



Morton County Soil Conservation District

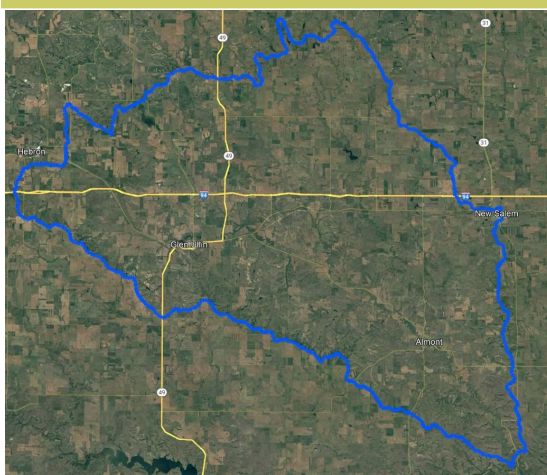
Conservation News

Spring/Summer 2022

Volume 27, No 2



Watershed Project Tour



Watch our Facebook and Website for more details.

Join the Morton County Soil Conservation District on **June 16th, 2022** as they show you some of the Best Management Practices (BMP) provided by the 319 Big Muddy Watershed Project.

On the tour you will see:

- *Cover Crops
- *Grass Establishment
- *Soil Salinity
- *Water Developments/Cross Fencing
- *Livestock Manure Management Facility

TREE TILLER TIME

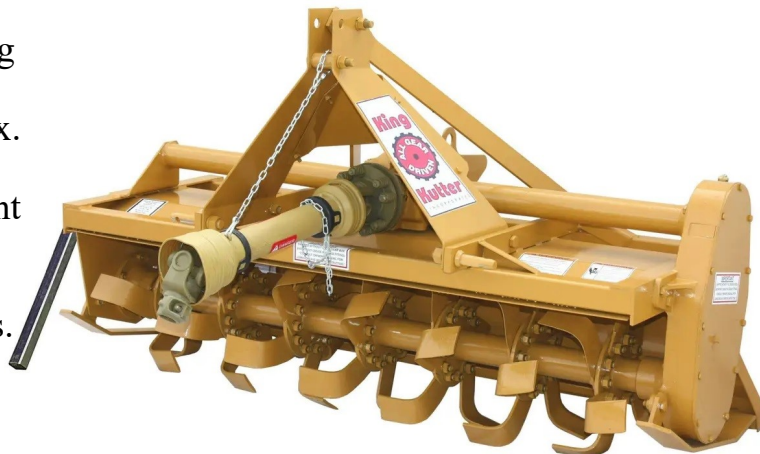
Morton County Soil Conservation District purchased a 72" King Kutter Tiller.

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MCSCD will be renting this Tiller out for \$100 per day for a 3 day max.

If you would like to rent this tiller contact the office at 701-667-1163 ext. #3 for more details.



New Faces Around the Office

Hello everyone, my name is Landon Weiser and I am the new District Conservationist in Morton County. I grew up in Jamestown and spent my college days at Bismarck State and NDSU earning a degree in Crop and Weed Science. After college I spent some time working for a crop consultant and eventually landed at NRCS as a Soil Conservationist in Hillsboro. I am excited for the opportunity to meet the producers of Morton County and look forward to working together.

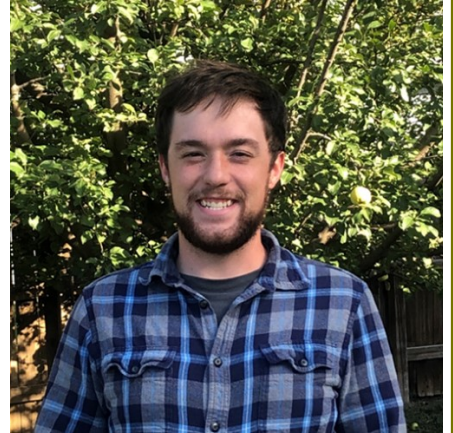


Hi my name is Tim Renschler. I joined the NRCS as a Range Management Specialist at the end of August 2021.

I was born and raised in Bismarck, ND. After graduating high school, I attended BSC where I earned an AS in Biology and a GIS Technician certificate of completion. During the summers I worked as a landscaper and a noxious weed technician for the ND State Parks and Recreation Department. I graduated from NDSU in the spring of 2021 with a BS in Natural Resources Management.

Since then, I worked at KLJ Engineering as an environmental technician before joining the NRCS. I like to spend my free time outdoors and have particular interests in hunting, camping, and anything with wheels.

I am happy to be working at the Mandan Service Center and I look forward to meeting and helping producers across Morton, Grant, and Sioux counties.



