



Winter/Spring 2019

Volume 24, No 1

## Morton County Soil Conservation District



### 2018 Annual Report

## 2018 Conservation Achievement Winner: Dennis and Annette Graner



*Dennis and Annette Graner, along-side their daughters Makayla and Martina, have made it their priority to constantly try and improve their ranch. Back in the early 90's, Dennis bought his first no-till drill and hasn't looked back. Soon after, the Graner's started installing shelter belts near their new farm yard for wind protec-*

*tion. They did this with a little help from EQIP and a lot of help from their daughters to improve their grazing system. For this, they installed a new well, miles of pipeline, tanks, cross-fencing, and grass plantings on the marginal land and cover crops on other cropland to graze. The Graner family is a hard-working bunch with a true commitment to leaving the land better than they found it. The Morton County Soil Conservation District is proud to present the Dennis and Annette Graner Family with the 2018 Conservation Achievement Award.*



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#### SUPERVISORS:

AARON STECKLER  
ROCKY BATEMAN  
GEORGE FERDERER  
TRAVIS WOLF  
RICHARD TOKACH

#### ADVISORY SUPERVISORS:

DUANE OLSEN  
DON TANAKA  
TRAVIS ROSSOW

#### DISTRICT PERSONNEL:

CHET ZAPZALKA  
VALERIE FROHLICH

#### NRCS PERSONNEL:

VAL HARTMAN  
DANELLE HOFF  
PAULA KVERNUM  
SHARON POTTS-SAYLER

#### FARM BILL SPECIALIST:

ZACH COMPSON

# 2018 Annual Report

**January** - The Morton County SCD board reorganized and re-elected Ted Becker as Chairman, elected Aaron Steckler as Vice Chairman, Travis Wolf and Richard Tokach as appointed supervisors, and appointed Travis Rossow, Don Tanaka, and Duane Olsen as Advisory Supervisors. The County Elected Supervisors include: Ted Becker, Rocky Bateman, and Aaron Steckler.

**February** - MCSCD staff partnered with NRCS and participated in the 2018 KFYP Living Ag Classroom. The staff engaged the children with a soil tunnel and taught them about some of the living organisms in the soil.

**March** - Beth gave a QuickBooks training class at the Tree Promotional Meeting.

**April** - The Morton County SCD, NRCS, and Morton County Water Board hosted the Water Festival at Nazarene Church in Mandan.

**May** - Morton County SCD held their Annual Hand plant pick up sale in New Salem, ND. Morton County SCD pre-order tree sales with a total of 9,779 TREES!!

**June** - Morton County SCD teamed with Burleigh County SCD to do a garden tour.

**July** - Chet Zapzalka was hired as the new district tech for the Morton County Soil Conservation District.

In December Chet transferred to the 319 Watershed position, after Brandon Schafer resigned.

**August** - Zach Compson joined the Mandan Field Office as the Farm Bill Specialist.

**Cont.** - Danelle Hoff was acting NRCS District Conservationist from July to August. She then transferred to the NRCS Soil Conservationist in September making the Mandan Field Office her home.

**September** - Val Hartman was acting District Conservationist from January to June and then made the Mandan Field Office her permanent home in September as the District Conservationist for the Morton County NRCS

Valerie Frohlich was hired as the new Morton County Soil Conservation District Secretary. This putting two Val's in the office.

**October** - The Morton County SCD staff and board attended the restructure meeting of the NRCS at the Farm Credit office in Mandan. The attendance was good and there was lots of good discussion about the change in the near future.

**November** - Rocky Bateman was the moderator for the Regenerating Soil with Diversity workshop.

The Morton County SCD Staff and Board attended the North Dakota Soil Conservation Annual Convention held at the Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck. The Morton County SCD nominated Dennis and Annette Graner as Morton County SCD's 2018 Achievement Winner.

**December** - Tom Gibson presented to Morton County School Students on his TREES Program.

## 2018 Conservation Practice Implementation:

Cover Crop ~ 1,470.3 ac.  
Residue Management/No Till ~ 877.4 ac.  
Forage & Biomass Planting ~ 105.9 ac.  
Fence ~ 50,228 ft.  
Livestock Pipelines ~ 32,273 ft.  
Watering Facilities (tanks) ~ 42,628 gal (27 tanks)  
Prescribed Grazing ~ 4,442.9 ac.  
Pumping Plant ~ 7  
Portable Windbreak ~ 1  
Windbreak Establishment ~ 17,172 ft.  
Tree/Shrub Site Preparation ~ 3.1 ac.  
Water Well ~ 6  
High Tunnel System ~ 1  
Crop Rotation ~ 106.8 ac.



# MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

## LOCALLY LED CONSERVATION

**What:** Meeting of conservation partners in Morton County

**When:** February 14th, 2019 at 1:00pm

**Where:** Farm Credit Service Conference Room  
1600 Old Red Trail, Mandan.

**Why:** To bring conservation programs/awareness to the community.  
If you are interested in the future of the natural resources in Morton county please join us.



## Women's Ag Night

March 14th,  
2019  
Mandan  
Eagles  
Club

More details  
to come

### Farming and Ranching for the Bottom Line

Healing the Land & Ourselves with Livestock

February 26 & 27, 2019

National Energy Center for Excellence  
Bismarck State College  
1200 Schofer St. Bismarck, ND



### AGENDA:

#### DAY 1:

Tuesday, Feb 26

8 to 9 am Registration  
9 to 9:15 Welcome  
9:15 to 9:45 Area 4 Farm Overview - Mark Liebig  
9:45 to 10:45 Cover Crops On My Land? -  
Dave Archer, Jay Fuhrer  
10:45 to 11 Break  
11 to 12 Animal Behavior - Temple Grandin  
12 to 1 pm Lunch  
1 to 2 Drought Conditions: Will They  
Return? - Henry Blakes  
2 to 3:15 Livestock Handling Systems -  
Temple Grandin  
3:15 to 3:30 Break  
3:30 to 4:30 Impacts of Bale Grazing -  
Kevin Sedivec, Michael Undi  
5 to 7 Poster Sessions, Table Talks & Social



Sponsored by ND  
Stockmen's  
Association

- Area Four Research Farm
- Bismarck State College
- Burleigh County Soil Conservation District
- Menoken Farm

SPONSORS  
&  
PARTNERS

- Morton County Soil Conservation District
- ND Grazing Lands Coalition
- NDSU Extension
- USDA Agricultural Research Service
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

**REGISTRATION:** There is no cost to attend this event. However, due to limited seating, please RSVP by Feb 19th. To register, contact Cindy at 701-221-6865, or menokenfarm@gmail.com. For hotel reservations, please call the Hampton Inn and Suites at (701) 751-5656 & mention this conference to receive a discounted rate.

All programs, services, and events of all the sponsors/partners are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, age or handicap. This flyer and these workshops are based upon work supported by USDA and the North Dakota University System. All sponsors are equal opportunity providers and employers.

# North Dakota Department of Agriculture

## Livestock Pollution Prevention Program



Winter feeding system with portable windbreak

### Using cost share funds

The Livestock Pollution Prevention Program (LP3) offers two options for cost share assistance full containment systems and partial containment systems. The full containment option is geared toward beef feedlots, and dairy, hog and larger cow/calf operations. The partial containment option addresses most cow/calf operations. Cost share can cover up to 60 percent of eligible expenses.

Producers who choose the full containment option are eligible for up to \$175,000 cost share for excavation, ponds, lots, diversions, heavy use pads, fencing, waters, access roads and windbreaks.

Producers choosing partial containment are eligible for up to \$25,000 cost share for clean water diversions and/or winter grazing systems which include portable windbreaks, such as that pictured above, and water-line/waterers. Winter grazing systems decrease manure accumulations near surface water. Many producers using these systems feed cattle on cropland and practice aftermath, swath or bale grazing.

### Benefits of Partial Containment

- Less manure accumulation to spread
- Cattle stay in better condition
- Less hay to haul



Bale grazing

### Benefits of Full Containment

- Labor efficiency
- Manure handling efficiency
- Cattle handling efficiency
- Feed efficiency
- Environmental compliance



Swath grazing

### For more information, contact:

Jason Wirtz, Coordinator—[jwirtz@nd.gov](mailto:jwirtz@nd.gov)  
Livestock Pollution Prevention Program  
[www.agdepartment.com](http://www.agdepartment.com)

North Dakota Department of Agriculture  
600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept 602  
Bismarck ND 58505-0020  
1-800-242-7535 or (701) 328-2216

## Morton County Soil Conservation District—Scholarship Program



The Morton County Soil Conservation District has established a scholarship opportunity for high school seniors and/or college students that are residents of Morton County, North Dakota. The applicant(s) must intend to or currently be pursuing a degree in an agricultural/natural resource management/environmental or related field at a two or four year accredited college or university. Multiple scholarships, each totaling up to \$500, may be awarded.

Interested applicants are required to complete the application form and compose an essay of no more than 500 words on **one** of the topics (topics can be found on website) chosen by the Morton County SCD. Applicants will need to maintain at least a 2.5 GPA and be a full time student. The scholarship award will be paid directly to the recipient after the Morton County SCD Board receives the previous semester transcript.

Applications and essays must be postmarked no later than **March 1st, 2019**. Essays will be judged by the Morton County SCD Board and staff and the winner will be notified no later than April 30th, 2019.

