

# CONSERVATION NEWS

## MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Volume 20, no 4



### Fall Tree Work



The temperatures are dropping, the leaves are changing colors, and it is official: Fall is upon us. This means we are that much closer to winter, when the ground will freeze, the snow will fall, and many trees will go dormant. Before things get too cold, there are a few things you should consider doing to help the survival of your trees through the winter into next year.

- \* If there are any dead branches, trim them as soon as you can. These branches could potentially harbor fungal diseases that can overwinter in the dead wood and spread to the rest of the tree or other trees in the spring. If there are living branches you want to trim, mark them now and wait until the tree goes dormant to trim them.
- \* If your trees have fabric around them, check to make sure this is in good order. If you find any loose spots make sure to secure it to the ground with rocks or staples. Staples can be purchased from the district. Any loose fabric can be torn to shreds when they encounter winter winds. It is also a good idea to check and make sure the fabric isn't girdling any trees. If you find this is the case, use a knife to cut the hole wider.
- \* Check your plantings for any trees that need replacing. Now is the time to order any hand plant replacements, and it is much easier to tell what needs replacing now than in November and December.

If you are planning on doing a planting in 2016, there are a few things you can do now to be better prepared.

- \* First and foremost, come talk to us at our office in Mandan. We can help with every step along the way, and would be happy to plant trees for you next year.
- \* Call North Dakota One Call at 800-795-0555 or by dialing 811. This is essential to avoid any utilities that may run under where you want to plant your trees, and is required by the Morton County SCD before we do any plantings.



- \* Check to make sure there are no large rocks in the area. They can ruin your tools if you are planting on your own, and if you have the district plant for you they can cause some serious problems. If a site is bad enough, we may not be able to plant trees at all.
- \* If you are doing a no-till planting, start spraying as soon as possible. Ideally you would spray actively growing vegetation twice this fall, but if you wait too long it won't have any effect and you will have more work to do in the spring.
- \* If you are working the ground for a planting, start that now as well. Ideally, work the ground 2 or 3 times now so you have a lot less to do in the spring. You don't want the ground too lumpy, but you don't want the soil to turn to powder either. Try to get the same consistency you would want for a vegetable garden.

These are some of the most important things you can do this fall to ensure survival of your trees, as well as to prepare for any trees you plan on planting next year. If you have any questions, please call us at 701-667-1163 ext.3. We will be more than happy to answer any of your questions and to help you however we can!

#### Inside this issue:

<b>Brand New Grasslands CRP Program Available!</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Tree Order Form</b>	<b>3-4</b>
<b>Morton County Northeastern Watershed Project</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Fun Fact &amp; Up-Coming Events</b>	<b>6</b>

#### SCD Supervisors:

Ted Becker  
Travis Wolf  
Jim Hopfauf  
Rocky Bateman  
Aaron Steckler

#### Advisory Supervisors:

Duane Olsen  
Don Tanaka  
Richard Tokach

#### District Personnel:

Beth McCleary  
Brandon Schafer  
Adam Pacht

#### County Agent:

Jackie Buckley

#### NRCS Personnel:

Michele Doyle  
Paula Kvernum  
Sharon Potts-Saylor  
Melissa McCann

#### Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist:

Justin Edwards

# Brand New Grasslands CRP Program Available

By: Justin Edwards

There is a new CRP-grasslands general sign up available to interested producers. CRP-grasslands helps landowners protect grassland, including rangeland, and pastureland while maintaining the areas as grazing land. The program emphasizes support for grazing operations, plant and animal biodiversity, and grassland containing shrubs and forbs under the greatest threat of conversion.

## Interesting Facts about CRP-Grassland

- Can help pay for cross fencing and livestock water development
- Meant to target lands that are already established to a perennial cover
- Last day to sign up is November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015
- FSA provides annual rental payments of \$15 per acre

For more information regarding this program contact your local FSA and NRCS office or Justin Edwards-Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist.