My name is Blake Sogge. I am from Wishek, ND where I attended grade school and High School (on the days when I wasn't hunting or fishing that is). My four years of high school I worked each growing season for a crop consultant and grew a passion for anything agronomy related. After I graduated high school, I attended BSC for agronomy which ultimately landed me a job as a fulltime Crop Consultant. I worked fulltime as a crop consultant for a little less than two years. Then I took a position as a Farm Bill Specialist with the Logan County NRCS. After almost a year with Logan County I was presented with the opportunity to live closer to loved ones and work out of the Mandan Field Office, still as a Farm Bill Specialist. I am excited for this new part of my journey and look forward to meeting more great people along the way.

KELSEY DECKERT

Meet NDSU Extension Burleigh/Morton County Horticulture Agent

Kelsey Deckert joined NDSU Extension in 2020 as the Burleigh and Morton County Horticulture Agent. Kelsey serves the public in the area of horticulture, by bringing horticultural programs to both youth and adults locally. She spends a great amount of the growing season fielding questions from the communities. Kelsey also leads the local Master Gardener program by providing local leadership and meeting with them. She assists with organizing and planning the Dakota Garden Expo and has a local gardening show called Dakota Growing. If you have any questions regarding your lawn, garden, trees, or landscape feel free to reach out to her. She is in the Morton County Office Wednesdays and Thursdays and can be reached at 701-667-3340.



Drought: Setback or Opportunity?

By: Tim Renschler

Well, the winter weather might not have shaped up to what it should've been. With spring and the grazing season coming up it is important to keep up on the latest drought-related information and available resources. As of March 8th, the US Drought Monitor reported that 37% of North Dakota is currently experiencing a drought (category D1 or greater). While Morton County has fared better than farther west, it is still dry here with drought ratings ranging from Abnormally Dry (D0) in the eastern portion of the county to a Moderate Drought (D1) in the west. The US Drought Monitor can be accessed online at (droughtmonitor.unl.edu).

Given these conditions it is important to think about developing drought contingency plans – whether they include supplemental feeding, watering, or the like. When it comes to grazing, it may be a wise decision to delay turnout of livestock. For native grass species it is recommended to wait until they reach the 3½-leaf stage, while introduced grasses can generally begin to be grazed at the 3-leaf stage. Aside from grazing, it will be important to keep an eye on plant litter amounts and keep watch for elevated risks of wildfire. Online burn ban restrictions and fire danger maps can be found at (<https://ndresponse.gov/burn-ban-restrictions-fire-danger-maps>). We also can't forget about the grasshoppers that spread much like a wildfire last year!

A drought can bring about the opportunity to take a step back and evaluate what is working and what isn't. Everyone has options and resources available to them that can help in the case of a drought. Both the Morton County Soil Conservation District and NDSU Extension are available for equipment and services such as hay bale probing and livestock water quality tests. More great resources for drought management strategies provided by the NDSU Extension are available at (<https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/publications/livestock/strategies-for-managing-drought-in-the-northern-plains>).

The NRCS can work with you to develop plans and provide financial assistance to combat the effects of droughts, floods, and anything in between. Please feel free to contact us if you're interested in conservation planning. Planning is the first step towards receiving financial assistance for practices such as water developments, grass seedings, cover crops, cross fencing, and many more. A field visit will need to be completed prior to application sign up so that we can determine the need and feasibility of the project, so don't hesitate!

REASONS 4 CONSERVATION

By: Ryan Kobilansky

There are many reasons to implement conservation practices on the land; (1)reducing erosion, (2)increasing wildlife populations, (3) financial, & (4)building more diverse and resilient plant communities.

This year, financial reasons and profitability may be a key driver. With the additional expense of fuel, fertilizer, seed, hay, and chemical. It has never been more important to make sure that you're making the most of inputs on your operation.

Many common conservation practices actually benefit your bottom line. For example, adopting a no-till system can reduce fuel costs and labor requirements allowing you to plant a crop for less. Planting a cover crop will not only provide you feed and forage but also reduce your input costs in fertility and herbicide. Precision ag applications can allow you to vary seed, chemical, and fertilizer inputs across the field, investing your money where you can see the most return. All these practices also provide secondary benefits to water quality by keeping those nutrients on the field where they belong and out of the surface water.

There are many ways that conservation practices and management can better your bottom line. If you are interested in how management and conservation practices can increase your profitability, contact Ryan at 701-667-1163 ext. #3 or ryan.kobilansky@nd.nacdnet.net

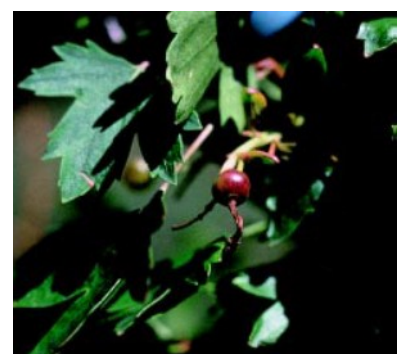
GOLDEN CURRANT RIBES ODORATUM

By: Thomas Osterbauer

Golden Currant is a small shrub native to North Dakota. Because it is native to our region it is well suited for growing in our harsh conditions. It is suited to a variety of soils and can tolerate soil pH ranging from 5.5 to 8.0, is tolerant of saline soils, and is fairly drought tolerant.

