

**FOSTER
COUNTY SOIL
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

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*"Fostering" Our Natural
Resources*

For descriptions of trees and shrubs
log on at: www.lincolnoakes.com or
www.ag.ndsu.edu/trees/handbook.htm

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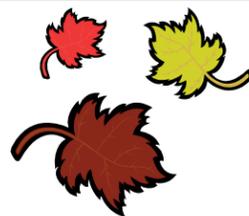
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Issue No. 66

Fall 2013



FOSTER COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**Conservation
Communicator**

Be Careful What You Wish For

I am sure I wasn't the only one during the last half of May wishing it would stop raining and dry up just a little bit. Then the second half of June it dried up a little bit. Along comes July and it dried up a lot more. Be careful what you wish for.

Thankfully the canola and small grains turned out much better than one could hope for. Canola yield was just above average and the wheat was above average with very nice quality. I hope the beans and corn turn out the same.

Went to the appropriately name BIG IRON show. There is no way that it can be covered in just one day. So much to see so little time. One very interesting piece of equipment was a no till drill called the Cross Slot. It was introduced in the mid 90s in New Zealand. It uses a disc opener and places the seed on one side and the fertilizer on the other side. Very little disturbance with 70-90% residue left.

Another interesting bit of technological innovation has to do with crop spraying. Most everybody is familiar with automatic boom control. Now you will be able to have automatic control of individual nozzles. I believe both of these innovations will end up saving water, soil, and in the long run, money.

Wishing all of you a very safe and successful fall harvest season.

Bob House, SCD Supervisor
Grace City, ND

Marie Pozarnsky, New Associate Supervisor

Marie Pozarnsky, with her husband, Dennis, moved to the Carrington area 5 years ago. They are native North Dakotans, raised on farms in Nelson and McLean Counties. She is an RN working part-time at the Jamestown Sanford Clinics. They have lived in several North Dakota communities, including Bismarck, Hazen and Jamestown and have 3 times planted shelter-belts with Soil Conservation Districts. Marie's hobbies include developing fruit production on their 60 acres east of town.

Marie looks forward to working with the Soil Conservation District to promote land and soil stewardship.



**Foster County SCD
2013 Supervisors, Advisors and Staff**

Chairman Curtiss Klein	701-653-5708
Vice Chair Robert House	674-3606
Supervisor James Fandrich	652-3485
Supervisor Karl Hoppe	650-8810
Supervisor Mike Sabinash	435-2958
NRCS District Conservationist Brandon Kottke	652-2551 Ext 101
SCD Manager Dionn Schaaf	Ext 102
Watershed Coord. Katie Gussiaas	Ext 114
Soil Con. Tech. Nichole Johnson	Ext 112
Ed. Coordinator Jill Vigesaa	701-799-5488
Foster County Extension Agent Joel Lemer	652-2581

Till it to me Straight....

- Foster County Soil Conservation District Board meetings are tentatively scheduled for 8:30 a.m. on Monday, October 7 and at 9:30 am on Tuesday, November 12 and Monday, December 9. Please contact the district office at 652-2551 to confirm dates and times.
- USDA Service Center will be closed for Columbus Day on Monday, October 14; Veterans Day on Monday, November 11; Thanksgiving Day on Thursday, November 28; and Christmas Day on Wednesday, December 25..
- "Talking Dirt" on KDAK (1600 AM) will be at 8:20 am on October 2, November 6, and December 4 (first Wednesdays).
- Check us out online at www.fosterscd.org and www.facebook.com/fosterscd.

2013 Eco Ed Day at Juanita Lake

On September 5, Foster County SCD held the annual Eco Ed Day tour at Juanita Lake Park for sixth graders from the Carrington and Midkota Schools. Forty-nine students attended six outdoor learning sessions and a special presentation.

Foster County SCD Supervisor Curtiss Klein, Foster County Extension Agent Joel Lemer, and SCD Watershed Coordinator Katie Gussiaas taught the agronomy session on North Dakota crops, including helping the kids make seed bottles. Jim Collins from ND Dept. of Health used a model to talk about water quality and show the kids how watersheds work. Don Olds, NRCS District Conservationist for Eddy County, worked with the students on rangelands and range plants. With the assistance of Nichole Johnson, NRCS Soil Conservation Technician, Brandon Kottke, NRCS District Conservationist for Foster County, led the sessions on soils and erosion and showed how to check for different kinds of soils. Katie Whitehead from Arrowwood National Wildlife Refuge talked to the students about wetlands and wildlife, while Gerri Makay from ND Forest Service helped them learn about trees. The students also attended a presentation by Tom Gibson from Project TREES (The Regional Environmental Education Series). As "Sam Ting," he talked to the group about the animals in the weasel family and the effects of pollution on wetlands and the animals and people that depend on them.



