

# State of Minnesota Buffer Law Compliance

Conservation Districts across Minnesota have been tasked with aiding area farmers in implementing governor Mark Dayton's buffer law standards.

In Carlton County, each parcel adjacent to a public water is applicable to the buffer law. Many parcels were able to be deemed compliant via confirmation using aerial photos and mapping tools. A handful of parcels were unable to be determined using this process, however. You are receiving this letter because one or more of your parcels was unable to be confirmed as compliant via this initial process. ***By working with Carlton Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), together we can take the steps needed in order to get your parcel(s) in compliance.***

If your parcel is in hay or pasture, verification will be as simple as a visit to the property to visually confirm your farming practices. If your farmland is in a crop and/or pasture and/or hay rotation, it may be as simple as taking a measurement of your existing buffer on a year when the field is in row-crop. The SWCD can work with you and whatever your specific farming practices may be, to reach compliance status.

Carlton SWCD has received funding to help area farmers implement buffers and/or alternative practices on their non-compliant farmland if needed.

*Without verification of compliance, your parcel will be seen as non-compliant by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), the state agency charged with this laws enforcement for Carlton County. Carlton SWCD is here to help you reach compliance status.*

**Contact Name at Carlton SWCD with any questions.**

To complete the buffer compliance process, contact Carlton SWCD.

Name  
Conservation Technician

808 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Carlton, MN 55718  
218-384-3891



## Things to Know About the Buffer Law

- ⇒ The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is the buffer law enforcer in Carlton County. They have the ability to issue penalty orders for those who do not comply with the buffer law.
- ⇒ Carlton County Soil and Water Conservation District has been appropriated funding to help landowners technically and/or financially reach buffer law compliance. We are here, as always, to help establish and maintain conservation practices on the land.
- ⇒ Buffers or alternative water quality practices must be in place on or before November 1, 2017 for land adjacent to public waters. If you are unable to meet this deadline, it is important you get in contact with Carlton SWCD.
- ⇒ A “buffer” is defined as an area of land consisting of perennial vegetation excluding invasive plants and noxious weeds.
- ⇒ If your land is lawn, hay-land, pasture, forest, or in some other use with perennially vegetated cover, you meet buffer law standards. You must contact Carlton SWCD to verify these land practices in order to be deemed compliant, however.
- ⇒ The buffer law requires 50 feet of perennial vegetation to be established adjacent to public waters.
- ⇒ Decision support tools are available to landowners who wish to pursue alternative practices to buffers.
- ⇒ Landowners have several options when it comes to establishing the required buffer.
  - Landowners can enroll in programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program, State Cost Share Program and other Federal, State and Local programs.
  - Landowners can install or utilize alternative practices.
  - Landowners can establish the required buffer on their own with no financial assistance.

