

Stutsman County Soil Conservation District

October 2011

www.stutsmanscd.org



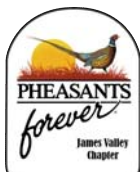
Coming Soon to the SCD!!

15' No-Till

Grass & Grain Drill



The Stutsman County SCD in partnership with the James Valley Pheasants Forever Chapter, has purchased a Truax 15' No-till grass and grain drill capable of seeding: **Fluffy Native Grass & Forb Seed, Cool Season Grasses, Cover Crops, and Small Grains.**



The cost of using the drill is \$10 per acre and a \$50 delivery fee and a damage deposit. (There will be a minimum charge of \$100 for acreages less than 10.) Use of the drill will be scheduled through the SCD office.

Look inside for deadlines for the following programs:

Tree Orders Due Nov. 10th
(see order form insert)

Environmental Quality
Incentives Program (EQIP)

Wildlife Habitat Incentive
Program (WHIP)

Wetland Reserve Program
(WRP)

Jeremy & Sarah Wilson Honored as Overall Achievement Award Winners

This year's Overall Achievement Award goes to Jeremy and Sarah Wilson of Jamestown.

Jeremy has always strived for better soil health in his operation. Jeremy grew up on his family farm and has been managing his own operation since 1998. In that time he has increased his production dramatically. Through crop rotation and the use of cover crops, Jeremy has been able to demonstrate that no-till in heavier, wetter soils is not only economically viable but economically superior to conventional farming.

Jeremy has found that the use of cover crops has led to increased yields, while maintaining or reducing inputs such as fertilizer. Jeremy also uses precision fertilizer applications. He takes his own soil samples, with which he builds his own fertilizing scheme using soil zone management.

Jeremy has been involved in several tours of his operation sharing his experience with other area producers. He researches before applying each change in his operation. This has often led to agricultural professionals, such as agronomists, soil scientist, NDSU Extension personnel and others to learn more from him than he learns from them!

The Stutsman County Soil Conservation District would like to thank the Wilson's for setting a good example of stewardship. They will represent Stutsman County on November 20th at the state NDACD annual convention held in Bismarck.



District Technician Job Opening

The Stutsman Co. SCD is currently looking for a full-time District Technician. Agricultural and mechanical experience a must. Computer knowledge helpful. Wages dependent on experience, benefits after 6 months. Duties include tree planning, tree planting, and fabric application. Also, building, grounds, and equipment maintenance required. Qualified person must have the ability to interact with customers, farm producers, and local officials. Stop in the SCD/NRCS office to pick up an application.

Application deadline is December 9, 2011.

Snowbirds

If you wish to receive any mailings from our office while you're away for the winter please be sure to call us and give us your temporary address and the dates you'll be there.



2011 Achievement Award Winners

- Backyard Conservation - *Monica Diede*
- Urban Conservation - *Vern & Kathy Herman*
- Wildlife Conservation Award - *Wendell & Judy Perleberg*
- Range Conservation Award - *Bruce Schlecht*
- Education Award - *Anne Carlson Center*
- Tree Maintenance Award - *Sheldon, Brenda & Chelsea Schlecht*
- Farmstead Windbreak Award - *June Dewald*
- Soil Health Award - *Rob & Julie Hess and Gordon Schlenker*
- Field Windbreak Award - *Richard & Sherri Klose*

Farmable Wetlands Program: a Continuous CRP option for you and for wildlife.

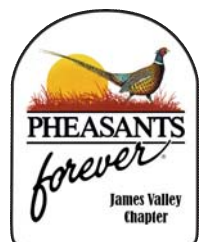
By: Rachel Bush, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

With recent losses in Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres and even greater losses looming on the horizon once abundant cover for upland nesting birds like pheasants, grouse, and ducks may become a thing of the past, unless new opportunities are utilized to benefit both the farmer and wildlife. With recent wet conditions, farming through farmable wetlands has become difficult, often times impossible. Rather than allowing these areas to sit idle, consider options under the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) to enroll these wet acres, add alternatives to your farming operation, gain an annual rental payment, and create valuable wildlife habitat.

