



Grand Forks County Soil Conservation District



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Contact us:

Phone: (701) 772-2321 ext. 3

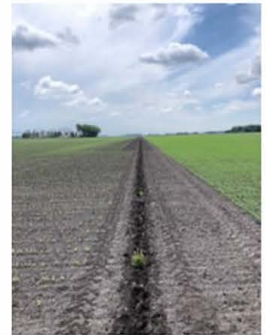
www.gfscd.org

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

2018 Tree Season

By Josh Moe

Another spring came and went quickly with a busy planting season! Because of the weird spring, trees came in a little late. This put us behind the ball right away, which forced us to hustle planting and bagging trees. Except for a couple dry sites, most of the plantings started the second week in May. This year we had 58 tree plantings sites, which was 10 more than last year. We were lucky this year to avoid many rain days, which can be stressful. By prioritizing wet sites first, we were able to stay busy through the season. We met our goal to plant all the trees by the end of May by finishing on the 31st!



We had 3 great seasonal workers this year that helped get all our work done. We also had the privilege of getting a volunteer for a few weeks this year. We benefited from the extra help, and he earned volunteer hours for the Sacred Heart School. Most of this year's numbers were up from last year, with the exception of a few categories. The number of trees ordered almost doubled from last year, which is good to see. The North Dakota Forest Service still provides 50% cost share for wind-break renovation. We hope to have funds through the Outdoor Heritage Fund again next year, which also covers 60% of tree plantings.

I want to thank everybody who ordered trees and had trees/grass planted this year! If you are thinking about ordering trees or having trees planted, this is the time to stop in and get a plan drawn up for you!

2018 Summary

Trees Ordered - 41,592
Mechanically Planted Trees - 13,207
Tree Stock Sold - 17,222
Surplus Trees Sold ~ 5,684
Tree Plantings ~ 101,076 feet (19.14 miles)
Fabric Installed - 48,195 linear feet
Tree Tubes Sold - 582
No-till seeding ~ 530 acres
Mowing - 22 hours
Hand Plantings - 629



SAVE THE DATE!

Soil Health Workshop

March 14th

Ramada Inn - Grand Forks

Time: 9am - 2:00pm

RSVP: By March 5th by calling
Justin @ (701)-772-2321 ext 3.

Free lunch Provided!

Soil Demonstrations/tools, up-close look at nematodes, and more!

Grand Forks Country Soil Conservation District

Annual Report

January: Board member Aaron Smestad takes oath as Chairman and the 2018 business plan and budget were approved. SCD's Annual Report was published in the winter newsletter. "Table Talk" event held in Larimore where discussion was had on soil health and farming practices. Staff assisted customers with their tree planting plans throughout the winter months.

February: Staff gave a presentation on district services and water quality at the Annual Township Meeting. SCD set up a booth at the Crop Expo inside the Alerus Center. SCD attended Cass Counties "Conservation Farming Workshop" in Mapleton.

March: SCD staff attended the annual tree promotion workshop and Watershed Coordinators meeting in Bismarck. SCD was awarded a Natural Resources Trust grant to help fund the 2019 Soil Health Workshop. Staff built a compost barrel for display at events. "Table Talks" was held at the Manvel Senior Center to discuss soil health practices and techniques.

April: Tress arrived for the 2018 planting season. Staff took care of the trees and prepared the tree shed for another season. The spring newsletter was sent out. Staff had a booth at "Gardening Saturday" inside the Alerus Center. Staff presented "pollinator plantings" at the Grand Forks Growth and Support Center. The first water samples of the year were collected along the English Coulee (water sampling continued through mid-November).

May: The month of May was very busy! It started with bagging tree orders and then moved quickly to the spring planting season. Staff planted the community garden downtown and spoke at the water festival in East Grand Forks.

Two \$1000 scholarships were awarded to 2 local high school students. Both students were asked to write an essay on the topic: "How can agricultural practices reduce wind and water erosion and what are the benefits?"

The district started no-till seeding for their customers with their 15ft Great Plains no-till drill.

June: The tree crew finished planting, laying fabric, and tubing nearly 20 miles of trees! Staff held the annual "Tree Sale" and sold 5,684 trees!

