

Adams County Soil Conservation District

A PUBLICATION TO KEEP YOU UPDATED ON CURRENT CONSERVATION ISSUES AND EVENTS

SCD and NRCS Happenings

Adams County Soil Conservation District 2020 Awards

Three award winners were recognized for their achievements!

The Adams County Soil Conservation District celebrated their annual awards differently this year due to the pandemic. Three producers were recognized with awards for their outstanding work in the field of conservation. John and Kathy Vliem received the ACSCD Achievement Award. Randy Holden received the Tree Care Award and Ross Engraf received the Range Management Award. Unlike previous years, the SCD will not be able to hold their annual awards banquet this year but plans on recognizing the award winners at next year's banquet. Longtime board member Jamie Emerson participated in farm visits to present the awards and show appreciation to the great conservation work our producers are doing!

Soil Conservation District Achievement Award

John and Kathy Vliem accepted the ACSCD Achievement Award for 2020. The Vliems purchased their ranch northeast of Hettinger in September of 2001 to run Red Angus cow/calf pairs. Since then, they have implemented many conservation practices on their operation such as seed the tilled land back to perennial vegetation, plant four shelterbelts, and use a rotational grazing system. To start the rotational grazing system, John and Kathy installed a pipeline and put in sixteen water tanks throughout their pastures. They also cross-fenced for better grass usage and ease of moving cattle. The Vliems have been involved in several SCD and NRCS programs throughout the years to help with achieving their conservation goals.



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Upcoming Events

- January - Ag Appreciation Week
- February 14 - Valentine's Day

Office Closures

- December 24/25 - Christmas Eve/Day
- January 1 - New Year's Day
- January 18 - Martin Luther King Jr Day
- February 15 - President's Day



**Congratulations
John and Kathy Vliem
2020 Adams County Soil
Conservation Achievement
Award Winner**

Tree Care Award

Randy Holden (pictured right) was honored with the Tree Care Award for his outstanding work at caring for his trees that were planted with the SCD in the spring of this year. Randy took time to water his trees every other day and keep them weed free. The original tree grove was planted in 1938, so Randy felt it was time to renovate and plant new trees.



Range Management Award

Ross Engraf (pictured left) received the Range Management Award for his exceptional work with grazing management and extending the grazing season. The Engrafs started rotational grazing in 1998 and they have installed numerous pipelines, water tanks, and cross-fences to increase forage productivity. Ross has been diligent in learning about range management and has attended several workshops and pasture tours to better his own operation.

Celebrating Years of Service!

Kathy Vliem (pictured right) was recognized for 10 years of service as a Board Member and will be retiring her post in January.

Gail Froelich also received a plaque for 5 years of service as the District Clerk and retired in September.

The ACSCD would like to thank you for your years of service and wish you the best in the future!



Out on the Range

Submitted by Jessalyn Bachler

The Adams County Soil Conservation District Board has jumped into annual planning a bit early this year with the hopes to revamp the overall goals for the SCD. Board members have looked into an array of new programs and educational outreach options, along with grants and funding opportunities that are available to help producers in the conservation field. These grants could provide producers with financial assistance for many of the expenses that go into conservation planning. The ND Natural Resource Trust has several grants available to producers that assist with grazing management, soil rehabilitation, infrastructure reclamation, and habitat and vegetation establishment near energy development sites. The ND State Energy Program can help fund renewable energy technologies such as solar water project installation. The SCD is available to help producers plan and implement all types of conservation practices through these grants. The SCD also supports grants that are available through the ND Outdoor Heritage Fund and ND Forest Service to plant trees privately or in the community, along with other forest related opportunities. This is just a small list of grants available to producers in conjunction with the SCD, several other funding sources are being explored as well.

Board Members have also been busy planning and revising current SCD programs, along with conservation education and outreach. Although most outreach is currently going virtual, the SCD hopes to hold live workshops/conferences in partnership with NRCS, NDSU Extension, and other local SCDs in the near future! To assist in this process, it has been decided that the the SCD facilities and equipment need updating. New equipment options are also on the horizon from producer requests.

