



Conservation News

Spring/Summer 2019

Volume 24, No 2

Women's Ag Night

The Morton County Soil Conservation District held their bi-annual Women's Ag Night on March 28th, 2019. 175 ladies came to listen to 3 speakers, had a great meal and some even received door prizes. We had three great speakers throughout the evening. Our main speaker, Sue Balcom, spoke on the book she wrote,



Aaron Steckler and Chet Zapzalka
Handing out door prizes

"Women Behind the Plow."
Randy Albrecht followed with his presentation on using the fruit & berries grown in ND, to capture the delicious taste of ND in their wines. Jennifer Holle was our final speaker talking to us about life on their dairy farm and the pros and cons of being your own boss.



Sue Balcom

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FARM BILL SPECIALIST:

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Hand plant trees will soon be available for pick up. Dates to be announced, as the tree shed is not staffed at all times. Pick up will be at the Tree Shed in New Salem. Final payment is due at time of pick up!! (cash or check only)

319 DANZIG DAM & HAILSTONE CREEK WATERSHED

The Morton County 319 Danzig Dam & Hailstone Creek Watershed Project provides technical, financial and educational assistance to agriculture producers and landowners within the watershed.

The goal of the project is to improve water quality of Danzig Dam, Hailstone Creek and Sims Creek along with their tributaries. This is achieved through the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) by producers and landowners.

Some of the eligible BMP's are: Pasture/Hay land Plantings, Permitted Feedlots, Partial Manure Management, Cover Crops, Water Developments and Cross-Fencing. Through the Morton County 319 Danzig Dam and Hailstone Creek Watershed Project producers and landowners will be provided 60% in cost-share dollars for BMPs.

Involvement in the program is completely voluntary. There is over \$480,000 in funding available to producers and landowners. Those producers and landowners in the high priority areas of the watershed will be first to receive cost-share assistance.

If you are a producer or landowner in this area and have any questions or would be interested in participating in this project you can call Chet Zapzalka at Morton County SCD, 701-667-1163 Ext. #3.



319 Danzig Dam & Hailstone Creek Watershed Project Boundaries

Water Festival

The Morton County Soil Conservation District held their annual Water Festival on April 16th, 2019 at the Engage Church in Mandan.

This is an event where 5th grade students through Morton county can come and participate in a half day of activities to learn about water conservation.

These activities consist of explaining the water cycle, a watershed and how it works, Pollution, condensation, and how to



keep our water clean. They played various games to teach them about water.

This year there was over 145 kids attending from Prairie View (New Salem), Hebron Public School (Hebron), St. Joseph (Mandan) and Lewis & Clark (Mandan).



EQIP Planning First



NRCS is gearing up to plan with producers that are interested in EQIP financial assistance for 2020. If you are interested in financial assistance or would like technical assistance on your operation, stop by the Mandan NRCS Office for more information or call us at 701-667-1163 ex. 3.

It's crucial to start the planning process now for the 2020 applicants to get the necessary fieldwork completed before the ranking period. Conservation Technical Assistance is always available if you are interested in getting recommendations for your conservation needs. Contact us today!

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(cash & check only)*



Follow us on Facebook for updates & programs available

CSP 2019 Program Applications



Applications are due for
Conservation Stewardship Program
May 10, 2019

Helping People Help the Land

CSP is a voluntary comprehensive conservation program for farm and ranch operators. Enrolled participants will receive annual payments for existing and new conservation activities.

Applications are continuously accepted. 2019 application are due to NRCS by May 10, 2019. Sign-up at your local USDA Service Center, or visit www.nrcs.usda.gov



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Mandan Field Office
2540 Overlook Lane
Mandan, ND 58554
701-667-1163 Ext 3

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North Dakota One Call

Know the Color Code

WHITE:	Proposed Excavation
PINK:	Temporary Survey Markings
RED:	Electric Power Lines, Cables, Conduit and Lighting Cables
YELLOW:	Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum or Gaseous Materials
ORANGE:	Communication, Alarm or Signal Lines, Cables or Conduit
BLUE:	Potable Water
PURPLE:	Reclaimed Water, Irrigation and Slurry Lines
GREEN:	Sewer and Drain Lines

It's Easy and It's the Law. Dig Safe!

Call ND One Call At: 800-795-0555 or Dial 811

You can also file your locate requests 24/7 using our ITIC system by clicking the appropriate link on www.ndonecall.com.

Whether you call 8-1-1 or use ITIC to file your locate requests, North Dakota One Call makes sure you're able to navigate the one-call process as easy as possible.

Whether you are a professional contractor working on a project, or novice homeowner just installing a fence.

Contact ND One Call **EVERY TIME YOU DIG** to ensure no underground lines are damaged.



Hay Planting and Cover Crops



We are hoping winter is on the mend, and the producers can start looking at firing up their drills for the 2019 planting season.

Many producers have areas they would like to plant into hay land for additional feed and forage for livestock as well as planting cover crops for soil health benefit and additional grazing acres for this fall.

NRCS recommends planting cool-season hay plantings this spring prior to May 10th. Most hay plantings will fall in that cool-season grass/legume mix. Warm season grasses should

be seeded from May 10th through June 25th for optimum growth. If there is a mixture of cool and warm season species, April 20th to June 1st is the prime time for seeding those species.

