



Longtime SCD Board Member Raymond R. Heupel retires after 30 years of service

Ray Heupel of Medina was honored at an open house for his 30 years of service to the Stutsman County Soil Conservation District on December 14th, 2010. Heupel joined the board in 1980 and was fully involved in the operation of the organization. Ray has also represented the Soil Conservation District on the Sheyenne James Resource Conservation and Development Council at the state and national levels. He has been a member of the Chase Lake Foundation since it was first established twenty years ago. "He never failed to have an opinion and spoke as he thought," said Tex Weatherly, Conservation District Technician. Weatherly said Heupel practices the same principles in his own farming operation. "Raymond was always concerned about the land for future generations. He planted trees to protect the land, the farmstead and his livestock." Heupel is also a wildlife advocate. "Most of his tree plantings were designed to include food and cover for wildlife," Weatherly said. "Odd areas were left for nesting of birds and hiding places." He farms in partnership with his son Joseph.

Brent & Codi Kuss Honored as Overall Achievement Award Winners

This year's Overall Achievement Award goes to Brent & Codi Kuss and their children Shayla, Brekka, and Cyrena of Woodworth North Dakota. Brent & Codi have made soil stewardship a top priority in their management decisions.



Some of the practices that have been completed through the years include no-till cropping systems, nutrient and pest management, cover crops, pasture & hayland plantings, a grassed waterway, farmstead tree plantings, rotational grazing, and a pipeline with a portable tank. Several ponds have been excavated throughout the years for cattle.

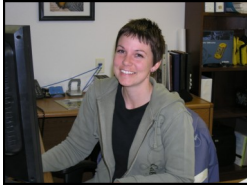
A total of 29,390 ft. of fence has been built to make Brent's rotational grazing system work. Sheep are grazed first for biological control of Canada Thistle, Wormwood, and Leafy Spurge. Cow-calf pairs are brought in to harvest the grass and cover crops are planted to provide extra nutrients for the soil, and are grazed in late fall.



The Kuss's are a close family. Codi is a stay at home mom and the girls are involved in much of the farm work. Shayla is keeping her dad on track as he signs up for farm programs at FSA. Brent and Codi lamb in early spring, therefore all the sheep are sheared. The lambs are weaned prior to the ewes going to pasture and this prevents coyote problems. The sheep roundup is a busy occasion at the Kuss Farm when each ewe is caught and the feet trimmed to prevent lameness.

The Stutsman County Soil Conservation District would like to thank the Kuss's for setting a good example of stewardship. They represented Stutsman County on November 22nd at the state NDACD annual convention held in Bismarck.

welcome



Rachel Bush joins staff as Farm Bill Biologist with Pheasants Forever

Rachel is a native of south-central Michigan. She has a Bachelor’s degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Management from Lake Superior State University in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. After graduation Rachel worked in Ohio and South Dakota before finding her way to North Dakota State University. Rachel earned her Master’s degree in Zoology from NDSU in 2006, working on Red-winged Blackbirds. After graduating from NDSU, Rachel worked for Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center here in Jamestown before moving to Kentucky to work as a Farm Bill Biologist for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. Rachel worked as a Farm Bill Biologist for three years prior to joining Pheasants Forever, and has hit the ground running here in North Dakota. Outside of work Rachel enjoys upland and waterfowl hunting with her husband and their two Labrador Retrievers. If you have any questions about Farm Bill Programs or wildlife habitat on your property stop by the office and meet Rachel or give her a call here at the office.

Oil Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Program

Helping People Help the Land
www.nd.nrcs.usda.gov

Applications are currently being taken at the NRCS office for the SPCC program. This program helps assist agriculture operators in complying with new EPA regulations. The SPCC pilot is intended to prevent and mitigate fuel and oil spills on agricultural operations. There are two available options for participation. (1) Development of a containment plan. This is available for applications with 10,000 gallons or more. This will consist of a conservation activity plan developed by a certified Technical Service Provider. Contract holders will receive payment for the development for the spill preventions and countermeasure program. (2) Implementation of the plan. This option provides financial assistance for the implementation of the needed containment structures. A maximum payment of \$2,500 will be provided upon completion of the SPCC plan and \$10,000 for the secondary containment facility. SPCC plans must be in place no later than November 10, 2011. Landowners are able to “self certify” if the farm has less than 10,000 gallons of above-ground storage by completing an online template. This template is found at the following site:

<http://nmpf.org/files/file/SPCC-Plan-Template-Final-Sept-20-2010-FORM.pdf>

Deadlines for the applications are January 28, 2011 and June 3, 2011.

Additional Information

Contact your local NRCS North Dakota field office to inquire about or apply for the EQIP SPCC pilot. For more information about SPCC, please refer to the EPA SPCC web page at <http://www.epa.gov/emergencies/content/spcc/index.htm>.

