

Richland County Soil Conservation District

FALL 2024

2024 TREE AWARD WINNER

The 2024 Conservation Tree Award recipients this year are Brian and Cheryl Muehlberg. Richland Soil Conservation District planted several rows of trees, around their new house, on the farmstead in 2019. The Muehlberg's went with a large selection of diverse varieties placed in a total of 12 rows. They wanted trees that would not only give them fall colors, but also provide a good windbreak while making their property look very appealing to people that drive by. The Muehlberg's have spent many hours in maintaining and upkeeping the planting, so their trees remain healthy. Fabric was installed for weed control and grass was planted in between rows and mowed. Congratulations to Brian and Cheryl Muehlberg for a well deserved award. To achieve this award the District Supervisors look at the year the trees were planted, as well as how the trees are maintained. Usually, they like to see what the trees look like after 5 years from when they were planted, as well as to the purpose of the tree rows. Are the trees doing what they are intended to do? So yes, the supervisors are out and about looking at your trees, and other conservation practices happening on our landscape. Keep those tree lines looking nice and you may be an award recipient.

By: Keith Kinneberg, District Technician



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 28th at Crooked Lane Farms of Colfax ND.

Attendees visited stations of professionals including:



Pheasants Forever: Seth Owens, Education & Outreach Coordinator, 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, Craig Lingen- ND Forest Stewardship Specialist, and Eric Stroh- 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.

Farmers Market: Food vendors 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.

Wayne Gereszek: Wayne is a bee keeper. He had honey available to taste test and buy. He also spoke about taking care of the bees and prepping them for winter and then spring.

Master Gardeners: The NDSU Extension Master Gardeners (LuAnn Lee, Penny Seifert, Karen Weber, and 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 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 many pollinator based options.

Jeff Miller, Cass County Soil Conservation District Director, spoke about edible forests. Jeff described edible forests as trees and shrubs planted with the intention of flowering and fruiting and providing food for humans. He also talked about different ways to preserve the fruits. Everyone also learned about the benefits of planting or having wind protection and pollinator habitats.

Thank you to those who donated prizes that were given away throughout the event: Agassiz Seeds, Richland SCD, Millborne Seed, Wilkin SWCD, Econo Wine & Spirits, Nadine Julson LLC, Tractor Supply Company and Simple Nutrition!



Ladies Ag Night will be held April 10, 2025 at the Wahpeton Community Center! This is a different location from the past few years. Entertainment is booked, so get it in your calendar!

2024 Geology Tour



For rock enthusiasts, the Richland County Soil Conservation District Geology Tour has been in the works for a year. August 13th group of 25 participants went on a full day drive stopping at multiple geographical sites. Participants gathered around and soaked in the extensive background knowledge of soils provided by Dr. Hopkins and Keith Anderson.

The group was in the experienced hands of Dr. David Hopkins and Keith Anderson who led the tour that spanned multiple stops. Anderson is a recently retired soil scientist from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. All those in attendance had the opportunity to gain insights from his 35-year soil mapping career that began in northwest Wisconsin and concluded in the Red River Valley of the North. Dr. Hopkins made a great addition to the tour, having taught Intro to Soil Science for 14 years and has also taught Soil Genesis and Survey for nearly a decade.

The tour started at Veterans Memorial Park on the south side of Lake Elsie in Hankinson and ended south of Cayuga, North Dakota. Stops along the way included the Richland County Gravel Pit, the Sand Hills in Hankinson, the Kames features near Lidgerwood and the Coteau des Prairies south of Cayuga, N.D.

Participants even joined in along the way when the tour stopped at the Richland County Gravel Pit, Hankinson Sand Hills, the Kames features north of Lidgerwood, North Dakota and finished on the ridge of the Coteau des Prairies south of Cayuga.

There is so much to learn from history, how did our soils form? We live in the dried up lake bed of Lake Agassiz, and why do the soils change so much in the valley?

Glaciers formed the soils of the region over an incredible amount of time. People find the area's geology fascinating. There is even record of a very unique soil material that was dug up at a site north of Lidgerwood nearly 700 feet down.

Overall the Geology Tour was a great day of learning with wonderful weather.