One of the most popular practices (and applicable) available under CCRP is the Flooded Prairie Wetlands or CP-41 practice. Cropland located within the Prairie Pothole region that was 1) subject to the natural overflow of a prairie wetland and 2) cropped at least 3 of the 10 years after January 1, 1990 and before December 31, 2002 is eligible for this practice. One benefit of CCRP practices are the incentives offered. For example, CP-41 has a cost-share rate of 50% to establish perennial vegetation, a 40% practice incentive payment available after the practice is installed, a sign-on incentive payment of \$10/ac/yr (up to 10yrs or \$100/ac), and a 20% increase to the soil rental rate.

In many cases, acres that are no longer eligible for prevent plant, due to extended wetness or areas that have become so inundated, isolating areas of cropland, fit well with the objectives of the wetland practices in CCRP. However, with the CP-41 practice acreage limitations do exist. No single wetlands can exceed 20 acres in size and the total wetland acres cannot exceed 40 acres per tract. The enrollment of adjacent upland buffers (CP-28) is required in conjunction with the CP-41 practice, to protect the wetland from excessive sedimentation and provide wildlife habitat. Uplands can be enrolled up to a 4:1 ratio. For example if 40 acres of wetland are enrolled a maximum of 160 acres of adjacent upland can also be enrolled. Rental payments are paid on both the wetland and upland acres.

Many other practices are available to producers under Continuous CRP, many with the same incentives available as listed above, to help better manage their farming operation, ranging from salinity to grassed waterways, to filter strips adjacent to water courses. If you are interested in learning more about or exploring your opportunities for Continuous CRP contact me at 252-2521 ext.129 or stop by the NRCS office and visit.





Tex's Tree Tidbits

By Tex Weatherly

Good ground prep is very important!

- Summer-fallow or good clean stubble is best.
- Tilling a nine foot strip in sod is an option if fabric is laid.
- A four foot tilled strip is needed if fabric is not laid.
- Non-selective herbicides may be used prior to tillage (Roundup).
- Tree-row spacing may vary depending on the varieties planted. Commonly it is 14' - 20'.
- Deadline for plantings eligible for EQIP cost-share is November 4th, 2011 and trees should be ordered by November 10th to assure species availability.

NOTICE TO HISPANIC OR WOMEN FARMERS AND RANCHERS: COMPENSATION FOR CLAIMS OF DISCRIMINATION

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation. You may be eligible if:

1. you sought a farm loan or farm-loan servicing from USDA during that period; and
2. the loan was denied, provided late, approved for a lesser amount than requested, approved with restrictive conditions, or USDA failed to provide an appropriate loan service; and
3. you believe these actions occurred because you are Hispanic or female. If you want to register your name to receive a claims package, you can call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or access the following website: www.farmerclaims.gov

In 2011, a Claims Administrator will begin mailing claims packages to those who have requested one through the Call Center or website. The claims package will have detailed information about the eligibility and claims process. In order to participate, you must submit a claim to the Claims Administrator by the end of the claims period. If you are currently represented by counsel regarding allegations of discrimination against USDA or in a lawsuit claiming discrimination by USDA, you should contact your counsel regarding this claims process. USDA Cannot Provide Legal Advice to You. You are not required to hire an attorney to file a claim, but you may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider in your community for additional guidance.

Maintenance Activities for Existing Drainage Systems

Cleaning-out or maintaining drainage ditches is exempt under the USDA wetland compliance provisions, provided the work does not improve the drainage effects of the system beyond what existed as of December 23, 1985. Exceeding the extent of drainage that existed prior to December 23, 1985, may cause the wetland to be considered converted and cause a potential loss of USDA benefits.

Maintaining the drainage in place as of December 23, 1985 means that:

1. Existing drainage ditches can be cleaned out, but not deepened or widened beyond their constructed dimensions.
2. Soil removed from the drainage ditch during maintenance cannot be placed in the wetland basin, unless the wetland is certified as prior converted.

