



Stutsman County Soil Conservation District

April 2010

Annual Report for 2009



SCD /NRCS Conservation Activities

Conservation Crop Rotation - 8,383 Acres

Fence- 35,563 Ft

Nutrient Management - 8,882 Acres

Pasture and Hayland Plantings - 234 Acres

Pest Management - 4,929 Acres

Pipelines - 5,804 Ft

Ponds – 3

Prescribed Grazing – 6,882 Acres

Residue & Tillage Management, Mulch Till –
2,109 Acres

Residue & Tillage Management, No Till/Strip
Till – 7,549 Acres

Upland Wildlife Habitat Management – 7,265
Acres

Waste Storage Facility – 4

Water Well – 2

Watering Facility – 4

Well Decommissioning – 5

Wetland Restoration – 81 Acres

Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment – 24,262 Ft

Trees Planted - 160,995 row ft

Hand Plants Sold - 7,990

Fabric Laid - 124,225 row ft.

Stutsman Board of Supervisors

- Gloria Jones Jamestown
- Bernie Wanzek Courtenay
- Alvin Exner Ypsilanti
- Donald Hofmann Medina
- Raymond Heupel Medina

District Staff

- Naomi Aziz
District Manager
- Tex Weatherly
District Technician

319 Watershed Staff

- Ryan Odenbach
Watershed Coordinator
- Sally Domke
Watershed Technician

NRCS Staff

- Codie Lacina
District Conservationist
- Tyler Uran
Soil Conservationist
- Sheryl Smith
Soil Conservation Technician
- Steven Stensgard Pheasants
Forever Farm Bill Biologist

Lower Pipestem Creek Watershed Board

- Loren Patrie Wells Co. SCD
- Bernie Wanzek Stutsman Co. SCD
- Alvin Exner Stutsman Co. SCD
- Gloria Jones Stutsman Co. SCD
- Don Hofmann Stutsman Co. SCD
- Randi Sukut Wells Co. Comm.
- Curtiss Klein Foster Co. SCD
- Tim Schuster Stutsman Co.
- Jerry Becker Foster Co. SCD

319 Watershed Project Accomplishments

In the period from April 1, 2002 to Dec. 31, 2009, approximately 100 producers have signed contracts and are in various stages of plan implementation. These contracts include the following practices:

Nutrient Management - 17,799.3 acres

No-Till - 8,145.2 acres

Mulch-Till - 10,563.9 acres

Prescribed Grazing - 7,643.1 ac

Fencing: Grazing & Riparian 363,647 LF

Wells -6

Troughs or Tanks - 16

Pipelines - 17,896 LF

Pasture & Hayland converted
from cropland - 1,600.2 acres

Animal Waste / Feedlot Updates 7

Stockponds - 4

Spring Developments - 2

Riparian Easements - 133.8 acres

Riparian Buffer Areas -164,990 Row Ft

Windbreaks - 3,300 LF and 32.2 acres

Cover Crops - 467 acres

Range Seeding - 7 acres

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WWW.STUTSMANSCD.ORG



Tex's Tree Tidbits

By Tex Weatherly

Tree Planting Preparation and Care

Tree planting is just around the corner so it's time to talk ground preparation for planting. To do a good job of planting and ensure best survival, the ground needs to be worked well. This usually isn't a big problem in ground that was cropped the year before. Where we run into problems is in plantings that are in sod and are worked up. The sod chunks have to be worked out of it to allow for good compaction of trees. Poor compaction allows for air to remain around roots and results in poor survival. A disk or tiller usually works well for this. Stubble or fallow fields should be disked or dug and harrowed early and then again shortly before planting. This serves two purposes, it gets rid of any little weeds coming up and makes a very good planting bed. We generally try and notify cooperators two to three days ahead of time to allow them an opportunity to do this final operation. However, best laid plans often go awry; weather and at times machine problems can cause delays.



