Richland County Soil Conservation District

FALL 2023

2023 ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER

The Richland County Soil and Conservation District is pleased to announce the winner of the 2023 Conservation Achievement Award—DelShane and Sarah Kluge. The Kluge's farm is located east of Hankinson ND.

Growing up on his parents' farm south of Hankinson, Kluge's father, David, implemented many different farming practices over the years. Soybeans were a staple crop. From full tillage to minimum-tilling, ridge tilling and no-tilling. In 2007, while Kluge worked road construction, he began renting cropland. In 2014, he married Sarah and they bought a farm east of Hankinson. The farm is home to their three children, Lane, Walker and Eloise.

By the time Kluge began farming full-time in 2015, he was implementing many of the practices passed down by his father. Kluge farms 1,600 acres of corn and soybeans. He also helps with his dad's farming operation and custom work. DelShane utilizes no-till methods on the soybeans and on the corn where possible. Strip-till methods are used on the remaining acres. "Though no-till/strip-till have brought many new challenges to our operation, in the end I always find that the improvements happening long term to the soil is well worth it for my families and my landlord's land," Kluge said.

Congratulations to DelShane & Sarah Kluge on their achievements!

BUZZ 'N WINE NIGHT

With the important role that pollinators play for the production of healthy crops for food, fibers, edible oils, medicines, and more, we felt an educational event would be a fun way to learn about pollinators and would be beneficial to our communities. Our second annual Buzz N Wine Pollinator Party was held on a beautiful day, August 30th at Crooked Lane Farms of Colfax ND.

Attendees visited stations of professionals including:

Pheasants Forever: Austin Lang, Precision Ag and Conservation Specialist, was available to inform attendees about programs that they promote and go over what could work best for their operation.

Pollinator Trees: Keith Kinneberg- Richland SCD District Technician, Noah Schaeffer- ND Forest Stewardship Specialist, and Craig Lingen- Wilkin SWCD District Manager highlighted pollinator trees and their benefits. They answered questions about pollinator-type trees/shrubs and assisted those interested in planting plans and ordering trees. Jon Quast– NRCS Richland County District Conservationist was also there to go over and answer any questions related to the programs available through NRCS and the USDA.

Janel Maier Produce of Lidgerwood: Vegetable vendor and explained how pollinators help feed the world. Pollinators affect 35 percent of the world's food crop production, increasing the output of 87 of the leading crops worldwide. She also provided honey, from the Jarabeck boys, and discussed the importance of bees and how they help pollinate a majority of the foods we eat and the fields we harvest.

Master Gardeners: The NDSU Extension Master Gardeners (LuAnn Lee, Penny Seifert, Karen Weber, Diana Freese, Lisa Anderson & William Meyer) gave their educated advice on selecting the proper pollinator plants for your garden and where you could buy your seed or plants.

Seed Bombs: Billie Jo Hinders, Richland SCD and Amanda Hintz, Agassiz Seed manned this hands-on station for attendees to make seed balls (which are made of clay, compost and wildflower seeds) to take home and disburse for spring planting. Special thanks to Agassiz Seed, West Fargo and Millborn Seeds, Brookings, SD for their generous donation of pollinator seed.

Wine Tasting: Pollinator wines were available for purchase with a special "Pollinator Flight" of Chokecherry, Pear, Black Currant and Rhubarb.

April Johnson, NDSU Extension Pollinator Technician gave a presentation on "Edible Landscaping for People" and "Pollinators in the Northern Plains".

Thank you to those who donated prizes that were given away throughout the event: Agassiz Seeds, Richland SCD and Simple Nutrition!

Richland County Soil Conservation District

WILKIN SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2023 Second Annual Photography Contest Winners

Thank you to everyone that participated in the Second Annual Photography Contest! All entries were fantastic!

1st Place-taken by Barbie Wyman by Hankinson, ND. Grasslands surrounding railroad tracks. Look at the Little Bluestem and Indiangrass!

2nd Place-taken by Signe Mark, taken by Abercrombie, ND. Look at all that butterfly weed seed ready to spread!

3rd Place– taken by Signe Mark taken just outside of Abercrombie. Beautiful stand of Little Bluestem.