You can find the application form on our website at [www.mcscd.com](http://www.mcscd.com). You can mail the application and essay to the Morton county SCD at 2540 Overlook Lane, Mandan, ND 58554

## EQIP Planning First

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. No operation is exactly like the other, so why plan conservation that way? Conservation is in the forefront now more than ever with farm/ranch operating budgets getting tighter and inputs becoming more and more expensive each year. NRCS conservationists are available to help you plan throughout the year to come up with a conservation plan that is customized to your operation. The first step in creating your conservation plan is contacting the NRCS office to schedule an appointment. A conservationist from the office will look at your operation, write down your current processes and take an inventory of your land while meeting you out in the field and provide feedback of how the EQIP program may work for you. Please note that the planning process should start a year prior to installing conservation practices (if interested in funding as we are planning for 2020 funding the summer of 2019). 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.

# NEW BOARD MEMBER



My name is George Ferderer, I was born and raised on the family dairy farm northwest of Mandan. I grew up helping my dad and truly enjoying the way of life farming provided.

My wife and I took over the farm when we married and raised our two children there.

I began using zero till to put in my crops about ten years ago. I have a strong drive to conserve and promote healthy soils, water and air quality and wildlife.

Serving as a soil conservation supervisor allows me the platform to achieve and promote these interests.

I first became involved with the soil conservation service and supervisors when I participated in the Cover Crop mentoring program.

*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.*

## Common Hackberry (Celtis Occidentalis)

Common Hackberry is a deciduous tree that is of growing interest in our area for a variety of reasons. Hackberry is an excellent replacement tree for the American Elm which is susceptible to Dutch Elms disease. Previously it was more commonly seen in ornamental landscaping, parks, and boulevards, but is making an increasing presence in windbreaks and conservation uses. In optimal conditions it can grow to a crown height of 40-60 feet with a width of 25-45 feet. For our area and conditions, we would more commonly see a 20-year tree height of 18-22 feet.



Hackberry trees perform very well in relatively dry and windy areas. Being a deciduous tree, it will not have wind blocking capabilities like a conifer but will bring more height and other characteristics to your tree row. The branches of Hackberry trees will commonly grow low to the ground unless pruned which helps for wind blockage.



Hackberry is a very valuable tree for wildlife as well. It produces a small pitted fruit, 1/4 inch in size called a drupe. The fruit is highly sought after for a variety of birds and many other animals. It also holds onto its fruit into the winter months which makes it a lot more valuable for the wildlife. With being a taller tree, it also serves as an excellent place for roosting, loafing and nesting for birds. With the possibility of lower growing branches, deer will commonly be found browsing on them in the winter months.

## 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.



# Love it.

*Become an Earth Team volunteer.*

## Earth Team Volunteers

Learn about conservation and agriculture. Give back to your community. Gain impressive volunteer experience to highlight on scholarship and/or college applications and resumes.



**\*\*According to the Greeting Card Association, 86% of Valentine's Day cards are bought by women**

**\*\*Men spend twice as much as women on Valentine's Day**

**\*\*Flower colors have different meanings. Red roses mean love, Yellow roses indicate friendship, and pink roses mean friendship or sweetheart. Red carnations mean admiration, white carnations mean pure love, red chrysanthemums mean love.**

Morton County Soil Conservation District  
2540 Overlook Lane  
Mandan, ND 58554-1593  
[www.mcscd.com](http://www.mcscd.com)  
Phone: 701-667-1163 ext. 3

***RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED***

**Non-Profit Organization**  
**U.S. POSTAGE**  
**PAID**  
**BISMARCK, ND**  
**Permit No. 433**

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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:**

Agassiz Seed & Supply—Mandan, ND  
Flasher Community Credit Union—  
Flasher, ND  
Gartner Seed Farm—Mandan, ND  
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K2S Engineering Inc.—Ypsilanti, ND  
PJ's Farm Supply — Flasher, ND  
Opp Well Drilling & Supplies, Inc. — Glen  
Ullin, ND  
Rud's Mobil — New Salem, ND  
Duppong's Inc. — Glen Ullin, ND

## Upcoming Events

### February

12 & 13th—KFYR Agri International @ Bismarck Event Center  
14th—SCD Board Meeting @ USDA Service Center, Mandan  
14th- Locally Led Conservation Meeting @ Farm Credit Service  
18th—President's Day Holiday—Office Closed  
26-27th Farming and Ranching for the Bottom Line @ BSC

### March

14th—SCD Board Meeting @ USDA Service Center, Mandan  
14th—Women's Ag Day @ Mandan Eagles Club

### April

11th—SCD Board Meeting @ USDA Service Center, Mandan  
16th— Waterfest @ Engage Church, Mandan

*"Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land."  
— Aldo Leopold*