



Winter/Spring 2020

Volume 25, No 1

## Morton County Soil Conservation District



### 2019 Conservation Achievement Winner: *Julie Krenz and Paul Govig Family*

*Julie and Paul are looking at increasing the productivity of their pastures and cropland while incorporating responsible land/water conservation practices. Some of their conservation measures have included extensive tree plantings, grass buffers, livestock and wildlife pond development, and the*



Julie Krenz, Paul Govig and Family

*development of two spring fed fish ponds. Conservation is very important to Julie, Paul and their family and it is with great pleasure that the Morton County Soil Conservation District presents the 2019 Conservation Achievement Award to them.*

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

2019 Annual Report	2
Up-Coming Events	3
ND Department of Ag—Program	4
Scholarship EQIP	5
New DC Tree of Quarter	6
Manure/Drill Rental Volunteer	7
Upcoming Events	8

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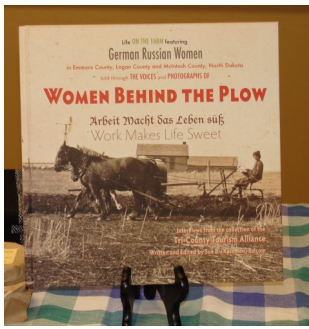


# 2019 Annual Report

**January** - The Morton County SCD board reorganized and elected Aaron Steckler as Chairman, elected Rocky Batemen 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: Rocky Bateman, Aaron Steckler, and George Ferderer.

**February** - MCSCD staff participated in the Farming for the Bottom Line Workshop at the BSC National Energy for Excellence Center.

Ryan Kobilansky was hired as the new Morton County SCD Technician.



**March** - After rescheduling our bi-annual Women's Ag Night due to a snow storm, we were able to have it on March 28th. The main speaker was Sue Balcom, on "Women Behind the Plow", along with Randy Albrecht from Wolf Creek

Winery and Jennifer Holle from Northern Lights Dairy. A fun night was had by all.

**April** - The MCSCD held their annual Water Festival for 5th graders at Engage Church in Mandan. We had 4 schools participate this year.

**May** - MCSCD held their annual hand plant pick up sale in New Salem. MCSCD planted over 125,000 feet of trees in the month of May.

**June** - We held out annual surplus sale at the tree shed in New Salem.

**July** - MCSCD teamed with Burleigh County SCD and held a Garden Tour July 11th and a Cover Crop tour July 23rd. Our chairman Aaron Steckler spoke at the cover crop tour.

**August** - The staff attended planning meeting for the annual Soil Health Summit.

**September** - Chet & Ryan attended a two day workshop on nutrient management training in Carrington. They also went to the soil health connection at the ARS field in Mandan.

**October** - Jon Fettig joins the Mandan field office as the new District Conservationist for the NRCS.

**November** - The MCSCD staff participated in and attended the Soil Health Summit at the Energy of Excellence Center at BSC.



The MCSCD staff along with the board members attended the North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts Annual Convention held at the Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck. The MCSCD nominated Julie Krenz and Paul Govig as Morton County SCD's 2019 Achievement Winner.

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

## 2019 Conservation Practice Implementation:

- Cover Crop ~ 624.06 ac.
- Residue Management/No Till ~ 615.9 ac.
- Forage & Biomass Planting ~ 89.3 ac.
- Fence ~ 24,134 ft.
- Livestock Pipelines ~ 9,010 ft.
- Watering Facilities (tanks) ~ 1610 gal (1 tanks)
- Prescribed Grazing ~ 2,410 ac.
- Pumping Plant ~ 1
- Portable Windbreak ~ 1
- Windbreak Establishment ~ 32,680 ft.
- Tree/Shrub Site Preparation ~ 10.8 ac.
- Irrigation Pipeline ~ 3,000 ft.
- Bush Management ~ 4 ac.
- Nutrient Management ~ 189.8 ac.



# Farming and Ranching for the Bottom Line

Discover the Triple Bottom Line:  
Economics, Ecology, & Sociology



**February 25 & 26, 2020**  
BSC National Energy Center for Excellence

## FEATURED TOPICS

### FEBRUARY 25

Soil & Human Health Connection  
NDSU Agri biome Initiative  
Weather Crystal Ball  
Innovative Producer Panel  
Area IV Farm Research



Featuring Keynote Speaker  
**Fred Provenza**

### FEBRUARY 26

"What Makes People Do What  
They Do on Their Farms?"  
Perspectives from Industry,  
Producers, & the Banker

"Is Grassfed Meat and Dairy  
Better for Human and  
Environmental Health?"  
and  
"Let Feed and Food Be  
Our Medicine"

There is no cost to attend this event. To register, visit <https://triple-bottom-line.eventbrite.com>. You can also call or email Cindy at 701-250-4518 ext. 3, or [lucinda.makedonski@nd.nacdn.net](mailto:lucinda.makedonski@nd.nacdn.net). Please RSVP by Feb 18th. A livestream link will also be available for this event. A block of rooms have been set aside at the Hampton Inn and Suites in NW Bismarck. Please call (701) 751-5656 to make a reservation.

