

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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Spring 2014



FOSTER COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Conservation Communicator

Soils at Risk

Traveling across North Dakota during the past months I was dismayed at the amount of black dirt in ditches. Some of this came from fields next to those ditches and some of it came from a distance. I also noted the piles of decaying wood in fields, shelter-belts flattened and ready for disposal. There were many black fields, fields without any cover in this flat landscape.

Dave Franzen, North Dakota State University Soils Specialist, published an article in "The Dakota Farmer" on 1/16/14 which addresses this problem. You can find the entire article on "The Dakota Farmer" website if you don't subscribe. Please read what Dave has to say about the soil in our ditches, it's origin, history and retaining this valuable resource in our fields.

With declining prairie acres, the decline of the shelter-belt and the loss of CRP, our soils are at risk.

There are many strategies to save soil and increase fertility, many of them innovative and some of them old and proven. As producers and land-owners, we should be seeking these out and protecting our land.

Foster County Soil Conservation District and the NDSU Extension Service stand ready to help producers plan for the future of their operations and leave a legacy of soil stewardship for the next generation, as the last generation did for us. These agencies took the lesson learned in the Dirty 30's and developed methods of water and wind erosion control that should not be forgotten and now can be modified.

Replacing these trees is a big part of the answer. A shelter-belt increases fertility in the field where it is planted. It stabilizes soils, holds snow and protects from wind. It provides wildlife cover and areas where deer can bear their young and shelter them. Without this, our deer will move on to more hospitable areas. Trees clean the air, exchanging carbon for oxygen.

Even a stand of trees can do all of these things. A shelter-belt can consist of one row of trees. We can think outside of the box. I challenge producers to think hard about replacing those trees somewhere on their property. Hardier varieties are available that are insect and disease resistant. How we care for the land will define how we are remembered as farmers. A shelter-belt is a legacy.

Effort is required of the land-owner: fields are measured to allow for field equipment and the area must be tilled prior to planting. The Soil Conservation District applies weed-control fabric between the trees. Tilling is still required for weed-control between the rows and sometimes manual removal of weeds directly around the tree. Stewardship requires commitment. But thankfully we no longer have to hoe our shelter-belts by hand as my parents did in 1955.

Call today to plan for the future of your operation.

Marie Pozarnsky, SCD Supervisor
Carrington, ND

**Foster County SCD
2014 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 Marie Pozarnsky	652-1169
NRCS District Conservationist Brandon Kottke	652-2551 Ext 101
SCD Manager Dionn Schaaf	Ext 102
Soil Con. Tech. Nichole Johnson	Ext 112
Ed. Coordinator Jill Vigasaa	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 April 14, May 12, and June 9 (2nd Mondays). Please contact the district office at 652-2551 to confirm dates and times.
- USDA Service Center will be closed for Memorial Day on Monday, May 26.
- "Talking Dirt" on KDAK (1600 AM) will be at 8:20 am on April 2, May 7, and June 4 (first Wednesdays).
- Check us out online at www.fosterscd.org and www.facebook.com/fosterscd.
- Prairie Pothole Wetland and Grassland Retention Program (PPWGRP) applications due April 18. For information, contact NRCS at 652-2551 ext. 3.

2013 Foster County SCD Highlights

January

Mike Sabinash and Karl Hoppe re-appointed as SCD Supervisors.
Talking Dirt on KDAK with Klein, Schaaf, and Olds
EQIP and conservation planning ongoing
Gussiaas attends Water 101 Training in Kathryn

February

Talking Dirt with Klein and Schaaf
Staff attend Soil Health Education Workshop at Carrington Research Extension Center (CREC)
District sponsors seven Project TREES presentations at Carrington Elementary School

March

Talking Dirt with Klein, Schaaf, and Gerri Makay, ND Forest Service Community Forestry Specialist
Article by Gussiaas on the Kelly Creek Watershed Project in the NDSU Livestock Environmental Management News Newsletter mailed out
Annual report published
Staff attend Soil Health Research Workshop at CREC
Schaaf and Gussiaas attend Tree Promotion/Watershed Coordinators meeting in Bismarck

