

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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Fall 2017



FOSTER COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Conservation Communicator

Musings on the Season

Can you believe it. There are only two months left in 2017. And what an interesting year it has been. Too much snow, it felt like winter would never end. Burned up a lot of fuel moving snow. Spring came around with nice weather and timely rains. Got the soybeans planted but wondered if I could get all the pre-emerge down with all the wind. Things were looking good, then the water turned off. When the rain finally showed up, it brought along its ugly friends wind and hail. Lot of good crops lost in 15 minutes. Hope everybody had enough insurance.

Then there were the reports of dicamba damage to soybeans. How much it actually affected yield isn't known yet. Will there be more or less damage next year? Hopefully everything will work out for the best because it is a wonderful new tool for weed control. I will be planting all dicamba beans next year.

I also plan on planting some trees for a farmyard shelter belt. Should have been done 20 years ago, but next spring is the next best time. All of us on the board encourage all of you to consider doing the same. So give Dionn a call and set something up.

My final thought is on safety. Whenever moving machinery on the road, please turn on your flasher. Also please trailer your combine headers.

Bob House, SCD Supervisor

Interested in Dormant Seeding Grasses?

If you were considering grass seeding, dormant seeding is still an option. Seeding may occur once soil temperatures drop to 40 degrees Fahrenheit for a minimum of 5 consecutive days (usually after November 1) based upon North Dakota Agriculture Weather Network <http://ndawn.ndsu.nodak.edu/index.html> or actual field measurements at a depth of 2 inches.

The District's no-till drill is available for rent at \$10/acre, with a \$200 minimum charge and a \$50 charge if it's not cleaned before return. It's a 14-foot Haybuster 147C drill with legume box and native grass attachment. Contact the SCD office to schedule check-out for use.

For complete information on services available from the SCD, please check the "Products and Services" page on the District's website, www.fosterscd.com, or call us at 652-2551 ext. 3.



2017 Supervisors, Advisors and Staff

Chairman Robert House	701-674-3606
Vice Chair Cody Montgomery	652-5397
Supervisor Curtiss Klein	653-5708
Supervisor Karl Hoppe	650-8810
Supervisor Sam Partlow	674-3111
NRCS District Conservationist Paul DuBourt	652-2551 Ext 120
Soil Con. Tech. Nichole Johnson	Ext 121
SCD Manager Dionn Schaaf	Ext 105
Nat. Res. Coord. Josh Bruggman	Ext. 3
Farm Bill Specialist Kayla Graber	Ext.101
SCD Ed. Coordinator Jill Vigasaa	701-799-5488
Foster Co. Ext. 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 November 13 and 9:30 a.m. on December 11 and January 8 (second Mondays). Please contact the district office at 652-2551 to confirm dates and times.
- USDA Service Center will be closed for Veterans Day on Monday, Nov. 10, Thanksgiving Day on Thursday, Nov. 23, and Christmas Day on Monday, Dec. 25.
- "Talking Dirt" on KDAK (1600 AM) will be at 8:40 am on December 6, January 3, and February 7 (first Wednesdays).
- The district's website is fosterscd.com. Check the "Products and Services" page for a copy of the tree order form.
- Central Dakota Ag Day at Carrington Research Extension Center is scheduled for Dec. 19.
- **Deadline to submit applications for EQIP is Friday, November 17.**

2017 Conservation Achievement Award—Lowell Lutz

Each year, North Dakota soil conservation districts recognize local producers for their conservation efforts at the Achievement Banquet at the Annual Meeting and State Convention of the North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts. Winners are chosen based on the exemplary conservation practices implemented on their land.

The 2017 Foster County Conservation Achievement Award winners are Lowell and Lona Lutz. The Lowell Lutz family has been implementing both cropland and rangeland soil health practices in a very challenging area of east central Foster County. They successfully no till in an area that no till is said to not work, they have a diverse crop rotation including cover crops, have provided quality water sources to their livestock, and they implement sound grazing rotations. They have not wavered in their commitment to these principals and know it's what's best for the land. Currently, Lowell is using manure application to revive a field that lost most of its topsoil in the Dirty Thirties. Congratulations to Lowell Lutz and family for their achievements and ongoing commitment to soil health principals.

The Lutzes will receive an aerial photo of their farm at the State Convention, and the District will also provide them with a pair of jackets to honor their accomplishment.



Manure Spreader Available for Rent

The District's manure spreader is available to rent. It has vertical beaters that give a wide, even spread and a capacity of approximately 420 bushels. The district has shafts to fit either 1 3/8" or 1 3/4" PTOs. A tractor of at least 120 hp with a 1000 rpm PTO is required to operate it.



The manure spreader is available for \$300 per day. This cost includes manure testing and soil testing on one field if the renter desires and arranges for it in time to receive the results before spreading. There is a \$500 repair and cleanup deposit, which will be applied to the rental cost if the machine is returned properly cleaned and in good repair.

Casoron and Plantskydd

Those who would like to arrange for the district to apply Casoron on their tree rows 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 take place after temperatures are reliably below 50 degrees, probably in November.

The SCD also has Plantskydd repellent 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 this fall. With proper application, the spray is rain resistant and can last up to six months in the winter. The spray requires 24 hours to dry without precipitation in order to be effective. It is nontoxic and approved for organic production. See <http://www.plantskydd.com/agriculture-testimonials.html> for descriptions of use by farmers and orchardists.

For assistance, contact Dionn at Foster County Soil Conservation District at 652-2551 ext. 3.

Tree Planning

If you're thinking of planting trees in the near future, please contact our office. We can begin looking at your locations and needs now to order the trees while your preferred species are available. If it's too late to apply for financial assistance through a desired program, we can still begin planning for 2019, so your application will go in on time next year, and some applications can be submitted at any time. Links to information on these programs are available on the District's homepage, or call our office to discuss them.

Keep in mind that preparation of planting sites should begin this fall. Proper site preparation is critical to have a successful tree planting.

For complete information on services available from the SCD or a copy of the tree order form, please check the "Products and Services" page on the District's website, www.fosterscd.com. For assistance with tree orders, tree plans, and tree planting programs, please contact Foster County Soil Conservation District at 652-2551 ext. 3.

Eco Ed Day at Juanita Lake



On September 6, Foster County SCD held the annual Eco Ed Day tour for sixth graders from the Carrington and Midkota Schools. Forty-two students attended six learning sessions. We enjoyed wonderful weather again this year, which made a day out of the classroom even more welcome.

Foster County SCD Supervisor Bob House and Foster County Extension Agent Joel Lemer 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, while SCD Natural Resources Coordinator Joshua Bruggman led the session on trees and woodlands. Kayla Graber, NDASCD Farm Bill Specialist, helped the students learn about soils and erosion. Ezra Aberle, a Research Specialist from Carrington Research Extension Center, took the kids on a pasture walk to learn about rangelands and range plants. Cody Valdivia and Josh Houghtaling from Arrowwood National Wildlife Refuge used a model and specimens to talk to the students about wetlands and wildlife.

There was also a special 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.

As always, the goal was to provide students with an outdoor educational experience with opportunities for fun and hands-on learning.

