



### 2016 Soil Conservation Achievement Winner



Ward SCD is proud to have chosen Randy and Khara Fyllesvold for our 2016 Conservation Achievement Award winners. Randy and Khara have two children Myles and Hudson. With their farm headquarters located near Plaza in Ward County, ND the Fyllesvold's operate land in Mountrail County as well. The Fyllesvold operation consist of a diverse crop rotation made up of wheat, canola, flax, peas, corn and soybeans. Randy plants all crops using conservation tillage methods leaving ample amounts of residue after seeding. In addition to conservation cropping rotations and conservation tillage Randy has introduced cover crops into his rotation through the Conservation Stewardship Program. In addition to their cropland Fyllesvold's also raise beef cattle and maintain their rangeland through the use of grazing rotations as well as moving mineral and salt sources throughout their pastures. Because of the Fyllesvold's proactive approach to conservation, the Ward SCD is proud to have chosen them as their 2016 Conservation Achievement Award recipients.

While doing some cleaning at our shed, we have found 15 extra Soil Achievement Award winner photos between 1958 and 2003. We do not have a place to display them, and would like to give them to the families. Please contact us if you received or know of a family member who received the award. One of the photos can be seen to the right.



## Working Grassland Partnership Program

The Natural Resources Trust, in cooperation with Ducks Unlimited, has an opportunity available for landowners with expired or expiring CRP. Funds provided by the Outdoor Heritage Fund are available to landowners seeking livestock grazing infrastructure and water developments. The cost-share options for landowners include water wells, pipelines and rural water hookups, as well as boundary fencing and cross-fencing. The program will provide landowners with technical and financial assistance when integrating CRP into their grazing system. CRP acres are limited, so reenrolling in CRP is not an option for many landowners, making this program a great option for landowners looking to keep land productive, but out of crop production. This working lands program will allow farmers and ranchers to use their CRP cover efficiently through a rotational grazing system. Grant funds are available to landowners in the Missouri Coteau and the southwest part of the state.

Contact Dane Buysse with Ducks Unlimited at 701-425-4852 or by email ([dbuysse@ducks.org](mailto:dbuysse@ducks.org)) for further information on program eligibility and application assistance.



### Existing CSP Contract Holders

Contact the NRCS office about ALL land changes or operator changes within 60 days of the change. If you are adding an individual to your operation as a joint venture, it is your responsibility to contact NRCS in order to get your CSP contract updated. It is also your responsibility to contact NRCS if you are losing control of any of your land in order to remain compliance with your CSP contract. Maintain records throughout the year. Some enhancements are done in the spring, and others in the fall. If photos are required, make sure they are taken timely so that they show the effectiveness of the enhancements. It is your responsibility to provide new records to NRCS each fall around October 1.

Keep all records for the life of the contract. You may find it useful to keep your records in a 3-ring binder, notebook, or in your conservation plan folder. Keep your records with the enhancement job sheet so that you know for certain you collected all the required documentation. Existing CSP participants that are currently in their first 5 year contract have the option to renew for another 5 year contract in the original CSP prior to their current contract's expiration date. If a participant chooses to renew their contract, it is a non-competitive process with a guaranteed contract, provided current contract conditions have been met.



# Conservation Stewardship Program



As many of you are aware, the CSP program has gone through some changes over this past year. Through feedback from across the country we have worked hard to apply science and technology and common sense application to make a good program even better.

Participating in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) provides you an opportunity to build on your existing conservation efforts while strengthening your operation. With CSP, our goal is to help you recognize the resources on your land and develop a management plan to improve them.

CSP is for working lands. It is the largest conservation program in the United States with 70 million acres of productive agricultural and forest land enrolled in CSP. Good land stewardship not only conserves natural resources on your farm and ranch, it also provides multiple benefits to local communities, including better water and air quality and wildlife habitat, as well as food and fiber.

## More CSP Specifics.....

The CSP program requires a 5 year commitment to conservation, with the option to renew if you successfully fulfill the initial contract and agree to achieve additional conservation objectives. An NRCS conservation planner will work closely with you throughout the entire process.

Contract payments are based on two components: Payments to maintain the existing conservation based on the operation type and number of resource concerns that are meeting the stewardship level at the time of application, and payments to implement additional conservation activities. All CSP contracts will have a minimum annual payment of \$1,500. The first part of the payment is based on a formula of \$350 for each resource concern you are already meeting and a per acre payment that varies by land use. The second portion of the annual CSP payment will be based on the financial assistance rate for the individual enhancements, practices, or bundles implemented. This portion of your annual payment will vary each

Most of the agriculture producers that are approved to participate in CSP have already been implementing conservation practices on their land. CSP is for producers who want to take their conservation efforts to the next level. Through CSP, they have the opportunity to give those practices a boost with “enhancements.”

An “enhancement” is a conservation activity used to treat natural resources and improve conservation performance. Enhancements are designed to maintain or exceed the quality criteria, or stewardship level, for the resource concern. Enhancements tied directly to conservation practice standards exceed the minimum treatment requirements of the standard to address additional criteria or considerations.



## Applying for CSP

The first step to apply for CSP is a visit to your local NRCS field office. You will need to provide maps of your operation showing all land you will have control of for the five year contract period. You will also need to visit with FSA to be sure that your farm and operator records are up-to-date, including compliance with other conservation and income provisions.

Applications are accepted throughout the year. Specific deadlines are set for ranking and funding opportunities. The next application deadline for funding consideration is **February 3, 2017.**



**Ward Soil Conservation District**  
**1920 13St SE**  
**Minot, ND 58761**  
**www.wardcountyscd.org**  
**701-852-5438 ext. 3**

**Return Service Requested**

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, parental 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 requiring special accommodations or materials in an alternative format or language should contact Tanya Koch, Public Affairs Specialist. (701) 530-2096.

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WSCD's Board

Meetings are open to the public and are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Please call the office for the time and location.

701-852-5438 ext. 3

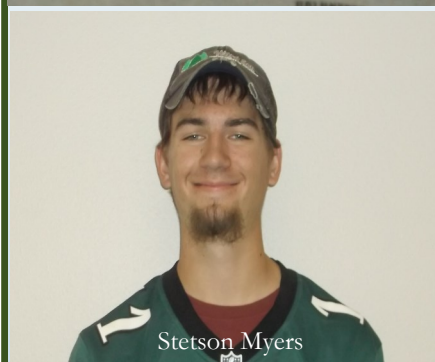
Ward SCD Staff

Mark Koep  
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Stetson Myers

You can also email us tree orders @  
wardsoil@srt.com



Cole Clemenson



Stetson Myers

**2 new employees**

Ward Soil Conservation District is pleased to announce the hiring of 2 new tree technicians, since we've been able to add tilling and grass seeding to our services along with the tree planting and fabric application service we've always provided. We are confident they will do an excellent job for our clients in Ward County. We felt it necessary to increase our staff. Unfortunately, we are also decreasing our staff by 1. Our Manager for the last 2 years Mark Koep is returning home to Minnesota to pursue other opportunities that have opened up for him. We are truly sorry to see him go, but wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.