No-till planting was busy through June across the county.

July: The summer newsletter was sent out, water sampling was ongoing, and no-till seeding was busy across the county.

August: Staff from NRCS and SCD along with local producers, joined Jay Fuhrer on a local field tour promoting soil health practices. We enjoyed getting out in the fields and listening to different producers talk about their challenges and operations. Outdoor heritage funds were used to cover some costs for some of our customers' tree plantings. Staff worked on windbreak renovation questionnaires for 2019 tree plantings and planning for Eco-Ed took some of our time.

SCD planted 50 acres of cover crops for 2 producers. This is a practice we want to keep moving forward with and increase the total number of acres each year!

September: The 19th annual Eco-Ed camp was held at Turtle River State Park. Hosting the camp at the park provides area middle schools hands-on natural resource learning opportunities. Students were identifying and aging trees, looking closely at wildflowers and grasses, wading in the Turtle River, and talking about soil and water quality concerns. The rotating stations included forestry, wetlands, water quality, prairies, soils, and wildlife. This was a six day event.

Local field tour to discuss cover crops, no-till, soil health, equipment use, and cover crop grazing was attended by staff.

Staff completed mowing services for customers and began new site visits to gauge tree mortality rates. This data will be used when customers re-order their replacement stock in 2019.

October: The annual report for the English Coulee watershed plan was submitted to the state, and the fall newsletter was sent out.

November: SCD and NRCS staff attended the 80th Annual SCD meeting held in Bismarck. SCD and NRCS staff spoke with UND wildlife students about each agency, job duties, and opportunities after college. District equipment was serviced and put away for the winter.

December: Staff started filling tree orders for spring planting and continue writing up tree plans as they come in. Meetings and planning for 2019 take up most of the time in December. Board members performed their annual employee evaluations, and a turkey meal was had by all!



2019 Soil Health Workshop

March 14th, 9:00-2:00

Ramada Inn: 1205 N. 43rd Street
Grand Forks, ND

RSVP by March 5th!
701-772-2321 Ext 3674

Featured Speakers



Russell Hedrick: Russell is a first-generation farmer in the foothills of Hickory, N.C. He grows non-GMO corn, non-GMO soybeans, white wheat, black oats, triticale, and barley. He incorporates animals with his cash crops using mob grazing with multispecies cover crop mixes. His dedication to new technologies and cover crops awarded him with the North Carolina Innovative Young Farmer of the Year in 2014. Russell uses the Haney soil test to reduce his fertilizer inputs. He focuses on maximizing profits and direct consumer marketing for all their products. His partnership with Foothills Distillery produced the first bourbon in North Carolina since prohibition.



Dr. David Franzen: Dr. Franzen earned his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois, IL. He worked 18 years as an agronomist and manager in the retail fertilizer business. In 1994 he joined faculty as an extension soil specialist with North Dakota State University. His research interests are site-specific nutrient management and soil fertility.



Mike Larson: Mike has been farming in the Valley since 1987. He practices no-till, diversified cover crops, and diverse crop rotation. He earned his Ag Econ degree from NDSU and currently farms in Marshall Co. MN. Mike believes in reduced tillage with minimal disturbance.

Sponsored by:

Grand Forks County Soil Conservation District
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Red River Retention Authority
North Dakota Department of Health
North Dakota Natural Resources Trust



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319 Funding for Landowners

More practices are available to help landowners. If you have a question on the English Coulee or about the 319 grant, contact Justin @701-772-2321 ext. 3



Deadline for Tree Order: February 22!

