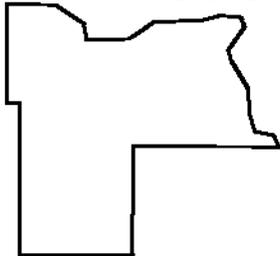


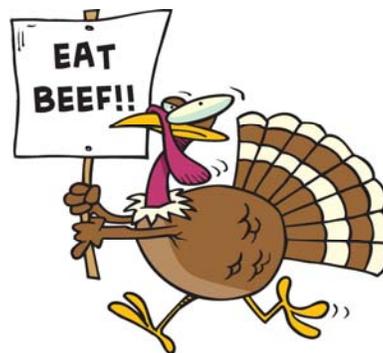
# MERCER COUNTY



# Conservation News

**SOIL CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT**

Volume 36 No 2 1400 Hwy 49 N #102, Beulah, ND 58523 November 2016



## 2016 Achievement Winners Scott & Annette Woroniecki



Second generation ranchers, Scott & Annette Woroniecki are dedicated to implementing conservation in their operating practices. Their ranch, located in the southwest corner of Mercer County, was among the first to be included in the Nine Townships 319 Watershed Project and with the help of NRCS were able to design a permitted feedlot for heifer development and custom feeding. The Woroniecki's have implemented a wide range of conservation practices including pipelines, wells, tanks, and cross fencing for rotational grazing, and over 10,000 feet of tree shelterbelts that protect their feedlot. The Woroniecki's would like to thank everyone at NRCS and Mercer County SCD for all their help in implementing their conservation practices.

The Woroniecki's will be guests of the Mercer County SCD at the NDASCD Annual Meeting in Bismarck. They will receive an aerial colored photo of their farmstead. We extend our congratulations to the Woroniecki's for their outstanding work in conserving our natural resources.

## Trees!!

It's time to start thinking about your 2017 tree planting and hand plant orders. If you plan on having the district plant trees for you next year, stop in the office before **December 1**. Cost share opportunities may be available!

Hand plant orders need to be submitted by **April 1, 2017**. Hand Plant Order Forms are included in this newsletter. The earlier you submit your order, the easier it is to get the trees you need. Taller stock is available for most varieties if orders are received before December 1. Please stop in or call the office at 873-2101 ext. 3.



## North Dakota Forest Service Cost Share for Windbreak Renovations



Many planted shelterbelts and farmstead windbreaks in North Dakota have deteriorated due to age or disease and are no longer functional. Through the North Dakota Statewide Windbreak Renovation Initiative, the North Dakota Forest Service (NDFS) will offer technical and financial assistance to private landowners to restore, protect, and enhance this deteriorating resource. NDFS and partners will assess wind-break condition and provide a written plan for renovating the windbreak to restore functionality. Through a grant from the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund, this initiative will provide cost-share to landowners to implement their written windbreak renovation plan.

Interested landowners will complete the Windbreak Renovation Questionnaire located on the NDFS web-site. This questionnaire also serves as the pre-application. Pre-applications will be accepted on a continuous basis. Deadlines will be used to group applicants into pools. Upcoming pool deadline is April 30, 2017.

Please visit the NDFS website ([www.ndsu.edu/ndfs](http://www.ndsu.edu/ndfs)) or contact our office for more information, 873-2101

## USDA Announces Applications Available for Conservation Stewardship Program

**WASHINGTON, Nov. 4, 2016** – Starting in November, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will accept and process applications for enrollment in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), the nation's largest conservation program. Applications will be made available in local service centers.

NRCS has made several updates to the program this year to help producers better evaluate their conservation options and the benefits to their operations and natural resources. New methods and software for evaluating applications will help producers see up front why they are or are not meeting stewardship thresholds, and allow them to pick practices and enhancements that work for their conservation objectives. These new tools also allow producers to see potential payment scenarios for conservation early in the process.

NRCS offices began processing applications for the program on November 14, 2016, with sign-up running through February 3, 2017. People interested in the additional opportunities that the updated CSP will offer can find information on the new CSP portal, located at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/csp>. This one-stop shop, which provides information to help producers determine whether CSP is right for them, will be continually updated as more information becomes available. Changes that producers can expect to see include nearly double the enhancements and conservation practices offered and better reporting tools to tell producers the results of their conservation efforts on their land.

