

2012 Conservation Achievement Award Winners Gary & Judy Gierke



Gary and Judy Gierke purchased their ranch between Hebron and Golden Valley in 1983. The washouts in the fields were so deep that they could not cross them with a four wheel drive tractor. The Gierke's worked to get these washouts grassed over. Another issue was the availability of quality and plentiful water for their cattle, so they developed three springs and nine dams and dugouts. In 2005, the Gierke's drilled their first pasture well. They have added cross fences, another pasture well and 18,000 feet of pipeline to provide adequate water.

The Gierke's also lacked winter protection for their livestock. They planted their first trees in 1988 and have done several more windbreak plantings over the years.

The Gierke'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 Gierke's for their outstanding work in conserving our natural resources.



Do You Want Trees Planted?

Now is the time to think about tree planting for next spring. If you are planning a machine planting, the ground needs to be worked as soon as possible. Cost-share opportunities are also available. Please contact Dawn at the SCD office to get your tree plantings planned 701-873-2101 ext 3.



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

If you believe that the 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

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA'S TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD)."

8th Grade Soil & Water Conservation Tour



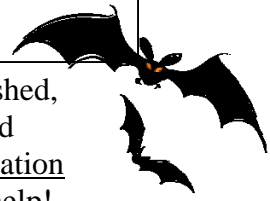
The District held its annual 8th grade Soil and Water Conservation Tour. Beulah and Hazen Middle Schools attended with 96 students participating. Students were taken to various soil and water conservation practice sites. Tour guide presentation topics included proper range management, benefits of tree windbreaks, beneficial wildlife habitat, soil health and water quality. The high test score winners were:

Hazen Middle School: Carter Mattheis, Drew Biffert, Randy Riepe and Jeremy Leintz

Beulah Middle School: Isabel Garman, Kourtney Hintz, Brandon Meier, Auston Pouliot, Hannah Obridgewitch and Kelsi Knutson.



Watershed Cost Share Available



Cost Share is available for a variety of conservation practices in the Spring Creek Watershed, Many practices are available for cost share: fence, pipelines, water tanks, shelter belts and renovations, grass and hayland plantings, cover crops and many more. There is no application deadline to sign-up. Just stop by and discuss your plans with us. We would be happy to help! Everyone is welcome to apply, large and small operations!

Spring Creek Watershed

Focus: Improve riparian areas along streams
How: Implement grazing system along stream banks
 Grass planting with native grasses
 Stream Bank Restoration
 Riparian Forest Buffer
 And Many More Ways!

Time Frame: November 2015
Funding: \$475,000

Spring Creek Watershed extends into Dunn County. If you have land in Dunn and are interested, you can stop by either office.

The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) Deadline is November 16, 2012!

Cost Share Is Available For:

- Cross Fencing, Pipelines, Tanks
- Tree Renovations & Establishment
- No Till
- Cover Crops
- Critical Area Plantings
- Range Plantings
- Well Decommissioning and much more!



Mercer County will be participating in the following National funding pools: On-Farm Energy, Seasonal High Tunnels, Organic, Organic – Transitional, Water Quality Initiative.

2013 Available Apple Tree Varieties



The MCSCD is offering the following apple tree varieties for ordering. These trees are approximately 5-6 feet in height and are \$17.50 each. They will be available the end of April. If you are interested in ordering trees please contact the office at 873-2101 ext. 3.

Golden Delicious: Best all purpose apple. Spur type is early bearing.

Red McIntosh: One of the most popular apples. Bright to dark red skin over white flesh.

Liberty: Medium to large shiny red fruit. Good fresh, cooked or canned. Excellent storage

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

Non profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Beulah, ND
Permit # 75

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Submitted by Lori Gustafson, NRCS District Conservationist

Eligible producers are encouraged to apply for CSP now to ensure their applications will be considered during the next funding and ranking period. Applications may be submitted on a continuous basis. The tentative deadline for the next ranking period is January 18.

CSP is available on Tribal and private agricultural lands, as well as statewide nonindustrial private forest lands. Individual producers, legal entities, corporations, and Indian Tribes may be eligible for the program. Eligible land includes cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pastureland, rangeland, nonindustrial private forest land, and agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian Tribe.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Oct 31st - Happy Halloween
Nov 1st - Mercer County Livestock Day
Nov 12th - Veterans Day - Office closed
Nov 13th - SCD board meeting 7:00 am
Nov 16th—EQIP application deadline
Nov 18th - 20th - NDASCD Annual Convention, Bismarck
Nov 22nd - Thanksgiving - Office closed
Dec 10th - SCD board meeting
Dec 25th - Christmas, Office closed
Jan 1st - New Year's Day, Office closed

Applicants must:

Be the operator on record in the USDA farm records management system for eligible land being offered for enrollment;

Have documented control of the land for the term of the proposed contract;

Include the eligible land in their entire operation as represented for other USDA programs;

Be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions and adjusted gross income.

For more information, contact the Beulah NRCS office at 873-2101 ext 3.

Fabricated Portable Windbreak Cost Share Available!

Submitted By Carlee Elke, NRCS Soil Conservationist

Cost share is available for the installation of fabricated portable windbreaks through the Environmental Quality Initiative Program (EQIP). The main purpose of a portable windbreak is to provide shelter for livestock from wind, snow, extreme temperatures, and sunlight to protect environmentally sensitive areas such as riparian areas, woody draws, and forested areas.

Fabricated portable windbreaks:

- * must be placed on cropland or pastureland and not in a feedlot system
- * are required to be moved annually
- * must be purchased after the EQIP contract is signed
- * must be constructed to NRCS standards and specifications
- * footage is based on windbreak height and number of head protected.



EQIP Fabricated Windbreak In Wyoming

Please stop into the Beulah Field Office by **November 16, 2012** to sign an application! You can also contact the office at 701-873-2101 Ext3 if you have any questions.

Educated Cows Eat Weeds!

Kathy Voth, Livestock for Landscapes founder, developed a revolutionary process for training cows to eat weeds in as little as 10 hours over a 10 day period. Trained cattle gain weight at expected rates and teach their herd mates and offspring. Even better, trained cows become more open-minded about forage in general and choose pasture weeds on their own. Voth shares her training methods and the science behind them in a book and two DVD's, complete with troubleshooting tips, step-by-step worksheets and a recipe for building your own training plan. The book makes sure you'll have your cows eating weeds this next year! You'll find out:

- **What makes a plant palatable,**
- **How creatures choose foods and protect themselves from toxins in plants,**
- **How to use a cow's natural behaviors to get her to eat a weed in as little as five days.**

**Book & DVD's
available to be rented
at the MCSCD Office!**

