:

- 1) Required a compliance inspection at property transfer.
- 2) Affirmed the State-prescribed time frame for upgrades of 10 months for “Imminent Threats to Public Health.”
- 3) Determined the required time for upgrades to failing systems not considered “Imminent Threats to Public Health” to be five years.

The *Sewage Ordinance Section of the County Code* was revised in 2010 with additional compliance triggers for septic compliance inspections. Compliance triggers in Blue Earth County now include:

- 1) Requires a compliance inspection at property transfer.
- 2) Requires an inspection or certificate of compliance for all County construction permits, conditional use permits and variances.
- 3) Affirms the State-prescribed time frame for upgrades to 10 months for systems that are “imminent threats to public health.”
- 4) Determines the required time for upgrades to systems “failing to protect groundwater” to be two years.

These additional triggers are increasing the rate of compliance throughout the County as the previous compliance triggers only addressed property that changed ownership. The results can be seen in the reports and the number of replacement residential systems and other permits is increasing compared to construction of new systems for new construction.

Compliance Inspections

A Certificate of Compliance is issued to the owner when:

- A newly-constructed SSTS is determined to have been built correctly in accordance with modern, applicable rules and the design plan.
OR
- An existing system is inspected and determined to meet minimum compliance criteria that ensure the SSTS will not cause human health or environmental problems. A Certificate of Compliance for a new system is valid for five years. A Certificate of Compliance for an existing system is valid for three years.

A Notice of Noncompliance is issued for a non-compliant existing SSTS.

The Notice of Noncompliance documents the compliance criteria the system fails to meet. Noncompliance falls into two categories:

- ***Imminent threat to public health*** (ITPH) – the system has a sewage discharge to surface water; sewage discharge to ground surface; sewage backup; or any other situation with the potential to immediately and adversely affect or threaten public health or safety.
- ***Failing to protect groundwater*** – the bottom of the system does not have the required separation to groundwater or bedrock.

For more information about Blue Earth County’s SSTS program, contact Stacey Feser or Tim Grant, 507-304-4381.

OTHER STATE GRANTS and LOANS

Blue Earth County has received other grant and loan funds related to water management. NRBG funds are not used to meet the match requirements for these projects. Some of the Environmental Services Department staff partially funded by the NRBG are working on these projects.

Clean Water Partnership Low Interest Loans For SSTS

Through watershed-based MPCA Clean Water Partnership projects, Blue Earth County participated in two low interest loan projects for SSTS. There were 151 SSTS constructed in 2013. Of the 112 replacement SSTS for residential dwellings, only 16 requested a low interest loan for the system.

The greatest demand for low interest SSTS loans is in the Greater Blue Earth River watershed where the loan program will expire in May 2014.

Even though the greatest population density is in the Middle Minnesota River watershed, there were few requests for low interest loans. This may be partially related to the elimination of 60 SSTS with connection to sanitary sewer with annexation to Mankato. More SSTS will be eliminated around lakes in the Le Sueur River watershed and the Middle Minnesota River as regional wastewater system will be constructed to serve Madison, Duck, Ballantyne and George lakes.

- **Greater Blue Earth River Watershed SSTS Loans**
 - Total of Loans Available in Blue Earth County \$575,000
 - Project Period: 2010- May 2014 *or until all funds are used whichever is first*
 - Total Loan Amount Disbursed in 2010-2011: \$264,384.57
 - Total Loan Amount Disbursed in 2012: \$93,339.54
 - Total Loan Amount Disbursed in 2013: \$148,486.52

- **Middle Minnesota River Watershed Loans**
 - Total of Loans Available in Blue Earth County: \$420,000
 - Project Period: 2011-2014 *or until all funds are used whichever is first*
 - Total Loan Amount Distributed in 2011: \$65,381.00
 - Total Loan Amount Distributed in 2012: \$32,482.67
 - Total Loan Amount Distributed in 2013: \$22,295.91

Other loans for SSTS are also available through the Blue Earth County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Minnesota Valley Action Council.

For more information about SSTS loans available in Blue Earth County, contact Stacey Feser or Tim Grant, 507-304-4381.

Fiscal Year 2011 Clean Water Fund Shoreland Buffer Initiative

2011 Clean Water Fund Grant: \$136,842

Local Match: \$40,000

Blue Earth County is working in partnership with the Blue Earth County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) on a new local initiative to ensure there are 50-foot, vegetated buffers along all rivers, streams and lakes in agricultural areas. This 50-foot buffer is required by County Ordinance and State Rules.

The County Environmental Services Department is inventorying all shoreland areas to determine compliance with the buffer standard and is in the process of notifying owners of cropland that appear to lack a 50-foot buffer. Those who receive letters are asked contact staff at the SWCD dedicated to working with landowners for this project. A 2011 Minnesota Clean Water Fund grant provided funds for the SWCD to provide these services.