The shrub has light green leaves that turn yellow in the fall, with a shape that resembles a maple leaf. At maturity it ranges from 3-6 feet tall, as well as 3-6 feet wide. It is not a shrub that suckers heavily, however it can sucker in a limited capacity. This, combined with the spread of the crown, makes it a shrub that can be used to form a short hedge. It has yellow flowers that produce black or purple berries that are edible to humans. The berries can be very tasty and can be eaten fresh or used in products such as jellies or jams.

Golden Currant is a valuable shrub for wildlife by providing excellent cover and a food source. It is a preferred species for songbirds, being used for roosting, loafing, and/or nesting. Many species of birds will eat the berries if they are present.



Prairie RC&D Grant

Dakota Prairies RC&D Community Innovation Grant

Community Innovation grants fund problem-solving projects that make the community or region better. Grants may be awarded to any member in good standing of Dakota Prairie's RC&D. Grant awards are capped at \$2,000.00 per application/project.

Project proposals must clearly identify how they fall into one of the three priority areas below:

1. Education

- a. Must reach a large audience
- b. Job development, environmental aspect, community oriented
- c. Must fulfill educational purpose
- d. Examples: Books, programs, field trips

2. Community Development

- a. Infrastructure and educational equipment
- b. Can be used to cover materials costs
- c. Examples: Parks & Recreation, First Responders, Historic preservation

3. Natural Resource Conservation

- a. Programs, materials and speakers
- b. Demonstration projects
- c. Examples: Ladies Ag night, Root boxes, Community gardens, Youth education

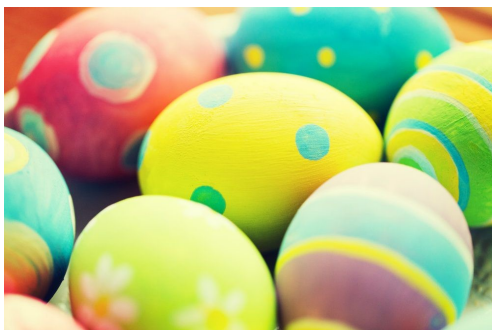
This grant is available to any organization in Morton County. The organization can apply for this grant as long as they fall into one of the 3 priority area's listed above.

Some examples are Rural Fire stations using it for radios and flashlights. Community groups using it to start community gardens/flower beds. Community pools for new picnic tables & umbrella's.

If you have questions or if you would like an application to file out contact Valerie at 701-667-1163 Ext. #3 or Valerie.frohlich@usda.gov.

EGGcellent News

- * The yolk and the egg whites have the same protein quantity
- * Chicken earlobes can tell the color of the egg
- * The thickness of an egg solely depends on the age of the chicken: young chickens lay eggs with harder shells



- * A hen turns her egg nearly 50 times each day to keep the yolk from sticking to the side
- * The average American eats 19 pounds of eggs per year



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

www.mcscd.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.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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■ BEK	Margi Engelter	Starion Bank
■ Big O Tire's	Farm Credit Services	State Farm Insurance
■ Capital Credit Union	Fitterer Gas & Oil	Rod Skytland
■ Chesak Seed House	L&H Manufacturing	TK Veterinary Services
■ Dakota Community Bank	Pheasant's Forever	West River Telecomm

UPCOMING EVENTS:

MCSCD Board meeting are the 2nd Thursday of the month & are open to the public. Check Facebook for dates and time.

May:

30th — Memorial Day—Office Closed

June:

16th—319 Watershed Tour

19th—Junetenth—Office Closed (June 20th)

July:

4th—Independence Day—Office Closed

SUPERVISORS:

AARON STECKLER
GEORGE FERDERER
ROCKY BATEMAN
RICHARD TOKACH
STEVE TOMAC
TRAVIS WOLF

DISTRICT PERSONNEL:

VALERIE FROHLICH
THOMAS OSTERBAUER
RYAN KOBILANSKY

NRCS PERSONNEL:

JON FETTIG
LONDON WEISER
BRYCE ANDERSON
SHARON POTTS-SAYLER
JACOB DUMMER
TIMOTHY RENSCHLER
WENDY THOMSON
PAULA KVERNUM
RYAN FOSTER

FARM BILL SPECIALIST
BLAKE SOGGE