

# Koochiching Soil & Water Conservation District

Courthouse, 715 4<sup>th</sup> Street, International Falls, MN 56649

Phone: (218) 283-1175 Fax: (218) 283-1176

Dear Landowner:

Please find enclosed the information you will need to participate in our wood ash program. Below is a list of program requirements that your field(s) will need to meet in order to qualify for the program:

1. **Active** – Fields must be pasture land or actively being farmed.
2. **Current Soil Sample Report with a pH level of 7.1 or below** – Report must not be older than 6 months at the time of permitting and not older than 3 years at the time of ash delivery.
3. **Access** – Fields must have reasonable road access to accommodate a semi-truck.
4. **Size** – Minimum field size is 15 acres. Wood Ash delivery causes a 1-2 acre compaction area; making sites under 15 acres difficult to manage. Contact the SWCD for more information.
5. **Setback** – Fields must meet the following setback requirements: 200' from a Residence; 600' from Residential Developments; 600' from Recreational Areas (including Cemeteries); 200' from a Private Well; 1000' from a Public Well.
6. **Waste applications** – Fields that have previously received municipal sludge are **NOT** eligible to receive Wood Ash.
7. **Ownership** – If you wish to receive wood ash on property that you operate but do not own, you must obtain the property owner's signature on an "**Authorization to Apply Wood Ash**" form (available from the SWCD).

If you feel that your fields meet the above requirements, proceed as follows: Get a soil test for your field(s). Once you receive your soil sample report, mail or bring them into the Koochiching SWCD office. We will then permit your fields to receive ash. Please keep in mind that one soil sample test is good for a maximum of 40 acres. Each soil sample sheet holds up to 2 soil samples.

**TIP:** To take a sample, collect soil at a number of sites around your field to a depth of about 3-4 inches, mix these all together in a bucket and take one sample from this mix to put in the test bag with this soil to the line on the bag. Do this for each 40 acres. On the sheet, I have filled out some of the information, add any other info you know, and any other crop choices you may have. Make sure that you fill out the Sample Identification code on the sheet and soil bag. Use a code such as your initials and a 2 digit number, ex. JB01, JB02 and so on. Send the soil, and test sheets to the address on the **Sample Bag**. The soil lab will do the test and send you a bill and test results, usually within 2 weeks. Soil tests are about 10 dollars per test bag.

I encourage you to get the samples in as soon as possible. Fields that have received ash five or more years ago should be retested, as they may be eligible to have a second treatment of wood ash. Please feel free to give me a call with any questions you may have.

Thank You

Justin Berg

District Technician

218-283-1175

[justin.berg@koochichingswcd.org](mailto:justin.berg@koochichingswcd.org)

Enclosures:

Soil Sample Bags, Soil Test Sheet, Authorization to Apply Wood Ash Form

# Koochiching County Wood Ash Program Application for Lake of the Woods Residents

Date of Application \_\_\_\_\_

1. Landowner Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

2. Ash Applicant Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

3. If applicant different than landowner, is "Authorization to Apply Wood Ash" form completed?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

4. Location of field (must be completed for each soil sample)

Site #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Township \_\_\_\_\_ Range \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_ 1/4 Section \_\_\_\_\_

Acres \_\_\_\_\_ % Slope \_\_\_\_\_

Site #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Township \_\_\_\_\_ Range \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_ 1/4 Section \_\_\_\_\_

Acres \_\_\_\_\_ % Slope \_\_\_\_\_

Site #3: \_\_\_\_\_

Township \_\_\_\_\_ Range \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_ 1/4 Section \_\_\_\_\_

Acres \_\_\_\_\_ % Slope \_\_\_\_\_

5. Is there any tile drainage present on fields expected for wood ash application?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

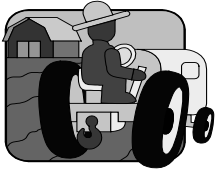
6. Are these fields being actively farmed?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: (Good time to contact, etc...) \_\_\_\_\_

**Things to include with Application:**

1. Plat map identifying field location(s).
2. ArcGIS Map outlining field access, field boundaries, utilities present, buildings or structures on site, streams, ponds, etc....
3. Copy of Soil Sample Test Application form.



## Authorization to Apply Wood Ash

**Please note: Complete this form if applying ash on land not owned by applicant.**

\_\_\_\_\_ (Name of operator) has my permission to apply  
wood ash for agricultural purposes on property owned by me at the following location:

\_\_\_\_\_ (Legal description to the nearest 1/4 section).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Owner Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Thank you for your interest in the beneficial re-use of wood ash. If you have any questions or need additional soil test kits, please contact the Koochiching SWCD at (218)283-1175.