



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

Website: www.starkandbillingsgcd.com

Return Service Requested

“Assisting Residents of Stark and Billings Counties”

August 2024

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

Replacement or Handplant Trees

Need handplants for 2025 spring planting season, please fill out enclosed green tree form and return to our office by

October 1, 2024

OR

order trees on-line at

starkandbillingsgcd.com



Natural Resources Public Meetings

SAVE THE DATE

October 29, 2024

10:00 AM-3:00 PM

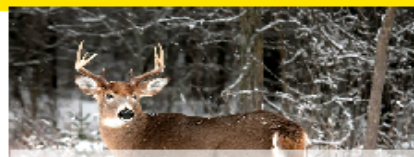
Buelah Civic Center

Buelah, ND

AGENDA:

- Carbon, “The Whole Picture”
Dr. David Ripplinger
Professor/Bioenergy Economist, NDSU
- Rare Earth Minerals





Protect your bulbs from rabbits & voles
Prevent deer buck rub on trees

OVERWINTER PROTECTION



Fall Season Tips

Protecting Bulbs

- Dip or spray bulbs with Plantskydd liquid then allow to dry before planting.
- Sprinkle Plantskydd Granules liberally on and around bulbs when planting, cover plants with soil and sprinkle granules on soil surface.

Protecting trees against buck-rub

- Spray Plantskydd liquid liberally, directly onto bark, on areas where buck-rub issues occur.

Protecting trees and shrubs from over-winter damage

- Spray trees and shrubs liberally (including root flare / collar) to prevent over-winter deer browsing and girdling by rabbits, voles etc.
- For best results, spray when plants are dry and temperatures are above freezing. Allow 24 hours to dry.
- Protects up to 6 months on dormant plants.

Protecting lawns and gardens from vole damage

- Sprinkle Plantskydd Granular at a rate of 500 sq ft per pound before snow is expected.
- Sprinkle down burrow holes and anywhere vole activity is visible.
- Clear ground cover and leaves, sprinkle granular under shrubs and plants.

**Apply Plantskydd before animal damage begins for maximum plant protection*

PLANTSKYDD



\$40/Box 2.2 lb

\$22/Box 1 lb

\$26/Jug 3.5 lb

\$16/Jug 2 lb



\$15/Quart Bottle

- 100% dried blood (porcine and/or bovine). No animal parts are used. Biodegrades and adds fertilizer to your soil.

Tree Season by Ty Nordby

Another Spring in the books! Moving into a new shop and finishing up a storage shed/ tree cooler we had plenty of work just to get ready for trees to arrive. Luckily there were no big hiccups and everything fell into place for our trees to show up the end of April. We got an awesome start to tree season, with a cool and wet May and June. 171,778 feet of trees were planted between 41 Stark/Billings producers and 310,794 feet of weed barrier was applied in Stark, Billings, Dunn, and Adams County. We finished up tree season the 12th of June and started prepping for the 2025 season. In true North Dakota fashion, July flipped a switch and got even for our cool start of summer. Hopefully everyone is keeping an eye on their trees and helping them out as much as possible. We still have the 3 water tanks, which are available to water trees as long as you let us know. A BIG thank you to all our seasonal workers and producers, hope to see all of you back next year for another great year!

"Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago."

SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

LOCAL LEADERSHIP

Soil Conservation District (SCD) supervisors serve on a multimember board that establishes and implements programs to protect and conserve soil, water, farmland, rangeland, woodland, wildlife, energy and other resources.

Duties:

- Identify local conservation needs and develop, implement and evaluate programs to meet them
- Educate and inform district citizens, landowners, land managers, and local, state and federal legislators about conservation issues and programs
- Supervise paid staff and volunteers working with the district; coordinate with cooperating agency personnel
- Administer the district by delegating tasks through a structure of board officers and members, committees and others
- Raise and budget district funds and report on activities to the public
- Coordinate assistance and funding from federal, state and local governments, district associations and private groups.

Time Required:

Attend 12 regularly scheduled board meetings, as well as committee special meetings and events for a total of approximately 15 to 20 days/year.

Qualifications:

- Interest and background in conserving natural resources
- Ability to work with others, communication skills and a desire to learn
- Land ownership (no acreage requirement) and residence in the district

Benefits:

- Satisfaction in seeing conservation practices applied
- Interaction with others interested in natural resource conservation
- Input into local, state and federal conservation programs
- Training through the State Soil Conservation Committee and NDSU Extension

To Learn More:

Reach out to your local SCD, attend a meeting and express your interest in being involved. Contact the State Soil Conservation Committee or visit our website, www.ag.ndsu.edu/ndssc.



The Alliance to Advance Climate-Smart Agriculture is nearing completion of its first year.

The Stark and Billings SCD is one of just seven soil conservation districts chosen to participate in this multi-state pilot project. In partnership with North Dakota Farmers Union, North Dakota Conservation District Employees Association and the North Dakota Grain Growers Association, we are glad to provide new opportunities for producers to be rewarded for their stewardship.

In our first year, the Alliance project had very high demand, with roughly 475 applicants across the state. We have enrolled over 300 producers in North Dakota, with about \$8 million in producer payments committed. In Stark and Eastern Billings Counties 84 producers will receive \$100 per acre or animal unit for adopting high-value conservation practices. Our most popular practices in Year 1 are no-till, prescribed grazing, reduced till, crop rotation and cover crops.

Enrolled producers will receive their first \$50 installment within the next month, another \$25 when they verify completion of the practice later this year, and a final \$25 when they submit their final report in early 2025.

