

# Central Stark & Western SOIL CONSERVATION Districts

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Dickinson, ND

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Return Service Requested

“Assisting Residents of Stark and Billings Counties”

## 2015 Annual Report

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



**The Central Stark and Western Soil Conservation District received a Newsletter Certificate for publishing a newsletter for 25 years.**

**The Districts received a Lincoln-Oakes Nursery Award of Excellence in 2015 for the amount of trees planted.**

## ***Do You Know of Someone Doing Outstanding Conservation Practices?***

Is there someone doing an outstanding job in conservation efforts? Would you like to see that person recognized for their hard work and efforts? The Central Stark and Western Supervisors would welcome names of producers so that they may be judged for the local and state Achievement Awards.

Please submit names to the Soil Conservation District Office at 2493 4th Ave West, Room C, Dickinson, ND 58601 or call (701) 225-3811 Ext #3.

# Soil Conservation Districts Propose Consolidation

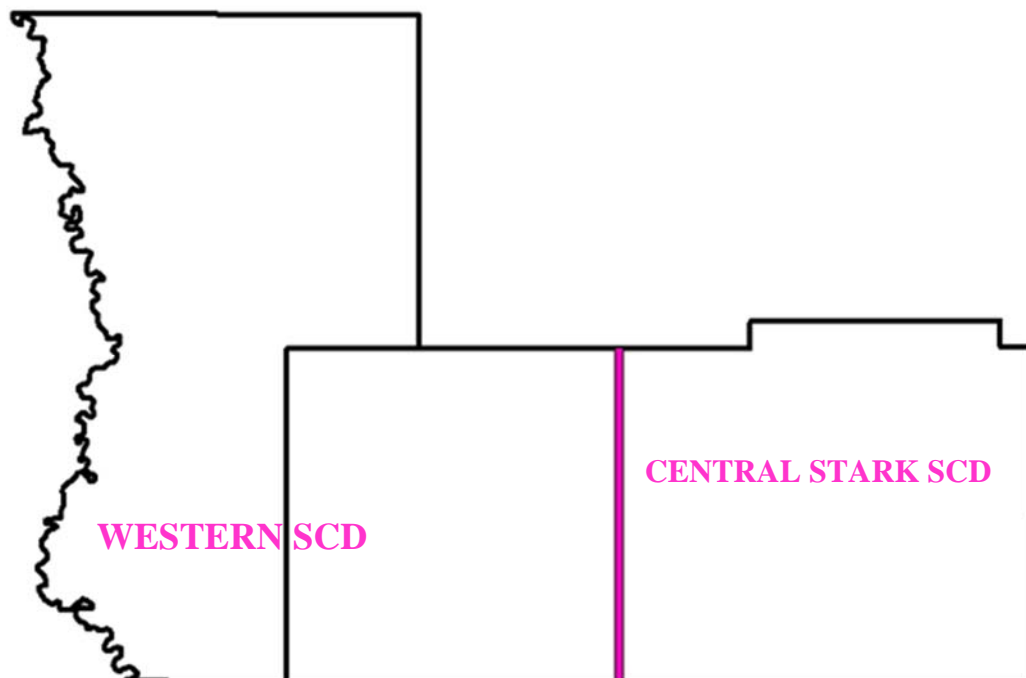
The Central Stark and Western Soil Conservation Districts Supervisors have voted to consolidate their two districts into one district.

The Soil Conservation Districts were created in 1943 as a direct response to the soil erosion of the dustbowl years.

The mission of the Central Stark and Western Soil Conservation Districts is to promote soil and water conservation by offering financial, technical, informational, educational assistance and opportunities to the people of the districts. The consolidation will not change this mission.

Resource issues in Stark and Billings Counties have always been and will still remain their primary focus. Since their inception the two districts have worked together to carry out their mission.

The current boundaries of the Central Stark and Western Soil Conservation Districts are shown on the map below. The Central Stark Soil Conservation District starts on the west edge of Range 95 and runs east to the Stark County line. The Western Soil Conservation District boundary starts at the east edge of Range 96 and continues west through Stark County and continues west into Billings County and ends at the Little Missouri River.



Both boards feel that there is no longer a need for two separate districts to service the people of Stark and Billings Counties. The District Boards are committed to and will continue to provide the current programs and services offered. They believe that their constituents can be more efficiently and better served by one combined district.

Due to the Statutes in the North Dakota State law that govern The Soil Conservation Districts this proposed consolidation must be voted on and approved by the people of Stark and Billings Counties before the consolidation can be enacted.

The consolidation will be placed on the June Primary Ballot for the voters consideration and decision.

If the consolidation is approved by the voters in the June primary election, the two districts would form one district on January 1, 2017.

**We ask that you support and vote to approve this consolidation.**

If you have any questions, please contact any of the supervisors listed below Or the Districts' manager, Bonnie T. Twogood at 701-225-3811 Ext #3.