Eco-Ed Days 2024

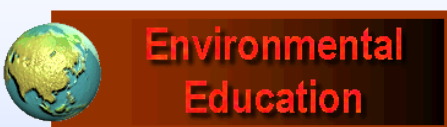
September 4th & 5th we were blessed with wonderful weather and the ability to provide Eco-Ed for Richland Counties 7th graders. The students enjoyed a day of fun learning.

The stations included: **Prairie**- here they had an informational Bingo Game on prairie plants and grasses that were presented by Richland County NRCS; **Soils & Erosion**- at this station they learned information on soil layers and types that were presented by the Fargo Soil Survey Staff of NRCS; **Water Quality**- they received information on water quality concerns using a watershed model presented by Richland Soil Conservation District (RSCD); **Wetland**- they played a Wetlands Jeopardy Game that was hosted by Tewaukon National Refuge Fish and Wildlife Staff; **Woodland**- an opportunity to learn about Forestry facts presented by RSCD; **Scavenger Hunt**- a chance to answer questions and collect materials in correspondence to their answers for a chance at a team prize, hosted by RSCD; and a **Specialty Program** put on by Chahinkapa Zoo Education Staff- here they learned about the effects of extinction and poaching, along with ecology. They also had the opportunity to see a corn snake, blue-tongued skink, and a young goat. The students were taught about the areas in which the corn snake and skink actually live and how they survive. They also learned that the goats are utilized to control invasive species around the zoo and countryside.

Schools that were in attendance were Lidgerwood Public School, Richland 44 School District, Hankinson Public School, Fairmount Public School, Wyndmere Public School, Circle of Nations School, and Wahpeton Middle School.

We'd like to thank RDO Equipment of Breckenridge MN, Minn-Kota Ag Products of Breckenridge MN, Guardian Energy of Hankinson ND, GIANTS Snacks Inc. of Wahpeton ND, Red River Valley & Western Railroad Company of Wahpeton ND, and Dakota Ag Coop CHS of Kindred ND for the willingness to sponsor the Eco-Ed t-shirts for each student. Also a big thank you to the Historic Bagg Bonanza Farm for letting us use their facilities and feeding the students, teachers, chaperones and facilitators.

Submitted by: Billie Jo Hinders, District Clerk



NEWS FROM THE TREE COOLER

FROM KEITH KINNEBERG— DISTRICT TECHNICIAN

It's getting to that time again where we need to start thinking about dormancy. The leaves are falling off and harvest near completion which means it is time to get ready for colder and shorter daylight days. I am not a fan of either. So how should we prepare for it? As far as trees go, for those of you who have had the District plant trees this past spring, it would be a good reminder to water them a good amount before it freezes up. This will help them keep enough moisture going in the root system throughout the winter. Also, winter is a good time for predator damage as deer and rabbits are known to forage on the limbs and bark. Rabbits will eat away at the base of the tree (or whatever is above the snow line) which will cause damage or even death to the tree. There are ways to prevent that from happening. Call the office and we can give you a few options. We had a successful tree planting season this spring and this fall when doing the survival checks we were very pleased with the results. Landowners, keep up the good work with keeping the trees free of weeds and well maintained. Remember this is your investment and you need to protect it. The District does offer grass seeding and tilling as a service also, and if you are interested, please call and we can work out a plan. The District is now preparing for the 2025 spring planting, and we are expecting another busy spring with the amount of machine planting we have lined up. We are also now taking handplant orders and I would recommend getting them in early. If you wait too long, then I can't guarantee we will have that variety available. The handplant order form is included in this newsletter. Please read the bottom information before sending it back as there have been changes made to prices, our address, etc. We are in the same building just an address change. Included in the newsletter is also our price and services offered list. We want to help you and hope we can provide you the services that are offered. Please have a safe and healthy winter and enjoy some dormant time.