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# 5 Easy Steps for Composting Dead Livestock

AS1781

## Step 1

Place 2 feet of base material in pile or long row, depending on number of carcasses to be composted.



## Step 2

Lay carcass on top of base. Have at least 1 foot of base material between perimeter of carcass and edge of base.



## Step 3

If composting cattle, puncture the rumen to prevent it from exploding.



## Step 4

Cover carcass with 8 to 10 inches of bulking material.



## Step 5

Cover the entire pile or long row with 2 feet of cover material.



## Composting Material

- Base material: straw, old hay, coarse crop residues (corn stalks)
- Bulking material: manure or spoiled silage
- Cover material: straw, old hay, sawdust

## Things To Remember

- Make sure pile always has sufficient cover material.
- Turn pile every six months from early spring to late fall.
- To accelerate composting, turn pile every two months from early spring to late fall.
- Do not disturb pile or long row during winter months.
- Existing compost can be used to cover new piles or long row sections.

**Mary Berg**, Area Livestock Environmental Management Specialist, Carrington Research Extension Center

**Paige Brummund**, Ward County Extension agent

**Alicia E. Harstad**, Stutsman County Extension agent

**Penny L. Nester**, Kidder County Extension agent

**NDSU** EXTENSION SERVICE

North Dakota State University, Fargo  
December 2015

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## 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 chosen by the Morton County SCD. These topics can be found on our webpage at [mcscd.com](http://mcscd.com). 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 **February 3rd, 2020**. Essays will be judged by the Morton County SCD Board and staff and the winner will be notified no later than March 13th, 2020. Application and topic information can be found on our website at [mcscd.com](http://mcscd.com).

## Opportunities for Planning Assistance and Programs

We are in a Farm Bill year and what that will mean for everyone regarding working with USDA and specifically NRCS is a delay in normal program implementation. In most years we would have the set of applications ready to rank for our EQIP program but this year we have yet to receive notice on a batching date. It does give us the opportunity to do a complete job on conservation planning. Although this time of the year brings an end to most field visits now is a great time to stop in at the office and visit about your current operation and what you would like to do in the future.



If you have a current EQIP or CSP contract it would be a good idea to review that and come to us with questions. Whether it is related to your grazing plan, grass seeding, or making sure you understand the requirements of the fence that is in your contract.

The Field Office staff will be getting further training on the 2018 Farm Bill sometime in late January or early February hopefully we can provide you all with a better picture of the program opportunities coming your way after that.

I'd like to remind everyone that there is a CRP general signup taking place right now so if that is something that interests you stop in at FSA and visit with them about eligibility and we will provide any needed technical assistance. That signup runs from December 9<sup>th</sup>-February 28<sup>th</sup>.



# WELCOME JON

Hi, I'm Jon Fettig, I'm the new District Conservationist in the Mandan Field Office.

I started my career in 2005 in Linton as a SCEP employee, then in Bowman in 2006 and was hired for my first full time position in Fessenden the spring of 2007. After working in Fessenden for 2 ½ years, I was asked to go to Mott and was there for 5 months. When the opportunity came up to work as the Sage Grouse Coordinator in Bowman, I took that opportunity and was in Bowman for 2 years. I then moved on to be the District Conservationist in Carson until the spring of 2017. Following that I took a position as a Range Management Specialist working with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in Fort Yates.

I've been married to my wife Kortney for almost 5 years. We have identical twin boys and our third child is due in April. With a growing family I took the opportunity to be closer to home and not commuting to my office every day, which brought me to Mandan.

In the little spare time I have, I like to help out on my uncle's ranch and do some hunting.



I look forward to meeting and working with the producers of Morton County. So stop in and say hi or call me with any questions you may have.