Be on the lookout for more information about these exciting changes that the SCD is working hard to put in place. If you would like to learn more about the Adams County Soil Conservation District planning process, feel free to join one of our monthly board meetings. Also be sure to check out our website at adamscountyscd.com for board meeting updates. Happy trails!

ADAMS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2021 PRODUCT AND SERVICES

Hand Plant Trees:	
<i>Conservation Grade</i>	\$2.00/tree
<i>Tall Stock</i>	\$4.00/tree
Tree Planting with Tree:	\$0.30/ft
Weed Barrier Fabric:	\$0.30/ft
<i>500ft roll</i>	\$150 each
<i>Weed barrier installed</i>	\$0.60/ft
Staples:	\$0.15 each
Tree Tubes:	\$6.50 each
Marking Flags:	\$0.10 each
Plantskydd:	Prices vary
12' Grass Drill Rental:	\$6.50/acre
	<i>*Down Payment Required</i>
15' No-Till Drill Rental:	\$10.00/acre
	<i>*Down Payment Required</i>
Weed Wiper Rental:	\$25.00/day
Mowing:	
<i>First round</i>	\$60/hour
<i>Second round</i>	\$50/hour
Mileage:	\$3.00/mi

HELP WANTED!

The Adams County Soil Conservation District is seeking seasonal employees to help with tree planting and equipment operation for 2021. Please visit our website at <https://www.adamscountyscd.com/board-members-and-employees> or contact the SCD at (701) 567-2462 Ext. 3 or (701) 928-1544 for more information.



New Soil Conservation District Website

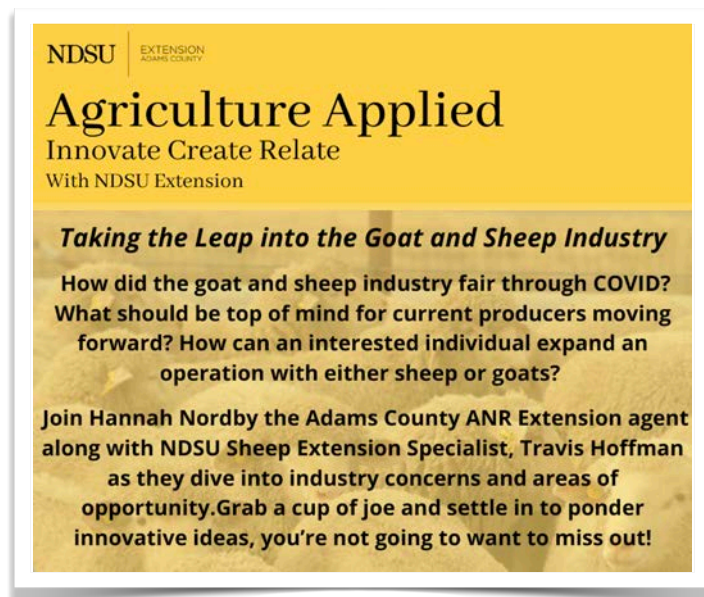
Find conservation information, access SCD documents, and more!

The new ACSCD website was unveiled a few weeks ago. Producers can now access information about SCD programs, archived newsletters, board meeting agendas, product and service information, and any important office updates all in one place! Visit the website at www.adamscountyscd.com to find out more. If you have any suggestions or additions to the website, please let us know!



College Scholarship Opportunity

The Adams County Soil Conservation District offers the annual Chris Christman Conservation Scholarship for \$500 to a graduating high school senior that is a resident of Adams County or is attending high school in Adams County. To be eligible for the scholarship the student must plan on pursuing a two or four year degree in agriculture, natural resources, or a related field. Visit our website at <https://www.adamscountyscd.com/awards-and-scholarships-1> or email adamssoils6727@gmail.com to get an application! Applications must be received by email or mail by April 1st, 2021 for consideration.



Agriculture Applied: New Podcast Released

Hannah Nordby, Adams County Extension Agent, developed Agriculture Applied, a podcast lineup created for producers, extension agents, and agriculture industry workers. Topics covered vary from crop variety releases to cattle nutrition.

