

ADAMS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Spring 2019



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

SCD and NRCS Happenings

2019 Services & Price List

Hand Plants:	
Conservation size	\$2.00/tree
Larger size	\$4.00/tree
Grass Drill:	\$6.50/acre
<i>Down Payment required</i>	
No-Till Drill:	\$10.00/acre
<i>Down Payment required</i>	
Tree Planting w/tree:	0.30/ft
Weed Badgering:	
1st time	\$60.00/hour
2nd time	\$50.00/hour
Mowing/Tilling:	
1st time	\$60.00/hour
2nd time	\$50.00/hour
Weed Wiper:	\$25.00/day
Weed Barrier fabric:	
500 foot roll	\$150.00/roll
Weed Barrier installed	\$ 0.60/ft
Plantskydd:	Prices vary
Tree Tubes:	\$4.00/each
Flags:	\$0.06/each
Staples:	\$0.15/each
Mileage:	\$3.00/mile

WELCOME LADIES!

District Technician

The new District Technician, Katherine Moratz, began working for the District in early March. Katherine is a Wisconsin native with a background in wildlife research and management (B.S. in Wildlife Ecology and M.S. in Wildlife Science). Some of you may remember her as the graduate student who ran the white-tailed deer project in Grant County for



North Dakota Game and Fish Department and South Dakota State University during 2014 and 2015. Upon completion of her M.S. in late 2016, Katherine was employed for a consulting firm in Bismarck addressing wildlife issues in the energy sector. Katherine is an avid outdoorswoman and loves to hike, camp, hunt, and fish. She loves being active and doing anything and everything with her six-year-old yellow Lab, Bella. Katherine also loves a good book and working on crochet projects for friends and family.

NDSU Extension Agent

There's a new face to Adams County Extension! Meet Hannah Nordby, a native to Amidon, ND, she grew up on a cattle ranching operation, was active in 4-H as well as in her community. She graduated from the University of Wyoming this past fall with a degree in Agricultural Education. March 2nd marked her two-month anniversary in the office. She is extremely excited to be here and help address community needs. Please feel free to stop in or call the office with any questions, comments or concerns you might have!



Upcoming Events:

- March 20-1st day of Spring
- April 11-Soil Testing Clinic
- April 16-Horticulture/Tree Workshop
- April 21-Happy Easter
- April 22-Earth Day
- April 26-Arbor Day
- May 27-Memorial Day (Office Closed)

Help Wanted

ADAMS COUNTY SCD IS SEEKING SEASONAL HELP WITH PLANTING TREES. Call the office 701-567-2462 Ext. 3 for more information.



Celebrate our planet by finding and circling the hidden Earth Day list of words in the word search puzzle

D R E U S E E N E R G Y U I F
 Y T V R S E T T W U A C Y P U
 S R Y F C A D L S P S K J Y S
 U R C U T T V N C L E A N I Z
 G E D I E V A E N P N T A L M
 S E B N V E E A E T L K P N W
 R A A H C M Q M T R E A L Q S
 H L K O U O S L E E N S N G Z
 P U N J M C N T O E P X U T V
 W A O X K U A S P S K H C W S
 A N Z P E W P R E S E R V E Y
 L Z O Z C J C B O R I T Y Y F
 A P N P R O T E C T V R A R M
 W O E F R E C Y C L E E O R D
 M V O L U N T E E R Y F T J M

CLEAN
 CONSERVE
 ENERGY
 HABITAT
 OCEANS
 OZONE
 PLANET
 PLANTS
 PRESERVE
 PROTECT
 RECYCLE
 REDUCE
 REUSE
 SAVE
 TREES
 VOLUNTEER
 WATER

Each year, Earth Day is celebrated on April 22., marking the celebration of the modern environmental movement that began on April 22, 1970 when people across the country took to the streets to protest the negative impacts of modern industrialization on the environment. This year's theme is "Protecting Our Species", highlighting the accelerated rate of extinction of many species across the globe.

Below are 10 ways to make a difference and celebrate Earth Day:

1. Walk, bike, or carpool to get places
2. Unplug unused appliances and turn off lights
3. Use reusable containers and bottles
4. Switch bills to paperless billing and pay online
5. Recycle whenever possible
6. Use earth-friendly cleaning products
7. Bring your own grocery bags to the store
8. Volunteer your time with an organization
9. Make your yard an oasis for wildlife
10. Plant a tree

Get more free activity and coloring pages @ www.theKidzpage.com
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Best Wishes Shari & Minetta

Shari has retired as District Technician. Shari has been an employee for 20 years with the district.

Minetta has resigned her appointed position March 1, 2019 as a supervisor. Minetta has served on the board for five years. Shorty Hoerauf has been appointed to serve Minetta's remaining term.