1st Place

2nd Place

3rd Place

Eco-Ed Days 2023

The 2023 Eco-Ed Field Days, for 7th graders, was held September 5th & 6th. The Richland County Soil Conservation District hosted the field day at the Bagg Bonanza Farm, Mooreton, ND. We had two days of fun-filled learning activities and being outdoors. The Eco-Ed field day is open to all Richland County School Districts, we had 6 schools participate this year (Fairmount, Colfax, Lidgerwood, Hankinson, Wyndmere and Wahpeton) with a total of 169 students in attendance.

Eco-Ed Days encompasses five learning areas: Prairie/Rangelands, Soils & Erosion, Water Quality, Wetlands and Woodlands. The students also were able to enjoy a special presentation put on by the Chahinkapa Zoo and participate in an Ecological Scavenger Hunt. The goal of this field day is for students to have a fun, interactive day learning about ecology and their environment. Along with encouraging good choices to make our water, air, plants and soils to flourish and not degrade. Before and after attending Eco-Ed Days the students take a test. This allows us to see how much they've learned. The student body with the highest average score, for the post-test, gets a pizza party. This year's winners of the pizza party was Richland 44. We also give prizes to the Scavenger Hunt winners. Day 1 winning team was Matthew Lyons, Sophia Segura and Lydia Morris from Wyndmere Public School. Day 2 winning team was Callia Wold, Saphire Olson, Haylee Clark and Sydney Erdmann from Wahpeton Middle School.

Submitted by: Billie Jo Hinders, District Clerk

NORTH DAKOTA ECO ED
An Environmental Experience

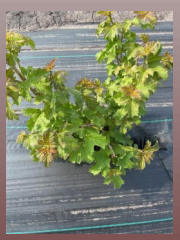
Richland County Soil Conservation District

NEWS FROM THE TREE COOLER

FROM KEITH KINNEBERG– DISTRICT TECHNICIAN

Where was the rain this summer? I think we can now say we are not in the drought mode. The summer was not ideal for newly planted trees due to the warm temps and lack of moisture. Doing tree checks this fall we were surprised at how well the trees that were maintained and watered were doing. The ones not attended to were really struggling. I always tell the owners that tree planting is an investment, and you need to protect that investment. Proper maintenance is so vital for trees, so they do what they were intended to do for that owner. Our tree cooler is empty now, but we are hoping for another good season next spring and that the cooler will once again be fully stocked. For those of you still wanting to have the district plant by machine your trees next spring, there is still a small amount of time to get signed up. We do not have any cost share options available as of now for next spring but if you are interested in the 2025 plantings, please stop in and we can put you on the waiting list. We will not be able to do the handplanting next spring due to the amount of machine planting that is scheduled. Speaking of handplants, we are now taking orders. Please fill out the form that is included in the newsletter, if you plan on getting handplant trees and send back to us. The sooner the better to assure getting the trees you want. We will be really limited on most of the taller stock due to nursery shortages.

Please stop in the office or call anytime during work hours if you have any questions or just to say hi. I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable but short winter and let's get that cooler filled again next spring!!!



PRICE LIST FOR 2023-2024

Regular Stock-	$40.00 -in bundle of 25's	
Singles-Regular Stock	$2.00 (minimum of 10 trees per species)	
Taller stock (2'-3')	$3.00	(over 3') $4.00
Potted (spruce or pine)	$10.00	(1 Gal. containers)

Prices on special order trees will vary according to species and cost of purchasing from nursery.

Machine Planting:

$40.00 per 100 feet (includes trees and labor)
Minimum of $400 will be charged regardless.

Tubes and Stakes:

4 foot (vented style): $4.50 each $6.00 w/stake $1.50 for stake.

Application of tubes by staff- $2.00 plus cost of tube and stake.

