



Summer/Fall 2019

Volume 24, No 3

## TREE PLANTING 2019

The Morton County Soil Conservation had a successful tree planting season with 32 plantings and over 125,000 feet of tree and weed barrier fabric being put down. While a few rain delays slowed progress at times, it provided good moisture for the new trees.

Landowners interested in planting trees for the 2020 planting year may contact Ryan with the Morton County SCD at 701-667-1163 ext. #3 or by email at



ryan.kobilansky@nd.nacdnet.net.

Ryan will assist with planning, design, and selecting tree species suitable to the site. There may also be cost-share programs available to assist with paying for some of the planting. We have lots of interest in new plantings so far and we will fill up fast, so contact us today



Morton County SCD is always looking for help to assist with planting trees, laying fabric, and operating tractor. If you or any one you know is available the months of May & June, have a strong work ethic and an interest in conservation please contact the office.

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*Hand plant tree sales pick up was held May 3rd and May 4th with over 107 people coming to pick up their pre-ordered trees. Watch for the 2020 tree order form in our next newsletter.*



## FUNDS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR THE 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.

Some of the eligible Best Management Practices (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 BMP's. Involvement in the program is completely voluntary. There is over \$480,000 in funding available to producers and landowners.

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

If you have a change of address let us know so you don't miss an issue of the Morton County SCD Newsletter.

## MORTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT SERVICES

Manure spreader rental—\$275 per day (3-day max)

No Till Grass Drill rental — \$10 per acre + \$50 delivery fee (min. \$100)

Tree Planting & Fabric Laying — .40 cents a foot for trees and .60 cents a foot for fabric (41/ft)

Four-wheeler Broadcasting — \$150 per acre + seed

Hand Plant Trees — Vary by size from \$2.00 to \$20.00

Plantskydd — Repellant for trees and garden from Deer-Rabbits-Elk-Mice-Moles

Call the office for more information at 701-667-1163 Ext. #3

# **EQIP Planning For 2020**



The Morton County NRCS office is working with the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and is excited to initiate the planning first method this upcoming planning season. The “Planning First” method allows the producer to gain a better understanding of what is happening on their land, use the tools and expertise that NRCS can provide for their operation to make reasonable planning decisions and create a conservation plan that suites the needs of not only the producer, but the land for the generations to come. Please note that the planning process should start a year prior to installing conservation practices as we are planning for the 2020 funding pools. If you are interested in visiting with NRCS about how conservation can benefit your operation, please contact us at the Morton County USDA-NRCS office at 701-667-1163 Ex. 3 or stop by at any time and someone should be available to assist you.

## **Continuous CRP Signup**

Farm Service Agency is holding a continuous signup for CRP (signup 52), from June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 to August 23, 2019. CRP is a voluntary program that contracts with agriculture producers so that environmental sensitive agriculture land is used for conservation benefits. CRP participants establish long term conservation practices to control soil erosion, improve water quality and enhance wildlife habitat. Under CRP continuous signup, environmentally sensitive land can be enrolled at any time during the signup period. Offers are automatically accepted provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements. Unlike general CRP or CRP grasslands, continuous enrollment is not subject to competitive bidding during specific periods. FSA provides participants with annual rental rates and cost share assistance. Contract terms length are 10-15 year duration.

Eligible land must be cropland that is planted or considered planted to an agriculture commodity four of the six years from 2012 to 2017 and is physically and legally capable of being planted. Payments are based on per acre cropland and marginal pasture lands rental rates determined by FSA. Soil rental rates will be equal to 90% of the existing rates. Cost share is up to 50% of the cost of installation of specific practices.

Some eligible practices includes; Grass Waterway, Contour Grass Strip, Filter Strip, Riparian Buffer, Farmable Wetlands, Duck Nesting Habitat, and Farmable Wetland Program (FWP).

If interested contact the Morton county FSA and NRCS office (701) 667-1163.