In our first year of this pilot project, we have learned a lot about delivering conservation programs. The high program demand was a strong indication that higher payment rates significantly increase producer interest in adopting high-value conservation practices. We have also learned that, while this was designed to be a producer-driven program, the project needs to provide more clarity and support to ensure producers understand USDA's technical and measurement requirements for these programs. As we prepare for Year 2 of the project, we will continue to gather feedback and make improvements to ensure this project is as farmer friendly as possible.

Looking ahead, we plan to open our next application window on Jan. 6. If you did not apply or were not selected for enrollment in 2024, we encourage you to visit with the SCD staff about applying for 2025. If you were enrolled, you still have the opportunity to enroll for different practices or different land. Enrollment will happen through an online portal. So, be on the lookout for updates later this year.

To learn more about the program, visit allianceforcsa.org or contact Stark and Billings SCD at (701) 225-3811 Ext#3.

The Alliance to Advance Climate-Smart Agriculture is part of USDA's \$3.1 billion investment in the Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities, which supports 141 projects and seeks to provide direct, meaningful benefits to production agriculture, leverage the greenhouse gas benefits of climate-smart commodities and expand those markets for American producers, according to USDA. Nationally, the project is led by Virginia Tech.

Announcing the Environmental Quality Incentive Program Sign-up for 2025

Through EQIP, agricultural producers receive financial and technical assistance to implement conservation practices that optimize environmental benefits on working agricultural land. Practices include, but are not limited to cover crops, reduced/no-till, livestock fencing and watering systems, erosion control structures, variable rate fertilizing, forage/hay plantings, tree plantings and more.



EQIP applications are accepted on a continuous basis, however, NRCS establishes application "cut-off" or submission deadline dates for evaluation, ranking and approval of eligible applications. **The final day to sign an application for 2025 EQIP is September 20th.** Agricultural producers and owners of non-industrial private forestland and Tribes are eligible to apply for EQIP. Eligible land includes cropland, rangeland, pastureland, non-industrial private forestland and other farm or ranch lands. Applicants must control or own eligible land, comply with adjusted gross income limitation provisions, be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation requirements, and develop an NRCS EQIP plan of operations. Additional restrictions and program requirements may apply.

To apply for EQIP, contact the Dickinson NRCS Field Office at **701-225-3811 ext 3** or stop by the office at the address below:
2493 4th Ave West, Room C, Dickinson, ND 58601.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Welcome Clay Sporer

Hello, my name is Clay Sporer, the new Farm Bill Specialist at the Dickinson NRCS office. I was born and raised in Bismarck, North Dakota, where I spent much of my youth enjoying the outdoors—hunting, fishing, and camping. I later earned a bachelor's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Management from Valley City State University. I'm excited to be part of the Dickinson community and to use my skills to support local conservation efforts and the farming community.





PHEASANTS FOREVER AND QUAIL FOREVER **PRECISION AG & CONSERVATION**

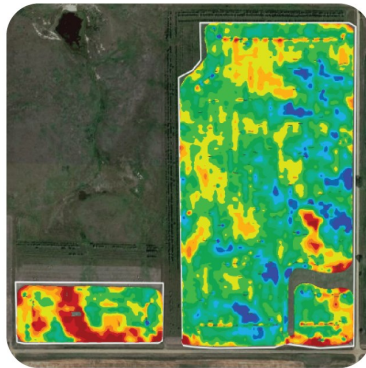
TURNING **RED** ACRES **GREEN**

Free on-site consultations with your local specialist can provide:

- Unlimited technical analysis of farm data to identify non-productive, red, acres.
- Producer-led plans for turning those red acres green!
- A trusted resource in navigating the slough of conservation programs available to you!

With Precision Ag data, we can transform your marginal and unproductive red acres:

From this...



To this!



All while increasing your field's
Revenue Potential!

- Reducing Input Costs
- Restoring Soil Health
- Increasing Input Efficiency
- Providing Perennial Cover and Forage



Optimizing your operation?

Clark Davis
(507) 530-5145
cdavis@pheasantsforever.org
Beach, ND



SOIL HEALTH WORKSHOP:

PRINCIPLES, STRUCTURE, TEXTURE, WATER INFILTRATION & PH

September 18, 2024

Biesiot Activities Center - 398 State Ave, Dickinson, ND 58601

8:00 AM	Welcome	Doug Landblom, DREC
8:15 AM	Soil is the Foundation of Civilizations: What is Soil Health & Why are Civilizations Dependent on Quality Soils?	Susan Samson-Liebig, USDA-NRCS
8:45 AM	5 Principles of Soil Health	Darrell Oswald, Burleigh County SCD
9:15 AM	Why is Soil Organic Matter One of the Most Important Soil Components?	Naeem Kalwar, LREC
9:45 AM	How Minimizing Soil Disturbance Combines with Multi-Crop Rotations	Hunter Ripplinger, USDA-NRCS
10:15 AM	Lunch	Bravera Bank & Trust Grill Team
Location:	DREC Section 19, Manning, ND 58601	
11:30 AM	Water Movement Through Soil: the Influence of Roots, Biopores, & Structure	John Kempenich & Krista Bryan, USDA-NRCS
12:15 PM	Effects of Diverse Multi-Crop Rotations on Soil pH Balance	Larry Cihacek, NDSU
Concurrent Rotating Field Sessions		
12:45 PM	Value of Alfalfa for Nutrient Cycling	Doug Landblom
1:05 PM	Soil Texture, Multi-Species Cover Crops & Water Infiltration Rate	Krishna Katuwal, DREC
1:25 PM	Why are Mycorrhizal Fungi Associations with Plant Roots Valuable?	Danielle Harper, DSU
1:45 PM	Crop Rotation Sequence Using Low & High Water-Use Crops in the Semi-Arid Region	Brent Gustafson, USDA-NRCS

Please register through the Eventbrite link:
<https://ndswcs-soil-health.eventbrite.com>