The SWCD is a partner for this project because of their experience working with landowners to establish buffers and other best management practices and their knowledge of financial incentive programs available. Due to project success, an extension of this grant was requested and approved to continue the project until December 31, 2013.

Progress reports on this grant-funded project are available in a separate report on the County website.

Fiscal Year 2012 Clean Water Fund Accelerated Implementation Grant Wetland Protection and Management Plan

2012 Clean Water Fund Grant: \$108,000

Local Match: \$30,000

Blue Earth County is working with partners to develop a plan for protecting, restoring and enhancing wetlands throughout the county. Most of the plan development will take place in 2014. No NRBG funds are used for match for this grant. Progress reports on this grant-funded project are available in a separate report on the County website.

Fiscal Year 2013 Clean Water Fund Grant Well Sealing

2013 Clean Water Fund Grant: \$30,000

Local Match: \$30,000

Blue Earth County received a grant to seal wells in Le Hillier and other high priority areas. No NRBG funds are used for implementing this grant. Progress reports on this grant-funded project are available in a separate report on the County website.

Fiscal Year 2014 Clean Water Fund Accelerated Implementation Grant Blue Earth County and SWCD Targeting Grant

2014 Clean Water Fund Grant: \$108,000

Local Match: \$30,000

Blue Earth County is working with partners to develop a plan for protecting, restoring and enhancing wetlands throughout the county. Most of the plan development will take place in 2013-2014. No NRBG funds are used for match for this grant. Progress reports on this grant-funded project are available in a separate report on the County website.



Grant All-Detail Report 2013-LWM (NRBG)

Grant Title - 2013 - LWM (NRBG) - Blue Earth (COUNTY)

Grant ID - C13-10076

Organization - Blue Earth County

Grant Awarded Amount	\$10,023.00	Grant Execution Date	
Required Match Amount	\$0.00	Grant End Date	1/1/2020
Required Match %	0%	Grant Day To Day Contact	Julie Conrad

Budget Summary

	Budgeted	Spent	Balance Remaining
Total Grant Amount	\$10,023.00	\$10,023.00	\$0.00
Total Match Amount	\$18,157.00	\$18,157.00	\$0.00
Total Other Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$28,180.00	\$28,180.00	\$0.00

Budget Details

Activity Name	Activity Category	Source Type	Source Description	Budgeted	Spent	Last Transaction Date	Matching Fund
Planning	Planning and Assessment	Current State Grant	2013 - LWM (NRBG) - Blue Earth (COUNTY)	\$10,023.00	\$10,023.00	12/31/2013	N
Planning	Planning and Assessment	Local Fund	Local match	\$18,157.00	\$18,157.00	12/31/2013	Y

Grant Activity

Grant Activity - Planning			
Description	Planning		
Category	PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT		
Start Date		End Date	31-Dec-13
Rates and Hours			
Actual Results	<p>County staff participated in watershed projects and coordinated water planning and implementation activities with the SWCD. Watershed projects/partners in 2013 consisted of: 1) MPCA Le Sueur River watershed intensive monitoring project, including the Le Sueur River civic engagement project and priority management zone identification and WRAPs development. 2) Greater Blue Earth watershed sediment source collaboration. 3) Middle Minnesota watershed intensive monitoring project introduction meeting. 4) Watonwan Watershed intensive watershed monitoring project introduction. 5) Crystal Waters Project. 6) Madison Lake Association. Prepared grant applications for 1) County Public Works Department/City of Lake Crystal DNR grant for outlet structure, 2) FY2014 CWF Accelerated Implementation - GIS targeting. Prepared near channel erosion hazard section of County Hazard Mitigation Plan with assistance of consultant from National Center for Earth Surface Dynamics. Participated in Greater Blue Earth River Alliance strategic planning work sessions. Handled groundwater inquiries from citizens concerned about low water levels and their wells. Met with MDH to discuss wellhead protection plans being developed by MDH for all cities in the county. Attended wellhead protection work session with City of Mankato for the city's source water protection plan. Reviewed and prepared comments on stormwater management plan for preliminary plat subdivision on Madison Lake. Attended eLINK training and prepared eLINK reports in January 2013 and September 2013. Coordinated County Board signature of FY2014 NRBG and Feedlot Performance Credit grant agreements in December 2013. Prepared reports for MPCA 319 Grant to the SWCD and to Watonwan and Renville counties for MPCA CWP Loans in the greater Blue Earth and Middle Minnesota watersheds. Worked on Wetland Management Plan and Shoreland Buffer Initiative using staff resources beyond the local water management, WCA and shoreland NRBG.</p>		

