

Stark and Billings
**SOIL
CONSERVATION**
District

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

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Dickinson, ND 58601
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Email: bonnie.twogood@nd.nacdnet.net
Website: www.starkandbillingsgcd.com

Return Service Requested

“Assisting Residents of Stark and Billings Counties”

August 2022

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

Welcome our Newest Board Member

**Jessica O'Brien was appointed as a
District Supervisor in January.**



I grew up in Belfield ND. My husband, three young boys, and I own and run a ranch South East of South Heart ND. I graduated from DSU in 2014 with a BOS in Business Management. I have been working as a Project Manager for a small fencing and reclamation company out

of Belfield for almost 10 years. I am passionate about the work we do in land restoration all over North Dakota. Being in Western ND we are blessed that there are opportunities in oil field and agriculture to provide a great quality of life to raise our family. I am excited about my new role on our local Soil Conservation Board and to continue learning about all we do.

Off To Retirement!

Bob Klein has been working for the Stark and Billings Soil Conservation District since February 2007.



Over 15 years!

Bob worked as the District Technician handling tree plans, tree plantings and weed barrier applications. He helped with many conservation/natural resource projects, programs and education events. We know our producers are sad to see him go, but don't get discouraged, Bob plans on still planting trees and

laying fabric. Bob's plan is to retire at the end of this year. So stop by the office and wish him well.

The board would like to extend their greatest appreciation for all your hard work and dedication to the Stark and Billings Soil Conservation District.

Best of Luck in your retirement!



Soil Sampling Post Small Grain Harvest

Chris Augustin—Director—Dickinson Research Extension Center

Soil sampling is the number one management tool to effectively and agronomically manage soil fertilizer. Without the soil test, fertilizer applications are at best a guess. Fertilizer can be over applied or under applied. Either way, your return of investment will take a hit.

“When should I soil sample?”, is a common question. My rebuttal is when it comes to timing, be consistent. Consistency will increase your understanding of your soil’s fertility as that information is captured at the same time each year. Having said that, many labs, agronomists, and researchers have pushed the soil sampling timing envelope to early fall and have recognized many benefits.

1. Post-harvest soil that has not been tilled offers a better representation of the soil during the growing season, as aggregates have not been destroyed. Tillage will also confound soil depth testing due to soil mixing.
2. Nutrients like phosphorus and zinc are stable. New evidence indicates that soil test nitrogen (nitrate) is more stable than previously thought. Ten or so years ago, it was recommended to adjust soil nitrogen tests based on whether the soil was collected before or after September 15. However, North Dakota data that compared soil nitrogen sampling timing suggests there is no difference in soil nitrogen tests collected in early fall, late fall, or the subsequent spring.
3. Potassium soil testing has been found to be cyclic and correlates well with soil moisture. Wetter months like April and October tend to provide higher potassium soil tests than drier months like August. Earlier soil testing could decrease soil potassium soil test levels as those samples would be collected during a drier period.
4. Early fall soil sampling allows agronomic fertilizer applications during the same fall season.
5. Collecting the soil sample earlier in the year, gives you a longer window to make a fertilizer application determination.
6. Early sampling gives you the ability to soil sample more which will improve your fertilizer management even more.

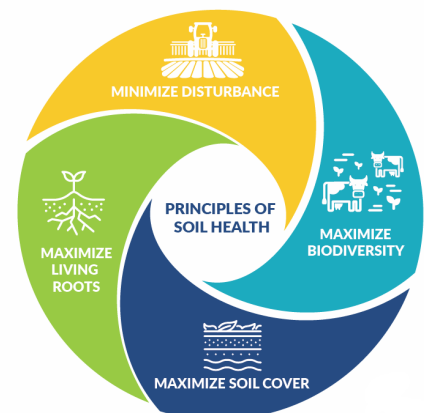
If you are thinking about shifting soil test timing earlier, it may take a year or two to fine-tune your nutrient management program. Potassium is the nutrient that will likely need the adjustment. Soil sampling earlier in the fall has many benefits and is a practice you should consider.

The Stark and Billings SCD offers a soil sampling service.