When weed barrier is applied, good ground preparation is a must. We cannot lay fabric on a poorly prepared site. Weed barrier is recommended as it serves two purposes. First, it keeps weeds from competing with the trees for moisture, and secondly it keeps moisture that is in the soil at planting time from evaporating, thus allowing the trees to utilize it for a better survival rate. After the fabric is applied tilling between rows is not a good idea, as an implement can catch the edge of the fabric and tear it loose and this will also allow wind and water to move the soil from the fabric edges allowing the wind to get under the fabric and tear it loose. Planting grass between rows and mowing it is the very best way to go. Mowing two to four times per year may be necessary the first two or three years. For assistance with management and the best grasses to plant contact your local NRCS or SCD personnel. In larger trees, a broadleaf herbicide may be used with care. Keep sprayer pressure low so spray is in larger droplets to avoid any drift.

It is the policy of the Stutsman Co. SCD that the ground be properly prepared before tree planting will be done.

SCD Services Available

SCD Tree Planting Prices:

\$20 per 100 feet

Weed Barrier Fabric

\$110 per 300 ft. roll or .60 per foot.

\$150 per 500 ft. roll

\$60 per 100 feet for fabric and application by the SCD

Fabric Staples 0.20 each

Handplant Tree Prices:

Conservation Grade Trees: \$1.25 each

Bundle of 25 Conservation Grade: \$25.00 each

3'-4' Trees: \$3.00 each

Staking Flags

Short: \$8.00 per bundle

Tall: \$9.00 per bundle

Plantskydd Deer Repellant

1.32 gal premixed: \$54.95

1 lb canister granules: \$14.95

1 Qt. bottle premixed: \$21.95

1 Lb. box (makes 4 qts) \$24.95

2.2 Lb. box (makes 8 qts) \$39.95

Bentonite

\$9.00 per 50 lb. bag

Contaminated Water Signs

\$20.00 each

Land Aerator Program Available

\$10 per acre

Manure Composter Available

Call for details

Farewell Matt!



We are sorry to say goodbye to Matt Nelson, Watershed Technician and our Tractor/Aerator Operator. Matt is joining the staff at the Park River SCD in Walsh County as their District Technician. Matt helped us in so many areas that his shoes will be hard to fill. We wish him luck in his new position.



Project "TREES" *The Regional Environmental Education Series*

Coinciding with the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day on April 22, 2010 your children will be learning about conservation in a fun and unique venue. Tom Gibson will again be visiting many of Stutsman County's schools. His programs include: "Water You Doing?", "Traveling with Lewis & Clark", "Sam Ting" and "Pete Bogg and the Amazing Water Machine". His various characters educate the students about soil and water conservation, and their part in it. The students and the teachers love his presentations, as he totally engages the student by dressing up as various characters. See what they have learned from his funny fellow. Tom will be in our county schools April 20th-22nd.

District Supervisor Elections

November 2, 2010

A position on the Stutsman County Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors will be up for election this fall. If you are interested in helping to fulfill our mission of conserving soil, water and related resources, and are a resident 18 yrs or older who has lived in Stutsman County for at least 30 days prior to the election you can file a Petition, Statement of Interest and Affidavit of Candidacy with the County Auditor. Forms can be picked up at County Auditor office or the SCD office. These need to be filed beginning June 3rd but no later than Sept. 1, 2010 by 4:00 pm.



Reminder!
Get your last minute tree orders in - supplies are running low on some varieties so be sure to order soon!

"The best time to plant a tree is yesterday."

Celebrate Earth Day April 22nd



Earth Day began way back on April 22, 1970, but few would argue that we need it now more than ever. It started in response to the growing problem of air pollution created by cars and factories, which was just beginning to be linked to disease and death. Now we have even bigger global environmental issues. So although every day should be Earth Day for each of us, it's also good to have a day when everyone collectively puts their focus on Mother Earth.

Conservation Stewardship Program

One of the newest programs offered by NRCS is the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Through CSP, NRCS will provide financial and technical assistance to eligible producers to conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their lands.

What exactly is CSP?

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a strictly voluntary conservation program that encourages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner. This is done by:

- Undertaking additional conservation activities; and
- Improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities.

What are the payment options?

The Conservation Stewardship Program offers participants two possible types of payments. They are as follows:

- Annual Payment—for installing and adopting additional activities, and improving, maintaining, and managing existing activities.
- Supplemental Payment—for the adoption of resource-conserving crop rotations.