Thank you ladies for your years of service to the district.

If you have an interest in conservation and are interested in becoming a District supervisor, please contact the District office.



Thank you to Our Sponsors

West River Insurance Agency, Haley J Evans, Buckmier Excavating, Dakota Western Bank, Farmer's Union Insurance, and Gooseneck Implement



What's New: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the 2018 Farm Bill



Conservation Overview

- Strengthens and expands support to producers who address significant natural resource concerns through adoption of conservation practices and activities.
- Ensures that voluntary conservation programs balance farm productivity with conservation benefits so the most fertile and productive lands remain in production while land retired for conservation purposes favors more environmentally sensitive acres.
- Supports conservation programs that ensure cost-effective financial assistance for improved soil health, water and air quality, and other natural resource benefits.
- Encourages entry into farming through increased access to land and capital for young, beginning, veteran, and underrepresented farmers.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

- Adds potential resource concerns related to beneficial cost-effective operation changes.
- Raises cap for organic producers to \$140,000 over six years.
- New enrollment option through incentive contracts to address priority resource concerns.
- Requires advance payment option be offered to historically underserved producers.
- Authorizes direct program assistance to irrigation districts, including acequias and other entities, for purposes of improving water use efficiencies.

Conservation Stewardship Program

- Increases payment rates for adoption of cover crop rotations and advanced grazing management activities.
- Authorizes contract extensions to facilitate renewal under new program authority.
- Transforms funding mechanism for program contracts, authorizing specified annual funding levels.
- Provides specific support for organic and transitioning to organic production activities.
- Includes special grassland conservation initiative for certain producers who have maintained cropland base acres.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

- Authorizes assistance to partners who pursue 'Buy-Protect-Sell' transactions.
- Requires a conservation plan for highly erodible land that will be protected by a agricultural land easement.
- Increases flexibility for partners to meet cost-share matching requirements.
- Identifies water quality as a program purpose for enrollment of wetland reserve easements.
- Expands wetland types eligible for restoration and management under wetland reserve easements.

Other Farm Bill Programs

Strengthens conservation assistance framework through support for—

- Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services Program
- Conservation Innovation Grants
- Technical Service Providers
- Veteran Farmers
- Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program
- Conservation Compliance for Highly Erodible Lands and Wetlands
- Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program
- Emergency Watershed Protection Program

14th Annual
**HORTICULTURE &
 TREE WORKSHOP**

Tuesday, April 16th
 12:45 pm Registration
 1:00-4:30 pm Program
 Hettinger Research Extension Center

**FOR ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS CALL:
 HANNAH NORDBY/ 701-567-2735**

NDSU | EXTENSION
 ADAMS COUNTY



Adams County SCD



Spring Fever
Garden Forums

Learn from NDSU experts on:

- ◆ Hydroponics
- ◆ Tomatoes
- ◆ Vegetable Varieties
- ◆ Raspberries
- ◆ Pruning Shrubs
- ◆ Soil Test Kits
- ◆ Tree Maintenance
- ◆ Hydrangeas
- ◆ Ash Replacements
- ◆ Lawn Mowing
- ◆ Fresh-Cut Flowers
- ◆ Pollinators

Attend in person or on your home computer.

Contact Hannah Nordby at 701-567-2735 for more information!

www.ag.ndsu.edu/springfever/

Monday Nights
 March 25
 April 1, 8 and 15
 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. MST
 Free of charge

NDSU | EXTENSION
 Community Promotions
 Office, 120 S Main
 Use the SE Entrance

NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE

EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE >> CHANGING LIVES

Soil Testing Clinic
 Chris Augustin, Soil Health Specialist

In this workshop, you will learn how to read a soil test and determine agronomic fertilizer applications.

Topics include:

- What soil tests you need and do not need
- Crop specific soil tests
- New potassium recommendations
- And more
- If you have soil test questions, please bring your reports!

To Register: chris.augustin@ndsu.edu

Thursday
April 11, 2019
 9 a.m. to noon
 Hettinger Research
 Extension Center
 102 HWY 12 W
 Hettinger, ND

**NDSU Extension
 Adams County**
 Contact:
 Hannah Nordby
 701-567-2735
hannah.nordby@ndsu.edu
 Chris Augustin
 701-857-7682
chris.augustin@ndsu.edu

NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE | www.ag.ndsu.edu/extension

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Salinity and Sodic Soil Management Fact Sheet

