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For immediate release

Food Waste: Small changes produce large impacts - Join the Rice County Food Waste Reduction Challenge

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, 40% of the food produced in the United States ends up as waste, whether it takes place during harvest, processing or in the home. The average family of four loses approximately \$1,500 annually from food that is waste, according to data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Small changes in how we shop, plan our meals and store food can make a large impact on the amount of food and money that is wasted in our household.

Starting Jan. 21, learn how to reduce food waste in your household and compete with others in Rice County. During this five-week challenge, test out different food-saving methods and find out what works best for you. Keep an eye out for event and prize announcements.

Two meetings in Rice County will provide more information about the challenge and an opportunity for participants to ask questions. Meetings are as follows:

- 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 13 at the Buckham Memorial Library, 11 Division St., Faribault
- 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13 at the Northfield Public Library, 210 Washington St., Northfield

There is no fee to attend the meetings or participate in the challenge. Anyone unable to make to one of the meetings can join online at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13 by visiting <https://bit.ly/RiceCo-Food-Waste-meeting>.

To participate, in the Challenge, register at <https://bit.ly/RiceCo-Food-Waste-sign-up>.

More information on reducing food waste and Challenge prizes can be found on the Rice County Solid Waste Facility webpages at ricecountymn.gov.

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