The annual payment limitation for a person or legal entity is \$40,000. A person or legal entity cannot exceed \$200,000 for all contracts entered into during any five-year period.

How do I know if I am eligible?

The CSP is available on Tribal and private agricultural lands, as well as nonindustrial private forest lands statewide. Individual producers, legal entities, corporations, and Indian Tribes may be eligible for the program. Lands that are eligible include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pastureland, rangeland, nonindustrial private forest land, and agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian Tribe. Specifically, applicants must:

- Be the operator on record in the USDA farm records management system for eligible land being offered for enrollment;
- Have documented control of the land for the term of the proposed contract;
- Include the eligible land in their entire operation as represented for other USDA programs;
- Be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions and adjusted gross income.

How do I apply?

If the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is something you are interested in, we encourage you to contact the NRCS field office to learn more about the program or to enroll.

Although this program has a continuous sign-up policy, there are some important dates you should keep in mind.



"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (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).

Cover Crops

Where to Use Cover Crops

Cover Crops can be seeded after early harvested crops such as winter wheat, winter triticale, pea, forage barley or oat, and corn silage. Average harvest dates are July through the first half of August. This seeding window will normally allow adequate plant development to allow for fall grazing.

Cover Crops can be seeded after normal fall harvest occurs for cash crops, such as small grains or canola. Average harvest dates include the second half of August through mid September. This seeding window will not be as attractive for fall grazing, but will allow adequate growth for soil health purposes.

Cost - Share Available for Cover Crops

The 319 program offers cost-share on cover crops for seeding. It will cover the actual cost of the seed up to \$20 per acre per year within watershed boundaries. Call 252-2521 ext.3 for more information on 319 programs or NRCS EQIP.



Cover Crops

From the Burleigh County Soil Conservation District

- Reduce erosion from wind and water - the soil's armor.
- Increase soil organic matter (SOM) - greater sunlight harvest & root mass.
- Increased SOM results in greater water holding capacity and nutrient cycling.
- Manage excess nutrients in the soil profile - protect water quality.
- Promote biological nitrogen fixation - reduce commercial fertilizer.
- Increase biodiversity - more diversity in the crop rotation, especially for forage based ranchers.
- Weed and disease suppression - encouraged by crop diversity.
- Provide supplemental forage - grazing or haying for livestock to improve the economics.
- Soil Moisture management - Evaporation reduction on dry years and / or greater water use on wet years.
- Improve infiltration - taproot type cover crops.



Dwarf Essex Rape in cover crop field.

Cover Crop Spotlight: Dwarf Essex Rape

Rapeseed, also called colpa, colsa, colerape, tori, and chou oleifere, is a cool-season annual plant similar to turnips or radishes. Rapeseed is a member of the Brassica (mustard or cabbage) family. Rapeseed originated in northern Europe and was cultivated in the Mediterranean area. In North Dakota, its most commonly recognized variety is canola.

Dwarf Essex Rape is a variety developed specifically for forage. Similar to forage radishes and turnips it provides excellent livestock and wildlife forage. Also, similar to radishes and turnips, rapeseed is somewhat frost tolerant. This tolerance allows rapeseed to grow later in the fall for additional forage capacity. Forage produced can contain 18 to 20% crude protein.

The leaves of Dwarf Essex Rape are 4 to 12 inches long, slick, and generally lobed. Unlike turnips, they have no swollen root, only a long thin taproot. Composition of the young leaves is 83.3% water, 2.9% protein, 1.7% fat, 11.2% carbohydrates, and 1.8% fiber.

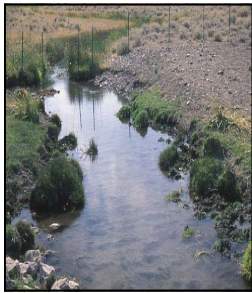
Dwarf Essex Rape can be planted at a rate of 4 to 5 pounds per acre in a single species cover crop or 1 to 2 pounds per acre in a multi-species mix. The seed is small (like canola) and should be seeded shallow at around 1/4 inch depth. The seed size makes mixing with other small seeded crops like turnip, forage radishes, millet, etc. easy to accomplish. For more information on Dwarf Essex Rape or other cover crops contact the SCD or NRCS at 252-2521 ext. 3.

