

# WARD SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER, OCTOBER, 2017

## Transplant Shock and Drought Stress Regarding Trees

Michael Kangas, NDFS Nursery and State Forest Team Leader provided the following statement regarding drought stress.

“With nearly 1 quarter of ND experiencing ‘moderate drought’ and the remainder of the state observing “abnormally dry” conditions, recently planted trees may be suffering from drought stress. North Dakota Forest Service staff have observed moisture stress through out the state; particularly in western ND. Recently planted trees require adequate soil moisture for root systems to become established. Root system establishment can take 1 to 3 years depending on the soil type and species. During this establishment period, young trees and shrubs need frequent watering to prevent water stress. Landowners and homeowners are encouraged to give newly planted trees supplement water. Generally, landscape trees require 1 gallon of water per day, per inch of the diameter of the base of the tree.”



### Prior to Machine Planting

In the fall, rototill the site to kill existing sod and weeds. Then in the spring, till the site again. The more the soil is worked up, the better the root can make contact with the soil and can start growing.

### Inspect Your Fabric

If you’ve had fabric applied to your trees and it has been down for 3 or more years, plan on inspecting the fabric annually. Make sure the opening is still large enough to accommodate the growing tree. Because we use high quality fabric, the tree won’t be able to stretch it out as it grows. That will girdle the tree and it can cause significant damage. Use a sharp blade and cut 4 slits in the fabric to allow for future growth, it will also allow suckering shrubs to become more dense and make for a better windbreak.

## EQIP AND CSP PROGRAMS

The deadline for consideration of an EQIP contract this year is November 17th. With the planning first initiative being a mandatory priority for the USDA-NRCS, it is imperative applicants follow up and get started on the application process immediately, to ensure ample time for planners to plan the applicants conservation needs. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) has a continuous application sign up. EQIP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to plan and implement conservation practices that improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related natural resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland. If you are interested in the program please visit the EQIP NRCS website at the link below or stop in your local NRCS Field Office.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/nd/programs/financial/eqip/?cid=nrcseprd405061>

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) has a continuous application sign up. CSP helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resources concerns. If you are interested in the program please visit the CSP NRCS website at the link below or stop in your local NRCS Field Office. <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/nd/programs/financial/>

## 19th Annual Eco-Ed Days



The Ward, Renville and Burke Soil Conservation Districts hosted Eco-Ed days on September 6th and 7th at the Antler Memorial Park with 10 schools, 234 6th grade students and 33 Teachers/Volunteers attending. It's an outdoor educational experience where students rotate around to five different stations consisting of: Water Health, Rangeland/Prairie, Wildlife Identification, Anatomy and the important functions of Trees and a Demonstrations of Soil Erosion, Particles and Soil Health. The students were given a pre-test before they arrived and then a post-test afterwards to see if they had gained a better understanding of our natural resources and how to protect them for the future. A lunch was provided by Gartner's Jack and Jill of Kenmare, and the T-shirts were courtesy of The Arthur and Edith Pearson Foundation.

## 2017 Envirothon



The Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge was the site for the 17th Annual Mouse River Loop Envirothon (MRLE) competition on Sept. 20th. The Envirothon committee is comprised of personnel from Ward and Renville SCDs, NRCS, NDSU Ext. Service and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. A total of 70 students from 8 surrounding high schools competed in this event. Teams of 4-6 students were given Trail tests and were judged on Oral Presentations. Taking 1st place was "Leafy Spurge" from Minot High, in 2nd place was the "Screaming Fire Kittens" from Kenmare and 3rd place went to the "Mooseknuckles" also from Kenmare. All winners won a cash prize and entrance fees to the state competition in May. Winners at the state event will then qualify to attend the 2018 National competition in Pocatello, Idaho. It wasn't all work however, the students were given an opportunity to try their hands at Archery, courtesy of the Berthold's Sportsmen Club. Emery Duben explained the complexities of raising Elk, Travis Prochaska was on hand to identify the local bugs (caught in nets by the students) and their benefits to the environment. And, Toby Placek had animal pelts on display during his wildlife presentation. Our area Envirothon is sponsored by: SRT, RTC, Mohall Fire Dept. The Veterans club of Kenmare and the Arthur & Edith Pearson Foundation.



