

Central Stark & Western SOIL CONSERVATION Districts

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Organization
Permit #12
Dickinson, ND

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Return Service Requested

“Assisting Residents of Stark and Billings Counties”

2013 Annual Report

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

Dennis Reich



Dennis Reich a Central Stark SCD board member since 1993 was recently recognized for his 10 years of service to the board of the North Dakota Association of Soil Conserva-

tion Districts. Dennis was honored for his dedicated service at the State Convention in Fargo in November.

Election of Supervisors

The Central Stark and Western Soil Conservation Districts have served the people in this area since its organization in 1943. The Central Stark and Western Soil Conservation Districts, governed by locally elected people, have made steady progress through the years in providing for the conservation of soil and water resources in the district.

One soil conservation district supervisor for each district will be elected by all qualified electors living within the district at this year's General Election, November 4, to govern the activities of the districts.

Any person, firm, or corporation who holds title to or is in possession of any lands lying within the district whether as an owner, lessee, renter, tenant, or otherwise, and physically lives within the boundaries of the district is eligible to run for the office of supervisors.

Any person desiring to run for the office of soil conservation district supervisor may secure nomination petitions and further information from Stark or Billings county Auditor.

The deadline for filing nominating petitions is 4:00 pm September 5, 2014.

Central Stark Soil Conservation District 2013 Overall Achievement Winners

Messer Beaver Creek Ranch

South of Richardton, ND was selected by the Central Stark SCD for their efforts in applying a variety of conservation practices. Phillip and Betty Messer and Families have installed an agricultural waste facility for their commercial cow & dairy operation. Their farming operation has a crop rotation consisting of corn,



wheat, oats and for the first time soybeans. They have implemented a no-till cropping system and utilized precision agricultural technologies, such as GPS and variable rate application. They are working on a spill prevention containment plan and have planted numerous tree windbreaks and shelterbelts. Phillip and Betty's family includes 11 children, 43 grandchildren and 37 great grandchildren.



**Central Stark SCD
TREE AWARD**
Carol and Vern Jurgens



**Western SCD
TREE AWARD**
Tom & Lori Hlebechuk



**Central Stark SCD
Range Management &
Noxious Weed Control Award**
Howard & Darlene Siewert



**Western SCD
RANGE MANAGEMENT
AWARD**
Brandon & Emily Richard

Western Soil Conservation District 2013 Overall Achievement Winners

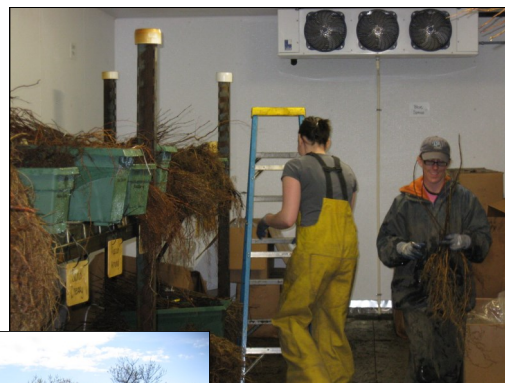


Dwayne & Lori Shypkoski were selected as Western Soil Conservation District's 2013 Achievement Award Winner. The Shypkoski's have a diversified Cattle and Farming Operation in Billings County. They utilize a grazing system on their home place and a leased ranch south of Medora. They have installed 2 miles of pipeline and developed springs on the ranch. Their crop rotation includes corn, wheat and canola. The Shypkoski's latest endeavor is Northern Plains Erosion Control. The company manufactures wattles utilizing certified weed and seed free wheat straw. Wattles are the sausage looking things that you see in construction areas primarily used for sediment control in road construction, but are used anywhere there's construction and erosion control needed.

We distributed over 20,000 trees/seedlings at our Tree Handplant Day and Sell-Out Day in our new facility at 497 26th Avenue East .

Our tree planting crews machine planted over 218,000 linear feet of trees in Stark and Billings Counties.

Our weed barrier crew applied closed to 266,000 feet of black fabric in Stark, Billings and Dunn Counties.



Save A Tree? Receive the Newsletter by EMAIL

We would like to email our newsletters to producers who wish to receive them by email. If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, please provide us with your email address. You may call this office at 701-225-3811 ext. 3 or stop by the office.



17th Annual DDD Workshop was held on January 15, 2013. Over 100 Producers attended the annual Diversity, Direction and Dollars. Speakers included: Dr. Michael Swanson, Dr. Joel Ransom, Dr. Phil Westra, Leon Osborne and Dr. Jan Knodel.

YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS



On May 8, 2013 Seventh and Eighth grade students were presented with a rain simulator, the web of life, and soil profiles.

7th & 8th Grade Conservation Tour



SOILS TUNNEL

The Office staff presents the Soils Tunnel at the Kids Day At The Farm in April. Kids can view the world below the ground surface. With the aid of a flashlight, children can crawl through the tunnel and encounter numerous soil related images on the walls.