**Supervisors for the Western Soil Conservation District are:**

Roger Klym – (701) 575-8645

Ronald Decker – (701) 575-8016

Ronald Obritsch – (701) 227-0784

Arthur Ridl – (701) 483-5836

Robert Wock – (701) 483-8135

**Supervisors for the Central Stark Soil Conservation are:**

Dean Baar – (701) 483-2992

Julie Hoff – (701) 974-3375

Jay Krank – (701) 483-6924



## ***Central Stark Soil Conservation District 2015 Overall Achievement Winners***

### ***Alan & Lilah Krebs and Family***



#### Alan & Lilah Krebs & Family

The Central Stark Soil Conservation District has selected Alan & Lilah Krebs from NE of Gladstone, ND for their 2015 Achievement Award Winner for their efforts in applying conservation practices. Alan & Lilah along with BreeAnn, Brittany and Kyle have been in the dairy business for 25 years. The Krebs' crop management system

includes small grains and row crops which they implemented no-till, nutrient and pest management systems and incorporated cover crops. Alan and Lilah have installed water developments and grazing management for their cattle operation. With the dairy cows, range

cows, sheep and a petting zoo, the Krebs harvest a great amount of hay. The favorite hobby shared by the family is their petting zoo. The Krebs will take the petting zoo animals to Kids Day at the Farm, Nursing Homes and many other groups/activities. This can include miniature horses, a mule, donkeys, goats, a lama, potbelly pigs, turkeys, a peacock, guineas, chickens and rabbits to name a few.





***Western Soil Conservation District  
2015 Overall Achievement Winners***

***Swenson Ranch***



The Western Soil Conservation District has selected the Swenson Ranch as the District's 2015 Achievement Award Winner. They are being recognized for their commitment to improve their ranching operation and its resources. The Swenson Ranch was established in 1907 and is located in both Stark and Billings Counties southwest of Belfield. Currently Kris Swenson is



at the helm of this 4<sup>th</sup> generation family farm and ranch and has transitioned the operation entirely to a cow/calf ranching operation. His parents Kent and Sunya Swenson still remain active in the day to day activities associated with the ranch. Kris has converted all of the cropland back to grass. He utilized Cover Crops to increase organic matter and crop type diversity in preparing for the conversion to grass. Kris has installed numerous water develop-

ments using SW Water and existing wells along with fencing to aid in grazing management. He has also installed extensive tree plantings for energy conservation, livestock protection and wildlife enhancement.





## YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS



The Districts participated in the **“Make a Splash” Water Festival** held in September. The 5th grade students were shown the ground water model and the infiltration rate of water by **Kaylee Stein** from Dunn Co. SCD. **Bob Klein & Bonnie Twogood** demonstrated the surface water model and what happens after a rain storm.



## TREES (The Regional Environmental Education Series)



**“Pete Bogg”** and the Amazing Water Machine—shares some ways that we all can practice conserving water.



**“GUNNAR”** portrays the captivating struggles to obtain adequate water in the everyday life of a settler in the 1800’s.



Experiencing a bit of Lewis & Clark’s Expedition with **“Private George Gibson”**



## 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. With the aid of a flashlight, children can crawl through the tunnel and encounter numerous soil related images on the walls.





Our tree planting crews machine planted over 284,000 linear feet of trees in Stark and Billings Counties. The crews included Marvin Haugland, Rocky Hushka, Jen Obrigewitch, Danielle Harper, Tracie O'Donnell, and Sharon Haugland.



Our weed barrier crew applied closed to 372,000 feet of black fabric in Stark, Billings and Dunn Counties. The Crew included Ethan Keller, Danielle Harper, Kurtis Fickle, Korey Fickle, Brody Egeberg and Bob Klein.

### 19th Annual Diveristy, Direction & Dollars Workshop



**The DDD Workshop** was held on January 5, 2015. Over 100 Producers attended the annual Diversity, Direction and Dollars. Speakers included Jay Fuhrer, Dan Forgey, Dr. Kenneth Hellevang, Dr. Matthew Diersen, John Rickertsen and Chris Augustin.

If you missed DDD 2016 check out our website [CSWSCD.com](http://CSWSCD.com) for you-tube videos of speakers!

The 4-H Land Judging Team, which consisted of Tristen Polensky, Caden Tuhy, Marissa Tuhy and Stetson Pederson (not pictured), attended the national land judging competition in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. They received some sponsorship funding to attend this competition from the Soil Conservation Districts in return to report on their experiences/findings at our local banquet.





***Swenson Ranch***  
**OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**  
 Western SCD



***Alan & Lilah Krebs & Family***  
**OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**  
 Central Stark SCD

**AWARD WINNERS!**

View pictures on website:  
[CSWSCD.com](http://CSWSCD.com)



***Yolanda Crespo & Kurt Martin***  
**TREE AWARD**  
 Central Stark SCD



***William Emmil***  
**TREE AWARD**  
 Western SCD



***Chad & Carol Brusseau***  
**SOIL HEALTH AWARD**  
 Central Stark SCD