PRICE LIST FOR 2024-2025

Regular Stock-	\$45.00 -in bundle of 25's
Singles-Regular Stock	\$2.25 (minimum of 10 trees per species)
Taller stock (2'-3')	\$4.00 (over 3') \$5.00
Potted (spruce or pine)	\$12.00 (1 Gal. containers)

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

Machine Planting:

\$50.00 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- .75 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, but not for garden use. Other uses may be available if approved by Board of Directors)

Hand Plant Tree Order Form

(Please read bottom information before filling out order)

Name: _____

Date: _____

Street: _____

Phone#: _____

City: _____

Email Address: _____

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 MEDIUM HEIGHT TREES

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

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 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 \$2.25 per tree or \$45.00 per bundle of 25 trees. Potted 1 Gallon trees are \$12.00. **Orders \$100.00 and over will require a 50% down payment due by January 24th, 2025, 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 \$4 each and over 3ft are \$5. Please call if you want a certain variety not listed to check on availability. 1-701-642-5997 Ext. 3

Mail to: Richland SCD 1725 17th Ave. N. Wahpeton, ND 58075

Tree Descriptions

SHRUBS

Buffaloberry
Caragana
Nanking & Sand Cherry
Black Chokeberry
Common Chokecherry
Shubert Chokecherry
Golden Current
Redosier Dogwood
Juneberry
Common Lilac
Villosa (late) Lilac
Amur Maple
Plum
Hansen Hedge Rose

DESCRIPTION

14' tall native to N.D., edible red fruit, good wildlife shrub
8-14' tall, hardy fast growing shrub, long living, yellow flowers
3-6' short lived, small shrub, white blossoms, edible fruit
3-6' green foliage turns red/purple in fall, edible fruit
10-25' tall, black fruit made into jelly and jam
Same as above except leaves turn purple in June
3-6' tall, yellow flowers, salt tolerant shrub, edible fruit
6-10' tall, red bark, green/purple leaves, water tolerant
6-10' tall, edible blue fruit, native to N.D., good wildlife shrub
8-12' tall, fragrant purple flowers, prefers dry sites, suckering
6-10' tall, blooms later and stays in a clump, non-suckering
10-20' tall shrub or short tree, brilliant orange/red fall color
8-10' drought tolerant shrub, edible fruit used in jams
4-6' hardy dense shrub, very thorny, many pink flowers

MEDIUM TREES

Apricot
Red Splendor Crabapple
Midwest Crabapple
Siberian Crabapple
Little Leaf Linden
Ussurian Pear
Russian Olive
Laurel Willow

10-15' winter hardy tree, edible fruit, and drought tolerant
15-25' variable fruit size, foliage green-red in color, good wildlife tree
10-25' winter hardy, white flowers, 1" red fruit, good wildlife tree
15-25' shrub like tree, red to white flowers, small fruit for wildlife
15-30' tall, nicely shaped tree, fragrant pale yellow blossoms
15-30' tall, wildlife fruit, white flowers, gray bark, not salt tolerant
15-25' hardy tree, thorny, silvery leaves, tolerates poor soils
25-40' dark, glossy leaves, tolerates wet areas

TALL TREES

Northern Hackberry
American Linden
Hybrid Poplar
Native Cottonwood
Native Male Cottonwood
Siouxland Cottonwood
Silver Maple
Black Walnut
Golden Willow
Bur Oak

40-60' nice shade tree similar to green ash, chemical sensitive
40-70' "Basswood" nicely shaped, large 7" leaves, native to N.D.
40-60' seedless cottonwood, fast growing, life span up to 40 years
50-100' fast growing, large crown, prefers wet sites, telltale cotton
50-100' fast growing, large crown, prefers wet sites, seedless (no cotton)
50-100' seedless variety, fast growing, prefers wet sites
40-65' fast-medium growing, moist sites, underside leaves silvery
35-60' slow growing, good shade tree, valuable lumber
40-55' fast growing, wet sites, new branches have golden bark
40-70' slow growing, hardy, tolerates many soils, native to N.D.