Beaver Creek Seven-Mile Coulee Riparian Buffer Project

The goal of this project will be to reduce the delivery of sediments and nutrients to Beaver Creek and Seven-Mile Coulee. This will be accomplished through restoration and improved management of these riparian corridors. The secondary goal of the project will be to improve habitat for wildlife along these buffer areas. Wildlife will benefit from the increased nesting habitat, travel corridors, and wintering habitat.

Program Description

- The contracts include 10 to 30 year easements on the riparian buffer areas and provisions for managed grazing or haying.
 - Other practices included to establish these buffers are fencing, alternative water developments, and woody or grass vegetation establishment.
 - Project runs until 2013 on rangeland or cropland.
 - The riparian area is out to 300 ft from stream side.
 - 60% cost-share available on all practices.
 - Easement payment is up front. The amount is determined by the CRP soil rental rates and may be up to \$26.40 per acre.
- Examples:
- 10 yr contract x 30 ac. X \$26.40/ac = \$7,920
- 30 yr contract x 30 ac. X \$26.40/ac = \$23,760
- Can provide 60% - 100% on fencing and alternative water.



For information on any of the programs or incentives mentioned here contact
Ryan Odenbach at the Stutsman County
Soil Conservation District office at
701-252-2521 ext.3

Producers in the Beaver Creek and
Seven-Mile Coulee Watersheds
can receive cost-share according
to the chart below:

Watershed Project Approved BMP'S (Best Management Practices)

NRCS CODE	Practice	Life Span	Planning Rate	Cost-share Payment
328	Conservation Crop Rotation	--	NCP	NCP
656	Constructed Wetland	10	Engineer Estimate	*
340	Cover Crop (seed costs only)	1	\$20.00/ac.	*
342	Critical Area Planting	10	\$300.00/ac.	*
356	Dike	10	\$1.90/cuyd	*
362	Diversions	10	\$1.90/cuyd	*
382	Fencing (barbed)	10	\$0.95/ft.	\$0.57/ft.
382	Fencing (multiple wire electric)	10	\$0.50/ft.	\$0.30/ft.
386	Field Border (seed costs only)	10	\$20.00/ac.	*
393	Filter Strip (planting/establishment only)	10	\$125.00/ac	*
410	Grade Stabilization Structure	10	Engineer Estimate	*
412	Grassed Waterway	10	\$25.00/ft.	*
422	Hedgerow Planting	10	\$19.00/hlnft	*
603	Herbaceous Wind Barriers	5	\$12.00/acre	\$7.20/acre
447	Irrigation System Tailwater Recovery	10	Engineer Estimate	*
472	Use Exclusion (livestock only)	1	\$20.00/acre	\$12.00/acre
634	Manure Transfer	10	Engineer Estimate	*
590	Nutrient Management	1	\$5.00/acre	\$3.00/acre
512	Pasture and Hayland Planting	10	\$35.00/ac.	*
595	Pest Management	--	NCP	NCP
516	Pipelines	10	\$3.00/ft.	*
378	Pond	10	Engineer Estimate	*
528A	Prescribed Grazing	--	NCP	NCP
550	Range Planting	10	\$40.00/ac.	*
329A	Residue Management No Till, Strip Till	--	NCP	NCP
329B	Residue Management, Mulch Till	--	NCP	NCP
329C	Residue Management, Ridge Till	--	NCP	NCP
391	Riparian Forest Buffer	10	\$350.00/ac.	*
390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover	10	\$300.00/ac.	*
558	Roof Runoff Structure	10	Engineer Estimate	*
350	Sediment Basin	10	Engineer Estimate	*
574	Spring Development	10	Engineer Estimate	*
584	Stream Channel Stabilization	10	Engineer Estimate	*
580	Streambank & Shoreline Protection	10	Engineer Estimate	*
587	Structure for Water Control	10	Engineer Estimate	*
600	Terrace	10	Engineer Estimate	*
610	Salinity & Sodic Soil Management (establishing vegetative cover only)	10	\$20.00/ac	*
614	Trough and Tank	10	Local Rate Per Tank	*
601	Vegetative Barrier (establishment only)	10	\$125.00/ac.	*
312	Livestock Manure Management System	10	*	*
635	Waste Water Treatment Strip (establishment only)	10	\$125.00/ac	*
633	Waste Utilization	1	NCP	NCP
638	Water and Sediment Control Basin	10	Engineer Estimate	*
640	Water Spreading	10	Engineer Estimate	*
642	Well (livestock only)	10	Local Rate per Well	*
351	Well Decommissioning	10	\$900.00 each	*
658	Wetland Creation	10	Engineer Estimate	*
657	Wetland Restoration	10	Engineer Estimate	*
380	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	10	\$19.00/hlnft	*

