

# *Stark and Billings* **SOIL** **CONSERVATION** *District*

U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Non-profit  
Organization  
Permit #12  
Dickinson, ND

2493 4th Ave West, Room C  
Dickinson, ND 58601

Phone: 701-225-3811 Ext#3

Email: [bonnie.twogood@nd.nacdnet.net](mailto:bonnie.twogood@nd.nacdnet.net)

Website: [www.starkandbillingscd.com](http://www.starkandbillingscd.com)

“Assisting Residents of Stark and Billings Counties”

Return Service Requested

## Annual Report 2022

*Assistance is available without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.*

### AWARDS



The District Employees received Length of Service Awards.

Bob Klein received a certificate for 15 years of service and Bonnie Twogood received a certificate for 35 years of service for the Stark and Billings Soil Conservation District.



Lincoln Oakes Nursery presented an award for the Most Trees Planted in 2022. Stark and Billings Soil Conservation District received the award for planting 69,216 trees.



**Boyle Creek Ranch, Jay & Heidi Krank and Family,**  
**was selected for the Overall Achievement Award by the Stark and**  
**Billings Soil Conservation District .**

The Krank's seeded cropland back to grass for forage production and grazing, installed cross fencing along with livestock pipelines and watering facilities to enhance their grazing distribution and grazing management and improve water quality for their livestock. They incorporated the use of cover crops to improve their soil health and to utilize for grazing. Over the years they have planted numerous windbreaks for farmstead and livestock protection. The Kranks were invited to the State Convention in November to receive an Aerial Photo of their farmstead.







## Achievement Recipients



### **Tree Award**

#### **Tom & Pam Reichert**

The Reichert's machine planted over 26,000 feet of trees. Tom said his goal was to plant 10,000 trees. Right now, he's at 9,000 trees. He should reach that goal with plans to plant more trees this year, but we are not to let Pam know! Pam told Tom no more trees, but he sneaks them in.

### **Soil Health Award**

#### **Leon & Laura Armbrust**

The Armbrusts improved plant condition by planting a multi-year alfalfa/hay into the crop rotation and providing feed forage to livestock. They improved soil health by adding cover crops into the crop rotation. The farmstead has been in the family for 100 years. Leon & Laura are the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation on the farm and their son, Cody will be the 4<sup>th</sup> generation.



### **Alternative Production**

### **Agricultural Award**

#### **Shane & Cathy Weber**

Shane and Cathy Weber are the first hemp farm in Stark County called Badlands Hemp. They have a two-acre hemp crop near Taylor and have many products for sale in Dickinson.





Mylo Hatzenbuehler, the Strasburg, ND farm boy who has found his second calling in rock & roll music, entertained our guests at the local Annual Soil Conservation District's Banquet. ★



## HAPPY RETIREMENT BOB

Bob Klein retired at the end of the year 2022. The Soil Conservation District Board extended their appreciation for all his hard work and dedication. The District presented Bob a new fishing pole and reel to enjoy his retirement doing his favorite past time of fishing. You may see him still planting trees and laying fabric for the District in the spring, but the rest of the year you'll have to catch him on the lake resting, relaxing and fishing and maybe doing some gambling too!

Best of Luck Fishing Bob!!





## 2022 “Make A Splash” Water Festival



### 2022 KIDS DAY ON THE FARM SOILS TUNNEL

Roughly 1,000  
children came out  
for Kids Day on  
the Farm at  
Dickinson State  
University.

### TREES PROJECT—THE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION SERIES “Common Cents” DARIN EWE, is an energetic game show host testing students knowledge of natural resources





**Diversity, Direction and Dollars**  
**25th Annual AG Forum was held on January 11, 2022**



Western Area Soil Conservation Districts joined for the AREA V Meeting on October 20, 2022. The District's discussed current issues facing their area producers. After the meeting, the attendee's joined for a tour of Stone Mill LLC located in Richardton. Stone Mill is a 2<sup>nd</sup> generation state of the art processing facility rebuilt in 2018 to encompass some of today's leading technologies.



**NRCS Conservation Incentive Contracts (CIC) Sign-Up Opportunity and Batching Date**

NRCS is currently accepting applications for the Conservation Incentives Contracts (CIC) which are implemented through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). CIC is designed to encourage producers to implement and adopt conservation management strategies on their operations. Some of the management strategies that are eligible for funding via CIC are:

- Incentives for Prescribed Grazing Systems (Includes assistance with cross fences, and water developments needed to implement the grazing system.)
- Incentives for Nutrient Management- (Includes both basic soil testing and/or variable rate soil testing with appropriate fertilizer application).
- Incentives for Soil Health Prescribed Grazing – (Includes the implementation of season long cover crops for grazing on cropland along with the potential for assistance to develop livestock water on cropland).