The latest episode focuses on the impacts COVID-19 had on the goat and sheep industry. Tune in at: <https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/adamscountyextension/podcast>.

2020 Annual Report

Board Reorganization and Staffing Changes

Hayden Evans, Seth Hofland, Kathy Vliem remained elected SCD Board Supervisors. Jamie Enerson and Anthony Larson were appointed SCD Board Supervisors. Hayden Evans was elected Chair; Seth Hofland was elected Vice Chair. Shorty Hoerauf and Sean Weinert were appointed SCD Board Advisors.

Natalie Euler resigned the Farm Bill Specialist position in February. Katherine Brackel accepted the position after resigning as the District Technician. Randy Raasch was hired as the District Technician in March and left in August. Two seasonal employees were hired for tree planting. In May, Katherine accepted a position with the NRCS as a Soil Conservation Technician. Alee Boelter started as the Farm Bill Specialist that same month. In August, Jessalyn Bachler started as the District Manager. Gail Froelich retired as District Clerk in September. In December, Katherine accepted the Soil Conservationist position with the NRCS.

Conservation Awards and Scholarships

John and Kathy Vliem received the Adams County Soil Conservation Achievement Award. Randy Holden received the Tree Care Award. Ross Engraf received the Range Management Award.

Michelle Witt was the Chris Christman Conservation Scholarship Winner. The SCD sponsored Riley Hasbrouk to attend the ND Youth Range Camp in June. The SCD was also sponsored the Adams County Fair Overall 4-H Showmanship Winner, Lauren Weishaar.

Education and Outreach

The Kindergarten Trees and Tom Gibson TREES programs were postponed for the year due to COVID-19. The SCD Website (adamscountyscd.com) was created in November with the intent to reach producers.

Workshops and Coffee Talks

The SCD sponsored the Adams County Ag Appreciation Banquet that took place in January. The Tree and Horticulture Workshop was postponed in April. The spring Coffee Talk: Cover Crops 2.0 was postponed. The fall Coffee Talk: Pasture Walk was at Ross Engraf's operation in August. The winter Coffee Talk: Winter Feeding was postponed.

Events Attended

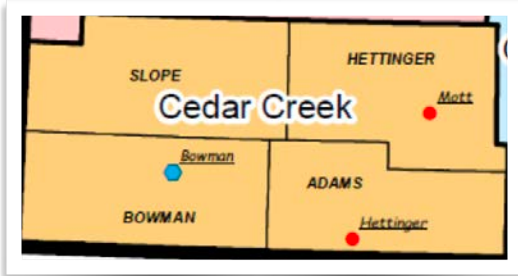
- NRCS Soil Health Team Meeting - Kate Motzko
- 2018 Farm Bill Webinar Trainings - NRCS
- HREC Cover Crops Plots Tour - NRCS
- Soil Health Workshop - Katherine Brackel
- Farm and Home Show - SCD Booth, Jessalyn Bachler
- Farming and Ranching Bottom Line Workshop - Kate Motzko
- SDGC Cattle Handling Workshop - Hannah Nordby and Jessalyn Bachler
- Soil and Water Leadership Academy, Level 1 - Anthony Larson, Sean Weinert, and Jessalyn Bachler



“2020 has been an interesting year for all. From figuring out how to meet with producers safely to attending conferences, trainings, and meetings virtually, it has been a challenge to say the least. We are doing our best to serve local producers and keep conservation going on the ground!” - Adams County Soil Conservation/NRCS Hettinger Field Office Staff

NRCS Conservation Award

The Cedar Creek Conservation Delivery Unit (Bowman, Hettinger, and Mott field offices) received the Conservation Planning “Boots on the Ground” award from Mary Podoll, ND NRCS State Conservationist.



