



Conservation Circular

Marshall County Conservation District—PO Box 8—505 Vander Horck, Britton, SD 57430
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Summer Issue
2015

2015 PLANTING SEASON

The 2015 tree planting season began this year in late April. Our tree planting crew of Fred Hart, Brianna Wade, Stan Nice, Bill Manning, and Cindy Krutsinger completed another successful planting season. They planted a total of 51.8 acres on 31 different sites. The total number of trees planted by the crew were 129,368! Field Windbreaks totaled 17.2 acres with farmstead windbreaks totaling 18.2 acres. Renovations were 4.7 acres of which the majority were landscape plantings for home protection and beautification.

Harland Peterson, our PT District Technician flagged all the sites and checked on site preparation before the tree crew arrived to plant.

The Fabric crew consisting of Jim Mundt, Carson, and Kaitlyn Cutler, Drew Planteen and Cully Olson laid 129,368 feet or 24.5 miles of fabric!

Approximately 6875 trees were sold as hand plants. Jean Fagerland assisted Wanda Franzen with the hand plant sales, tree care and general tree season duties.

Dennis Fagerland manages the District's Grass drill. Dennis scheduled and set the drill for 22 CRP/grassland seedings that totaled 906.6 acres. The District's Fall grass seeding season is just getting underway and the drill is available for cover crops and all grass plantings.

We have tree tube shelters available to help with areas that suffer from deer pressure. Feel free to call the office at 605-448-2442, #3, or stop in, if you have any questions about our conservation services.



The above photo shows a 2015 riparian planting at Boyd Bien's that is protecting a stream bank channel from erosion and cattle access. The riparian planting will also enhance wildlife habitat & provide wind protection for livestock and the adjacent farmstead.

Time to Plan

It is time to plan your tree planting for 2016. If planting on cropland or a riparian planting the plan should be completed in early September to lock in the CRP contract. Year end for federal programs is Sept. 30th & waiting beyond that date could delay your planting a whole year. Planting on cropland? Check chemical use. Several chemicals have a 36-48 month carry-over. Stop in or call to start your planning process.

THANK YOU to the crews for a job well done & to our customers for a good season!!

TREE PROBLEMS?? INSECTS?? DISEASES??

Where can I find information about tree problems in South Dakota? When do I treat my apple tree for apple scab? Why are the leaves of my Maple tree or Ash tree turning brown? Dr. John Ball, SD Extension Forester, SDSU, posts a Pest Update every week during the summer that provides information about trees (disease and pest problems or general care information.) To learn more about your tree health questions- log on to: <http://sdda.sd.gov/conservation-forestry/tree-pest-alerts>

OR contact Jon Livermore our new area forester located in Watertown.
Office #882-5367; Cell # 280-4905 & email address is Jon.Livermore@state.sd.us



My name is Jesse Brooks. I am currently the Biologist/Wetland Specialist in Britton, SD and covering Marshall, Roberts, and Day Counties. I am originally from Frederick, SD where I spent most of my summers working for my father at the Veterinary Clinic. I then attended the University of North Dakota and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Fish and Wildlife Biology in the fall of 2010. I am very excited to get settled into my new job with the NRCS and feel very fortunate for this great opportunity.



TREE FABRIC WARNING!
DO NOT STRANGLE YOUR TREES

Since weed barrier is not breaking down in 5 years like it was expected, we are noticing more problems with girdling on the trees. Please take the time to check your belts to see if the fabric is becoming too tight around the base of the tree. If it is take a carpet knife or utility knife to slit the fabric further so the tree has room to keep growing. If your trees have canopied enough so that they do not need the fabric protection from weeds any longer—you may also remove the fabric. Start by slitting the fabric with a utility knife in half lengthwise to the first tree in the row. Then take one half of the split fabric and secure it to a four wheeler or small garden tractor. If you drive slowly along the row, one half of the fabric will peel away from the tree row. Usually the fabric keeps tearing without too much difficulty. With half of the fabric removed your trees should be safe from girdling. If you prefer the second half of fabric can be removed also.

Protect your trees and garden from deer, rabbits and voles. Plantskydd Repellent is for sale at the Conservation District Office. We have it in dry formula that you mix up yourself or as a pre-mixed liquid. The liquid comes in a 1 quart spray bottle or a 1.3 gal. size for your own sprayer.



Tree shelters available to protect your young trees from deer damage. These shelters are also cost shared with the CCRP program. Stop in at our office for more details.

SALT AREAS GROWING LARGER?

Saline soils are those with high concentration of calcium, magnesium or sodium salts that are easily soluble in water. In our area, they mostly result from a high water table due to the excessive rainfall we've received over the past 20 years. When the water table is high, capillary action brings the salt laden water to the surface. The water evaporates and the salts remain on the soil and form a white crust. Anyone with these white spots on their fields knows how unproductive the areas can be.

An inexpensive treatment for these areas is to plant deep rooted, salt tolerant vegetation. A salt tolerant alfalfa which has been known to draw the water from a depth of 15 feet and Western wheatgrass, green wheatgrass (AC Saltlander), and thickspike wheatgrass are some salt tolerant grasses that do well in these areas. Cover crops help as well. Sugarbeets and barley have been known to be salt tolerant and might be all you need to prepare the soil for a spring seeded crop. Using vegetation to take up the soil water draws down the water table and reduced the evaporation at the surface. It's just that simple.