- *Get your field tested —let that guide your management decision.*
- *Consider a full season cover crop, perennial grasses, or alfalfa on areas with high salt levels.*
- *Improve drainage by improving soil health*
- *Use more salt-tolerant cash crops such as barley.*
- *Use as much water as you can throughout the growing season by putting cover crops to work for you.*

- *Set your farm goals*
- *Look at your crop rotation*
- *Use mixes you can manage*
- *Set up test plots*
- *Pick up a shovel and compare changes over time*

- *Plant trees to reduce wind erosion*
- *No-till cover crops to help manage moisture*
- *Fund cover crop seed up to **\$1,000***
- *Plant alfalfa or perennial grasses on salt affected areas*
- *Fund grazing plans for those along the Coulee*

\$2 each #	Shrubs (Minimum 5 per variety)	\$2 ea. #	Shrubs (Minimum 5 per variety)	\$2 ea. #	Med. to Lg. Trees (Minimum 5 per variety)
	Buffaloberry		Seaberry		Boxelder
	Caragana		Silverberry		Buckeye (Ohio)
	Cherry (Nanking)		Sumac (Smooth)		Cottonwood (Native)
	Cherry (Sand)		Willow (Sandbar)		Cottonwood (Male)
	Chokeberry (Black)		Willow, Flame		Cottonwood (Siouxland)
	Chokecherry (Common)		Winterberry, Euonymus		Green Ash
	Cotoneaster	\$2 ea #	Small Trees to Med. (Minimum 5 per variety)		Elm (Siberian)
	Cranberry (Highbush)		Apricot (Hardy)		Hackberry (Common)
	Currant (Golden)		Crabapple (Red Splendor)		Linden (American) limited
	Dogwood (Redosier)		Crabapple (Siberian)		Linden (Littleleaf)
	Elderberry		Hawthorn (Arnold)		Maple (Freeman)
	False Indigo limited		Maple (Amur)		Maple (Silver)
	Honeysuckle (Freedom)		Olive (Russian)		Maple (Red)
	Juneberry		Pear (Ussurian)	OUT	Bur Oak
	Lilac (Common)		Plum (Native)		Bur-Gambel Oak
	Lilac (Late)		Birch (Paper) limited		Poplar (Hybrid)
	Rose (Woods)				Quaking Aspen
					Walnut (Black)
\$2 each #	Conifers/Evergreens (Minimum 5 per variety)	\$2 ea #	Conifers/Evergreens (Minimum 5 per variety)		Willow (Golden)
	Cedar (Eastern Red)		Spruce (Black Hills)		Willow (Laurel)
	Juniper (Rocky Mountain)		Spruce (Colorado Blue)	\$5 each (Minimum 5 per variety)	
	Pine (Ponderosa)		Spruce (Meyers)		Princeton Elm
	Pine (Scotch)	\$14 ea	2 Gallon Potted Spruce	\$5 each	Boyne Raspberry
	Siberian Larch		Spruce (Black Hills)		No Minimum limited
			Spruce (Colorado Blue)		Prairie Yellow Apple 2-3'
Quantity				Deadline for tree orders is February 22, 2019.	
	Regular stock trees	x	\$ 2.00	\$ -	
	Raspberry/Prtn Elm/Apple	x	\$ 5.00	\$ -	
	2 Gallon Potted Spruce	x	\$ 14.00	\$ -	
	Bundle Discount	x	\$ 10.00	\$ -	
	3'x3' Fabric Mat	x	\$ 2.00	\$ -	
	4' Tree Tubes	x	\$ 3.50	\$ -	
	Stakes	x	\$ 1.00	\$ -	
	Fabric per LF	x	\$ 1.00	\$ -	
	1 qt. Plantskydd	x	\$ 22.00	\$ -	
	1.32 gallon Plantskydd	x	\$ 55.00	\$ -	
	1 lb Plantskydd concentrate	x	\$ 25.00	\$ -	
	2.2 lb Plantskydd concentra	x	\$ 40.00	\$ -	
	Plantskydd-Granular for ga	x	\$ 15.00	\$ -	
Subtotal			\$	-	
Sales Tax (Total x .0725)			\$	-	
Balance Due (100% required on orders < \$500.00)					
Deposit (50% required on orders ≥ \$500.00)					
Balance Due (\$0.00 if paid in full)			\$	-	
(Enter Last name below)				(Enter First name below)	
Address				City	ST Zip
					ND
Bundle discount is offered on all trees except Princeton, Boyne Raspberry and Apple trees. By ordering in quantities of 25 (25, 50, 75, 100, etc.) of the SAME tree, you get a discounted price of \$40.00 per bundle, saving you \$10.00. No minimum on potted spruce or apple trees.					



Congratulations Gary--21 years on the SCD board! You made important changes, represented the district, and went to bat for SCD staff!