For full season cover crop producers, seeding now through June 1st is a good time if you are looking for more of the soil health properties, looking to graze cover crops in the fall or hay them later this summer.

NRCS can design a grass mix or cover crop mix for your 2019 planting needs.

Please contact the Morton County NRCS office today for your hay, grass or cover crop mix recommendation.

NEW MORTON COUNTY SCD EMPLOYEE



My name is Ryan Kobilansky and I will be serving as the new District Technician for the Morton County SCD. Some of you may know me already, as I am originally from Glen Ullin and have been working locally since I graduated college in December of 2016. I hold a degree in Natural Resource's Management from NDSU. My emphasis within the program was Natural Resource Economics and I also obtained a Minor in Political Science. I work continually to expand my base of knowledge and learn new things relevant to my field. I am pursuing certification as a certified crop advisor, have a commercial pesticide applicator's license, and hold a commercial driver's license. I'm excited for the opportunity to work in my home county promoting and supporting your conservation efforts. As landowners, producers, and residents; we all have a vested interest in the stewardship of our land and maintaining it for future generations. The Morton County SCD has the funding, connections, and expertise to help make your conservation practices a success. Please contact us for assistance; we're here to help.

Silver Buffaloberry (*Shepherdia argentea*)

The Silver Buffaloberry (*Shepherdia argentea*), also known as bullberry, is a hardy shrub that grows well in the harsh conditions of North Dakota. Its name comes from the historical use of the berries to accompany bison meat.

The plant has silvery green leaves with thorns around the stem. Buffaloberries produce a bright red fruit that is very attractive to many species of birds and the plant also serves as browse for deer. Occasionally the berries are yellowish-orange. Its thorny branches and suckering growth habit also make it excellent nesting cover. It can tolerate a wide variety of soil types, making it very good for growth in Morton County. The bright red berries are edible, although they are very tart. They can be processed to be used in jams and jellies.



A cultivar of the Silver Buffaloberry, the Sakakawea Buffaloberry, was developed in Bismarck. This cultivar is more tolerant of alkaline and high pH soils, and is great for revegetation of disturbed areas. Roughly 15-20 percent of fruit produced by the Sakakawea cultivar will be yellowish-orange.

These plants are great for both wildlife plantings as well as the outside row of a shelterbelt. They will quickly form a thicket, resulting in great cover for wildlife as well as dense growth to catch snow and stop the wind. Either way, if you are thinking about planting a row of shrubs, give the buffaloberry some thought!

10' No-Till Grass Drill Available for Rent



Morton County Soil Conservation District has a 10' Truax Grass Drill. This drill is available to rent to the producers of Morton County. Minimum HP tractor—60hp. Overall Width—14' Row Spacing—7.5"

Producer is responsible for clean/vacuum out drill and seed tubes. Clean off excess mud/debris as well as any damage.

The cost is \$10/acre with a \$50 delivery fee, if applicable. If you would like to use the drill and/or get more information, please call the office at 701-667-1163 ext. 3.

Kuhn Manure Spreader for Rent

The SCD is renting a Kuhn Knight 160 manure spreader with vertical beaters to the producers of Morton County. Unlike horizontal beaters, vertical beaters give a more even spread (25-30 ft.) of livestock manure or compost over a field.

Producers can rent the spreader for \$275/day. Clean-up and maintenance are the responsibility of the renter as well as any damages. The spreader has a capacity of 350+ bushels and a 160 HP tractor is recommended. Both the big and small 1000 rpm PTO shafts are available.

If you have any questions, or would like to rent the spreader, please contact the Morton County SCD at 667-1163 ext. 3.



Fun Facts

- **Two-thirds of the people on Earth have never seen snow
- **A humming bird weighs less than a penny
- **Men are 6 times more likely to be struck by lightning than women
- **Caterpillars completely liquify as they transform into moths



If you or anyone you know would be interested in becoming a board member, feel free to come to a board meeting which are held the second Thursday of every month at 9:30am at the office, or contact a Board Member for more information.



Morton County Soil Conservation District
2540 Overlook Lane
Mandan, ND 58554-1593

www.mcsd.com
Phone: 701-667-1163 ext. 3

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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.

Sponsors

The Morton County Soil Conservation District would like to thank the following sponsors:

Agassiz Seed & Supply—Mandan
Flasher Community Credit Union—Flasher
Gartner Seed Farm—Mandan
Western Cooperative Credit Union—Hebron
Farm Credit Services of Mandan
Chesak Seed House—Bismarck
K2S Engineering Inc.—Ypsilanti
PJ's Farm Supply — Flasher
Opp Well Drilling & Supplies, Inc.-Glen Ullin
Rud's Mobil — New Salem
Duppong's Inc. — Glen Ullin
Titan Machinery — Mandan
Butler Machinery Company—Mandan

Upcoming Events

April

26th —Arbor Day

29th to May 5th — Stewardship Week “Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper”

May

9th—SCD Board Meeting @ USDA Service Center, Mandan

12th —Mothers Day

27th—Office Closed for Memorial Day

June

13th—SCD Board Meeting @ USDA Service Center, Mandan

16th — Fathers Day

“Earth provides enough to satisfy every man’s needs, but not every man’s greed.” — Mahatma Gandhi