Those saline areas are eligible for enrollment in the Continuous CRP program. You can receive cost-share for the grass seeding and an annual payment for 10 years.

Sodic soils are different in that they result from a high level of sodium. Those are generally what we refer to as the clay pan soils. High concentrations of sodium are a problem because it causes the soil aggregates to disperse. When the aggregates disperse, the water infiltration rates drop, soil aeration is reduced, and the soil becomes hard. These factors tend to have a negative impact on plant growth.

One method was to add gypsum to the soil, and elemental sulfur if the pH is high. Leaving plant residue or adding organic matter with low sodium content will improve soil structure. Planting to grasses tolerant of salt and sodium is another option. Caution! Tiling these soils makes the condition worse.

MARSHALL COUNTY CONSERVATION AWARD WINNERS



John & Thea Loy Pallansch have been actively farming since the early 80's. They raised their family in Veblen Township on a generational farm once owned by Thea Loy's parents. The Pallansch's operate 730 acres of grassland and cropland. They have always had a passion for conservation. They currently have app. 70 acres in CRP seeded to native grasses with the wetlands restored. Recently John has renovated 4 ac of shelterbelt around their farmstead through a NRCS WHIP contract which also helped him establish 23 ac of upland habitat with herbaceous cover.

The cropland acres are now rented out to a neighbor and John works for the SD Game Fish and Parks. This is a perfect fit as he is a strong advocate for improving wildlife habitat.

The Pallansch's have also enrolled acres in a 30 year Wetland Reserve Program. The area is seeded to native grasses with the wetlands restored providing waterfowl nesting & cover.

John Jaspers began farming in 1956. He married Sue in 1962 and raised their family on John's great grandparent's farm southeast of Eden. They have managed grasslands for sustainable productivity, planted many acres of trees, & installed several grassed waterways. On their crop acres the use of no-till and crop rotation has improved the soil health over the years. The family operation has 135 pair of Angus livestock and market feeder calves. They embrace rotational grazing and currently are utilizing 22 different grazing paddocks. Their pastures have excellent water development so livestock can be rotated from early spring through late fall. There are plans to develop more improved water sources in the future. They have converted many acres of HEL crop-land back into sod. Riparian plantings capture nutrient runoff and keep cattle away from the wetlands. John & Sue continue to plant new tree windbreaks and add to older shelterbelts so they will remain viable for generations to come.



Did you know? Healthy Soils:

- Are more productive soils.
- Improve nutrient use efficiency.
- Allow water to infiltrate into the ground, reduce runoff pollution, and provide water to plants when they need it.
- Add nutrients to the food that we eat.
- Capture pesticides & other contaminants.
- Resist wind and water erosion to improve the quality of our air and water.

COVER CROPS

INCREASE YIELDS

FIX NITROGEN IN SOILS

BREAK UP COMPACTION

ABSORB EXCESS MOISTURE

INCREASE PROFIT MARGINS

TAKE UP EXCESS SALTS IN SOIL

EXTEND GRAZING MANAGEMENT

SOIL HEALTH = PRODUCTIVITY



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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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 Roger Gresh, Civ. Eng. Tech
 Gina Marlow, CA
 Jesse Brooks, Wet. Specialist



New “look” in the office!

Wanda has decided to cut back on work hours to free up more time for family. She will be in the office two days a week with Jean Fagerland sharing the Marshall County Conservation District position for the remaining three days a week. Jean has worked with the District and NRCS for 21 years so she is familiar with the services, programs, and conservation outreaches of the District in Marshall County.

2015 ARBOR DAY ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS



Trey Roehr, Tyler Hanson, and Gunnar Buss were the first, second and third place winners of the Essay Contest this spring. They are all 6th graders at the Britton-Hecla School.

Conservation Calendar!

- Sept. 16—Eco Ed Day at Fort Sisseton
- Sept 24—Northern Prairie Water Festival at the Barnett Center - Aberdeen
- Sept. 30 —NESD Land and Range Contest at Webster
- October 21—Legislative Banquet in Webster @ 7:00 P.M.

JAMES RIVER WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT COMMITS FUNDING FOR PRACTICES IN THE UPPER CROW CREEK WATERSHED

Cost share assistance for Dams:

If you own land within the Upper Crow Creek watershed and would like to build or repair a dam, the James River Water Development District will cost share 75% of the construction costs up to a maximum cost of \$50,000. Could your livestock use another water source? Are you interested in a wildlife pond? Call or stop in with a location for your dam site.

Enhanced CRP Program:

The James River Water Development District Enhanced CRP Program consists of a one-time, up-front, 75% incentive payment of the CRP base-rate in addition to your regular CRP payment for the practices listed below. Contact your local NRCS office or the JRWDD for more information. Eligible practices are: Grass Waterways, Filter Strips, Riparian Plantings,, Marginal Pastureland Wildlife Habitat & Wetland Buffers.