April

Talking Dirt with Klein, Schaaf, Gussiaas, and Greg Endres, CREC Area Agronomy Specialist
Gussiaas gives presentation on the Kelly Creek Watershed Project at the Carrington Kiwanis meeting
ND Association of Soil Conservation Districts Area I meeting held in Minto
Women's Ag Day – Grilling Up a Good Time!
District sponsors and provides materials for Stewardship Week at meeting attended by Carrington Ministerial Association. Stewardship materials provided to schools

May

Talking Dirt with Klein, Schaaf, and Emily Kline and Mary Berg, CREC Livestock Environmental Management Specialists
Gussiaas attends water sampling training and begins water sampling in the Kelly Creek Watershed
Kottke begins as NRCS District Conservationist for Foster Co.
District holds a Carrington Arbor Day tree planting honoring the first graders – Carrington Class of 2024.
"Keep ND Clean" poster contest winners receive tree certificates.
District begins planting trees and shrubs.
Project TREES completes 509 school programs during the school year reaching 31,056 students across North Dakota.

June

Talking Dirt with Klein, Schaaf, and Kottke
Excess conservation grade tree and shrub sale held after tree planting season.
SCD and NRCS sponsor informational booth at Foster County Fair.
Carrington Tree Board meeting
Weed barrier fabric application completed.
Newsletter mailed out.

July

Talking Dirt with Schaaf and Chanda Engel, CREC Livestock Research Specialist
Klein, Fandrich, Hoppe, and House complete Supervisor Accreditation course

Root view boxes built and planted with cover crop seed
SCD signs installed on Highway 200
Gussiaas gives presentation on Kelly Creek Watershed Project at CREC Field Day
Schaaf attends Tree City USA meeting at CREC for Carrington Tree Board

August

Talking Dirt with Schaaf and Kottke
Gussiaas promotes Kelly Creek Watershed Project at CREC Nutrient Management Workshop
Pozarnsky appointed as SCD Associate Supervisor
Tree orders and conservation planning for spring of 2014 begin.

September

Talking Dirt with Schaaf and Lemer
District enters into contribution agreement with NRCS
Midkota and Carrington sixth grade students attend Eco-Ed Day at Juanita Lake Park
Range Tour held at Kjelgaard Simmental Ranch in cooperation with Foster Co. and Eddy Co. Extension and Eddy Co. SCD
Soil HealthTour held at Randy Stedman's farm in cooperation with Foster County Extension
F250 pickup traded in on purchase of used F350 pickup
Gussiaas attends Riparian Ecosystem and Management Symposium and NRCS Soil Health Course in Bismarck
Newsletter mailed out

October

Talking Dirt with Klein and Schaaf
Backyard Conservation held in cooperation with ND Forest Service, NDSU Extension, and Healthy Communities
Staff work from homes during federal shutdown
Gussiaas attends Agri-women Conference in Fargo
Kelly Creek Watershed water sampling completed for 2013
South Central Dakota Regional Council meeting in Jamestown

November

Talking Dirt with Klein, Schaaf, and Kottke
Foster County Local Work Group meeting held
Vigesaa, Klein, Schaaf, and Hoppe attend NPS Task Force meeting in Bismarck with Project TREES grant application
Casoron herbicide application on tree and shrub plantings
ND Association of Soil Conservation Districts annual meeting held in Fargo. Foster County SCD proposed resolution on training of Watershed Coordinators passes with some changes
Gussiaas attends Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning Conference in Fargo

December

Talking Dirt on KDAK with Schaaf and Kottke
Schaaf attends Groundwater Management Workshop at Langdon Research Extension Center with Lemer
2014 NACD and NDASCD dues paid
Newsletter mailed out.

SCD 2013 Field Activities

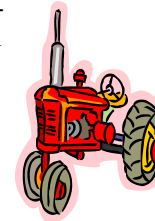
47,751 feet of trees machine planted (6476 trees)
367 trees hand planted
46,534 feet of weed barrier fabric laid
7,914 feet of Casoron application



Spring field crew needed!

Machine and hand planting trees, and application of weed barrier fabric.

Work usually occurs mainly in May and June. If interested, please call 652-2551 ext. 3.



