

# Spring Fever

## Garden Forums

Learn from NDSU experts on:

- ◆ Flowering Shrubs
- ◆ Butterfly Gardens
- ◆ Prairie Meadows
- ◆ Healthy Soils
- ◆ Shade Gardens
- ◆ Juneberries
- ◆ Birch Trees
- ◆ Insect Traps
- ◆ Raspberries
- ◆ Spring Lawn Care
- ◆ Grafting Apples
- ◆ Spruce Disorders

Attend at your NDSU Extension office or on your home computer

[www.ag.ndsu.edu/springfever/](http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/springfever/)

Monday Nights  
March 20 & 27

April 3 & 10

6:30 to 8:30 p.m. CDT

Free of charge

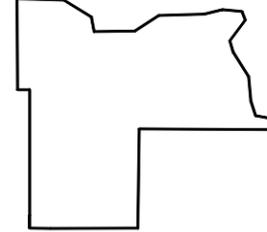
Mercer County Extension

701-873-5195

contact for more information

**NDSU** EXTENSION  
SERVICE

MERCER COUNTY



# Conservation News

SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT Volume 36 No 1 1400 Hwy 49 N #102, Beulah, ND 58523 February 2017

## Spring Creek Watershed Informal Informational Meeting

Stop in anytime during the 2hr period to ask questions and learn what is available.

We will have coffee and cookies.

Halliday Community Center

RSVP 873-2101 ext 3

Thursday, March 16

10am - 12pm MT



Visit us on facebook and  
Check out our new website  
[www.mercercountyscd.org](http://www.mercercountyscd.org)

## Scholarships Available

**MCSCD is taking applications for 2017 Noxious Weed and Water Quality Scholarships. The scholarships are open to high school seniors and college students who are residents of Mercer County, North Dakota and intend to or are currently pursuing an agricultural/natural resource management/environmental or related field at a two or four year university in the state of North Dakota. Scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$500. Interested applicants are required to complete the application form and compose an essay of no more than 500 words. Applications and essays are due to the Mercer County Soil Conservation District office by April 1, 2017. For more info or applications, please contact the office.**



## Tree Row Mowing & Tilling



If you are interested in having your tree rows mowed or tilled, please contact the District Office.

## Plantskydd Deer Repellent & Tree Tubes Available at the District Office



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

## District Manager & Watershed Coordinator Leaving



I am moving east. My family and I will be moving to NE Minnesota. My husband has accepted a new position with the National Park Service and we will be moving later this month. I want to thank everyone I worked with for a wonderful time. I have learned so much and made many great friendships. Thank you.

Kasha Hansen – MCSCD Watershed Coordinator



I'm not moving, however, I am "retiring" to stay home full time on the ranch. I can't believe that it has been almost 14 years. I really have enjoyed my time at the district and will deeply miss all of the people I have worked with both in the office and out. I have had a wonderful board of supervisors that have always guided me. I will still be around in the coming months working part time, so stop in and chat.

Dawn Martin – MCSCD District Manager

## New for 2017– Truax OTG Grass Drill



The Mercer County Soil Conservation District in cooperation with the North Dakota Game & Fish Department will have a grass drill available for rent for the 2017 planting season. Contact the MCSCD office about the rental rates and to schedule your rental dates. 873-2101 ext 3

**Supervisor needed:** If you are interested in becoming a part of the Mercer County Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors, please contact the office. We want to thank Jessica Unruh for her time on the board and for all of the experience and expertise that she was able to offer the Mercer County SCD board.

## Employment Opportunities



### District Manager Job Opening

The MCSCD is now accepting resumes for a full time District Manager. Responsibilities include but not limited to: managing district programs and services, oversee financial and administrative activities of the district, receptionist and presenting conservation programs to schools. Applicants must have education/experience with Excel, Word, Publisher, Access and bookkeeping software. Salary is dependent on level of experience and/or education. Benefits include retirement, medical insurance, paid holidays, annual leave and sick leave. Please send your resume by April 3, 2017 to MCSCD office.

### Assistant Watershed Coordinator/District Technician Job Opening

The MCSCD is now taking applications for a part time Assistant Watershed Coordinator/District Technician. Responsibilities include but are not limited to tree planning, staking & planting; water sampling and working with agricultural producers on conservation projects. Applicants should have basic experience and/or education with general farm operations, equipment, terminology, and computer experience. Send resumes to the district office by April 3, 2017.

### Tree Planters Needed:

The MCSCD is taking applications for seasonal tree planting and fabric application personnel. With a “normal” spring, this position starts the beginning of May and can extend through mid June. Applications available at the district office.

## Manure Storage *By Jim Collins, Jr., Environmental Scientist, North Dakota Department of Health*

North Dakota winters are tough on animals and people, making everyday chores more difficult. Working with livestock poses additional challenges when it comes to manure clean-up and storage.

Spreading manure on cropland can be an economical method for disposal and an excellent source of nutrients for crops. However, proper manure storage is important in preventing pollution from entering surface and ground waters.

In 2007, the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) published guidelines for proper manure stockpiling and storage.

### **Duration**

There are two time periods for storing manure, and specific requirements apply to each.

#### Short-term Stockpiles

Manure is not to be stored for more than nine months. The size of the stockpile is limited to the amount of nutrients needed for the crop to be grown in a field.

#### Permanent Stockpiles

Manure is stockpiled for more than nine months. It must be stored in a containment structure that prevents runoff to surface waters and leaching to ground waters.

### **Location**

In general, manure stockpiles may not be located:

- in gravel pits or excavated areas
- along streams or lakes
- within a floodplain
- within 50 feet of a private well or 100 feet of a public water supply well

Specifically, short-term stockpiles may not be placed in the same location each year. Vegetation must be established for one full growing season before the location can be used again. Short-term stockpiles may not be located:

- within 100 feet of any down gradient surface water or conduit to surface water
- on slopes of greater than 6 percent
- on slopes from 2 to 6 percent unless clean-water diversions and erosion control practices are installed
- on land where the soil texture is more coarse than sandy loam to a depth of 5 inches (Natural Resources Conservation Service).
- on soils where the depth to the seasonal high water table is less than 2 feet.



Short-term stockpiling prior to spreading. (University of Minnesota Extension)

As previously stated, permanent stockpiles must be stored within a containment area. Prior to the development of a permanent location, a soil investigation must be completed that is specific to the size and location of the permanent stockpile.

Practices to prevent runoff to surface waters include clean-water diversions and containment dikes. Leaching of pollutants is prevented using natural soils, constructed earthen pads, manufactured liners or structures. Please consult the guidelines for specifications regarding each method.



Improperly stockpiled manure next to road ditches may result in polluted runoff entering our streams and lakes. (NDDoH)

### **Agricultural Use**

Increasingly, manure is being utilized as a replacement for commercial fertilizers and as an amendment to build soil health. Manure is stockpiled in fields until it is applied, many times after fall harvest. The problem is stockpiles are typically placed on the headlands next to road ditches. Runoff from precipitation events may carry nutrients into the ditch and eventually end up in a surface water.

If you are a grower that is using or is going to use manure, following proper storage practices is strongly encouraged. Maintain a vegetative buffer strip around the stockpile. Avoid stockpiling manure

within 100 feet of any down-gradient surface water or conduit to surface water, aka road ditches. Spread the manure at agronomic rates, and incorporate as soon as possible. Implementing these practices will help keep the valuable nutrients in the field and out of streams, rivers and lakes.

For more information about proper manure storage, please contact the NDDoH - Division of Water Quality at 701-328-5210.