- **100 acres or less \$71/test**
- **101-200 acres \$86/test**
- **201-300 acres \$101/test**
- **Postage \$1.50/test**
- **Row Crop tests \$5/test additional**
- **Complete Analysis \$26/test additional**

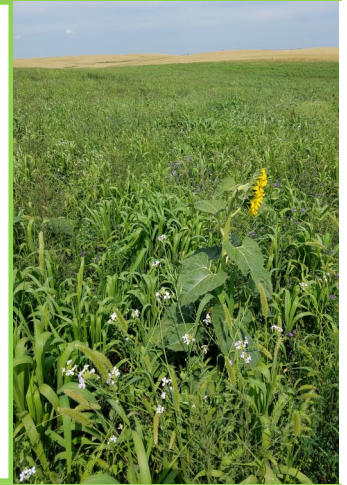
Give us a call to see our options and to set up a soil test plan for you today.

Maps brought in after October 15th will be considered for the next years fall testing.



[EQIP Signup Deadline September 23, 2022](#)

NRCS offers the **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**. We accept applications throughout the year; however, the batching period for applying for 2023 funding ends **September 23, 2022**. Assistance can be for structural practices such as livestock water developments, cross fencing, windbreaks, and grass plantings as well as management practices for no-till, nutrient management – including precision application, and prescribed grazing. As soil health is constantly being talked about, cover crops are a useful tool to improve soil health and increase a cropping systems diversity. They increase organic matter and help manufacture fertilizer in the soil by scavenging for Nitrogen and “fixing” Nitrogen from the atmosphere. If you are interested, feel free to call our office at 701-225-3811 Ext 3 for more information.



Attention All EQIP and CSP Contract Holders

Another summer is nearly gone as harvest is going strong. However, if you are a current EQIP or CSP contract holder, you need to keep in mind that you must get your practice(s) installed by the schedule noted in your contract to remain in compliance with your contract obligations. There are a lot of practices that still need to be installed prior to freeze up. Please notify the NRCS office at 225-3811 ext 3 prior to the installation of any practice. We want to make sure the practice(s) will be installed to meet our NRCS standards and specification and to make sure all necessary field visits and paperwork is completed prior to installation. Feel free to contact the office if you have any questions and/or changes in your operation.



CSP CONTRACT HOLDERS

PLEASE GET ALL 2022 DOCUMENTATION TURNED IN
PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 16, 2022!!

2023 Price Changes

HAND PLANTS

\$1.50/ TREE

3-5' HAND PLANTS

\$4.00/ TREE

MACHINE PLANT

\$25/ 100 FEET PLANTED

(INCLUDES TREES)

A TREE PLANTING WITH LESS THAN 1000 FEET WILL BE CHARGED A MINIMUM OF \$250.00 TO BE PLANTED

PLANTSKYDD

GRANULAR 3 LB SHAKER

\$26/ BAG

1 LB POWDER BOX

\$22/ BOX w/ SPRAY BOTTLE

2 LB POWDER BOX

\$40/ BOX

1 QUART LIQUID SPRAYER

\$15/ QUART

WEED BARRIER

6' X 500' WEED BARRIER ROLL

\$225.00/ ROLL

3' X 300' WEED BARRIER ROLL

\$75.00/ ROLL

3'x3' WEED BARRIER SQUARES

\$1.00/ EACH

STAPLES

\$.10/ EACH

WEED BARRIER APPLICATION

\$50.00/ 100 FEET APPLIED

WEED BARRIER APPLICATION WITH LESS THAN 1000 FEET WILL BE CHARGED A MINIMUM OF \$500.00 TO BE APPLIED

TREE TUBES

5' TUBES

\$5.00/ EACH

5' TUBES WITH STAKE

\$7.00/ EACH

HANDPLANTS/REPLACEMENT

TREES

Need handplants for 2023 spring planting season, please fill out enclosed green tree form and return to our office by

October 1, 2022

OR

order trees on-line at

starkandbillingscd.com

2023 **TREE PLANTING**

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN MACHINE PLANTING TREES NEXT SPRING CONTACT THE OFFICE

AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

CALL 701-225-3811 Ext#3

HIRING! A District Technician Position will be open starting in January 2023. If interested, please stop by the office for an application.