Fabric Weed Control:

Applied by SCD– .60 cents per foot (includes cost of fabric)
Fabric purchased by producer- .50 cents per foot or $150.00 per 500' roll
Staples purchased- .05 cents per staple

Grass Seeding:

$25.00 an acre- with minimum charge of $300

Rototilling:

$75.00 per hour – with minimum charge of $250

(Tilling will be used for tree planting contracts and grass seeding areas and not for garden use. Other uses may be available if approved by Bd of Directors)

Hand Plant Tree Order Form

(Please read bottom information before filling out order)

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Street: _____ **Phone#:** _____

City: _____ **Minimum of 10 trees per species**

QTY	SHRUBS
_____	Buffaloberry
_____	Caragana
_____	Nanking Cherry
_____	Sand Cherry
_____	Common Chokecherry
_____	Viburnum Nannyberry
_____	Shubert Chokecherry
_____	American Cranberry
_____	Golden Currant
_____	Juneberry
_____	Redosier Dogwood
_____	Common Lilac
_____	Villosa (late) Lilac
_____	Amur Maple
_____	Plum

QTY	TALL HEIGHT TREES
_____	Silver Maple +
_____	Laurel Leaf Willow
_____	Northern Hackberry +
_____	American Linden +
_____	Hybrid Poplar
_____	Native Cottonwood (seed bearing)
_____	Native Male Cottonwood (seedless)
_____	Siouxland Cottonwood
_____	Black Walnut +
_____	Golden Willow
_____	Bur Oak – (container grown)
_____	Princeton Elm (priced annual)
_____	Quaking Aspen
_____	_____
_____	_____

QTY	MEDIUM HEIGHT TREES
_____	Apricot
_____	Red Splendor Crabapple
_____	Midwest Crabapple
_____	Siberian Crabapple
_____	Ussurian Pear
_____	Black Cherry
_____	Sugar Maple
_____	Maple Freeman
_____	Little Leaf Linden +

QTY	CONIFERS
_____	Colorado Blue Spruce (BR or Potted)
_____	Black Hills Spruce (BR or Potted)
_____	Ponderosa Pine (BR or Potted)
_____	Scotch Pine (BR or Potted)
_____	Eastern Red Cedar (Bare root only)
_____	Rocky Mountain Juniper (Bare Root only)
_____	Meyer Spruce (BR or Potted)

Circle BR if you want conifers in Bare Root

Circle Potted if you want conifers in 1 Gal. pot

_____ **Please check if you are a farmer or rancher- Trees are NOT subject to sales tax.**

All trees are subject to availability from the nursery sources. Regular stock trees are 12-18" tall and are $2.00 per tree or $40.00 per bundle of 25 trees. Potted 1 Gallon trees are $10.00. Orders $100.00 and over will require a 50% down payment due by February 15th, 2024, orders under $100 payment is due upon pickup. Prices are subject to change. + indicates that variety may be purchased as taller stock. Please indicate above if you want taller trees. 2-3 ft are $3 each and over 3ft are $4. Please call if you want a certain variety not listed to check on availability. 1-701-642-5997 Ext. 3 Mail to: Richland SCD 1687 Bypass Rd Wahpeton, ND 58075

Tree Descriptions

SHRUBS	DESCRIPTION
Buffaloberry	14’ tall native to N.D., edible red fruit, good wildlife shrub
Caragana	8-14’ tall, hardy fast growing shrub, long living, yellow flowers
Nanking & Sand Cherry	3-6’ short lived, small shrub, white blossoms, edible fruit
Black Chokeberry	3-6’ green foliage turns red/purple in fall, edible fruit
Common Chokecherry	10-25’ tall, black fruit made into jelly and jam
Shubert Chokecherry	Same as above except leaves turn purple in June
Golden Current	3-6’ tall, yellow flowers, salt tolerant shrub, edible fruit
Redosier Dogwood	6-10’ tall, red bark, green/purple leaves, water tolerant
Juneberry	6-10’ tall, edible blue fruit, native to N.D., good wildlife shrub
Common Lilac	8-12’ tall, fragrant purple flowers, prefers dry sites, suckering
Villosa (late) Lilac	6-10’ tall, blooms later and stays in a clump, non-suckering
Amur Maple	10-20’ tall shrub or short tree, brilliant orange/red fall color
Plum	8-10’ drought tolerant shrub, edible fruit used in jams
Hansen Hedge Rose	4-6’ hardy dense shrub, very thorny, many pink flowers