"A single mature tree can absorb carbon dioxide at a rate of 48 lbs./year and release enough oxygen back into the atmosphere to support 2 human beings." Mike McAliney Arguments for Land Conservation, Sacramento, CA, December, 1993

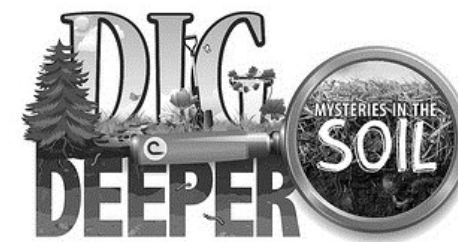
2013 Summary of Applied Conservation in Foster County

Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan – Applied (103)	1
Conservation Crop Rotation (328)	571 acres
Fence (382)	21,595 feet
Forage and Biomass Planting (512)	241 acres
Forage Harvest Management (511)	55 acres
Heavy Use Area Protection (561)	24 acres
Integrated Pest Management (IPM) (595)	333 acres
Livestock Pipeline (516)	1,597 feet
Nutrient Management (590)	57 acres
Prescribed Grazing (528)	486 acres
Pumping Plant (533)	1
Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till (345)	496 acres
Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan, written (150)	3
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)	41 acres
Water Well (642)	1
Watering Facility (614)	2
Wetland Restoration (657)	45 acres
Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644)	45 acres
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380)	18,202 feet
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation (384)	3,542 feet

Stewardship Week

This is the 59th year of Soil and Water Stewardship week, which is being celebrated April 27 – May 4, 2014. The 2014 Stewardship Week is themed, "DIG DEEPER: Mysteries in the soil".

"Soil is an essential natural resource that all of us depend on each and every day," says NACD President Earl Garber. "The Dust Bowl of the 1930's showed our nation the importance of conservation practices." To find out more about the soil types in your community, see <http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov>. You can also download an app for your smart devices called "soilweb" developed by the California Soil Resource lab in collaboration with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service.



The Dust Bowl

A Ken Burns' documentary, "The Dust Bowl" explains our history of soil loss as a nation and the campaign that sparked creation of The National Soil Conservation Service. A big part of Franklin Roosevelt's plan in the 30's was aimed at preserving the fertility of our land and the ability of the American farmer to feed the world. This DVD is available at PBS.com or Amazon.com. It can be found on NetFlix. It is also available for loan at the Carrington Public Library. Our kids don't know the story and it would be a good family evening in front of the television.

District Services and Rates

Foster County Soil Conservation District provides the following services:

Machine tree planting (cost includes trees)

\$30.00 per 100 linear feet
\$300.00 minimum, \$2 per mile office-to-site fee if site is not properly prepared

Custom Handplant Replacement at \$3.00 per tree for 50 trees or more

Weed barrier application (cost includes fabric)

\$0.50 per linear foot < 2500 feet
\$0.45 per linear foot > 2500 feet
\$300 minimum

Chemical weed control application (Casoron granular herbicide for tree plantings)
Price/pound plus \$0.125/linear foot, or \$50.00 minimum plus chemical

Between-row cultivation for weed control

\$30.00 per 100 linear feet
\$300.00 minimum

Tree shelter application

\$2.00 per tree plus cost of tube and stake, 35 tree minimum

The district is also a source for the following (all prices subject to change):

Conservation grade handplant trees

Prices vary, but most are available for \$2 per tree or \$35 for a bundle of 25 trees

6' Fabric Weed Barrier

300' Roll for \$90.00

Custom Cut for \$0.40 per linear foot

Plantskydd Deer Repellent

Spray-on: 1 qt ready-to-spray \$18.50
1 lb powder for mixing 1 gallon \$23.00
Granular: 1 lb granular shaker \$9.50
3 lb granular shaker pack \$21.00

Tree Shelter Products

Several sizes and styles available – call for price

Rain Barrels, Rain Barrel Kits, and Rain Barrel Parts

Rain barrel \$59.00 Complete rain barrel kit \$48.45
Connector kit \$7.45 Diverter kit \$21.95
Spigot kit \$7.50 Unaltered food-grade barrel \$19.00