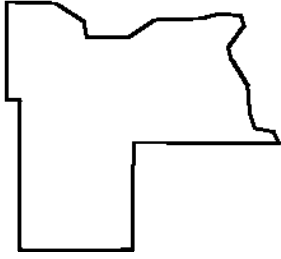


MERCER COUNTY



Conservation News

SOIL CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

Volume 33 No 2 1400 Hwy 49 N #102, Beulah, ND 58523 April 2013



Urban Tree Workshop

May 2nd, 2013
5:30 pm Registration
Beulah Civic Center

Topics to be covered:

Tree Selection
Insects and Diseases
Pruning Techniques
Tree Planting Procedures
Soil Testing



Workshop is free and
open to the public.
Please RSVP so
materials can be
provided.



ATTENTION!



With field season here, the Beulah NRCS and SCD Field Office would like to send out a friendly reminder for all producers to call North Dakota One-Call **BEFORE** you dig. North Dakota Century Code 49-23 requires anyone who engages in any type of excavation to call and notify North Dakota One-Call center and provide an excavation or location notice at least forty-eight hours before beginning any excavation. NRCS and Watershed practices that fall under the excavation definition include ponds, wells, pipelines, tanks, and fences. Cost share payments **will not** be processed without this number. If you do not call before you dig, it is a violation of the law and it endangers everyone.

North Dakota One-Call can be reached at **1-800-795-0555** or **811**

Surplus hand plant trees will be sold the end of May. Keep a look out in the Beulah Beacon and Hazen Star for the exact time and date.



Weed Barrier Management



Tree fabric is a great way to manage weeds while establishing trees! It is low maintenance and assists greatly with tree establishment and growth. However, low maintenance does not mean no maintenance. Tree fabric breaks down very slowly in our arid climate.



We recommend inspecting your fabric once a year after snowmelt and before tree growth. Every 5 years you should create relief cuts with a box cutter on two or four sides of the tree trunk as needed. Care should be taken so as not to damage the tree. If the tree becomes girdled by the fabric (or other tree roots) and doesn't have room to grow the tree will suffer limited growth and may die altogether. A tree that becomes stressed due to girdling can grow around the fabric edge. This creates instability/weakness in the trunk and can result in premature death from winds and imbalanced weight.

If you have had trees planted with fabric five or more years ago and haven't taken a look, it may be a good time to check them this year and cut slits as needed.

If you have questions or concerns please contact the Mercer County SCD.

Summer Camp Sponsorships Available

The Mercer County Soil Conservation District will sponsor students to attend conservation camps for the summer of 2013. The following camps are available for sponsorship:

ND Youth Range Camp: June 18-21 at the Logging Camp Ranch, located south of Medora, open to youth ages 13-18 with an interest in natural resources, range judging and having fun. A major focus of the camp is to teach youth the importance of range management through range judging.



North Dakota Wildlife Federation Youth Conservation Camp: August 4th–10th at the Triangle Y Camp, located on Lake Sakakawea near Garrison, for youth ages 12-15. The camp offers a unique opportunity to learn science, conservation and outdoor skills through hands on activities.

Please call or stop by the Beulah Field Office for more information about these camps and sponsorship.



We would like to thank the following Mercer County businesses for their sponsorship of our 2012 annual report which was published in the Dollar Saver: First Security Bank-West, Neuberger Oil Co., Napa Auto Parts, West River Telephone, The Union Bank, Mel Roth Oil & Roughrider Electric.

"Conservation in Action"

Featuring The Aalund Farm

Bryan Aalund of Hazen, recently installed a concrete fuel containment system through the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program's (EQIP) Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) special initiative. Mr. Aalund's conservation objective was to meet the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) requirements and regulations for prevention of, preparedness for, and response to oil discharges.

Under EPA's new compliance regulations, any farm must prepare and implement an SPCC plan no later than May 10, 2013. An operation that is below 10,000 existing gallons of fuel and oil can prepare their own plan by visiting <http://www.epa.gov/oem/content/spcc/tier1temp.htm>. Any operation that is above 10,000 existing gallons of fuel and oil must have a plan prepared by a Professional Engineer and can sign an application for NRCS cost share.

Mr. Aalund worked with a Professional Engineer, which was cost shared by the NRCS. The Professional Engineer designed, supervised the installation and checked out the fuel containment system throughout the contract process. Mr. Aalund installed a concrete facility. Other options for an implementation contract with NRCS include double wall tanks, earthen containment structure, or a corrugated steel ring structure. Mr. Aalund provided feedback to our office and is pleased with his system. He had the system built so there is enough room for pallet racking on one side. He wishes the slope would have been a bit steeper so water could easily drain out of the system. He mentioned that the water isn't significant and he just squeegees it out of the side drains.

Cost share applies to the SPCC plans and secondary containment systems that are completed after an EQIP contract is signed. The cost share payment cap that NRCS will provide for SPCC plans is \$2204.76. The cost share payment cap that NRCS will provide for SPCC secondary containment system is \$10,000.

Please stop by the Beulah Field Office to sign an application today! The next application deadline for Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) is April 19, 2013. Please contact the Beulah Field Office at 701-873-2101 Ext 3 if you have any questions.

Thank you to Mr. Bryan Aalund for his willingness to be featured in "Conservation in Action". It was a pleasure working with Mr. Aalund on this project and the Beulah Field Office looks forward to addressing any future resource concerns that he may have.

