



Tree Planting 2021



Morton County Soil Conservation District had a successful 2021 tree planting season. The tree crew planted over 65,000 feet of trees throughout Morton County in the month of May, weed barrier fabric was laid on almost all of those plantings as well.

Landowners interested in planting trees for the 2022 planting year may contact the office to set up a visit. We can assist with planning, design, and selecting tree species suitable to the site. We may also be able to find cost-share programs available to help fund some of your plantings.

If you have questions about planting trees at your place or if you would like the Morton Country SCD to plant trees for you, call the office at 701-667-1163 ext. 3 and ask for Thomas.

Thank you to our tree crew, Tia Guptill, Annette Graner, and Nita Ritzke

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2021 TREE CREW

New Faces in the Office



Hi I am **Tia Guptill**, the Morton County SCD summer intern. I helped with the tree plantings and lay fabric this year. I also did water sampling and tree survivability counts.

I grew up in Quinn, SD. I am the youngest of 5. On our family ranch we raise Black & Red Angus cattle. In 2013 our family won the Leopold Conservation Award. After High school I attended University of Mary where I graduated with a degree in biology. My future plan now is to return to the family farm and help my dad run the ranch.

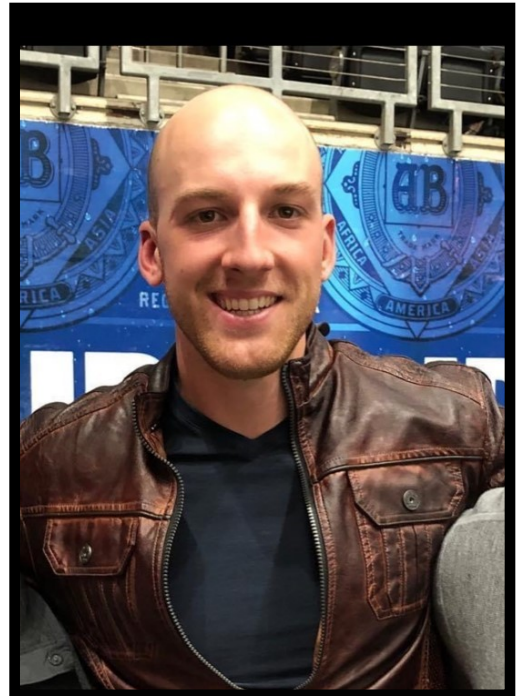
Hi, I'm **Jacob Dummer** (DOOM-ER). I started as a Soil Conservationist with the Natural Resource Conservation Service in April.

I graduated from NSDU in 2017 with a B.S. in Natural Resource Management and a minor in Zoology.

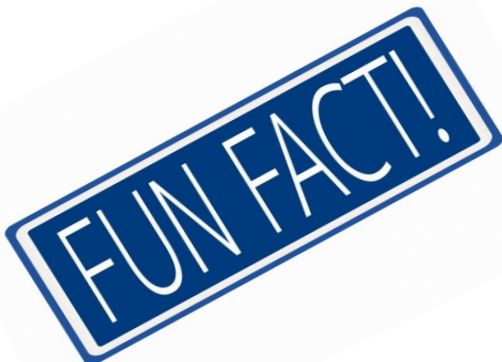
Since then I have worked for the Soil Conservation District in Benson County ND, a consulting company Insight Environmental in the Oil and Gas industry, and most recently for the State of ND Department of Environmental Quality in the Water Quality Division.

Like many others in the agency, I can be found enjoying the great outdoors in my free time.

I look forward to helping the producers in Morton County, if you have any questions let me know how I can help.



- Forest fires move faster uphill than downhill.
- Anything a duckling meets 10 minutes after its born becomes its parent.
- Lightning kills about 10,000 people a year worldwide, more people than tornadoes or flooding
- No matter how badly fingerprints are damaged, they will always grow back in their original pattern.



New Faces in the Office, Cont.