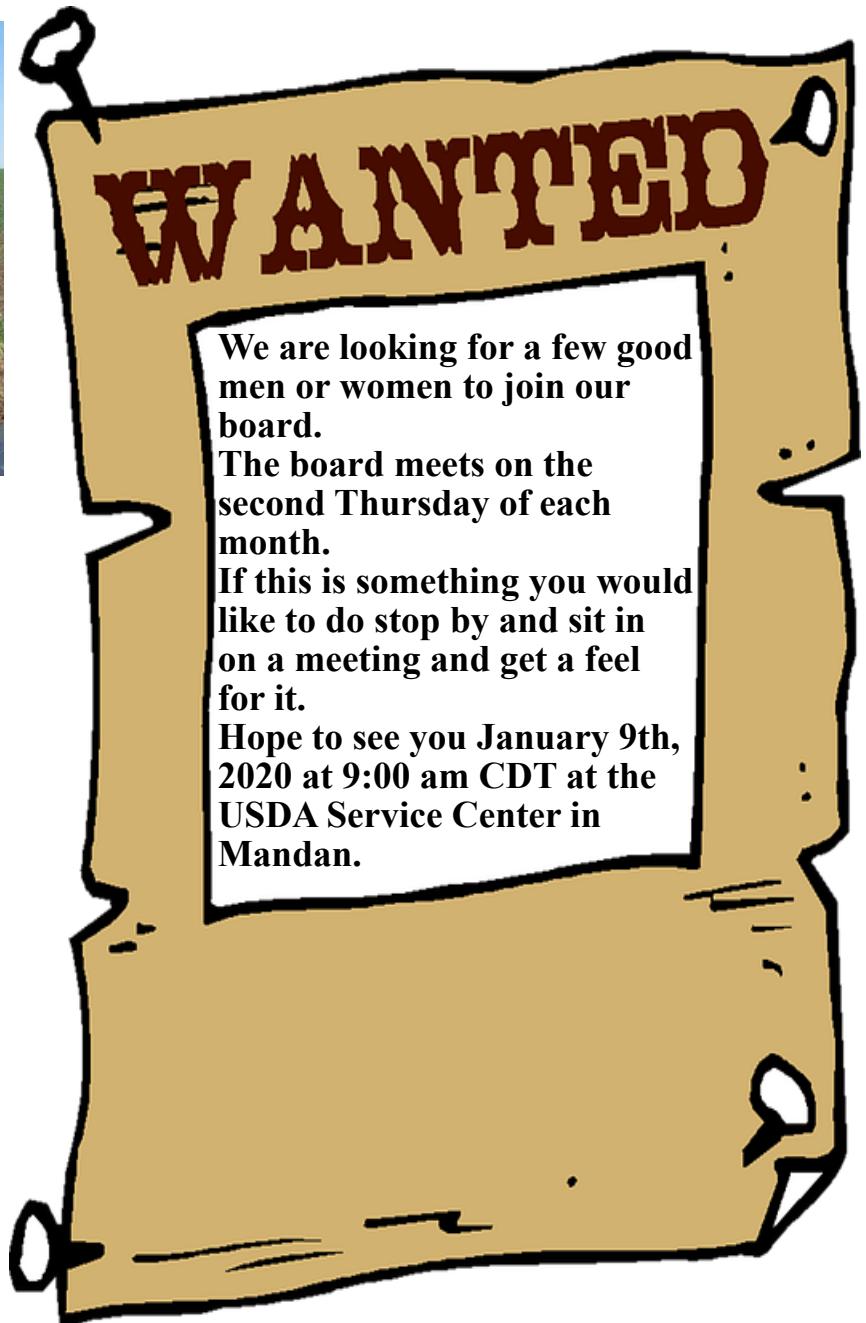
## BUR OAK

A North Dakota native with excellent cold tolerance, a long lifespan, and a good rate of growth. Bur Oak is a good candidate to replace for Green Ash, when concerns over the Emerald Ash Borer enter the conversation. It has a similar expected 20-year tree height of 12-20 feet depending on site conditions; whereas Green Ash would grow from 13-22 feet on similar sites. Bur Oak is a nice medium to tall tree which offers benefits to wildlife as well as uses in windbreaks and urban areas. This tree also responds well to growing in tree shelters and protectors which can be purchased through the district.



# Important

If you are needing to get out and do something after being cooped up this winter. We are looking for someone who would be interested in planting trees and laying fabric for the months of May & June. We are looking for a tractor driver and a few people to plant trees. If this is something you would be interested in contact Ryan at 701-667-1163 Ext. #3



**\*\* Approximately 70% of the freshwater used by humans goes to agriculture and livestock.**

**\*\* Flamingos are naturally white—their diet of brine shrimp and algae turns them pink.**

**\*\* People notice a distinct smell in the air after it rains. That smell is caused by bacteria called actinomycetes.**

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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## Sponsors

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

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## Upcoming Events

### January

9th—SCD Board Meeting @ USDA Service Center, Mandan  
20th—Martin Luther King Day—Office Closed

### February

13th—SCD Board Meeting @ USDA Service Center, Mandan  
17th—President's Day Holiday—Office Closed  
25-26th Farming and Ranching for the Bottom Line @ BSC

### March

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

Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs. But not every man's greed. —  
Mahatma Gandhi