2020 Programs Summary

- ▶ 13 New Contracts for 2020
 - ▶ 6 EQIP
 - ▶ 2 CSP
 - ▶ 5 CSP - GCI
- ▶ 28 New Applications for 2021
 - ▶ 22 EQIP
 - ▶ 1 CSP Renewal
 - ▶ 5 CSP - GSI
- ▶ 182 Practices Checked/Approved
- ▶ 37,315 Total Feet Trees Planted
 - ▶ 2 Outdoor Heritage Tree Plantings
 - ▶ 7 EQIP Tree Plantings
 - ▶ 1 CSP Tree Planting
- ▶ Final Year of MDU Tree Checks
- ▶ Douglas fir Trials Reported

Farm Service Agency
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

USDA to Open Signup for the Conservation Reserve Program and CRP Grasslands in Early 2021

WASHINGTON, Nov. 12, 2020 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced the signup periods for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the CRP Grasslands in 2021. Signup for general CRP will be open from Jan. 4, 2021, to Feb. 12, 2021, and signup for 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.

“The Conservation Reserve Program and the many focused programs that come under it, like CRP Grasslands, are some of our most critical tools we have to help producers better manage their operations while conserving natural resources,” said Richard Fordyce, Administrator of USDA’s Farm Service Agency. “As one of our nation’s largest conservation endeavors, CRP has proved to protect our valuable resources, and next year’s signup gives our farmers and ranchers an opportunity to enroll for the first time or continue their participation for another term.”

Enrollment Options

CRP—General Signup

Through [CRP](#), farmers and ranchers establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees, to control soil erosion, improve water quality and enhance wildlife habitat on cropland. Farmers and ranchers who participate in CRP help provide numerous benefits to the nation’s environment and economy. CRP general signup is held annually. The competitive general signup includes increased opportunities for enrollment of wildlife habitat through the [State Acres For Wildlife Enhancement \(SAFE\)](#) initiative.

Grasslands Signup

[CRP Grasslands](#) helps landowners and operators protect grassland, including rangeland, pastureland, and certain other lands while maintaining the areas as grazing lands. Protecting grasslands contributes positively to the economy of many regions, provides biodiversity of plant and animal populations, and improves environmental quality. A separate CRP Grasslands signup is offered each year following general signup.

HETTINGER NRCS FIELD OFFICE COVID-19 UPDATE

The Hettinger NRCS and Adams County SCD offices are back in Phase 0 for the reopening of USDA offices. The door remains locked and visitors are not allowed in the office at this time. We are open via phone or email appointment; you can reach us in the the office at (701) 567-2462 Ext. 3 or on the SCD cell at (701) 928-1544.

We look forward to the day we can have an open door for all again!



Living Snow Fence for Road Protection

Submitted by Kate Motzko

It's that time of the year where snow drifts and icy roads are starting to have a major impact on our travel. Before the headache of mechanical snow removal begins it's time to talk about possible money-saving alternatives. A living snow fence is one of the cheapest and longest lasting alternatives available to help with the problem. A properly designed and placed living snow fence helps to stop the snow that blows across the field while allowing enough wind through to blow any accumulated snow off the road.

A living snow fence is a two or three row tree belt planted parallel to the driving surface in need of protection. A living snow fence usually consists of a shrub on the outside, a medium height tree in the middle, followed by another shrub. This combination of short and medium height trees and shrubs works in a couple ways. It will catch snow blowing just above the ground up to the midlevel of the trees. This allows higher moving snow to blow over the top of the road. It also still allows some wind to blow through the trees, propelling any accumulated snow off the road. Living snow fences can be utilized in all sorts of locations. A living snow fence could line an entire driveway, gravel road, or highway. It could also be utilized in dangerous spots such as intersections or where drifting frequently occurs. Depending on the planned use of the land between the trees and the road, the tree density can be adjusted to manipulate where and how the snow accumulates. A high-density planting will dump the snow in a big pile adjacent to the trees that can act as a natural barrier around a farmstead. A thinner planting can evenly spread the snow out to better facilitate cropping in the spring.

