



Scholarship Winners

The Morton County Soil Conservation District would like to announce the 3 scholarship winners.



Taizalee Glass

Taizalee is attending Bismarck State College, for Agribusiness. She is from Hebron and her parents are Bryan & Tanya.



Seth Berg

Seth is majoring in Agribusiness at North Dakota State University. He is from Mandan and his parents are Gail & Reese.

Not Pictured:
Adam Morman

Adam is attending Bismarck State College, for animal & range science. He is from New Salem and his parents are Tim & Tiffani.



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NRCS PERSONNEL CONT.

PAULA KVERNUM
RYAN FOSTER
WENDY THOMSON

FARM BILL SPECIALIST

ZACH COMPSON

2020 Annual Report

January — The MCSCD had their reorganization meeting and re-elected Aaron Steckler as the Chairman and welcomed Steve Tomac to the board as an Advisory Supervisor.



February — MCSCD employees participated in a watershed demonstration for 5th graders that attended the Living Ag Class room. MCSCD also partnered to host the Farming for the Bottom Line



March & April — With the start of the pandemic and unknowing what protocol was going to be, we ended up working from home. With this time we were able to give the tree shed sign some new paint and posts.

May—Our tree crew planted 91,750 feet of trees and laid 83,770 feet of fabric. Thank you to our crew Annette Graner, Bryce Peters, and Olin Halstengard.



June — We had our surplus sale and we had a great turn out

July—MCSCD partnered with BCSCD and NRCS to host an Urban Garden Party—to inform people in city limits about soil conservation.



August—We said good bye to our intern Bryce Peters. Bryce helped plant trees, lay fabric, and did a tree survival count. He also helped do water sampling. Good Luck Bryce.



September — Chet and Ryan participated in an Eco-Ed demonstration in the Coteau CDU. They demonstrated to the kids what a water

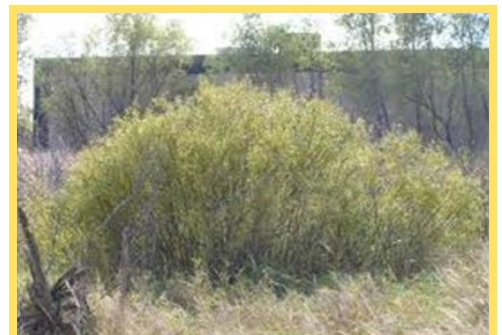
shed is and how it works.

October — We said good bye to Chet as he moved on to the NRCS office in Oliver County. Chet's one liners and made up words will be missed by the whole office.

November — The Mandan NRCS field office lost Danelle, as she transferred across the river to be the new District Conservationist for the NRCS office in Burleigh County.

December —As we are still teleworking and limiting our contact with producers. We are hoping next year will be back to some what normal, and we will be able to see you all again face to face. Until then stay safe and keep up the good work.

Sandbar Willow



Sandbar Willow is a medium shrub, native to North Dakota and common along riverbanks, lakes, and sloughs.

Sandbar Willow suckers profusely, which can make it useful for reducing erosion, stabilizing streambanks, and slowing seasonal floodwater. Consider placing it near creeks and streams where erosion or heavy traffic occur, and ground cover is needed. It will also provide dense thickets of cover for pheasants and deer.

BIG MUDDY 319 WATERSHED

The Morton County 319 Watershed Project is expanding its borders to the Big Muddy. This 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:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pasture/Hay Land Plantings | <input type="checkbox"/> Permitted Feedlots |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Partial Manure Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Cover Crops |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Developments | <input type="checkbox"/> Cross- Fencing |

Through the Morton County 319 Watershed Project, producers and landowners will be provided 60% in cost-share dollars for the Best Management Practices . Involvement in the program is completely voluntary.

If you are a producer or landowner in this area and have any questions or would be interested in participating in this project, call Ryan Kobilansky with the Morton County Soil Conservation District at 701-667-1163 Ext. #3.

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU

The Morton County Soil Conservation District is interested in our producer suggestions, ideas, opinions, concerns and wants from the MCSCD. How can we help you with your conservation needs? Would you like to see the district acquire certain equipment for rent? Are you looking for conservation programs? Are there any other areas that you have a need or concern with regarding the district activities?
If so please fill out the form below and return it the office at 2540 Overlook Lane, Mandan or email it to Valerie.frohlich@usda.gov.

Conservation Need	Suggestions	Comments
Education or Information	Ex.—Workshops, Speakers, Demonstrations	
Equipment	Ex.—Post pounder, land roller	
Technical Assistance	Ex.—Hand plant replacement	
Other Ideas		



If you submit your suggestions to Valerie.frohlich@usda.gov or mail your suggestions to the office we will submit your name into a drawing for a **\$25 Visa gift card**.
All submissions must be in by February 14th, 2021.

“I wonder if the snow *loves* the trees and fields, that it kisses them so gently? And then it covers them up snug, you know, with a white quilt; and perhaps it says, "Go to sleep, darlings, till the summer comes again.”

— Lewis Carroll, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland & Through the Looking-Glass*

DO YOU HAVE SALINE SOILS?

Morton County Soil Conservation District is looking for producers in the county who have saline soils and would like to take part in a Saline Soil Demonstration.