Grant Attachments

Document Name	Document Type	Description
All Details Report	Workflow Generated	Workflow Generated - All Details Report - 01/30/2014
All Details Report	Workflow Generated	Workflow Generated - All Details Report - 03/08/2014
All Details Report	Workflow Generated	Workflow Generated - All Details Report - 02/22/2014



Grant All-Detail Report 2013-WCA (NRBG)

Grant Title - 2013 - WCA (NRBG) - Blue Earth (COUNTY)

Grant ID - C13-10135

Organization - Blue Earth County

Grant Awarded Amount	\$18,178.00	Grant Execution Date	
Required Match Amount	\$18,178.00	Grant End Date	1/1/2020
Required Match %	100%	Grant Day To Day Contact	Julie Conrad

Budget Summary

	Budgeted	Spent	Balance Remaining
Total Grant Amount	\$18,178.00	\$18,178.00	\$0.00
Total Match Amount	\$18,178.00	\$18,178.00	\$0.00
Total Other Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$36,356.00	\$36,356.00	\$0.00

Budget Details

Activity Name	Activity Category	Source Type	Source Description	Budgeted	Spent	Last Transaction Date	Matching Fund
WCA Administration	Regulations/Ordinances/Enforcement	Current State Grant	2013 - WCA (NRBG) - Blue Earth (COUNTY)	\$18,178.00	\$18,178.00	12/31/2013	N
WCA Administration	Regulations/Ordinances/Enforcement	Local Fund		\$18,178.00	\$18,178.00	12/31/2013	Y

Activity Details Summary

Activity Details	Total Action Count	Total Activity Mapped	Size / Unit
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Indicators Summary

Indicator Name	Total Value	Unit
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Grant Activity

Grant Activity - WCA Administration			
Description	WCA Administration		
Category	REGULATIONS/ORDIANCES/ENFORCEMENT		
Start Date		End Date	Tue Dec 31 00:00:00 CST 2013
Rates and Hours			
Actual Results	<p>Stacey Feser prepared and submitted the 2013 WCA report to the BWSR in January 2014. In 2013 landowner contacts in which wetland related technical assistance was provided was 700. There 28 applications submitted, including 10 for boundary loss and 9 exemptions. Exemptions included 6 for agricultural activities and drainage, permanently impacting 80,945 square feet of wetlands. There were three de minimis exemptions permanently impacting 2,260 square feet of wetlands. Two WCA violations were investigated, and there were three enforcement actions taken under local ordinances.</p>		

Grant Attachments

Document Name	Document Type	Description
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Grant All-Detail Report 2013-Shoreland (NRBG)

Grant Title - 2013 - Shoreland (NRBG) - Blue Earth (COUNTY)

Grant ID - C13-10202

Organization - Blue Earth County

Grant Awarded Amount	\$3,243.00	Grant Execution Date	
Required Match Amount	\$3,243.00	Grant End Date	1/1/2020
Required Match %	100%	Grant Day To Day Contact	Julie Conrad

Budget Summary

	Budgeted	Spent	Balance Remaining
Total Grant Amount	\$3,243.00	\$3,243.00	\$0.00
Total Match Amount	\$3,243.00	\$3,243.00	\$0.00
Total Other Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$6,486.00	\$6,486.00	\$0.00

Budget Details

Activity Name	Activity Category	Source Type	Source Description	Budgeted	Spent	Last Transaction Date	Matching Fund
Shoreland ordinance administration	Agricultural Practices	Current State Grant	2013 - Shoreland (NRBG) - Blue Earth (COUNTY)	\$3,243.00	\$3,243.00	12/31/2013	N
Shoreland ordinance administration	Agricultural Practices	Local Fund		\$3,243.00	\$3,243.00	12/31/2013	Y

Activity Details Summary

Activity Details	Total Action Count	Total Activity Mapped	Size / Unit
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Indicators Summary

Indicator Name	Total Value	Unit
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Grant Activity

Grant Activity - Shoreland ordinance administration			
Description	Shoreland ordinance administration		
Category	AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES		
Start Date		End Date	Tue Dec 31 00:00:00 CST 2013
Rates and Hours			
Actual Results	The County Zoning Administrator completed the 2013 Shoreland Ordinance Administrative Activities Report in January 2014. Permits issued in 2013 were: 35 permits for redevelopment, 9 permits for new construction, and 3 permits for grading and filling in the shore impact zone. The Board of Adjustment approved one variance for a bluff setback. The County Board approved the creation of five new lots in standard plats.		