CSP is for producers who are already established conservation stewards, helping them to deliver multiple conservation benefits on working lands, including improved water and soil quality and enhanced wildlife habitat. Information about CSP, including national and state ranking questions and enhancement descriptions, is available at [www.nrcs.usda.gov/csp](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/csp). Producers interested in the program should visit their local USDA Service Center to submit an application.

## Spring Creek Riparian Cost Share

Riparian areas in the Spring Creek Watershed now have more cost share available to them. The Mercer and Dunn County Water Resource Boards have offered to pay an additional 40% for filter strips in riparian areas. The Spring Creek Watershed will cover the other 60%. If you own or operate land adjacent to a creek or tributary in the Spring Creek Watershed, we would like to assist you with filter strips, riparian plantings, and fencing. Our goal is to improve riparian areas and improve runoff into Spring Creek. If you are interested, please call Kasha at 873-2101 ext 3.



## Working Grasslands Partnership Program

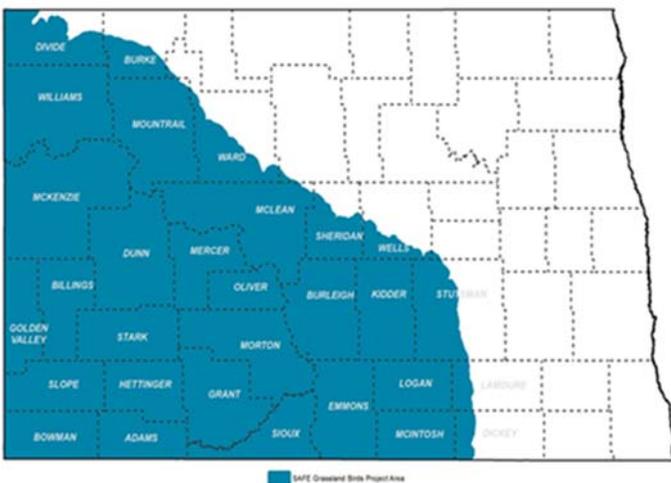
There is an exciting new program available for landowners with expiring or recently expiring CRP. The North Dakota Natural Resources Trust was awarded a grant through the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund for the Working Grasslands Partnership Program.

The objective of this program is to keep expiring or recently expiring CRP from being converted back into cropland and utilize it in a grazing system to keep high quality habitat for both game and non-game species,

such as Western Meadowlarks, Curlews and grouse. Producers can receive cost share assistance and possibly a small rental payment to add the expiring CRP into their grazing system.

Cost share would cover rangeland improvements such as fences, pipelines and tanks. There could also be extra incentive from the North Dakota Game and Fish Department if the landowner chooses to enroll their land into the Private Lands Open To Sportsman (PLOTS) program.

If you have any questions feel free to contact the North Dakota Natural Resources Trust at 701-223-8501.



Shaded Area Represents Core Working Grasslands

Partnership Area



Western Meadowlark



## Water Quality Scholarship

Calvin Aichele is the 2016 recipient of the \$500 Mercer County SCD and Mercer County Water Resource Board Water Quality Scholarship. Calvin is a 2015 graduate of Beulah High School. He is attending North Dakota State University majoring in Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering.

## Noxious Weed Scholarship

Courtney Kemmet is the 2016 recipient of the \$500 Mercer County SCD Noxious Weed Scholarship. Courtney is a 2014 graduate of Beulah High School. She is attending North Dakota State University majoring in Elementary Education.



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.

## 8th Grade Soil & Water Conservation Tour



The District held its annual 8th grade Soil and Water Conservation Tour in September. Beulah and Hazen Middle Schools attended with 100 students participating. Students were taken to various soil and water conservation practice sites. Tour guide presentation topics included proper range management, benefits of tree windbreaks, beneficial wildlife habitat, soil health and water quality. The high test score winners were: **Hazen Middle School:** Emmalia Frei, Matthew Scheer, Skylar Mullikin, Jessica Klein, Paige Erhardt & Jacob Driscoll. **Beulah Middle School:** Karlee Sailer, Emma Peterson, MacKenzie Connolly, Brooklyn Keller & Nadiya Kuhn.

## Annual Conservation Poster Contest



The MCSCD Annual Conservation Poster Contest was held in October 2016. Several Beulah classes participated and winners were chosen from each class. **Beulah Elementary 3rd Grade-** 1st place– Sylvie Hansen, 2nd place– Addyson Richardson, 3rd place– McKenzie Charboneau **Beulah Middle 5th Grade-** 1st place– Leah Hager, 2nd place– Zofia Dostal, 3rd place– Zachary Phelps.

