



# NELSON COUNTY NEWS

*Nelson County Soil Conservation District*

Spring 2019

## CONSERVATION CONVERSATION BY DEANN GALDE, DC

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*Soil Conservationist*

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Korrey Tweed

*SCD Manager*

Happy spring! I'm sure you are all anxious to get in the field and start spring's work! Many of you are finishing up calving season, while others are just getting started. Spring has always been one my favorite seasons. As a child, it meant baby calves, jumping in half frozen muddy puddles and picking crocuses in the nearby pastures. It has been a cool spring so far. Hopefully, we will see some warmer temperatures soon. We just finished up ranking EQIP applications for fiscal year 19. We should hear soon if any of our applications will be funded. There most likely will not be another EQIP batching period this year but you can sign an application at any time. We have a CSP application batching period going on through May 10th. CSP is a five year stewardship program where operators can make improvements to their land through various enhancements such as variable rate technology of nutrient application, planting cover crops or implementing a grazing rotation. There are many different practices and enhancements to choose from based on your farm's resource concerns. Each year on April 22nd, Earth Day is celebrated around the world. Earth Day was founded on April 22, 1970 by Gaylord Nelson, a senator from Wisconsin who thought an issue as important as our environment should be addressed. The theme for Earth Day 2019 is "Protecting Our Species". On April 18th and 23rd, I will be visiting the Dakota Prairie and Lakota elementary schools to teach the students about honey bees. Each student will plant a sunflower seed to take home and replant in their yard for pollinators to enjoy. I always enjoy my time at the schools and am grateful for the good teachers and students we have here in Nelson County. The Soil Health Workshop in March had a great turn out. The speakers were interesting and hopefully the producers in attendance learned something. You can check out some pictures and a write up inside this newsletter. Many of our neighboring states have been battling flooding and loss of livestock. The pictures and stories shared on social media are heartbreaking. When you are a livestock producer, your animals are not simply assets, but part of your family. Many of our ND farmers donated hay and other supplies. Farm Rescue, a wonderful organization right here in North Dakota, aided in the delivery. I am proud to be a North Dakotan and I know if we were in need, our neighbors would help us in return. It's what the Midwest is all about. We are ready to get out in the field and get conservation on the ground. Please let us know if we can assist you in your conservation goals. Have a safe spring!

### SCD Meetings:

June 5  
July 10  
August 7

USDA Building  
Lakota ND 8:00am

701-247-2514  
ext. 3

#### Land Changes

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have picked up or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report changes to the FSA office as soon as possible. Please provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property or a copy of the rental agreement for rented land. By providing this information now, FSA can provide the correct maps to use for reporting acres.



#### Farm Bill Information

USDA is currently developing policy and software for the programs under the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. FSA offices will be receiving this information and passing it along as it becomes available. In the meantime, USDA has developed two fact sheets highlighting what's new and what's changed. These fact sheets are available at [www.farmers.gov/farmbill](http://www.farmers.gov/farmbill). Producers are encouraged to monitor Farmer.Gov regularly for updated information.



# Nelson County Soil Health Workshop



Jay Fuhrer speaking about soil health principles



Kevin Sedivec speaking on cover crop and bale grazing



Jeremy Wilson speaking on regenerating soils with diversity



Producers listening to the speakers

On March 26th, Nelson County SCD and NRCS held a Soil Health Workshop at the Pekin Community Center. Jay Fuhrer, NRCS Soil Health Specialist spoke on soil health principles, Kevin Sedivec, NDSU Rangeland Management Specialist spoke on cover crop and bale grazing and Jeremy Wilson, Stutsman County producer spoke on regenerating soil with diversity. There were over thirty people in attendance. Thank you to Stein Seed, CHS, Central Plains Ag Services, Tronson Grain, Huso Crop Consulting, Agassiz Seed and Farmer's Union Oil of Tolna for sponsoring the event.

## 2020 Tree Plantings

It's never too early to start thinking about tree plantings for the spring of 2020. Plantings are planned a year in advance to ensure proper site preparation as well as guaranteeing the desired species are available.



SAVE THE DATE:

LADIES AG NIGHT

November 1, 2019

Tolna Business & Event Center



SunFlex 6' Tree Tubes  
\$6.00

SunFlex 6' Tree Tube  
with 6' Stake  
\$7.00



# Our Water

Keeping it Clean

North Dakota Department of Health Environmental Health Section

## What's Your Water Quality Impact?

By Jim Collins, Jr., Environmental Scientist, North Dakota Department of Health

Every day you make decisions that affect water quality.

- Should I toss this garbage out the car window?
- Is it time to fix that engine oil or hydraulic fluid leak?
- Should I mulch my lawn or use it for soil cover in the garden?
- Should I plant a cover crop?
- How close to the water's edge can I mow or cultivate?
- Should I test the soil before I fertilize the lawn or field?
- How do I properly dispose of or utilize pet and livestock waste?
- Do I use sand, salt or leftover fertilizer to melt the walkway ice?
- Should I flush this unused medicine down the drain?

Each day North Dakotans, both urban and rural, answer these questions. What are your answers? Unfortunately, many people think, "It's just a little bit; it won't affect it



Our state's streams, rivers and lakes are a collecting point for litter.

that much" or "I'm a long way from the creek/lake."

However, in each instance the effects can lead to water quality problems, such as harmful algal blooms, excess sedimentation and health concerns for aquatic life, pets, livestock, and humans.

To lessen your impact on water quality, you can:

- Have a garbage bag in your car and empty each time you visit a fuel station.
- If you find a fluid leak, fix it promptly.
- Use lawn clippings as a soil amendment in your garden or better yet leave them on the lawn. Clippings are an excellent source of nitrogen for the lawn and cheaper than fertilizer.
- Plant cover crops to keep bare soil at a minimum, saving soil and nutrients.
- Leave a buffer around streams and lakes to filter runoff.
- Always do a soil test to find out if fertilizers are needed.
- Pick up your pet waste and dispose of it in the trash or compost it. Livestock waste should be utilized as part of a nutrient management plan.
- Never use fertilizer to melt ice and use salt sparingly. Sand should be applied then swept up



Leaving a buffer strip improves water quality.

- in the spring and can be reused.
- Dispose of leftover pharmaceuticals properly.

Every year, staff from the Watershed Management Program samples streams, rivers and lakes across the state to assess the effects of your decisions on water quality. The program also partners with interested soil conservation districts to monitor local waterbodies to determine if restoration activities are needed.

For more information about the health of the state's waters, check out the *Integrated Section 305(b) Water Quality Assessment Report and Section 303(d) List of Waters Needing Total Maximum Daily Loads*. Every two years the department publishes this report and makes it available to the public. The current document may be found at [www.tinyurl.com/NDIntRep](http://www.tinyurl.com/NDIntRep).

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Environmental Health Section  
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[www.deq.nd.gov](http://www.deq.nd.gov)

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