New drainage or drainage improvements should be reviewed by NRCS to ensure USDA program eligibility. Block 10a needs to be checked "yes" for new drainage. Block 10b needs to be checked "yes" for improvements on existing drainage systems. A certified wetland determination will be conducted on all areas with new or improved drainage activities indicated on the FSA-AD-1026 form. If you have any questions please contact your local USDA Service center before you conduct any activities' that may affect wetlands or your USDA Benefits.



Plantskydd® Deer Repellent

Plantskydd Deer Repellent is considered the most cost-effective and environmentally safe animal repellent available. Plantskydd Deer Repellent is made in the USA, is a 100% natural, environmentally friendly product. It's long-term effectiveness is attributable to the tenacity of its 100% natural, vegetable oil binder in sticking to plants, even under severe snow/rainfall conditions: up to 6 months over winter, 3-4 months in summer. Plantskydd Deer Repellent works by emitting an odor that animals associate with predator activity, repelling the animal before it nibbles on plants. Plantskydd stimulates a fear-based response which will have deer, elk, moose and rabbits looking to dine somewhere other than your garden or trees.

Plantskydd is available at the Stutsman County SCD office. For more information call 701-252-2521 ext. 3 or email Deonn at: deonn.larson@nd.nacdnet.net

Tree orders due November 10th - Get yours in today! See insert in this newsletter.

SCD Services Available

(* Prices subject to change)

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

\$10 per acre

Manure Composter

\$50 per hour

SCD Tree Planting Prices:

\$22 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

4'-5' Trees: \$4.00 each

Staking Flags

Short: \$8.00 per bundle

Tall: \$9.00 per bundle



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

Eco-Ed Day Held

"Eco-Ed" is an environmental learning experience provided yearly to Stutsman County sixth graders, held outside at the Pipestem Dam. The camp is funded with 319 funds from EPA and coordinated by the Stutsman County Soil Conservation District. It is made possible through partnership with many organizations including: ND Forest Service, US Fish & Wildlife, NRCS, ND Game & Fish, and Stutsman County Schools. This year 201 students from Medina, Gackle-Streeter, PBK, St. John's Academy and Jamestown Middle School participated in a variety of presentations on natural resource issues including: Soils & Erosion; Water Quality; Prairies; Wetlands; Woodlands and Habitat.



Facilitators Ryan Odenbach (above), and Codie Lacina (below) teach a group of this year's students all about stream erosion and soils.



Environmental Quality Incentives Program

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program which offers farmers and ranchers a tool to address their natural resource concerns. EQIP can assist with installing a variety of conservation improvement practices or adopting new technology such as: livestock water developments including wells, tanks, pipelines, or dugouts; cross fencing; grass plantings for hay, pasture, or to address salinity concerns; windbreak renovations and/or tree plantings; and cropland enhancements including cover crops, variable rate fertilizer application, and no-till. **Application deadline for this batching period is November 4, 2011.**

Wetlands Reserve Program



WRP is a voluntary program for people who want to restore, enhance, or create wetlands and develop or improve wildlife habitat on private lands. The program offers long-term easements (30 years) or restoration agreements (10 years). It provides both technical assistance and cost-share payments to help restore wetland and upland habitats. To be eligible for WRP, land must be restorable and be suitable for wildlife benefits. Easements expire at the end of 30 years. Under the 30-year easement option, an easement payment of 75 percent of what would be paid for a permanent easement is made. The determination is based on the land's agricultural value. The rate in Stutsman County for 2011 was \$795/ac. USDA also pays 75 percent of restoration costs. USDA will pay appraisal, legal survey and title costs associated with establishing the easement. **Application deadline for this batching period is November 4, 2011.**



Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program

WHIP is a voluntary program for developing or improving high quality habitat that supports fish and wildlife populations of National, State, Tribal, and local significance. Through reimbursement, NRCS will pay up to 75 percent of the cost to install conservation practices for permanent priority fish and wildlife habitat. **Application deadline for this batching period is November 4, 2011.**

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

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. 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 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.

Batching date to be announced...