Submitted by Carlee Elke, NRCS Soil Conservationist



Mercer County SCD
1400 Hwy 49 N # 102
Beulah, ND 58523
Phone 873-2101

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District programs are available to all people, regardless of race, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap or marital status.



Once we reach 100 likes, we will draw for a free 5 ft tree! Like and Share our page.



The Mercer County Soil Conservation District wants to remind you that each of us has a connection to natural resources. The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) has proclaimed April 28 – May 5, as Stewardship Week, marking the 58th year of the national event. The 2013 Stewardship Week is themed “Where Does Your Water Shed?” Your drinking water depends on a watershed. The cycle of water flowing through a watershed to a body of water or groundwater helps to recycle water every day.

Just think, a water molecule you drank today could have also been used by a dinosaur! Some of the natural elements found in watersheds (like wetlands) also work to provide us clean water by filtering out pollutants. Healthy watersheds and clean water are vital to a healthy you. Materials to aid in the observance of Soil and Water Stewardship Week are available free of charge. Please call or stop in the office.



Charles Joseph Klein was born February 20th 2013 to Lori Gustafson (NRCS District Conservationist) and Mark Klein. Congratulations Lori and Mark!

Grass Seeding Cost Share and Technical Assistance Submitted by Carlee Elke, Soil Conservationist

Grass Seeding cost share and technical assistance is available for Mercer County residents through the Beulah Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) field office. Grass seedings vary from hay plantings, native grass seedings, introduced grass seedings, pollinator plantings, to a critical area planting for a disturbed site such as gravel pits or pipeline installations. In a critical area planting situation, it is vital that the correct species are chosen and that the planting gets fully established and is properly maintained.

Cost share is available for grass seedings through the NRCS **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**. This program requires an application to be filled out and may or may not be cost shared based on available funding. Cost share applies to grass seedings that are completed after an EQIP contract is signed.



NRCS delivers conservation technical assistance through its voluntary **Conservation Technical Assistance Program (CTA)**. Through CTA, NRCS will provide you with a recommended grass mix, rates, and seeding dates based on the soil type(s) and planned use. The CTA program does not include financial assistance and does not require a contract or any paperwork to be signed by an individual.

To receive **FREE** technical assistance in Mercer County or to sign an EQIP application, please stop by the Beulah Field Office or contact Lori Gustafson or Carlee Elke at the Beulah NRCS Field Office at **701-873-2101 Ext 3**.

It's Tree Planting Time!

It's that time of the year again, time to start ground preparation for spring 2013 tree plantings. We will be staking tree sites the end of April.

- * Ground must be worked to a depth of six to eight inches and be free of large rocks and clods of sod.
- * The site should be free of grass and weeds.
- * The tree site should be kept clean once planted, weed barrier will be applied one month later.

Proper preparation on tree planting sites is the responsibility of the landowner/operator. The District reserves the right to refuse service if sites are not properly prepared. You will receive a call a few days before we plant your trees. If you have questions, please contact the District office.

The tree planting schedule for 2014 is already filling up. If you are interested in planting trees next year, give us a call or stop in before October. We have several cost share opportunities available, please contact the office to see if you qualify.

Project "TREES"



The Regional Environmental Education Series or TREES Program is presented by Tom Gibson of Bottineau, ND. This program offers conservation education to ND kids through Tom's portrayal of fictional characters from years past.

Tom presented several programs to the Beulah and Hazen students on March 28.

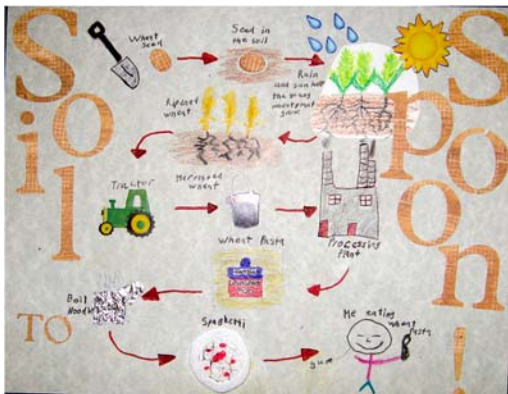
First Annual Conservation Poster Contest



Hazen Elementary School Fourth Grade Class
Teacher—Mrs. Shanda Leintz



Beulah Elementary School First Grade Class
Teacher—Mrs. Amanda Lorenz



Sean Gierke's Conservation Poster



Beulah Middle School Sixth Grade Class
Teacher—Mrs. Anecia Behm

The MCSCD started an annual Conservation Poster Contest in August 2012. Several Beulah and Hazen classes participated and the winners were submitted to a state competition. Sean Gierke, Beulah won the 4th to 6th grade State Poster Competition held in Bismarck at the NDASCD Annual Convention. The 2012 Mercer County contest winners were: K-1st Grade: 1st place- Sofia Schantz, 2nd place- Gavin Volk, 3rd place- Josiah Olson; 2nd Grade- 4th Grade: 1st place- Garrett Lightsey, 2nd place- Dean Marquardt, 3rd place- Lily Bable; 5th Grade- 6th Grade: 1st place- Sean Gierke, 2nd place- Mariah Holmes, 3rd place- Chloe Senn.