## Cover Crops for Prevented Planting

## Fact Sheet

Natural Resources Conservation Service North Dakota

August 2014

Wet field conditions late into the planting season can result in farmers opting for the "prevented planting" option for an insured crop. Planting a cover crop on prevented planting acres has become more popular in recent years as a soil and resource management tool. Multiple soil health, agronomic and other resource benefits are addressed if prevented planting ground is seeded to a cover crop compared to black or chemical fallow.

### Soil Health Benefits of Cover Crops on Prevented Planting Ground

- Control erosion
- Dry wet soils by reestablishing the plant transpiration part of the water cycle
- Build soil organic matter
- Reduce nitrogen loss
- Fix additional nitrogen with legumes
- Feed beneficial soil biology and stimulate their activity
- Eliminate fallow syndrome (P deficiency in subsequent crop from loss of mycorrhizal fungi)
- Cycle, sequester, and recover nutrients
- Avoid or treat compaction from excessive traffic
- Control evaporative soil salinization



A cover crop mix of cool season broadleaf, cool and warm season grasses, and legumes

### Other Resource Benefits

- Increase crop/rotation diversity
- Provide pollinator habitat
- Provide wildlife cover and food source
- Increase available water storage capacity for water retention
- Manage weed pressures
- Early winter grazing opportunities

### Cover Crop Establishment

Seeding dates of cover crops on prevented planting ground must comply with Risk Management Agency guidelines. Typically, they are seeded after the late planting period for commodity crops grown in North Dakota. Farmers should always inform their insurance agent of intentions to plant a cover crop and obtain the latest information on cover crop restrictions and guidelines for prevented planting.

Some considerations for cover crop establishment are:

- Herbicide carryover
- Fertility - if nitrogen has been lost to denitrification, 30-50#/acre application needed for establishment
- Salt tolerance
- Seeding depth

### Other Cover Crop Selection Considerations

Cover crops are chosen to attain resource benefits as listed above. Other items to consider are:

- Cost
- Availability
- Seeding time
- Subsequent commodity crop to be grown
- Termination method
- C:N ratio, desired timing of nutrient release and speed of residue decomposition
- Inoculation to get N benefit from legumes

Cover crops are categorized by major crop types to aid in cover crop selection based on time of seeding and desired diversity to acquire benefits. Major crop types include grass or broadleaf types and cool and warm growing season growth characteristics. In addition broadleaf species are characterized as being legumes. Science supports the idea that diversity is good for the ecology of agricultural ecosystems. Cover crop mixes are used to add diversity to agricultural production systems, manage residue decomposition and achieve desired benefits for soil health and the production of the subsequent crop. Common cover species and examples of cover crop mixes are listed in the following two tables.

Common Cover Crop Species List for Prevented Planting by Major Crop Type			
Cool-Season Broadleaf Species	Warm-Season Broadleaf Species	Cool-Season Grass Species	Warm-Season Grass Species
Clovers (Berseem, Crimson, Red, Sweet, Persian)*	Cowpeas*	Annual Ryegrass	Millets (German, Japanese, Pearl, Proso)
Camelina	Soybeans*	Barley	Sudan Grass
Ethiopian Cabbage	Safflower	Cereal Rye	Sorghum, Grain
Field Peas*	Sunflower	Oats	Sorghum-Sudan
Flax		Triticale	Teff
Lentils*		Wheat	
Phacelia			
Rape/Canola			
Radish			
Sugarbeet			
Turnip			
Vetches*			
*N-fixing legume species			

Examples of Cover Crop Mixes					
Species	Drilled Seeding Rate lbs./acre PLS				
Cool/Warm Season Frost Terminated-July 15-August 1 Seeding Dates					
Oats				30	
Spring Peas				10	
Lentils				2	
Sudan or Millet				5	
Cow Peas or Soybeans				5	
Radish				0.5	
Salt Tolerant Species-July 15-August 15 Seeding Dates					
Barley				35	
Sugarbeet				1	
Sunflower				1	
Sweet Clover				1	
Chickling Vetch				2	
Siberian Millet or Sorghum-Sudan				2	
Winter Annual-August 1-September 15 Seeding Dates					
Winter Rye or Triticale				30	
Austrian Winter or Spring Peas				10	
Radish				0.25	
Turnip				0.25	
Red Clover				1	

## Additional References

More specific information on resource benefits of each species, additional species, and recommended seeding rates can be found on the ND NRCS website: [http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/ND/cover\\_crop\\_340.pdf](http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/ND/cover_crop_340.pdf).