MEDIUM TREES	
Apricot	10-15’ winter hardy tree, edible fruit, and drought tolerant
Red Splendor Crabapple	15-25’ variable fruit size, foliage green-red in color, good wildlife tree
Midwest Crabapple	10-25’ winter hardy, white flowers, 1” red fruit, good wildlife tree
Siberian Crabapple	15-25’ shrub like tree, red to white flowers, small fruit for wildlife
Little Leaf Linden	15-30’ tall, nicely shaped tree, fragrant pale yellow blossoms
Ussurian Pear	15-30’ tall, wildlife fruit, white flowers, gray bark, not salt tolerant
Russian Olive	15-25’ hardy tree, thorny, silvery leaves, tolerates poor soils
Laurel Willow	25-40’ dark, glossy leaves, tolerates wet areas

TALL TREES	
Northern Hackberry	40-60’ nice shade tree similar to green ash, chemical sensitive
American Linden	40-70’ “Basswood” nicely shaped, large 7” leaves, native to N.D.
Hybrid Poplar	40-60’ seedless cottonwood, fast growing, life span up to 40 years
Native Cottonwood	50-100’ fast growing, large crown, prefers wet sites, telltale cotton
Native Male Cottonwood	50-100’ fast growing, large crown, prefers wet sites, seedless (no cotton)
Siouxland Cottonwood	50-100’ seedless variety, fast growing, prefers wet sites
Silver Maple	40-65’ fast-medium growing, moist sites, underside leaves silvery
Black Walnut	35-60’ slow growing, good shade tree, valuable lumber
Golden Willow	40-55’ fast growing, wet sites, new branches have golden bark
Bur Oak	40-70’ slow growing, hardy, tolerates many soils, native to N.D.

CONIFERS	
Colorado Blue Spruce	30-65’ blue to green 1” needles, sensitive to excess water
Black Hills Spruce	30-60’ green soft 1” needles, variety of white spruce, water tolerant
Ponderosa Pine	50-70’ drought resistant, slower growing, 7” long needles
Scotch Pine	25-50’ mostly used for Christmas Trees. 2-4” needles
Eastern Red Cedar	30-45’ red/brown in winter, alkali tolerant, can cause apple rust
Rocky Mountain Juniper	20-40’ stays green, not as tolerant as above, no apple rust
Meyer Spruce	40’ more resistant to pests & disease

2023 Tree Award

By: Keith Kinneberg

Richland Soil Conservation District is proud to announce Dave and Sandy Link as the recipients for the 2023 Conservation Tree Award winner. The Links have continued to plant new tree plantings, replace trees that have not survived along with maintaining trees that have been established over the decades. They have spent many hours watering, weeding, and trimming the trees. Dave and Sandy continue to beautify the farmstead even while having difficulties dealing with heavy clay soils and continued issues with the potential of seasonal flooding. The amount of work that goes into their trees around their farmstead does not go unnoticed. Congrats to the Links on this achievement and for allowing the Richland Soil Conservation District to assist you in your endeavor.

319 Antelope Creek Watershed News

By Jennifer Klostreich

Happy fall, soon to be winter. While I like the warm weather, I enjoy all our seasons and look forward to a little slower pace coming soon. The district continues to have a very active watershed project. I would like to thank all the landowners and contractors for continuing to work with our 319 project, the project has been around since 2003, which includes a 3 year assessment. It has been a fun project to see grow and evolve over that much time. One thing has not changed, I am still out water sampling as soon as snow melts and assisting with septic replacement up until freeze up. We have had an average year so far, assisted with septic system replacement, well decommissioning's and well and tanks for livestock which might include solar panels or connecting to electricity if close enough.

Few things that are new, the district is involved in a pilot program for the Red River Valley. Red River Basin Wildlife & Water Quality Enhancement Pilot Program, this program allows for marginal cropland to be turned into grass for either a 5- or 10-year period. These are upfront payments, with some provisions for haying or grazing. If you have some of these areas and are interested in discussing the program, give me a call. The annual payment for Richland County is 60% of the current "County Rents Prices", published by ND Department of Trusts Lands, which for 2023 in Richland County is $150.50, which equates to $90.30/acre for either 5- or 10-year contracts.

Something else in the works with Wilkin County is an application that has been submitted for Cover Crop program. We are looking forward to working with Wilkin County in getting conservation on the ground if we are approved for this grant. We will keep you updated on this when we know more.