TREES (The Regional Environmental Education Series)



Tom Gibson presents lyceum programs to grade schools in the

area. "Private George Gibson" brings students back to the early 1800's. Students will have the opportunity to try their negotiation skills along with sign language while they try their hand at trading goods.

Q: What is soil?

ask the experts >>> Source: Soil Science Society of America

A: Soil is an amazing substance. A complex mix of minerals, air, and water, soil also teams with countless micro-organisms, and the decaying remains of once-living things. Soil is made of life and soil makes life.

To the farmer, soil is where crops grow.

To the engineer, soil is a foundation upon which to build.

To the ecologist, soil supports communities of living things.

To the archaeologist, soil holds clues to past cultures.

To the city dweller, soil nurtures grass and gardens.

To the soil scientist, soil is all of these things.

Soil has been called "the skin of the earth" because it is the thin outer-most layer of the Earth's crust. Like our own skin, we can't live without soil.

USDA-NRCS SOIL HEALTH INFOGRAPHIC SERIES #001

unlock the
SECRETS
IN THE SOIL

science of healthy soil



Attention All EQIP and CSP Contract Holders

Spring will be knocking on our doors shortly – we hope. The cold is getting rather old. As spring is getting nearer, calving and springs work is on everyone's mind. Remember 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. Keep in mind - IF YOU HAVE A GRASS SEEDING PLANNED IN YOUR CONTRACT - MORE THAN LIKELY MAY 10TH IS THE DEADLINE TO GET THAT SEEDED. 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.

New program to improve honey bee health in Midwest

BISMARCK, ND, Feb. 25, 2014 – USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service will provide close to \$3 million in technical and financial assistance for interested farmers and ranchers to help improve the health of bees, which play an important role in crop production.

The funding is a focused investment to improve pollinator health and will be targeted in five Midwestern states, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

"Beekeepers in North Dakota are losing unprecedented numbers of honey bee hives each year," North Dakota State Conservationist Mary Podoll said. "Honey bee pollination is estimated to support more than \$15 billion worth of agricultural production and commercial production of more than 130 fruits and vegetables that are the foundation of a nutritious diet in the United States. Not only do bees pollinate the crops that produce much of America's food supply, but they are an important part of the rural ecosystem."

Funding will be provided through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to promote conservation practices that will provide honey bees with nutritious pollen and nectar while providing benefits to the environment. Recent studies have shown that beekeepers are losing approximately 30 percent of their honey bee colonies each year, up from historical norms of ten to fifteen percent overwintering losses experienced prior to 2006.

This assistance will provide guidance and support to farmers and ranchers to implement conservation practices that will provide safe and diverse food sources for honey bees. For example, appropriate cover crops or rangeland and pasture management may provide a benefit to producers by reducing erosion, increasing the health of their soil, inhibiting invasive species, providing quality forage and habitat for honey bees and other pollinators, as well as habitat for other wildlife.

Midwestern states were chosen because from June to September the region is the resting ground for over 65 percent of the commercially managed honey bees in the country. It is a critical time when bees require abundant and diverse forage across broad landscapes to build up hive strength for the winter.

Applications are due March 21, 2014.

ND One Call Important Changes:

There were some changes made to the ND One Call Laws. If you are planning to dig please stay safe and make note:

APWA UNIFORM COLOR CODE	
WHITE :	Proposed Excavation
PINK :	Temporary Survey Markings
RED :	Electric Power Lines, Cables, Conduit and Lighting Cables
YELLOW :	Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum or Gaseous Materials
ORANGE :	Communication, Alarm or Signal Lines, Cables or Conduit
BLUE :	Potable Water
PURPLE :	Reclaimed Water, Irrigation and Slurry Lines
GREEN :	Sewer and Drain Lines
KNOW THE COLOR CODE!	

✓ Potential fines have increased from \$5,000 to \$25,000 per violation

✓ Ground marking time has increased from 10 to 21 days

✓ Utilities are now able to recoup costs if they are notified more than 3 times to locate facilities.

Law requires 48 hours notice for facilities to be located prior to digging. This can be done by calling 811 or going online to www.ndonecall.com

EQIP

Environmental Quality Incentives Program
Continuous Signup – Next Batching MARCH 14, 2014

What is it? A voluntary financial assistance program (cost-share).

How does it work? Applications compete for funding based on environmental benefit. Funded applications receive a payment rate to install conservation practices according to NRCS specifications.

Who is it for? Owners and operators of agricultural land.

Why sign up? Conservation systems can pay for themselves over time, but setting up a new system can be expensive. EQIP can assist with installing a variety of best management practices and trying out some new methods, such as: Livestock water developments (wells, tanks, pipelines), grazing systems (new cross fences), grass plantings for hay or pasture, rangeland restorations, tree plantings and renovations, and cropland enhancements (cover crops, no-till, etc.).

Where to get more information? Stop by the Dickinson Field Office or contact the office at 225-3811 ext 3.