The USDA Agricultural Resource Service at Mandan has a Cover Crop Chart that is also helpful in selecting cover crop species. The website address is: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/Main/docs.htm?docid=20323>.

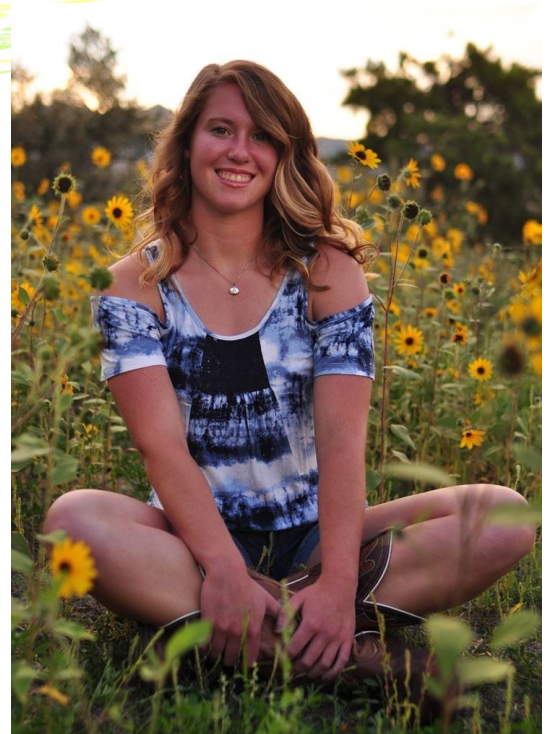
*Managing Cover Crops Profitably* is a useful publication provided by Sustainable Agriculture and Research and Education at website: <http://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Books/Managing-Cover-Crops-Profitably-3rd-Edition>.

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# Welcome NRCS Intern to North Dakota

My name is Andi Harrelson. I am an undergraduate participating in an internship offered through the Natural Resource Career Development Program (NRCDP) at New Mexico State University. This opportunity has me stationed at the NRCS Mandan Field Office to learn the process of helping private landowners incorporate conservation practices within farming and ranching. The past month has consisted of going to the field and learning the different components of NRCS. I have been involved in designing pipelines and inspecting dams with engineers, range inventories and plant identification with a range specialist, EQIP plans and grass seedings with soil conservationists, tree plantings with the district tree technician, and soil sampling with the USDA Agricultural Research Service. In addition, I've gone to multiple workshops covering topics such as soil health, biological pest control, prescribed fires, and feedlots. This summer internship has been a great opportunity to experience conservation work and I am grateful to have spent it in Mandan.