Range Tour

On Sept. 12, the Range Tour was again held in cooperation with Eddy County SCD and Eddy and Foster County Extension offices. It went well and was attended by 27 adults plus a couple of their children. The tour was

hosted by Bruce Kjelgaard of Kjelgaard Simmental Ranch, near McHenry. Improvements viewed during the tour included cross fencing, weed control, and protecting a dugout from erosion by fencing it and pumping the water into storage and stock tanks.

Other subjects of discussion included bale grazing, swath grazing, and grazing on cover crops, corn stover, and corn residue. Kevin Sedivec, a Range Scientist from NDSU, was the main speaker. David Briss of McHenry provided a demonstration on using Gallagher high tensile wire for fencing. The day ended with sharing a meal outdoors at the Kjelgaard home.



Tree Planning for Spring

A list of conservation grade trees that should be available for 2014 plantings is included with this newsletter. Please contact us as soon as possible, and we will be glad to help you plan your tree plantings. While we can order trees at any time, the nurseries have limited supplies, and we suggest ordering by November. The sooner we get your order in to the nursery, the more likely you are to be able to get the kinds of trees that you want.

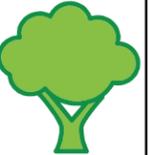
Keep in mind that preparation of planting sites should begin this fall. In most cases the ground should be worked at least once in the fall and again in the spring. The site must be properly prepared to have a successful tree planting. Beginning planning this fall before the snow starts to accumulate will help us to get the site measured and the soils checked for suitability for your selected tree species.

Also, remember to check your existing tree rows before the leaves fall to get a count of trees that need replacing. The district can also order apple trees and possibly some other fruits, but fruit trees are especially likely to run out early, so bring your requests to us as soon as possible.

Technical assistance is always available free of charge, whether the district is planting the trees or you choose to do it yourself. For assistance with tree orders and tree plans, please contact Dionn at the Foster County Soil Conservation District at 652-2551 ext. 3.

ND Forest Service Tree Program

The North Dakota Forest Service is offering the Tree Conservation Assistance Program (TCAP) again for plantings in 2014. This program is available to rural landowners who can't get funding through other programs to help plant trees, including new windbreaks, living snow fence, wildlife trees, windbreak renovations, and riparian plantings. It provides a maximum of \$1500 for up to 75% of the total cost, and can include costs such as weed barrier fabric and tree tubes as well as the planting itself. Emphasis is placed on tree species diversity and native North Dakota trees. Applications are due **October 31, 2013**, and must include a tree planting plan, so please stop into our office soon if you are interested. The TCAP may also be part of a Firewise Program plan to reduce your home's vulnerability to wildfire. For information, please contact the SCD office at 652-2551 ext. 3.



Backyard Conservation Event

This year's Backyard Conservation event will be held at the Carrington Health Center on Thursday, October 17th at 7:00 pm. The event will be held in cooperation with the Foster County Extension office, ND Forest Service, and Healthy Communities. Subjects will include preparing your garden, trees, and lawn for the winter; and square foot gardening as a way to have more garden in less space. Come for suggestions for this fall and ideas for next spring! For more information contact the Extension office at 652-2581 or Foster County SCD at 652-2551 ext. 3.



Fall Herbicide Application

Those who would like to arrange for the district to apply Casoron this fall should contact the district office. Casoron is a granular herbicide that suppresses weeds in the spring before the trees come out of dormancy. Application will probably take place in late October or early November, when temperatures are reliably below 50 degrees. For assistance, contact Dionn at the Foster County Soil Conservation District at 652-2551 ext. 3.



Remember to Maintain Weed Barrier Fabric

Weed barrier fabric is a good, low maintenance way of decreasing weed competition with your young trees. However, that is not the same as NO maintenance. Remember to check your tree rows at least every five years for signs that the fabric is growing tight around your trees. If it is, the holes need to be widened to prevent damage or even girdling. A box cutter on the end of a stick can be used to make 2 to 4 cuts around the trunk. The holes can also be widened to encourage suckering of shrubs.

Some other maintenance to keep in mind is removing dirt and debris that builds up on top of the fabric, as this provides rooting medium for weeds.

Deer Repellant Available

The SCD has Plantskydd repellant available for protecting trees and shrubs from damage by deer, rabbits, and rodents. To prevent buck rub, the makers suggest making a 2:1 paste to apply to the tree trunks. For best protection from browsing, treat plants before the problem begins in spring or fall. With proper application, the spray is rain resistant and can last up to six months in the winter and 3-4 months during the growing season, although new growth will also require treatment. Plantskydd can also be used in gardens. It is nontoxic and approved for organic production. Granular form is also available to deter small mammals.