319 Watershed Projects

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



Cover Crop Spotlight



Crimson Clover

Crimson clover is a versatile plant used to produce forage for livestock, for soil conservation, as a green manure crop, as a source of pollen and nectar for bees, and for land beautification. It has good seedling vigor and makes rapid growth in autumn. Thus, it can be used in many crop production situations which involve summer forages or row crops. It is one of the most dependable, best-yielding, and earliest-maturing winter annual legumes. One of the advantages of crimson clover is that it is relatively easy to establish.

Crimson clover is best suited to sandy but not excessively droughty soils, but can be productive on well-drained clay soils. It yields best when grown on soils with at least medium levels of phosphorus and potassium, though exact levels of fertilizer applied should be determined by a soil test. Normally, 20 to 30 pounds of seed per acre is recommended when crimson clover is planted in pure stands. Ideally, crimson clover seed should be covered with about 1/4 inch of soil. It is better for the seed to be on the soil surface than to be covered with more than 1/2 inch of soil.

Crimson clover seed can be planted with a drill, but the most common method is to broadcast the seed.

The Stutsman County Soil Conservation District has used crimson clover for interseeding into growing corn. It's shown good growth so far this year.

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



Stutsman County Producer receives Grant Funding

Local Producer Jeremy Wilson recently received a grant from the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (SARE) to convert 100 acres of CRP land to no-till cropland. Working with the SCD and NRCS, Wilson has planted several different scenarios on this acreage to determine which mix of cover crops works best as well as which fertility treatments are the most effective. Wilson hopes to convert more CRP to cropland in the future utilizing the information he receives from his test plots.

SARE's mission is to advance—to the whole of American agriculture—innovations that improve profitability, stewardship and quality of life by investing in groundbreaking research and education. Since 1988, the Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE) program has been the go-to USDA grants and outreach program for farmers, ranchers, researchers and educators who want to develop innovations that improve farm profitability, protect water and land, and revitalize communities. To date, SARE has awarded \$171 million for more than 4,200 initiatives.



CRP Demonstration Plots

The Stutsman County Soil Conservation District entered into partnership with several organizations to develop test plots on 60 acres of expired Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land donated to the project by local Jamestown farmer David Glinz.. The SCD wanted to demonstrate the use of no-till and cover crops as a conservation-minded method for the conversion of CRP land back into crop production.

The following goals outline the project:

- 1) To find out how no-till compares to conventional till out of CRP over time span of 3 years.
- 2) To find out how aerated compares to non-aerated and conventional ground (roughness, breakdown of organic material, mellowing of ground, stress tolerance).
- 3) To find out what crops work best for production following CRP.
- 4) To find out how cover crops work to prepare ground for cropping systems after CRP.
- 5) To find out what cover crop species work best in saline ground.
- 6) To track nutrient availability throughout the growing season, utilizing Plant Root Simulator (PRS) technology.

Each of these goals resulted from questions posed by producers to the conservation districts, NRCS field offices, and NDSU county extension offices. The current trend in land use is away from CRP and toward production. The Stutsman County Soil Conservation District wants to maintain land management practices conducive to conservation. This includes the use of no-till, nutrient management, and cover crops on cropland. To provide information, the aforementioned questions need to be answered, especially for our region, the James River Basin. The plots are located 3 miles north of Buchanan, along the west side of Hwy 281.

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.



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

Contact the SCD office at 252-2521 ext. 3 to schedule the aerator on your farm.

Manure Composter

The Stutsman County Soil Conservation District has a Brown Bear Manure Composter available for producers to use to aid in manure management. Cost for this service is \$50/hour. Contact Ryan Odenbach 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 lumps 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.



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

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Tex Weatherly
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Ryan Odenbach
319 Watershed Coordinator

Sally Domke
319 Watershed Conservationist

NRCS
Codie Lacina
District Conservationist

Marc Murdoff
Soil Conservationist

Sheryl Smith
Soil Conservation Technician

Rachel Bush
Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist

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Find us on the web at:
www.stutsmanscd.org

We are located in the USDA Service Center
1301 Business Loop East
Jamestown, ND 58401
701-252-2521 ext. 3

Reminder!



It's time to think about what you plan to plant in 2012. The new tree order form for the 2012 planting season is inside!