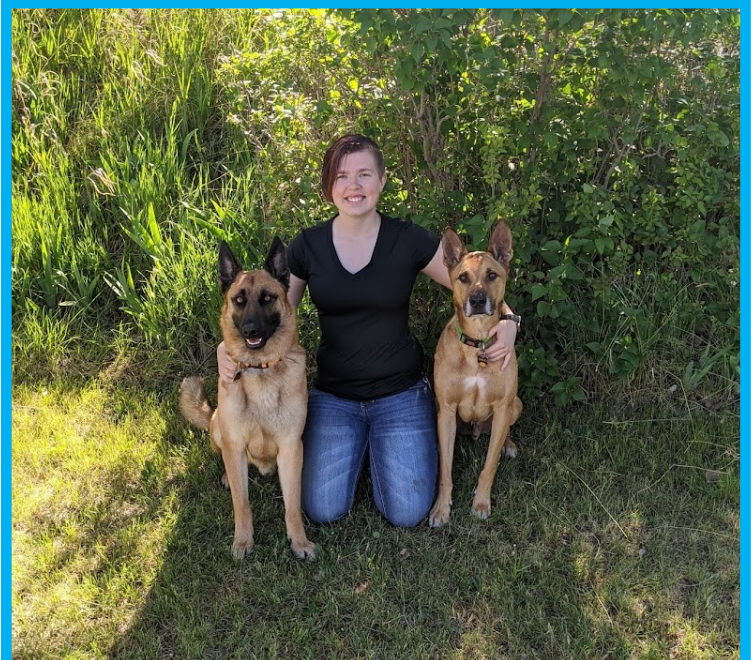
Hi, my name is **Bryce Andersen**. I grew up on a farm outside of Oakes, ND where we raised corn, soybean, and wheat. I received my BS degree in Agricultural Systems Management and MS degree in Plant Science from NDSU. After that, I worked as a Soil Health Technician in the Soil Science Department at NDSU for two years before coming out to the Morton County NRCS to start as a Soil Conservationist in May. My wife, Lisa, and I live in Bismarck, where she is a Law Clerk for a Federal Judge. In my free time I like to play sports, listen to and play music, and travel.



Hey guys! My name is **Aleesha Boelter** & I am your Farm Bill Specialist located in the Mandan Field Office. I transferred from the Hettinger, ND area in May of 2021, and I am replacing Zachary Compson's position here. I will be serving the Burleigh, Grant, Kidder, Morton, & Sioux Counties.

I am originally from the Minnesota/Wisconsin area; however, I grew up all over as an Army brat. After high school I started my college career at NDSU but decided to transfer to Arizona. I graduated in December of 2019 with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from Arizona State University – Lake Havasu. Living in Arizona provided me opportunities to work with wildlife and how to work with the environment to create a better living space for them. I worked under one of my professors researching burrowing owls by monitoring their populations and behaviors. I also was able to do a summer internship at Keepers of the Wild, a sanctuary that provided homes to animals such as lions, tigers, bears, wolves, monkeys, and camels.

I decided to come back to the North Dakota area to be closer to friends and family!



When I am not working, I am with my two amazing Belgian Malinois, Ammo and Gauge. We are always traveling when we can.

I am excited to continue to work alongside landowners and producers using conservation practices to improve North Dakota's natural resources.

DRILL 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 at 701-667-1163 ext. 3.

MANURE RENTAL

The Morton County SCD is renting a Kuhn Knight 160 manure spreader with vertical beaters to the producers of Morton County. Producers can rent the spreader for \$300/day.

Unlike horizontal beaters, vertical beaters give a more even spread (25-30 ft.) of livestock manure or compost over a field. 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 Planskydd, contact the office at 701-667-1163 ext. 3.



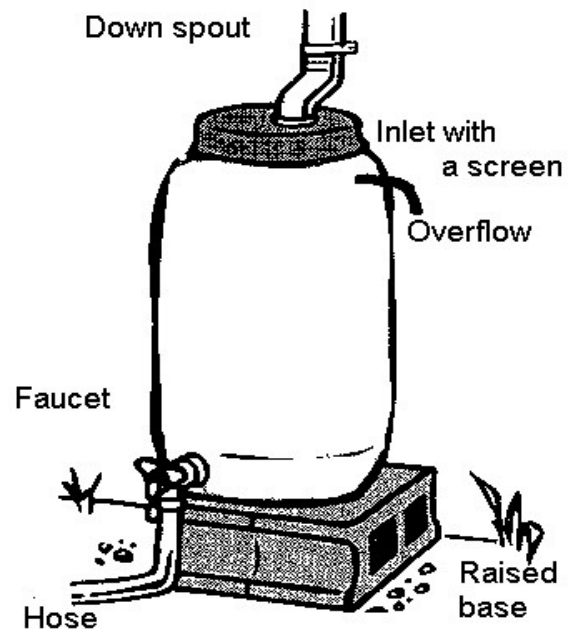
Budget Meeting scheduled for September 9th, 2021 at 8 a.m. at the Comfort Inn, Mandan. Open to the public.

RAIN BARREL

A rain barrel is simply a reservoir for storing rain water from downspouts. Rain barrels can save thousands of gallons of water a year. During a 1-inch rainfall, 0.6 gallons of water falls on each square foot of your roof. That's over 1,000 gallons for an average roof (1,700 sq. ft.). That's a lot of water we can use to irrigate our flowers, trees, shrubs, gardens and yards during the dry summer months.

Using the rain barrel's stored water around the landscape saves water resources and reduces the amount of water purchased from municipal sources. According to the US EPA, 30% of daily water use is used outdoors.

As an added benefit, the water captured and stored in rain barrels is often better for your plants than water from other common sources. Rain water has not been treated with chemicals like drinking water has.



