

Golden Valley Soil Conservation District

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BADLANDS BULLETIN

Golden Valley Soil Conservation District

Winter 2018

“WHEAT, WOMEN & WINE”

7th ANNUAL WOMEN IN AG DAY

The “Wheat Women & Wine” Committee held their 7th annual Women in Ag Day on Nov. 3rd at the Golden Valley County Fairgrounds. The event provided an opportunity for the women in Golden Valley and surrounding counties to have a fun filled day of education, socialization and rejuvenation to help make them better business partners.

The event was organized as an afternoon long affair which included educational sessions on minimizing pesticide residues in your home, "Getting it all Done" with Annie Carlson and making homemade spice mixes.

The day concluded with an evening meal catered by the Beach Close-Up and key note speaker, Rebecca Udem who kept the ladies laughing while inspiring them to think outside the box.

Throughout the day, events such as wine & cheese tasting, wine & cheese pairing and a vendor show comprised of 22 booths from local home based businesses; provided plenty of time for fun and socializing.

The event was attended by 128 women from Golden Valley and surrounding counties.

Dates to remember:

- Office closed on Jan. 1st and 21st. Feb. 18th.
- Board Meeting 2nd Wednesday every month
- March 10th DST begins

Soil Testing:

Zone Sampling

\$80 first sample \$70 each additional sample.

Composit Samples:

\$80 per sample

Haney Test: (CSP Contract Enhancement)

\$100 per sample

Call Sheila at 872-4551 Ext 100 with any questions.

Save the date: 2019 “Wheat, Women, & Wine” Nov. 2nd



23rd Annual Ag. Forum

8:15 a.m. MST Registration and coffee, \$20 includes lunch

9:00 Welcome

9:10 “Acid Soils in North Dakota? Toto, I Think We’re Actually in Kansas!”
John Breker

10:00 “Influence of Soil pH on Herbicide Activity”
Brian Jenks

11:10 “Stop Telling Your Story”
Trent Loos

12 Noon Lunch

1:00 p.m. “North Dakota Farm and Ranch Financial Position”
Bryon Parman

2:00 “Utilizing Cover Crops to Improve Soil Health and Profitability”
Jerry Doan

3:10 “Covering North Dakota Agriculture for 40 Years”
Al Gustin and Dwayne Walker

Tuesday

January 15, 2019

Ramada

Grand Dakota Lodge

532 15th St W

Dickinson, ND

2018 ANNUAL REPORT GOLDEN VALLEY SCD

January

- Reappointed Linda Stoveland and Audrey Schieffer as supervisor for 1 yr term.
- Appointed Linda Stoveland chairman and Paul Schmitz vice-chairman for 2018
- Co-Sponsored Direction, Diversity, and Dollars workshop in Dickinson
- Published annual report and newsletter
- Audited district financial records for 2017
- Tree purchase agreements sent out

February

- Approved budget for 2018
- Finished tree plans for 2018

March

- Sheila attended Tree Promotion meeting in Bismarck.
- Hosted Tom Gibson "Project Trees" to local schools

April

- Distributed stewardship materials to local schools
- Sponsored "Family Fun Night" @ grade school
- Published spring newsletter

- Started spring soil testing

May

- Received trees from Lincoln Oakes & Towner Nurseries
- Completed tree plantings 37,135 feet.
- Handplanted 816 trees
- District 1/4 seeded to hay crop

June

- Completed fabric installation on tree plantings.
- Held annual tree sale
- Held Area V meeting
- Started mowing tree rows.

July

- Practice checkouts
- Published newsletter
- Hay put up on the District 1/4
- Attended Leadership Academy Course
- Soil scientist out to investigate tree sites

August

- Started fall soil testing

September

- Soil testing
- "Wheat, Women, and Wine" preparations

October

- Held annual Ag Banquet
- Attended "Armed to Farm"

November

- State Association Convention in Bismarck
- Co-sponsored 7th annual "Wheat Women and Wine"

December

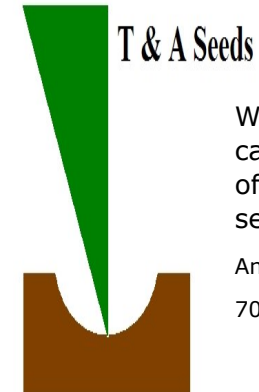
- Published newsletter
- Tree order forms sent out

SPIEGELBERG SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE APRIL 1, 2019

THE GOLDEN VALLEY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT HAS AVAILABLE A \$400 SCHOLARSHIP FOR A GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR OR CURRENT COLLEGE STUDENT.

CALL SHEILA @ 872-4551 EXT 3 FOR MORE INFORMATION OR AN APPLICATION.

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Pheasants Forever

Golden Valley Chapter

#777

Anyone interested in joining Pheasants Forever should contact

Bob @ 872-6802



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North Dakota Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

1. What are the effects of excessive amounts of nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) in our rivers, streams, lakes and reservoirs?

While nitrogen and phosphorus are natural parts of aquatic ecosystems, when too much of these nutrients enters the environment (usually from human activities) water can become polluted. Nutrient pollution in water causes algae to grow faster

than the ecosystem can handle. Significant increases in algae can harm water quality, food resources and habitats, and decrease the oxygen that fish and other aquatic life need to survive. Some algae blooms are harmful to humans because they produce elevated toxins that can make people sick when they come into contact with the polluted water or drink contaminated water.