If you would be interested in participating in a program to demonstrate management of these sites. Please contact the Morton County SCD at 701-667-1163 ext. #3, for a consultation. We want to identify an accessible saline area, develop a plan to repair it, and host a plot tour at that site to demonstrate the results and educate producers on the process. We will have cost-share assistance available to defer expenses.

What is Saline Soils?

It's becoming increasingly common to see areas of bare soil with a white crust visible at the surface. Commonly referred to by local producers as 'Alkali', these areas have reduced productivity and yield. The expense of lost grazing or investing seed, chemical, and fertilizer into these areas, year after year, can really add up.



These 'Saline Soils' are typically low-lying, wet, 'discharge' areas where water wicks to the surface and salts concentrate from evaporation. These salts reduce plant's ability to take up water and create a type of drought status. In severe cases, even the toughest plants like foxtail barley and kochia fail to grow and the ground is left completely exposed. How do we manage these areas? The first step should ALWAYS INVOLVE SOIL TESTING to determine the severity and type of salinity you are dealing with. There is a difference between managing saline, sodic, or saline-sodic soils. Please involve your local NRCS office and Soil Conservation District so we can assist with this process.

The next step of the process is to manage the drainage of the site. The idea is to leach salts deeper into the soil profile and out of the rooting zone where they will not affect plant growth. This can be done naturally by re-establishing permanent perennial grass on the surface or artificially by installing drain tile.

While the goal of establishing perennial vegetation should always be permanent grass cover, in many cases a deep-rooted, salt-tolerant cover crop is the first tool to begin restoration. Crops like barley, sunflower, sugarbeet, alfalfa, oats, and rye can be utilized to start drying the area. If you're site still grows kochia, these crops should have some growing success. Remember, any cover is good cover. Even weeds like kochia and foxtail barley will continue to use moisture from the soil and keep cover on the ground, reducing evaporation and the concentration of salts. Mowing these weeds to prevent them from making seed can reduce weed pressure while keeping live roots in the ground, actively using water. This is preferable to spraying them out and leaving the soil bare.

Excessive wetness can prevent field access and you may have to cover crop the edge of the area for several growing seasons. You can also utilize dormant/fall seedings to access the area when the ground is frozen and firm. When the site is ready, we can assist you in developing a perennial grass seed-mix specific to your site and provide cost-share options.



Morton County Soil Conservation District is looking for a 2021 seasonal part-time position depending on the season will be between the months of April—July lasting around 4-8 weeks. Some of the job duties will include planting trees, laying fabric, keep the tree shed, grounds and equipment clean. Load and unload trees and being able to lift 50 pounds at a time. If this is something you would be interested in contact the office for an application at 701-667-1163 Ext #3.

Equipment rental

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, call the office.



The Morton County Soil Conservation District 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, contact the office. 701-667-1163 ext. #3.

PLANTSKYDD

Developed to protect tree plantations being decimated by deer, moose, and rabbits. It is equally effective protecting: flowers, fruit trees, gardens, ornamental shrubs, conifer and broadleaf plants. It is made in the USA from 100% natural ingredients. Plantskydd contains no synthetic additives, is non-toxic, and is not harmful to animals or the environment. Plantskydd repels by emitting an odor browsing animals associate with predator activity—stimulating a fear-based response that will have garden feeders looking for somewhere else to dine. If you have any questions, or would like to purchase Plantskydd, contact the office.



SCHOLARSHIP

The Morton County Soil Conservation District has established a scholarship opportunity for college students that are residents of Morton County, North Dakota.

The applicant/s must 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 MCSCD. These topics and the form can be found on the MCSCD webpage at 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 MCSCD Board receives the previous semester transcript.

Applications and essays must be postmarked no later than **February 5th, 2021**. Essays will be judged by the MCSCD Board and staff and the winner will be notified no later than March 15th, 2021.



CSP Sign Up 2021

US Department of Agriculture announced the 2021 signup periods for general Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and CRP Grasslands offers.

General signup for CRP will be open from January 4, 2021 to February 12, 2021; CRP Grasslands runs from March 15, 2021 to April 23, 2021.

Both programs are competitive and provide annual rental payments for land devoted to conservation purposes.

CRP helps farmers and ranchers establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or **trees**, to control soil erosion, improve water quality enhance wildlife habitat on cropland.

CRP Grasslands help landowners and operators protect grassland, including range land, pastureland, and certain other lands while maintaining the areas as grazing lands.

CRP has proven to protect the Nation's valuable resources. Next year's signup gives farmers and ranchers an opportunity to enroll in CRP for the first time or continue their participation for another term.

Producers may apply by contacting their local FSA office. Mandan FSA office number is # 701-667-1163 Ext. #2.

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

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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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:

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Titan Machinery
TK Veterinary Services
West River Telecomm
PJ's Farm Supply Inc.

Upcoming Events

January

14th — SCD Board Meeting—Mandan
18th — Closed—Martin Luther King Day

February

11th—SCD Board Meeting—Mandan
15th — Closed—Presidents Day

March

11th — SCD Board Meeting—Mandan
18th — Women's Ag Night — Mandan

“Sunshine is delicious, rain is refreshing, wind braces us up, snow is exhilarating; there is really no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather.” —John Ruskin