Celebrity Sighting

The film crew was at our board member, Rocky Bateman's farm in New Salem, ND filming for a production of the NRCS soil health training video. They also interviewed Jerry Doan, McKenzie, ND and made stops at Menoken Farms, Menoken, ND and the ARS, Mandan, ND for soil health information for the video. These videos will be used to educate staff and producers. They are hoping to release the video in late September.



Reducing Fertilizer Loss

One of the main goals of the Danzig Dam, Hailstone, and Big Muddy Watershed Program is to reduce waterborne levels of nitrogen and phosphorous to within state recommended guidelines. Agricultural operations can be a large contributor of these nutrients and fertilizer applications are a tremendous investment in the cost of crop production. Reducing fertilizer loss benefits not only water quality, but also the producer by keeping these nutrients in the soil where they belong and are contributing to plant growth.

Nitrogen (**N**) and phosphorous (**P**) differ in how they are susceptible to loss. **N** moves readily within the soil and as such is prone to loss in two ways. These are leaching (moving with moisture) or volatilizing (gassing off). Whether you apply your **N** in the form of urea or anhydrous, the ag market has stabilizer products available to help resist losses from leaching or volatility and keep your fertilizer in the field. Applying **N** closest to when plants will need it will also help to make sure that is used quickly and not lost. **P** is an essential nutrient for plant growth and one of the main components in starter fertilizers. **P** moves very slowly through the soil and binds very tightly with the soil particles that are present. This means that most significant risk of **P** loss comes from erosion either by wind or water. For this reason, surface applied **P** is more vulnerable, and there is less risk of loss when these nutrients are applied in furrow or banded into the soil.

It is important that agricultural producers recognize the risk when applying both **N&P** to the surface through broadcast applications. If significant rain or wind occurs after application, these nutrients could be transported to surface waters. Try to avoid surface applications in sensitive areas; near creeks, waterways, sandy soils, and consider using a form of incorporation to help retain the fertilizer.

Practices such as grassed waterways, cover crops, filter strips, buffers, and variable rate fertilizer application can be used to reduce fertilizer losses. Producers who are interested in implementing these practices can contact the office for technical assistance and to apply for cost-share.



Tree Care

Just a couple things to keep in mind as we go through this dry and windy summer. We recommend after heavy winds and rains to look at your plantings to make sure no fabric or staples have pulled up.

****Watering trees**, if we aren't getting timely rains, we recommend watering trees. Watering your trees can significantly improve their chances of survival, especially during establishment. The recommended amount of water is 10 gal per inch of tree diameter. Mature trees that are both located on appropriate sites and hardy in North Dakota typically do not require supplemental water.

****Weed control** is critical for the success of any tree planting. Ideally, existing sod and other vegetation should be removed from planting sites before trees are ever planted; however, removing weeds at any time can greatly improve the vigor and growth rate of trees and shrubs. This may be especially true during hot and dry parts of the year, where competition for moisture is at its peak.

If you are looking for information on getting some trees planted or need some technical assistance, call the office at 701-667-1163 EXT 3 and ask for Thomas.



Conservation Planning Assistance for EQIP

By Jon Fettig, NRCS CDU Supervisor

If there is a positive that is going to come out of this dry year, it's that it will give us a look at where we can improve our operations. The Natural Resources Conservation Service can work with you to develop facilitating practices that will alleviate the effects of drought. Please contact our office if you are interested in conservation planning. This is the first step towards financial assistance with practices like cover crops, grass seedings, tree plantings, water developments, and cross fencing. By working on a conservation plan that fits your operation, we can help identify areas for improvement and then work on implementing a plan that could include cost share. The batching date for EQIP is September 24, 2021. This is the deadline to be eligible for financial assistance in 2022. We need to complete a field visit prior to the application sign up so we can determine the need and feasibility of the project.

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

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.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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■ Duppong's, Inc.	Pheasant's Forever	TK Veterinary Services
■ Farmers Union Insurance	PJ's Farm Supply Inc.	West River Telecomm
■ Margi Engelter	Prairie Nutrition Center, inc.	Western Coop Credit Union

UPCOMING EVENTS:

August 12th—Board Meeting
September 9th—Board Meeting
October 14th, Board Meeting
September 6th, Labor Day—Office Closed.
October 10th, Columbus Day—Office Closed

MCSCD Board meeting are the 2nd Thursday of the month & are open to the public. Check Facebook for dates, time, and location as meetings are subject to change.

SUPERVISORS:

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GEORGE FERDERER
ROCKY BATEMAN
RICHARD TOKACH
STEVE TOMAC
DUANE OLSEN
TRAVIS WOLF

DISTRICT PERSONNEL:

VALERIE FROHLICH
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NRCS PERSONNEL:

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

FARM BILL SPECIALIST

ALEE BOELTER