Save Money on Fuel with No-Till Farming

Jon Quast

NRCS District Conservationist

How much fuel can farmers save each year by transitioning from conventional tillage to continuous no-till? According to a report from USDA's Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP), 3.6 gallons per acre is a reasonable estimate. With current off-road diesel fuel prices, this could translate into approximately $17 per acre saved annually.

Nearly 87 percent of all cropland acres nationwide are farmed using some form of conservation tillage, where tillage is reduced for at least one crop within a given field. Continuous no-till accounts for 33 percent of this total.

Improving soil health is one known benefit of limiting disturbance. Farmers who minimize tillage across their operation may reduce soil erosion, maximize water infiltration, improve nutrient cycling, build organic matter, and strengthen resilience to disaster events or challenging growing conditions. Based on the latest data, they may also use significantly less fuel than with conventional tillage and reduce their associated carbon dioxide emissions.

According to CEAP, farmers who implement conservation tillage practices instead of continuous conventional tillage:

- Reduce potential nationwide fuel use by 763 million gallons of diesel equivalents each year, roughly the amount of energy used by 2.8 million households.
- Reduce potential associated emissions by 8.5 million tons of carbon dioxide (CO_2) equivalents each year, equivalent to removing nearly 1.7 million gasoline-powered passenger vehicles from the road.

How is this possible? Annually, farmers who practice continuous no-till use approximately 3.6 fewer gallons of fuel per acre than if they practiced continuous conventional tillage. Farmers who practice seasonal no-till – farming without tilling for at least one crop – use approximately 3 fewer gallons of fuel per acre than they would with conventional tillage year-round.

Acre by acre, fuel saved is money saved. Let's assume an average off-road diesel fuel price of $4.75 per gallon. By transitioning from continuous conventional tillage to continuous no-till, a farmer can save just over $17 per acre each year in fuel costs. A farmer who transitions from continuous conventional tillage to seasonal no-till can save more than $14 per acre on fuel annually. These potential savings are significantly larger than with CEAP's first fuel savings report, primarily due to the current price of diesel fuel.

The bottom line for farmers: Reducing tillage leads to fuel savings that deliver significant financial benefits while building healthier soils for a more resilient operation.

USDA Can Help

If you're a farmer interested in reducing tillage or pursuing other conservation efforts across your operation, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) can help. They can offer you multiple sources of information including articles, blogs, videos, and webpages such as https://www.farmers.gov/conservation/soil-health which can be a steppingstone to learning the ins and outs of soil health. This webpage details principles to improve soil health, including reduced tillage and complimentary conservation practices such as cover crops, crop rotations, and rotational grazing.

NRCS has local USDA Service Centers in nearly every county across the United States. In Richland County contact Jon Quast, District Conservationist at 701-642-5997 ext. 3 or by email: jonathan.quast@usda.gov NRCS staff are available to provide free, one-on-one assistance with a suite of practices to strengthen your operation, conserve natural resources, and boost your bottom line. SMART nutrient management, for example, is important to consider with no-till and may help you save money on fertilizer while improving water quality – another win-win.

Visit the new NRCS website, https://www.nrcs.usda.gov to learn more about conservation basics, getting assistance from NRCS, programs and initiatives, and resources to inform management decisions. Visit the new CEAP webpage, https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/ceap for additional information about USDA's efforts to quantify the effects of conservation practices across croplands and other working lands.

Richland County Soil Conservation District
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Richland County Soil Conservation District

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Keith Kinneberg- **District Technician**
Billie Jo Hinders- **District Clerk**
Jon Quast- **NRCS District Conservationist**
Tanner Tougas - **NRCS Biologist**
Amy Gnoinsky- **NRCS Business Tool Specialist**
Dianne Kriz- **NRCS Contractor**
Brock Pearson- **NRCS Soil Conservationist**
Riley Breuer- **NRCS Soil Conservationist**
Jason Nelson- **NRCS Wetland Specialist**

OFFICE HOURS:

8am - 4:30pm Monday-Friday
701-642-5997 Ext. 3

TENTATIVE BOARD MTG SCHEDULE

December 12th
January 9th
February 13th
March 12th
June 11th
July 9th