Grant Attachments

Document Name	Document Type	Description
2013 Shoreland Report	Progress	Progress Dated - 01/29/2014



Grant All-Detail Report 2013-Feedlot (NRBG)

Grant Title - 2013 - Feedlot (NRBG) - Blue Earth (COUNTY)

Grant ID - C13-10254

Organization - Blue Earth County

Grant Awarded Amount	\$31,880.00	Grant Execution Date	
Required Match Amount	\$22,316.00	Grant End Date	1/1/2020
Required Match %	70%	Grant Day To Day Contact	Julie Conrad

Budget Summary

	Budgeted	Spent	Balance Remaining
Total Grant Amount	\$31,880.00	\$31,880.00	\$0.00
Total Match Amount	\$22,316.00	\$22,316.00	\$0.00
Total Other Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$54,196.00	\$54,196.00	\$0.00

Budget Details

Activity Name	Activity Category	Source Type	Source Description	Budgeted	Spent	Last Transaction Date	Matching Fund
Feedlot Program Administration	Regulations/Ordinances/Enforcement	Current State Grant	2013 - Feedlot (NRBG) - Blue Earth (COUNTY)	\$31,880.00	\$31,880.00	12/31/2013	N
Feedlot Program Administration	Regulations/Ordinances/Enforcement	Local Fund	Feedlot fees	\$22,316.00	\$22,316.00	12/31/2013	Y

Activity Details Summary

Activity Details	Total Action Count	Total Activity Mapped	Size / Unit
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Indicators Summary

Indicator Name	Total Value	Unit
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Grant Activity

Grant Activity - Feedlot Program Administration			
Description	Feedlot Program Administration		
Category	REGULATIONS/ORDINANCES/ENFORCEMENT		
Start Date		End Date	Tue Dec 31 00:00:00 CST 2013
Rates and Hours			
Actual Results	<p>In 2013, the County Feedlot Officer inspected 80 of the 346 registered feedlots in the county. This included 11 of the 38 feedlots in shoreland. The CFO inspected three feedlots as the result of complaints. Two letters of warning were issued and one notice of violation. The CFO sends an annual letter to all feedlot owners in the county summarizing regulatory changes, NRCS/SWCD projects and cost share availability and reminders about issues observed the previous year. Blue Earth County hosted a regional, commercial, animal waste technician training attended by 50 people. The CFO attended conferences and training events totaling 39.5 hours.</p>		

Grant Attachments

Document Name	Document Type	Description
2013 BEC CFO Report	Progress	Progress Dated - 01/29/2014
2013 BEC CFO Report Supplement	Progress	Progress Dated - 01/29/2014



Grant All-Detail Report 2013-SSTS (NRBG)

Grant Title - 2013 - SSTS (NRBG) - Blue Earth (COUNTY)

Grant ID - C13-10309

Organization - Blue Earth County

Grant Awarded Amount	\$18,941.00	Grant Execution Date	
Required Match Amount	\$0.00	Grant End Date	1/1/2020
Required Match %	0%	Grant Day To Day Contact	Julie Conrad

Budget Summary

	Budgeted	Spent	Balance Remaining
Total Grant Amount	\$18,941.00	\$18,941.00	\$0.00
Total Match Amount			\$0.00
Total Other Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$18,941.00	\$18,941.00	\$0.00

Budget Details

Activity Name	Activity Category	Source Type	Source Description	Budgeted	Spent	Last Transaction Date	Matching Fund
SSTS program administration	Regulations/Ordinances/Enforcement	Current State Grant	2013 - SSTS (NRBG) - Blue Earth (COUNTY)	\$18,941.00	\$18,941.00	12/31/2013	N

Activity Details Summary

Activity Details	Total Action Count	Total Activity Mapped	Size / Unit
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Indicators Summary

Indicator Name	Total Value	Unit
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Grant Activity

Grant Activity - SSTS program administration			
Description	SSTS program administration		
Category	REGULATIONS/ORDIANCES/ENFORCEMENT		
Start Date		End Date	Tue Dec 31 00:00:00 CST 2013
Rates and Hours			
Actual Results	<p>The 2013 annual SSTS report was submitted to the MPCA in January 2014. SSTS constructed in 2013 included: 151 total SSTS consisting of 27 new residential, 6 other new establishments, 112 replacement residential, and 6 replacements for other establishments. Connection to sanitary sewer eliminated 60 residential SSTS with annexation to Mankato. The County also administers MPCA Clean Water Partnership loan programs. Owners of 11 of the 112 replacement residential SSTS requested a low interest loan.</p>		

Grant Attachments

Document Name	Document Type	Description
2013 Annual SSTS Report	Progress	Progress Dated - 01/30/2014
2013 SSTS Report BEC	Grant	2013 - SSTS (NRBG) - Blue Earth (COUNTY)