2010 Achievement Award Winners

Backyard Conservation
Russell & Michelle Well



Conservation Education
Hal Weiser



Windbreak Award
Jared & Julie Opp



Urban Conservation
Nels & Ileene Albin



Tree Maintenance
Marvin & Leah Grenz



Soil Health
Craig & Michal Reister



Living Snow-Fence Award
Russell & Michelle Well



Organic Initiative

USDA has announced that it will provide funding to help organic producers and those transitioning to organic production implement resource conservation practices on their agricultural operations. In North Dakota, \$1.2 million in financial assistance is available to producers. Producers have the opportunity to apply for Organic Initiative funding until **March 4, 2011**.

Organic Initiative funding is provided through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), a voluntary conservation program administered by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible national goals. Fiscal year 2011 marks the third year of USDA's Organic Initiative, and up to \$50 million nationally is available this year for producers to plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns in ways that are consistent with organic production. For example, organic producers may use the funding to plant cover crops, establish integrated pest management plans, or implement nutrient management systems consistent with organic certification standards.

Eligible producers include those certified through USDA's National Organic Program, those transitioning to certified organic production, and those who meet organic standards but are exempt from certification because their gross annual organic sales are less than \$5,000. Under Organic Initiative contracts, producers are paid 75% of the cost for the organic conservation measures they implement. Beginning, limited resource, and socially disadvantaged producers are paid 90%. The program provides up to \$20,000 per year per person or legal entity, with a maximum total of \$80,000 over six years.

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.

Although this program has a continuous sign-up policy, applications on hand by January 21st will be batched for funding.

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

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. USDA will pay 75% of the lesser value of a market analysis or appraisal, the geographic area rate cap or landowner offer. USDA will pay 75% of the restoration costs and conservation partners may pay the remaining 25%. USDA will pay appraisal, legal survey and title costs associated with establishing the easement.

"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, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

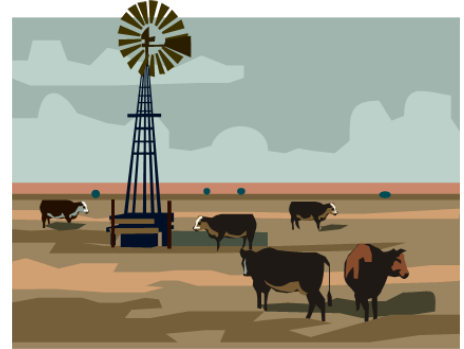
Final Project Report

PROJECT TITLE: LOWER PIPESTEM CREEK WATERSHED PROJECT

PROJECT START DATE: APRIL 1, 2002

PROJECT COMPLETION DATE: NOVEMBER 30, 2010

FUNDING:	TOTAL ORIGINAL BUDGET	\$3,439,095.00
	TOTAL ORIGINAL 319 GRANT	\$2,063,457.00
	BUDGET REVISIONS	+\$438,506.00
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES OF 319 FUNDS	\$2,501,963.00
	TOTAL SECTION 319 MATCH ACCRUED	\$1,667,975.41
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$4,169,938.54



SUMMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A Stream Assessment on the Pipestem Creek Watershed was conducted in the summer of 2000 and conclusions by the NRCS indicated five main issues that needed to be addressed within the Pipestem Creek Watershed: 1) riparian health, 2) excessive erosion and sedimentation, 3) proper grazing use, 4) nutrient management, 5) livestock waste management. Major land use practices and potential sources of non-point source (NPS) pollution identified during this assessment included: low residue farming methods, excess tillage on steep slopes and in riparian areas, livestock concentration areas (approximately 30), and overgrazed pasture/rangeland.

Goals for the project were set for the watershed project to restore recreational and aquatic life uses of Lower Pipestem Creek to a fully supporting condition as well as benefit the beneficial use conditions of the Pipestem Reservoir. To accomplish these goals, objectives and tasks were set including conservation planning on 52,764 acres, treating 3,000 feet of streambank through riparian buffers and installation of 15 manure management systems on existing animal feeding operations. Other objectives and tasks included documenting the trends in water quality and an extensive educational component, including newsletters, tours and workshops.

By the end of the project period in November 2010, 54,347 acres had conservation plans. This included 18,682 acres of reduced tillage, 18,439 acres of nutrient management, 1,234.4 acres of riparian area management, and 13,431 acres of prescribed grazing. 77,955 feet of streambank were treated through riparian buffer easements in cooperation with the North Dakota State Game and Fish Department. Seven manure management systems were installed on existing animal feeding operations. All of these systems utilized the 319 cost share along with the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) through NRCS.

Positive benefits of the BMP installation have been shown by decreasing trends in total nitrogen at sites throughout the project area. Total Suspended Solids concentrations were also shown to be decreasing as a result of BMP installation. Fecal Coliform Bacteria levels were classified as Fully Supporting recreational uses at site 385043 but the remaining sites remained classified as Not Supporting recreational uses. Additionally, all four macroinvertebrate site classifications indicated that aquatic life uses are being met, though there is a need for additional work to maintain supporting status.

During the project period the Hydrologic Unit 101600020106 was delisted from the state's 303(d) (2008 North Dakota Integrated Report) list because the recreational uses were attained.

Educational efforts have strived to reach most producers in the watershed area, this was in the form of 11 regular newsletters, 18 tours, landowner workshops and informational seminars, and a website developed for the Stutsman County SCD. The watershed program has also instituted demonstration sites including: a saline CRP planting in Wells County, a saline crop plot in Stutsman County, crop plots featuring no-till vs. conventional till and cover crops near Pingree, ND. Other project demonstrations have included encouraging no-till using an aerator and providing a manure composter for manure management sites.