Without a doubt, an improperly designed and placed living snow fence will make snow drifting and accumulation problems much worse. One of the major factors determining how effective a living snow fence will be is how close it is to the road or driveway needing protection. A snow fence too close to the road will cause trapped snow to drift across the road every time the wind blows. If you take a drive around the county after a snowstorm you can see the problems caused by trees planted too close to the road. As a result, snow fences are touted as creating more problems than they solve. The good news is with proper design and placement a living snow fence can be very effective in keeping roads and driveways clear. A well-designed fence reduces hazardous driving conditions and resources needed to clear the road. At a minimum, 200 feet is required from the road edge to the windward side of the windbreak. Ideally, 300-400 feet should be allowed between the road edge and the windward side of the snow fence.

If you're interested in keeping snow off your roads and driveways while saving some money, it's time to start planning your living snow fence. To learn more about living snow fences and financial assistance, please contact your local Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) field office.



Orientation, length, height and density are all factors that determine the efficacy of a living snow fence to capture and store the greatest amount of snow.

Photo courtesy of USDA.



Segments of roads with living snow fences (left) have better driver visibility and road surface conditions than those without (right), leading to lower road maintenance costs and fewer accidents. Courtesy of the University of Minnesota © 2011

Across the Fence with Adams County Extension: Managing Stress in Hard Times

Submitted by Hannah Nordby,
Adams County Extension Agent

I'm not quite sure the reasoning but agricultural producers have been through the wringer recently. We go from extreme moisture conditions in 2019 to, well I think all I have to say is 2020 and you can fill in the blank there. While farming and ranching is naturally a stressful occupation, one can argue it's been extraordinarily overwhelming. Considering recent events have you noticed that some farmers/ranchers struggle under the pressures of events that you find easy to handle. Or perhaps you have wondered how other farmers/ranchers can go on in spite of the stress load they carry. Why is it that some farmers/ranchers can handle lots of stress and others very little? Researchers have identified three key factors between successful and unsuccessful stress managers.

First, individuals vary in their capacity to tolerate stress. For example, prolonged exertion and fatigue that would be only mildly stressful to a young farmer/rancher may prove very difficult for an older farmer/rancher or someone with a heart defect. Emergencies on the farm, delays and other problems that a confident producer takes in stride may be a stumbling block for one who feels inadequate. While part of an individual's stress tolerance is inborn, a crucial part depends on the quality of coping skills practiced. Learning to cope successfully with a stressor once makes it easier the next time.

A second factor is feeling in control. Successful stress managers know how to accept those stressors out of their control – the weather, their height, other fluctuations – and how to effectively manage those stresses within their control – such as neck tension, temper flare-ups or record keeping.

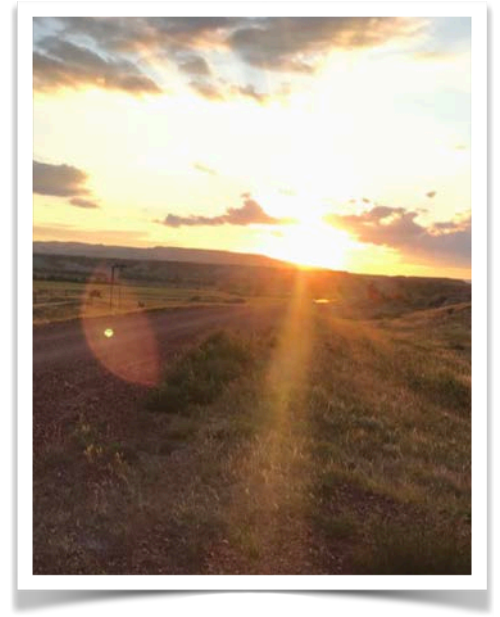
Finally, the attitudes, perceptions, and meanings that people assign to events determine a large part of their stress levels. A person has to perceive a situation as stressful or threatening in order to experience stress. If you think your dog is barking in the middle of the night because of a vandal, you will experience more stress than if you suspect a skunk has wandered into your yard. Stress can be defined as energy in a blocked or chaotic state. Individuals should seek to develop calm, free-flowing energy that promotes harmony and balance in a person's body, psyche and soul. To relax and manage stresses well during peak farm and ranch stress seasons – planting and harvesting – takes discipline and daily practice at controlling events, attitudes and responses.