CONIFERS

Colorado Blue Spruce
Black Hills Spruce
Ponderosa Pine
Scotch Pine
Eastern Red Cedar
Rocky Mountain Juniper
Meyer Spruce

30-65' blue to green 1" needles, sensitive to excess water
30-60' green soft 1" needles, variety of white spruce, water tolerant
50-70' drought resistant, slower growing, 7" long needles
25-50' mostly used for Christmas Trees. 2-4" needles
30-45' red/brown in winter, alkali tolerant, can cause apple rust
20-40' stays green, not as tolerant as above, no apple rust
40' more resistant to pests & disease



319 Antelope Creek **Watershed News**

By Jennifer Klostreich

What a year. I have had some conversations with producers, and we can describe this past growing season as a rollercoaster for sure. I am glad it decided to stop raining in August, it made the fall harvest much nicer for sure. This was a busy season for our Watershed Program as well. With the wet weather early in the season, we were able to assist some producers with Cover Crop on prevent plant acres, this was a pilot program with the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) and North Dakota Game and Fish. Water sampling kept me busy throughout the summer as well. I sampled seven sites again this summer. This water gets sent to the state lab in Bismarck, and a water quality summary report is compiled by the NDDEQ. E. coli continues to be an issue in our watershed, five sites increasing, two had no change. This E. coli may be sourced back to humans or animals, we do not test the source due to a very high cost to do so. Our goal is to install as many Best Management Practices (BMP's) to help move these numbers in a downward trend or at least no change. Total Suspended Solids (TSS) also had some sites increase, two with no change and one with overall decrease of suspended solids. This is not surprising due to the high amount of rain fall early in the season. Finally, Total Nitrogen (TN), four sites had no change, while three sites had an increase in TN. Again, with the amount of rain we experienced in our area, these numbers do not surprise me. It is important to apply the nutrients to the fields in a responsible manner. Split application can help with keeping nutrients in place.

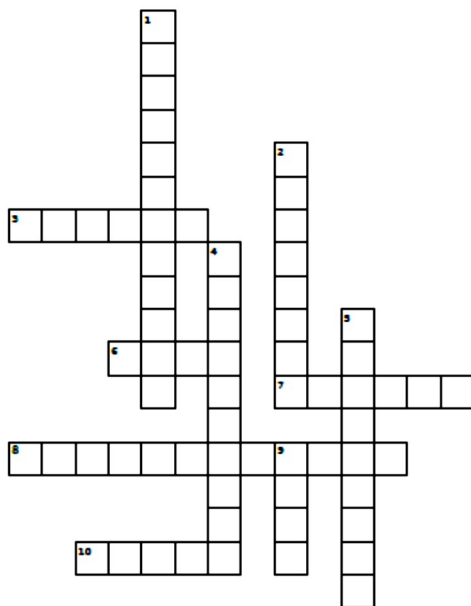
There can be other practices in the toolbox as well, I have no doubt our producers want to keep the nutrients in the field where it belongs, the cost of nutrients is too great to think otherwise. Along with wanting our water bodies to be in as good condition as possible for wildlife, recreation and anyone that might use that water source downstream.

Continue On Next Page

This fall I was busy compiling and submitting the next phase of our Antelope Creek / Wild Rice Corridor grant, we are in Phase VII of our EPA 319 project. I will be presenting this grant to the task force board in January of 2025, at NDDEQ in Bismarck. I am hopeful this will be a smooth transition just like it has been for the past six grants. I am thankful for these grants; it has brought much needed money into our county to help pay for the cost of water quality improvement projects. Since 2006 we have obtained grants for over 3.7 million dollars. This is a 60% cost share, when you include the producer match or in-kind earned, it increases to 5.6 million dollars. You might ask: Why do I think these dollars are so important? Usually, these practices help more than just the producer, it helps the county overall, and I am happy to help do that!

We continue to work with rural homeowners on projects on their farmstead, such as Septic System Repair or Replacement. If your septic is not working correctly or was installed improperly years ago this is a great program to help you get it updated. There are a few criteria for this program so call to see if you are eligible.

Jennifer Klostreich 701-642-5997 ext. 3.