All programs and services are offered on a non-discriminatory basis.

**WELCOME KELLY MADSEN  
NRCS BIOLOGIST**

Kelly is a native North Dakotan that was raised in Minot and spent summers on a small grain farm north of Kenmare. Hunting and fishing were his hobbies growing up and still are today. He took his passion for the outdoors and decided to make it into a career. He graduated with an Associate Degree from Minot State University-Bottineau then transferred to Valley City State University where he received his Bachelor's Degree in 2008. Before starting with the NRCS in December 2016, he was working out of the Des Lacs National Wildlife Refuge in Kenmare. Kelly is married and resides in Burlington, ND. He has been enjoying his work with NRCS, assisting the many farmers and ranchers in Ward County.





**Important Notice**



**EQIP DEADLINE  
NOVEMBER 17, 2017**

**NEW! EASY!**  
Online tree ordering is now available at WSCD.  
Just go to:  
[www.wardcountyscd.org](http://www.wardcountyscd.org).

## Soil Salinity Programs

Have you ever wondered what to do with those saline areas of a field that produce only Kochia or nothing at all? Consider how much money the average producer spends on these areas every year in fertilizer, seed, and spray to receive nothing in return.

Both the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) have programs available to producers to lessen the financial burden of such areas. Through the FSA, producers with eligible saline areas will qualify for Continuous CRP. There are mainly two different practices available CP18B used for seeps and recharge areas and CP18C establishment of salt tolerant plants on saline soils. Both practices entail planting a saline tolerant grass mix over the areas affected by salinity for the contract length. Both of these practices have a contract length of ten years and both have an acreage limit of 50 acres.

The NRCS also has a salinity management tool available through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). Through EQIP eligible saline areas can receive an annual payment under a practice called Salinity and Sodic Soil Management. Payments are \$40 per acre for three years with acreage limits per operating unit of 80 for saline seep and recharge areas and 160 acres for saline soils. Salt tolerant grass mixes are also required for this practice but they can be hayed annually unlike CRP.

For more information regarding either option, please contact your local USDA Service Center. FSA and NRCS personnel will be happy to assist you in choosing the appropriate option for your operation.

**Ward Soil Conservation District**  
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**www.wardcountyscd.org**

**Return Service Requested**

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**Ward SCD Board Members**

*Gail Yuly*      *Chairperson*  
*Pat Zeltinger*   *Vice-chairperson*  
*Greg Simonson* *Board Member*  
*Harlan Lee*      *Board Member*  
*John Pietsch*    *Board Member*

**Staff**

*Jerry Wingenbach* *NRCS-DC*  
*Harold Pettigrew* *NRCS*  
*Kelly Madsen*      *NRCS*  
*Stetson Myers*     *WSCD*  
*Beth Brandt*        *WSCD*

*Board Meetings are held every*  
*2nd Wednesday of the month.*  
*Please contact our office*



**Remember to order your spring  
replacement trees soon!**

**www.wardcountyscd.org**  
**or**  
**E-mail us at: wardsoil@srt.com**

**November events:**

Board Meeting, Nov. 8th, 2017  
Office closed, Veterans day Nov. 10th, 2017  
NDASCD Meeting, Nov. 19th-22nd, 2017

Office closed, Thanksgiving, Nov. 23rd, 2017  
Board Meeting, Dec. 13th, 2017  
Office closed, Christmas, Dec. 25th, 2017  
Office closed, New Years, Jan. 1, 2018

**Ward SCD Services**

<b>Tree Planting (including trees)</b>	<b>\$30.00 per 100 feet</b>	<b>Min. Chg. \$300.00</b>
<b>Fabric Weed Barrier</b>	<b>\$60.00 per 100 feet</b>	<b>Min. Chg. \$300.00</b>
<b>Rototilling</b>	<b>\$75.00 per hour</b>	<b>Min. Chg. \$150.00</b>
<b>Grass Seeding</b>	<b>\$75.00 per hour</b>	<b>Min. Chg. \$100.00</b>
<b>Hand Plant Trees</b>	<b>\$2.00 per seedling</b>	<b>5 min. per species</b>