2. Are there waters in North Dakota currently being impacted by nutrients?

Yes, since the department began monitoring for harmful algal blooms (HABs) in 2016, 19 separate lakes have had algal blooms producing toxins above safe levels. Currently, 47 lakes and reservoirs are assessed as impaired due to nutrients; 93.3 percent of rivers and streams are impacted by excess nitrogen, and 77 percent are affected by excess phosphorus (2016 Integrated Report, North Dakota Department of Health).

3. What are the major sources of nutrients in North Dakota?

Some of the more common sources are erosion and runoff from cropland, runoff from animal feeding operations, industrial and municipal wastewater treatment, stormwater runoff (e.g., residential fertilization) and failing septic systems.

4. Is this a new regulation?

No, the nutrient reduction strategy is not a new rule or regulation. It utilizes current rules in a coordinated way to address the problem. A successful strategy means no new rules or regulations will be required.

5. Will this strategy restrict how I can apply fertilizer or require certification?

The strategy will highlight methods that can help ag producers use fertilizer more effectively to prevent losing nutrients off the fields. It doesn't govern fertilizer application or add any new requirements for certification.



Algal bloom on a North Dakota lake. Photo courtesy Jim Collins Jr., NDDoH



A producer applying nutrients. Photo courtesy Lynn Betts, USDA-NRCS



6. Will preventing nutrient pollution hurt my profitability?

In many cases, the strategy may help with profitability. More efficient use of fertilizer can lead to lower input costs and higher yields. Improvements to soil health increases the soil's productivity. At the same time the water quality of nearby water resources is improved because nutrient runoff is reduced.

7. What limits will Publicly Owned Treatment Works have to meet and when?

The limits and timing for municipal wastewater treatment plant will vary depending on the waterbody to which they discharge. Municipalities will have time to plan for upgrading their treatment systems and many have already started.

8. How will the strategy be implemented?

The North Dakota Department of Health (soon to become the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality) will begin by changing its internal policies to focus on the nutrient reduction actions in the strategy. Other stakeholders will take the steps they've agreed to as they can. Some things are already being done by the department and stakeholders, such as watershed implementation projects and the Pheasants Forever Precision Agriculture and Conservation Program.

9. When will the department develop numeric nutrient criteria?

First, the department will prioritize waterbodies across the state, then collect data and review the science of the waterbody to determine appropriate criteria. Stakeholders will have an opportunity to comment on our work before anything is finalized. Only after that is completed will criteria be adopted.

10. What are other states doing?

Most states are going through similar processes and taking actions that address their state specific conditions.

Iowa:

www.nutrientstrategy.iastate.edu/

Minnesota:

www.pca.state.mn.us/water/nutrient-reduction-strategy



Figure 3. Checking the soil to determine fertilizer needs. Photo Courtesy Amy Smith, USDA-NRCS

Questions or comments?

Karl Rockeman or Mike Ell

701.328.5210

Email: EHS@nd.gov



Cover Crop Resource Series

COVER CROP FACTS

Cover Crops at Work: Increasing Infiltration

An overview of cover crop impacts on water infiltration to the soil¹



Photo Credit: Edwin Remsburg

ABOUT COVER CROPS

Cover crops are tools to keep the soil in place, bolster soil health, improve water quality and reduce pollution from agricultural activities.

- They include cereals, brassicas, legumes and other broadleaf species, and can be annual or perennial plants. Cover crops can be adapted to fit almost any production system.
- Popular cover crops include cereal rye, crimson clover and oilseed radish. Familiar small grain crops, like winter wheat and barley, can also be adapted for use as cover crops.

Learn more at
www.sare.org/cover-crops

Cover Crops and Infiltration

Cover crops can successfully increase the infiltration of water into the soil layer. They do this by covering the ground with their biomass and by improving soil structure with their roots. Some specific mechanisms include:

- Preventing soil surface sealing (where the soil becomes impermeable after rainfall)
- Improving soil structure with increased soil aggregate stability, soil porosity and water storage capacity

Different types of cover crops may have different effects on infiltration because of their unique biomass growth and composition, and results vary based on how long the cover crop is grown.

- Non-legume cover crops, including bromegrass and rye, increased infiltration by 8% to 462%, based on a range of studies.
- Legume cover crops, including crimson clover, hairy vetch and strawberry clover, increased infiltration by 39% to 528%.
- Soil surface cover by residue alone increased infiltration by up to 180% in field trials.

Management Decisions Matter

Management that encourages continuous ground coverage by residues and cover crops will be best suited to positively impact the infiltration of water to the soil surface. Tillage practices are another important management decision for water infiltration.

- No-till management has been found to increase rainfall infiltration.
- One study reported that runoff from no-till fields was two to four times less than from conventional-till plots.

A Far-Reaching Solution

When water is able to enter the soil profile, rather than running off the soil surface, there is less risk of displacing soil particles through erosion. Increased infiltration also signals possible benefits to the water conditions within the soil profile. By keeping the soil in place and improving soil conditions, cover crops are mitigating pollution risk while also boosting the productive capacity of the soil.



¹ Unless otherwise cited, all data comes from a bibliography compiled by SARE and the University of Missouri.

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