## USDA Service Center

701-667-1163 FSA Ext. 2

## Justin Edwards-Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist

Office - 701-667-1163 NRCS Ext. 3 Cell - 712-292-0510

[jedwards@pheasantsforever.org](mailto:jedwards@pheasantsforever.org)

## Sustainability and Stockmanship Workshop

The NDSU Extension Service is excited to be offering a Sustainability and Stockmanship Workshop at Kist Livestock on Thursday, November 19, 2015 starting at 9:30 a.m. The cost will be \$40 which will include your noon meal, handouts and breaks.

We will be featuring Curt Pate, Philip, SD. Curt Pate will share his ideas and knowledge with people that are interested with the goal of helping them to improve their skills in stockmanship and stewardship. This is done through various avenues including demonstrations, clinics, and on-site trainings. We will have cattle on hand for a live hands-on demonstration.

Other features speakers will include:

Tim Petry, NDSU Extension Ag Economist – Market Update

John Dhuyvetter NDSU Extension Livestock Specialist – Making the beef Business work

Dr, Gerald Stokka, NDSU Extension Veterinarian- Veterinary Feed Directive

Jackie Buckley, Morton County Extension Agent – Vaccine and Syringe Handling



The meeting will qualify for producers to certify or re-certify for Beef Quality Assurance. For more information and to register call the Morton County Extension Office at 667.3340 by Monday, November, 16, 2015.

## Tree of the Quarter — Bur Oak



Photo courtesy of USDA  
[http://plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/pg\\_uma2.pdf](http://plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/pg_uma2.pdf)

With the threat of the Emerald Ash Borer coming into the state, many residents are becoming hesitant to plant Ash Trees. While there has been no evidence of the borer being in North Dakota yet, many people are looking ahead and trying to find an alternative to Green Ash. The Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*) is an interesting tree that may be utilized in place of Green Ash in Morton County plantings. While oak trees in general are considered slow growing trees, the Bur Oak is actually a species that grows at a similar rate to the Green Ash. In fact, 20 year growth comparisons show that in similar soils Bur Oak can grow to be almost the exact same size as a Green Ash. An added benefit to the Bur Oak is the production of acorns, which wildlife lovers can count on to bring in squirrels and deer. The Bur Oak is a little pickier regarding the soils it will grow in so it is not always a good substitute as an Ash replacement, but if you are looking to plant a taller tree and for whatever reason want to avoid an Ash Tree, take a look at the Bur Oak!

# Morton County Northeastern Watershed Project

Providing **technical** and **financial** assistance in the:

**Crown Butte, Otter Creek/Harmon Lake, Square Butte, and Sweet Briar Watersheds**

---

**60% Cost Share Available for these Practices:**

---

## Cropland Management



Cover Crops

Nutrient Management

Saline Soil Management

Grassed Waterways

Forage Plantings



## Rangeland Management

Prescribed Grazing

Pipelines

Range Planting

Cross Fencing



**Also Available for 60% Cost Share:**

Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment

Wildlife Plantings

Septic System Renovations



**For more information or questions, Contact Brandon Schafer at (701)667-1163 ext. 119**



## MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2540 OVERLOOK LANE  
MANDAN, ND 58554-1593

Phone: 701-667-1163 ext. 3  
[www.mcscd.com](http://www.mcscd.com)

### RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization

U. S. POSTAGE

PAID

BISMARCK, ND

Permit No. 433

*All Programs and Services of the Soil Conservation District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, age, or handicap.*

## Pheasant Fun Fact

### Did You Know

Even though pheasants prefer to run to escape predators, pheasants have a cruising speed of 27 to 38 mph while flying and when being chased they can fly up to 60 mph!



[www.pheasantsforever.org](http://www.pheasantsforever.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### November

11th—Veteran's Day Holiday—Office Closed

12th—SCD Board Meeting @ USDA Service Center, Mandan

26th—Thanksgiving Day Holiday—Office Closed

### December

1st through Feb. 26th—General CRP Sign-up

10th—SCD Board Meeting @ USDA Service Center, Mandan

25th—Christmas Day Holiday—Office Closed

### January

1st—New Year's Day Holiday—Office Closed

14th—SCD Board Meeting @ USDA Service Center, Mandan

18th—Martin Luther King, Jr's Birthday Holiday—Office Closed

19th—Morton County SCD Winter Workshop @ Baymont Inn & Suites