Thank You

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following people for taking the time out of their busy schedules over the years as watershed board members:

- Curtiss Klein (Board Chair) Foster Co. SCD
- 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.
- Tim Schuster Stutsman Co.
- Kay Aljets (past member) Foster Co. SCD

Lower Pipestem Creek 319 Watershed Project Comes to a Close

The Lower Pipestem Creek Watershed Project began in April 2002 and came to a close at the end of 2010. The project saw installation of Best Management Practices on over 27% of the watershed area. The practices included Ag-Waste System updates, no-till, rotational grazing projects including over 120 miles of fence installed, prescribed grazing and riparian easements among a host of other practices. The watershed project was able to partner with many other agencies in order to provide producers an additional avenue of funding and resources in grazing plans and practices.

We would like to thank the following organizations that were kind enough to sponsor the Lower Pipestem Creek Watershed Project over the years:

Sponsoring Organizations

**Natural Resources Conservation Service
Stutsman County Water Resources Board
North Dakota Game and Fish Department
US Army Corps of Engineers
US Fish and Wildlife
US Fish and Wildlife Private Land Initiative
The Natural Resources Trust through USFW
Stutsman County Soil Conservation District
Foster County Soil Conservation District
Wells County Soil Conservation District
Eddy County Soil Conservation District
NDSU Extension Service
Ducks Unlimited
Wells County Commission
North Dakota State Water Commission**

Private Local Business Sponsors:

**Ag Country Farm Credit Services
Bank Forward
Big R
Bremer Bank
Butler
Enzmingers Builder's
First Community Credit Union
Farmer's Union Medina - Jamestown
K₂S Engineering
Jamestown Implement
Jamestown Ready Mix
Northland Financial
Security State Bank
Southwood Veterinary
Titan Machinery
Traut Wells
Unison Bank**

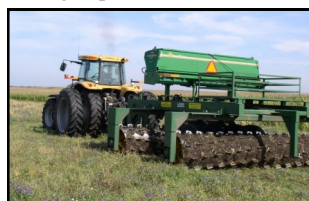
Use of Land Aerator on Expired CRP

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 in the 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 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.



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.nacdn.net

There's still time to order trees for spring planting. Call the office at 252-2521 ext. 3

SCD Services Available

(* Prices subject to change)

Plantskydd Deer Repellent

- 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."

Soil Conservation District

Deonn Larson

District Clerk/Manager

Tex Weatherly

District Technician

Ryan Odenbach

319 Watershed Coordinator

Sally Domke

319 Watershed Conservationist

Board & Staff Members

Stutsman SCD

Board of Supervisors

- Gloria Jones Jamestown
- Bernie Wanzek Courtenay
- Alvin Exner Ypsilanti
- Donald Hofmann Medina
- Brian Kreft Streeter

NRCS

Codie Lacina

District Conservationist

Marc Murdoff

Soil Conservationist

Sheryl Smith

Soil Conservation Technician

Rachel Bush

Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist

We are located in the USDA Service Center at 1301 Business Loop East, Jamestown, ND 58401

701-252-2521 ext. 3

Find us on the web at: 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.

Living Snow Fence



Are you having trouble keeping roads open during our wonderful winters of white? Maybe a Living Snow Fence would be a good option. While this is not a quick fix, over time it is a far cheaper option than man-made snow fences. Similar to field windbreaks and shelterbelts, living snow fences help manage snow deposits by protecting buildings, roads, and other property. They can also be designed and placed to provide cover for livestock or wildlife and to collect snow to increase soil moisture and nearby water supplies. Funds are available to pay for planting trees, the implementation of the planting, and establishment costs. The North Dakota NRCS has a special funding pool for Forestry/Living Snow Fences. \$500,000 of the funding pool is being targeted to Living Snow Fence projects. Currently there are not sufficient applications to utilize the funding, therefore a special batching period will be held to solicit additional applications. In addition, ND NRCS will highlight this initiative through an informational media campaign.

Living Snow Fence Initiative applications received on or before March 4, 2011 will be considered for FY11 funding.

Contact your local NRCS/SCD office for more information.



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

Mark Your Calendars

Landowner Workshops

Wednesday, February 23

Pingree Café
(Meeting Room)
10:00 AM

Marsolek's Pub & Grub
Courtenay
2:00 pm

NRCS/FSA/Pheasants Forever:

CRP CSP WRP
EQIP SPCC WHIP

Farm Loan Program:

Operating Loans
Farm Real Estate Loans
Farm Storage Facilities Loans
Conservation Loan Program

319 Watershed Program

Cost-share programs
Cover crops
Aerator & Composter Programs

Thursday, February 24

Dally-Up
Montpelier
10:00 AM

Friends Bar & Grill
Streeter
2:00 pm

Come join us for coffee, cookies and important information regarding NRCS and FSA programs, the Farm Loan Program, Pheasants Forever and the 319 Watershed Program. Bring your questions and your neighbor!