Speaking from personal experience my family has learned if we are working and I seem to be on the edge or abnormally crabby the first question that needs to be asked is "When was the last time you ate?" Snacks and meal breaks are a necessity and no one wants to deal with a hangry Hannah. Jokes aside the following are some techniques individuals may adopt to gain control and reduce the pile-up of too many stressful events.

- Assign roles and responsibilities ahead of time. Communication is key.
- Set priorities about what has to be done today and what can wait until tomorrow. Plan your time.
- Just say no. Prioritize what is important and say no to extra commitments.
- See the big picture: "I'm glad that tire blew out here rather than on that next hill."
- List all the stresses you now have. Identify those you can change; accept the ones you cannot.
- Think about how to turn your challenges into opportunity.



- Notice what you have accomplished rather than what you failed to do.
 - Set realistic goals and expectations daily. Give up trying to be perfect. Control responses.
 - Focus on relaxing your body and mind. Whether you are walking, driving or phoning, do it slowly and relax. Keep only that muscle tension necessary to accomplish the task.
 - Tune in to your body. Notice any early signs of stress and let them go.
 - Take care of your body. Exercise regularly and eat well-balanced meals. Limit your intake of stimulants such as coffee, sodas and tea.
 - Avoid smoking cigarettes, using alcohol, other drugs, or sleeping pills.
 - Take a break. Climb down from your tractor and do a favorite exercise.
 - Take three deep breaths – slowly, easily. Let go of unnecessary stress.
 - Stop to reflect for 10 minutes. Close your eyes and take a short mental vacation to a place you enjoy. See the sights; hear the sounds; smell the smells. Enjoy and go back to work feeling refreshed.
 - Look for the humor in things that you do. Heaven forbid you laugh a little!
 - Find someone you can talk with about your worries and frustrations. Know the difference between venting and getting something off of your mind vs dwelling on the situation.
 - Seek help when needed; there are times when we can all benefit from professional help or support.
 - Unwind before bedtime. Do stretching exercises, listen to soothing music, practice rewinding deeply, and be thankful for any blessings received today. Then sleep well.
- A couple of my personal favorites:
- Practice gratitude. Even when things are going wrong there are many things to appreciate. Write them down.
 - Recognize the situation, but don't focus on the negative. Be proactive about addressing those challenges. Make a plan.
 - Instead of "I have to..." get into the habit of saying "I get to..."
 - Sit and watch a good ol' North Dakota sunrise or sunset.



In writing this article I reflected how my mom practices many of these techniques daily and instilled many of those habits in me. I'm sure we all can think of an individual that beams rays of sunshine and positivity. They didn't acquire those traits naturally, it takes time, determination, and dedication.

Farm/ranch family members can manage their stress well – even during planting and harvesting. The key is to be flexible and to maintain a balanced lifestyle. Make time daily to take care of yourself, for your work is vital to all of us.

During this time of social distancing, it is especially important to check in on family, friends and neighbors. A small gesture such as a quick text, short phone call or mailed note can go a long way.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to Hannah Nordby at the Adams County Extension Office at 701-567-2735 or Hannah.nordby@ndsu.edu with any comments, questions, or concerns. Stay safe and healthy everyone!

Adams County SCD Board Members

- Hayden Evans - Chairman
- Seth Hofland - Vice Chairman
- Jamie Enerson
- Anthony Larson
- Kathy Vliem
- Cheryl Hoerauf - Advisor
- Sean Weinert - Advisor

CONTACT US

Adams County SCD
 NRCS Hettinger FO
 (701) 567-2462 Ext. 3
 (701) 928-1544
 609 2nd Ave N
 PO Box 872
 Hettinger, ND 58639
 adamssoils6727@gmail.com
 www.adamscountyscd.com

Adams County SCD Employees

- Jessalyn Bachler - District Manager
- NRCS Employees**
- Kate Motzko - District Conservationist
- Katherine Brackel - Soil Conservationist
- Alee Boelter - Farm Bill Specialist

ADAMS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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