## Meyer Spruce

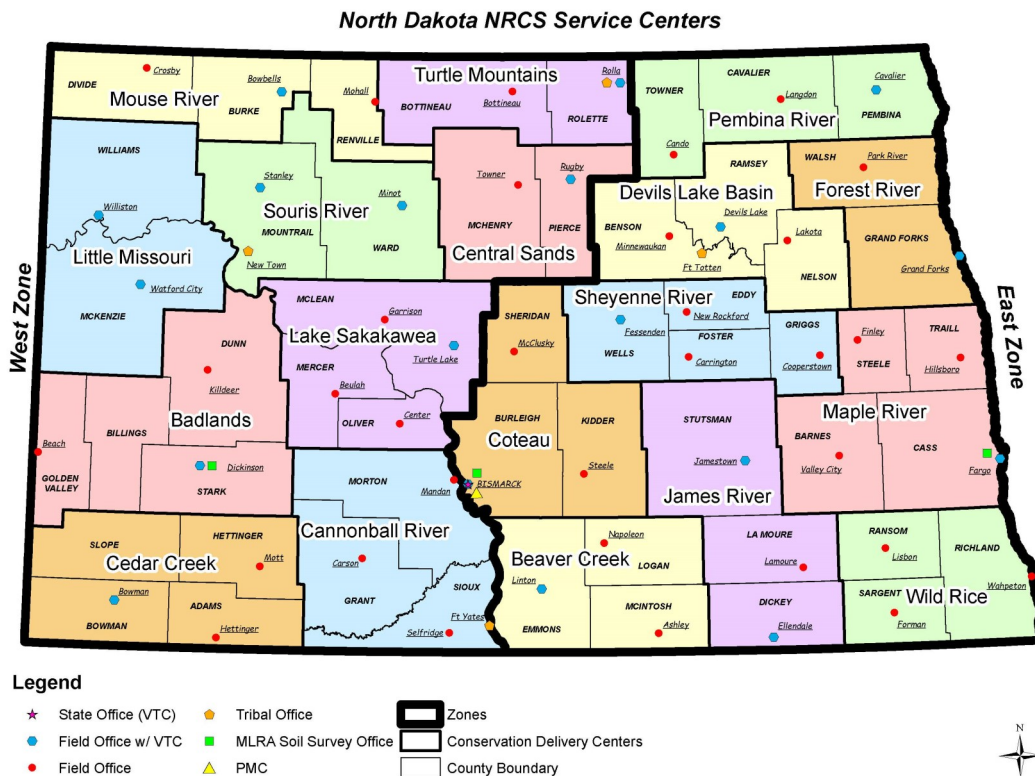
Meyer Spruce was a new addition to the coolers this year at the Morton County SCD. Meyer Spruce is native to China and is similar in appearance to Colorado Blue Spruce. It is a hardy tree with dense, bluish-green needles. Meyer spruce has good form and grows on a variety of soils. It grows slowly the first few years after planting, but once established the growth rate is similar to blue spruce. Meyer spruce is increasing in popularity in eastern United States, because it appears to be more disease resistant than blue spruce. Mature height is about 40 to 50 feet.



# NEW STRUCTURE FOR ND NRCS

ND NRCS has developed a new staffing structure to better serve our customers at the local level and to equitably address our workload across the counties in ND. We are building teams in what we call Conservation Delivery Units (CDU). Morton County will be part of the Cannonball River CDU, which also includes Grant and Sioux Counties. Val Hartman has been the District Conservationist/Acting District Conservationist in Morton County for the past 1 ½ years and will be taking on a new role as the Supervisor for the Cannonball River CDU. Her position as District Conservation here in Morton County will be filled with a new person in the near future. During this

transition Danelle Hoff will fill the role as Acting District Conservationist. Val will still be working out of the Mandan Office and will also be spending time working in the Carson and Selfridge Field Offices. You as producers will still work with us here in the Mandan office as you have in the past. The goal is to have additional people with varied expertise on our team to assist you in all your conservation needs. If you have any conservation needs please contact the NRCS/SCD office here in Mandan.



## Fun Facts

- \*\*Leonardo da Vinci could write with one hand and draw with the other at the same time.
- \*\*Before trees were common, the Earth was covered with giant mushrooms.
- \*\*Cows have best friends and experience stress when that are removed from them.



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 the office, or contact a Board Member for more information.



Morton County Soil Conservation District  
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Mandan, ND 58554-1593  
[www.mcscd.com](http://www.mcscd.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.*

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## Sponsors

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

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Titan Machinery — Mandan  
Butler Machinery Company—Mandan

## Upcoming Events

### August

8th — SCD Board Meeting @ USDA Service Center

### September

2nd — Office Closed

12th — SCD Board Meeting @ USDA Service Center

### October

10th — SCD Board Meeting @ USDA Service Center

14th — Office Closed

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