NCP Non cost-shared practice

- Section 319 cost-share assistance for these BMP must be based on the actual documented
- costs. Cost share payments cannot exceed 60% of the actual costs. The NPS program also supports several practices that are not listed here. For information on additional eligible BMP practices

Manure Composter Project

The Stutsman County Soil Conservation District has leased a Brown Bear Manure Composter for a new Manure Composter Project. The goal of this project is to aid in manure management in the Pipestem Creek, Beaver Creek and Seven Mile Coulee watersheds. Priority will be given to producers in these areas and secondary priority to producers outside of these areas. Cost for this program is \$50/hour. Contact Ryan at the Stutsman County Soil Conservation District for more information.



The composter provides the following:

- 1) Reduction in total manure mass of over 50%.
- 2) The end product from the process is not considered manure, but is a soil amendment. This allows additional amounts to be added in fields.
- 3) The compost product is easy to spread without the hassle of lumps² or excessive twine.
- 4) The compost process allows breakdown of most organic materials including dead animals.
- 5) Retains nutrients more efficiently for use in crop production.
- 6) Useful for spreading on no-till fields. Correct application will not result in seedling damage.

Use of Land Aerator on Expired CRP

The Lawson Land Aerator was purchased by the Stutsman County Soil Conservation District, for hire by area producers. Basically it's a large land roller (similar to the land rollers most producers have used for soybeans, etc.) with approximately 4 inch by 4 inch blades attached to the roll cylinder.

The roller has shown to have several applications including:

- 1) Smooth out alfalfa and hayland and enhance vegetative growth.
- 2) Smooth expired CRP for future crop seeding, instead of plowing or disking the ground.
- 3) Smooth pastures, reduce woody vegetation growth (such as silverberry and snowberry), and enhance grass growth. It may roll over larger trees depending on size, such as volunteer Siberian Elm which may spread in CRP. These species may grow back, but aerating combined with herbicide should take care of the problem.
- 4) Smooth no-till fields which have been infested with burrowing animals.

The cost includes \$10.00 per acre for the roller, \$5.00 per acre for any seeding, and the landowner provides the diesel. Producers who have used this on expired CRP have saved much time and expense in tillage operations. In 2008-2009 the land aerator treated approximately 5,300 acres of which approx. 4,150 acres were expired CRP and 1,150 were hayland/pastureland.

The aerator will also save in soil erosion and soil structure for future no-till production.





Stutsman County Soil Conservation District
1301 Business Loop East
Jamestown, ND 58401-5946

Partners

Ag Waste: NRCS, North Dakota State Game and Fish, North Dakota Stockmen's Association, North Dakota Agriculture Department

Riparian Projects: North Dakota State Game and Fish Save Our Lakes Program, North Dakota Forest Service

Grazing Practices: US Fish and Wildlife, Ducks Unlimited, North Dakota State Game and Fish

Cropland and Education: NDSU Extension, North Dakota Farmers Union, NRCS, Sheyenne James RC&D, First Community Credit Union, Bank Forward, Unison Bank, Butler Cat, Titan Machinery, Pioneer Seeds, Sustainable Agriculture Committee, Area Farmers

Project Operating: Stutsman County Water Resources Board

Stutsman County Soil Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service
1301 Business Loop East, Jamestown, ND 58401 701-252-2521 ext. 3

www.stutsmanscd.org