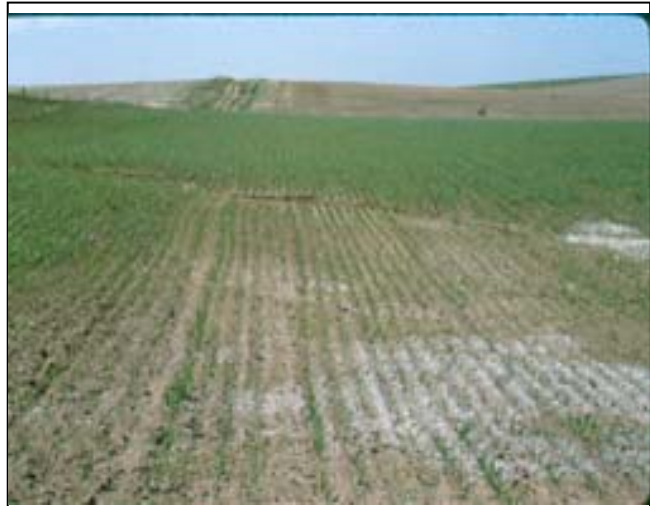
Applies to conservation practice 610 – Salinity and Sodic Soil Management

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - North Dakota

March 2005



Healthy crop was harvested from non-saline area in background. White area is foxtail barley which has high salt tolerance. Moderately salt-tolerant kochia is bright green. Bare ground is strongly saline.



Saline seep occurs on hillside where excess groundwater evaporates, leaving salt at the soil surface. Excess groundwater is result of fallow or low-water use crops grown on the recharge site, usually higher in landscape.

What is Salinity and Sodic Soil Management?

Salinity and Sodic Soil Management is the management of land, water and plants to control and minimize accumulations of salts and the effects of sodium in the rooting zone.

How it helps: The practice is intended to improve soil quality or plant productivity, or to convert unproductive cropland to suitable permanent vegetation. Where salinity problems are human-induced, the practice is intended to halt or reverse the adverse movement of salts due to excess groundwater. The practice can also help reduce soil crusting and improve permeability caused by sodic soils.

In addition to treating areas adversely affected by salts or sodicity, this practice also is applicable to treating saline seep recharge areas. In a recharge area, water in excess of the water holding capacity of the soil moves below the root zone, raising the local water table. The groundwater then flows downward and laterally, dissolving and transporting salts which eventually discharge near the surface. An improved water management system in the recharge area reduces this condition.

To apply this practice: The problem area must first be identified and delineated. Existing soil surveys delineate areas that are moderately to strongly saline or affected by sodium. Soil surveys and photographic tools can help identify other potential problem areas when field investigations are not possible.

Soils should be examined where salts are visible on the surface, vegetation is predominantly salt-tolerant, or vegetative growth is absent. Soil salinity can be determined on site by electrical conductivity meters or laboratory analysis of soil samples. Sodic soils can be identified in the field by NRCS employees or professional soil classifiers.

Treatment of salt- or sodium-affected areas usually involves planting permanent vegetation that is tolerant of saline or sodic conditions. Western wheatgrass, slender wheatgrass, and tall wheatgrass are commonly used to improve these areas. Other species such as alkali sacaton, hybrid wheatgrass (New-hy), beardless wildrye, sweetclover, alsike clover, or four-wing saltbush may also be suitable; contact NRCS for site-specific recommendations.

Immediately after planting permanent vegetation, applying mulch* to the area may be recommended to reduce evaporation. Reduced evaporation in turn reduces the additional accumulation of salts at the soil surface, which may aid seed germination and survival of desired species.

* Refer to conservation practice Mulching – 484.

To treat saline areas, artificial drainage may be used to remove excess ground water and accompanying salts. This approach is rarely used due to cost or lack of an acceptable outlet for the saline water. Refer to conservation practice Subsurface Drain – 606 and comply with applicable local, State, Tribal, and Federal drainage regulations.

Sodic soils can be treated with chemicals, but it is usually cost-prohibitive.

Recharge areas (areas that contribute additional water to saline seeps) are treated by growing deep-rooted perennial vegetation to help lower the water table. Growing alfalfa on recharge areas is particularly effective due to its deep rooting trait and long growing season. If years of groundwater monitoring indicate a lowering of the local water table, it may be acceptable to change from permanent vegetation to a crop rotation dominated by deep-rooted, high water use crops such as sunflower.

Details for implementing this practice are recorded in the Salinity and Sodic Soil Management Design and Installation Guide and the Standard in the Field Office Technical Guide. From the http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/efotg_locator.aspx?map=ND Web site, select the county of concern and then proceed to Section IV- Conservation Practices – Salinity and Sodic Soil Management subfolder.