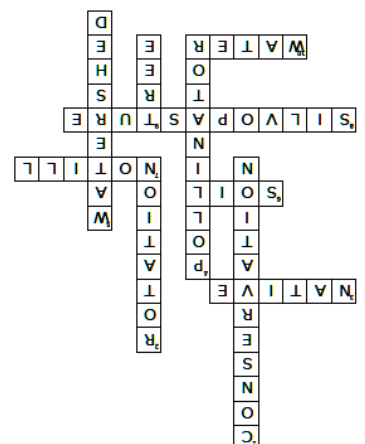
Crossword Puzzle Time

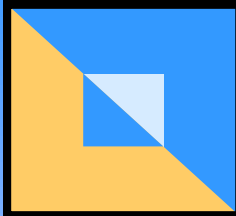
Down:

1. protection of the natural environment
2. Crop _____ is the practice of growing different crops in the same area over multiple growing seasons
4. A _____ is anything that helps carry pollen from the male part of the flower (stamen) to the female part of the same or another flower (stigma)
5. A _____ is an area of land that drains water to a common outlet, such as a river, bay, or reservoir
9. _____ is a perennial plant with an elongated stem, or trunk, usually supporting branches and leaves

Across:

3. _____ plants that have evolved and occur naturally in a specific region, ecosystem, or habitat without human introduction
6. _____ is a complex mixture of organic matter, minerals, air, and water that supports plant and soil life
7. _____ farming is an agricultural technique that involves growing crops without disturbing the soil through tillage
8. _____ is a type of farming practice that integrates trees, forage, and grazing animals in a mutually beneficial way
10. _____ is a transparent, tasteless, odorless, and nearly colorless chemical substance





Food to Plate– Farm Bill Discussion

Jon Quast

**NRCS District
Conservationist**

What connects the food on our plates, the farmers and ranchers who produce that food, and the natural resources – our soil, air, and water – that make growing and producing food possible? If you said the farm bill, you'd be right. The farm bill is a package of legislation passed roughly every five years that has a tremendous impact on farming and ranching livelihoods.

Covering programs ranging from crop insurance for farmers to healthy food access for low-income families, from beginning farmer training to support for sustainable farming practices, the farm bill sets the stage for our food and farm systems.

Every five years, the farm bill expires and is updated: it goes through an extensive process where it is proposed, debated, and passed by Congress and is then signed into law by the President. Each farm bill has a unique title, with the currently expired farm bill called the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018.

The original farm bill(s) were enacted in three stages during the 1930s as part of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal legislation. Its three original goals – to keep food prices fair for farmers and consumers, ensure an adequate food supply, and protect and sustain the country's vital natural resources – responded to the economic and environmental crises of the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl. While the farm bill has changed in the last 70 years, its primary goals are the same.

So where does NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) fit in? Well, if you read the previous paragraph, you'd know that we fit under the third original goal, protect and sustain the country's vital natural resources. This falls under Title 2: Conservation. The Conservation title, which accounts for approximately 7% over the overall farm bill, covers programs that help producers implement natural resource conservation efforts on working lands like pasture and cropland as well as land retirement and easement programs. One thing that people might not know is that NRCS is 100% voluntary, meaning that every person we work with wants to put conservation on the ground. NRCS offers financial and technical assistance through conservation practices, activities and enhancements to help agricultural producers make and maintain improvements on their land.

Despite the farm bill expiration, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) continues to deliver the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, Conservation Stewardship Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, and Regional Conservation Partnership Program. Whether you're a seasoned pro, or just beginning, I would like to encourage you to visit your local NRCS office to learn more about conservation activities that may be beneficial to your operation. I'll leave you with this, what farm animal keeps the best time?.....A watch dog! Or how about what kind of horse only gets out at night?.....Nightmares. What do you call a sleeping bull?.....A bulldozer. Corny? Yes. Amusing? I thought so, and I hope they provided a laugh for you, too. After all, we could all use a few more laughs.

USDA Can Help

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 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 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.

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Richland County Soil Conservation District
1725 17th Ave. N.
Wahpeton, ND 58075

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Board Members:

Dave Muehler
Kelly Klosterman
Mike Haverland
Chris Walberg
Carson Klosterman

Richland
County Soil
Conservation
District



OFFICE STAFF:

Jennifer Klostreich- District Manager/
Watershed Coordinator
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 10th
January 14th
February 11th
March 11th
April 8th
June 10th
July 8th



LADIES AG NIGHT

April 10th