Thank you Gary!

Replacement Trees for Your 2018 Tree Planting

If you had a new planting done by the district this year, don't forget to order your replacements! These trees are available for \$1.00 per tree for the first year after planting if you hand plant them yourself. If you are unsure how many trees you need, contact Ryan at 701-765-3681 or ryan.thorson@nd.nacdn.net; he can give you your mortality numbers based on our fall survey. The 5-tree minimum per species applies to these replacement trees as well as any new trees you wish to purchase at normal price. We look forward to hearing from you!

A Canola Success Story

It is no secret that we here at the district office have been pushing and striving for more conservation in the field. I have seen a lot of change in the 7 years that I have been here and that is really encouraging! This last winter we were approached by a farmer who didn't want to work up his previous corn field. He was wondering and hoping if it was possible to help plant canola into the standing corn stubble.

It just so happens that the District was fortunate enough to buy a 15' Great Plains No-Till drill with the help of North Dakota Game and Fish. Although we purchased the drill to help customers plant CRP/ Pollinator mixes and cover crops, it can seed cash crops as well. Planting cash crops is not something we will be doing a lot of in the future, however we thought it would be a great opportunity to demonstrate a no-till planting. No-till is something we have been pushing for and figured this would be a great way to show how successful this practice can be in the county.

After a little trial and error setting up the drill for Canola seeding, we finally dialed it in and were able to plant roughly 115 acres last spring. The producer had dry fertilizer spread minutes before we started. The straight fluted coulters in front of the planter discs helped cut through the residue and incorporate the fertilizer. This was some of the heaviest residue I have seen left in a field and for sure the heaviest I have planted into. I will be honest, I was a little skeptical of how it would turn out, but to our amazement when revisiting the site, we were greeted by nice fields of yellow canola! I will let the pictures below speak for themselves.

If you are considering using our services next year, please call our office and get your name on the list.



Fig 2. Conservation District No-Till Drill.



Fig 3. No-till Canola in flower



Fig 1. Corn residue prior to planting.

The Grand Forks County Soil Conservation District Scholarship

The Grand Forks County Soil Conservation District is offering two \$1000.00 scholarships in 2019. Eligible applicants must be a high school senior with residence in Grand Forks County. Please complete and submit the application and essay by **April 1st, 2019**.



Full Name: _____ Phone _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth _____ Sex ____ M ____ F

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) _____

High School _____ Date of Graduation _____

GPA _____

University you plan to attend _____

Intended major _____ Intended minor (if any) _____

List any extracurricular activities _____

List any community involvement _____

Essay Topic: Please submit an essay of 500 words or less that answers the following question:

“What is soil health and how can we improve it?”

Applications can be sent to the Grand Forks County Soil Conservation District, 4775 Technology Circle Ste 1C, Grand Forks, ND 58203. Questions can be directed to Justin Parks at 701-772-2321 Ext. 3 or justin.parks1@nd.nacdn.net

GF County SCD programs are available to all residence of Grand Forks County regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, sexual orientation, mental or physical handicap.

The Soil Conservation District works in partnership with a variety of agencies, organizations and individuals. The views and opinions of authors or speakers; educational materials, articles; and presentations are provided for educational purposes. This information may not necessarily reflect the opinions of Grand Forks County Soil Conservation District. Individuals are encouraged to develop their own opinions.

Grand Forks County Soil Conservation District

4775 Technology Circle, Suite 1C,
Grand Forks, ND 58203

SAVE THE DATE!

March 14th, Soil Health Workshop
Ramada Inn, Grand Forks



SCD Calendar

January 21: MLK Day - Office Closed
January 16: Soil and Water Conservation Leadership Academy
February 13: Board Meeting
March 5-6: Tree Promotion Workshop
March 14: Soil Health Workshop

Phone: 701-772-2321 Ext 3
Webpage: www.gfscd.org
Like us on Facebook!
#GFSCD

Mission:

To provide local leadership in the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources through partnerships with individuals, businesses, organizations and government.

GF County SCD programs are available to all residence of Grand Forks County regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, sexual orientation, mental or physical handicap. "The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."