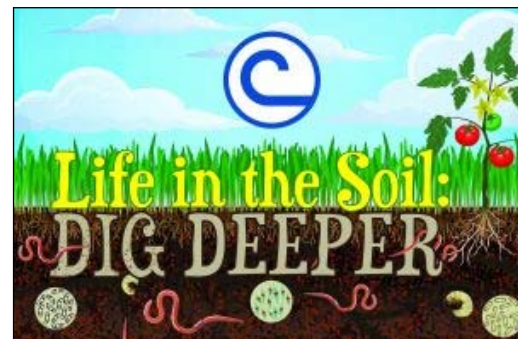
Maintaining the practice - Salinity and Sodic Soil Management: Fields planted to permanent vegetation for this practice need to be managed according to a site-specific plan developed along with the grass/legume seeding plan. Long-term maintenance is achieved with management practices such as Forage Harvest Management – 511, Prescribed Grazing – 528, Wildlife Upland Habitat Management – 645, or Conservation Crop Rotation – 328.

Where to get help: Contact your local NRCS office for a site-specific plan.

2019 Stewardship Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper

Stewardship week for 2019 will take place April 28-May 5. The Stewardship Theme is "Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper." Stewardship Week helps to remind us of the power each person has to conserve natural resources and improve the world. When everyone works together with their local conservation district, that power continuously grows. Educating young people about the benefits of conservation helps ensure the next generation will be wise stewards of America's natural resources.

Soil is an amazing substance. Soil is made of life and soil makes life.



"Essentially, all life depends upon the soil... There can be no life without soil and no soil without life; they have evolved together." ~ Charles E. Kellogg, *USDA Yearbook of Agriculture*, 1938.

Reminders

By Beth Points



CSP contract holders, remember to start your enhancements early this season, work on them throughout the growing season, and keep the documentation required for each one. Any assistance or questions you have about your CSP enhancements can be directed to the NRCS office. The application deadline for new CSP contracts is not yet known and will be coming out soon. Applications can be turned in throughout the year, stop in or call the office for more information.

EQIP contract holders, please let our office know before starting installation for any structural practices, and make sure to call the ND One Call number at 1-800-795-0555 before work begins. Grass seedings should be planted according to the seeding sheet our office has provided for you; please let us know if you need to change any part of the seeding mix. We recently sent out practice reminder letters for all 2019 practices, and if you have any questions on practices that you need to complete this year, please give us a call at the office.

Plant a Tree—Arbor Day

Arbor Day began in the 1870's—right around the time when Yellowstone, our nation's first national park, was designated—and in the decades following, many nations around the world followed suit. The 2019 Arbor day is April 26.



Class of 2019

ATTENTION: The Chris Christmann Scholarship is due **April 1, 2019**. Call the office for more details at **701-567-2462 ext. 3**.



Facts from the Field

By: Katherine Moratz

We are all hoping that spring is on its way! For those of you with tree plantings this year, below are a few guidelines for a successful planting:

- Sites that were cropped, especially if it was corn or sunflowers, need to be worked to break up stalks. Too much crop residue will plug the planter and not allow trees to be planted at the proper depth, resulting in poor tree survival.
- Sites with sod chunks need to be worked out to allow good compaction of the trees. Poor soil compaction allows for air to remain around the roots and results in poor tree survival.
- Work the ground well to a depth of 6-8 inches. The seed bed should be firm and level, similar to a garden site.
- If applying weed barrier, keep the site clean until the crew arrives to lay fabric. When in doubt, give us a call to check the site.



The picture above is an example of ideal site preparation with a smooth, even, and firm seed bed. Proper depth allowed for easy tree planting and fabric installation.

DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

Hayden Evans
Shorty Hoerauf
Kathy Vliem
Seth Hofland
Jamie Enerson

Adams County Soil Conservation District
PO Box 872 - Hettinger, ND 58639 - 701-567-2462

DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

Gail Froelich, District Clerk
Charles Mertz, District Technician
Katherine Moratz, District Technician

NRCS EMPLOYEES

Amanda Berg, District Conservationist
Beth Points, Soil Conservationist

PARTNER EMPLOYEES

Natalie Euler, NDASCD Farm Bill Specialist

ADAMS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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HETTINGER, ND 58639-0872

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*Do you know about
Conservation Client Gateway?*

Conservation Client Gateway is a web-based system that allows you to interact with your NRCS plans and contracts. You can E-Sign documents, track payments, submit requests for assistance and more. Find it at: www.nrcs.usda.gov/clientgateway

**West River
Insurance Agency**

Pam Weaver & Lisa Beckman, Agents
603 Adams Ave - Hettinger ND
(Lower Level of Dakota Western Bank)
(701) 567-9378

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Accounting & Taxes
123 Main Hettinger ND
701-567-2856

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