CIC contracts are 5 years in length and evaluated via a ranking process for funding.

**NRCS will be accepting applications for 2023 potential funding through March 3, 2023.**

All applications received by this deadline will be considered for funding. If you would like additional information, please contact the NRCS office at (701) 225-3811 Ext#3.





## **2022 TREE PROGRAM**

***Tree Planting crews machine planted 229,103 linear feet of trees in Stark & Billings Counties.***

***Weed Barrier crew applied 364,995 feet of black fabric in Stark, Billings, Dunn & Adams Counties.***

***Sold 25,313 Handplants***



Tree planting in 2022 was an interesting year. Going into April, I think everyone was a bit worried how they would get by. Not to worry April had it's own plan with back to back blizzards that pushed the season back and gave us much needed moisture. Our first tree planting was May 11th and thanks to spring storms we didn't finish until June 4th! We were very fortunate to have lots of great help with both tree planting and weed barrier. We were able to run with two crews for a couple days where we were able to catch up and finish weed barrier June 28th. With the abundance of moisture this spring and a few timely rains in July, we were able to pull a 83% survival rate on the trees that we machine planted. We'd like to thank all the producers who were very patient with us this spring as it seemed every Friday and Monday we were scrambling to reschedule tree plantings.



**Palmer amaranth has been one of the detrimental weeds in the United States over the past few years and was identified in Stark County last year. What makes palmer amaranth so hard to contain, is the fact that it's prone to being resistant to several herbicides and can emerge throughout the growing season. We are asking producers to keep an eye out and if you believe you spot a plant call your local extension agent or county weed officer to come and make a confirmed ID and implement an action plan.**

## Palmer Amaranth Protocol

1. Landowner contacts the county weed officer or county Extension agent. The Extension agent or weed officer will contact the other to be sure both the weed officer and Extension agent are involved.
2. The weed officer and/or Extension agent will:
  - a. **Gather images** and mark the GPS coordinates where plant was found. Plant (s) should remain in the field rather than being pulled. The weed officer and Extension agent will work together to provide information to an North Dakota State University (NDSU) specialist (s) for plant identification.
  - b. Contact the area or state Extension specialist closest to them to help with identification. Images should first be sent to a specialist to help identify the plant in question. If necessary, the specialist may visit the field.
  - c. Notify North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) prior to submitting a sample to the lab for genetic testing. NDDA requires a genetic test to confirm the plant is Palmer. Once Palmer has been confirmed in the county, NDDA does not require lab confirmation for other suspect plants. NDDA will pay for shipping and testing for the first confirmed ID but will not pay for additional tests.
  - d. Email the lab report to NDDA whether positive or negative. If the plant is confirmed to be Palmer, also email the GPS coordinates to NDDA. **Coordinates and landowners and/or producers must remain confidential and not be shared outside of this group.**
  - e. Inform landowner if the suspect weed is or is not Palmer.
  - f. Notify Brian Jenks and Joe Ikley so they can keep track of where Palmer has been identified in the state.
3. NDDA notifies the State Seed Department if contaminated seed is the likely source of Palmer.
4. NDDA will make the official announcement via news release and social media. Do not share confirmed cases with the public or media until the NDDA news release has been published. Do not share suspect cases with public or media.
5. The county weed officer is the local regulator, and, if necessary, shall investigate to determine how widespread the infestation is, probable pathway, whether it has spread, etc.
6. NDSU specialist (s), NDSU Extension agent, county weed officer and NDDA will work with the Landowner to develop an action plan. The NDSU specialist will take the lead role in action plan development.
7. NDSU Extension and the county weed officer will follow up with the landowner as warranted, but at a minimum on a yearly basis.
8. The county weed officer will keep records and maps to continue follow-up with the landowner and survey the field annually for 3-5 years after the initial finding to verify no additional Palmer is found. If more plants are found, follow-ups should continue. NDDA will serve as the repository for the records and maps.

### Contact Links:

County Extension agents: <https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/Extension/directory/counties>

County weed officers: <http://www.ndweeds.com>

North Dakota Department of Agriculture: [www.nd.gov/ndda/pa](http://www.nd.gov/ndda/pa) (Richard Weisz, 701-328-2250, [raweisz@nd.gov](mailto:raweisz@nd.gov) or Charles Elhard, 701-220-0485, [celhard@nd.gov](mailto:celhard@nd.gov))