



Ward Soil Conservation District

Spring 2021 Newsletter

Start Your Tree Planning

Now is the time to start preparing
for 2022 tree plantings!

Contact us at

(701) 852-5438 Ext. 3

For more information.

Livestock Water Testing

Water Screen: Nitrates, TDS, Sulfates

Cost: \$25 for test and \$10 submission fee

Cyanobacteria: Blue-Green Algae

Cost: \$20 for test and \$10 submission fee

Turnaround: within one day of sample arriving at
the lab

Board Members

Gail Yuly

Pat Zeltinger

John Pietsch

Mark Schumaker

Mike Aamot

Staff

Stetson Myers

Emily Tranby

NRCS

Jerry Wingenbach

Jared Andrist

Kati Roth

Darrick Ystass

Julie Carter

Merna Imsland

2020 Annual Report

January: Finished taking the last of the handplant orders. Attended the Living AG Show.

February: Discussed who we would like to have as an Achievement winner. Attended meetings.

March: Attended the tree promotion meeting in Bismarck, ND

April: Prepped equipment, shed and cooler for tree planting season. Received trees at the end of the month.

May: Started planting trees at beginning of May and finish planting all trees by the end of the month. We ended up planting approximately 16,200 trees in over 40 locations. Emily Tranby also started working for WSCD.

June: The tree shed was open for public tree sales. Started to lay fabric and finished applying all fabric by the end of the month.

July: Started contacting and meeting with new producers for possible tree plantings.

August: We continued meeting with producers for tree plantings.

September: Envirothon was canceled due to COVID. Still continued to meet with producers for tree plantings.

October: We assisted NRCS with EQIP applications and sent our fall newsletter out.

November: State Convention was canceled due to COVID. Office went back into phase 1 which meant Stetson and Emily were alternating working one week in the office and working one week from home. Started getting handplant orders for 2021.

December: We finalized tree plans for 2021 and mailed out contracts to the landowners. We also started setting up virtual activities with local schools.



2020 Tree Tally

Trees ordered:

30,000

Mechanically Planted Trees:

95,000 ft

Surplus Trees Sold:

3,000

Tree Plantings:

29

Fabric Installed:

93,000 ft



Fresh Vegetable Salad

Ingredients (Dressing)

- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1/4 cup mayo
- 2 tablespoons white wine vinegar
- 2 tablespoon jalapeno finely diced
- 1 teaspoon celery seed
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

Ingredients (Salad)

- 4 ears of corn cut off the cob
- 2 large tomatoes
- 6 stalks of celery chopped
- 1 cucumber chopped
- 1/2 red onion finely chopped

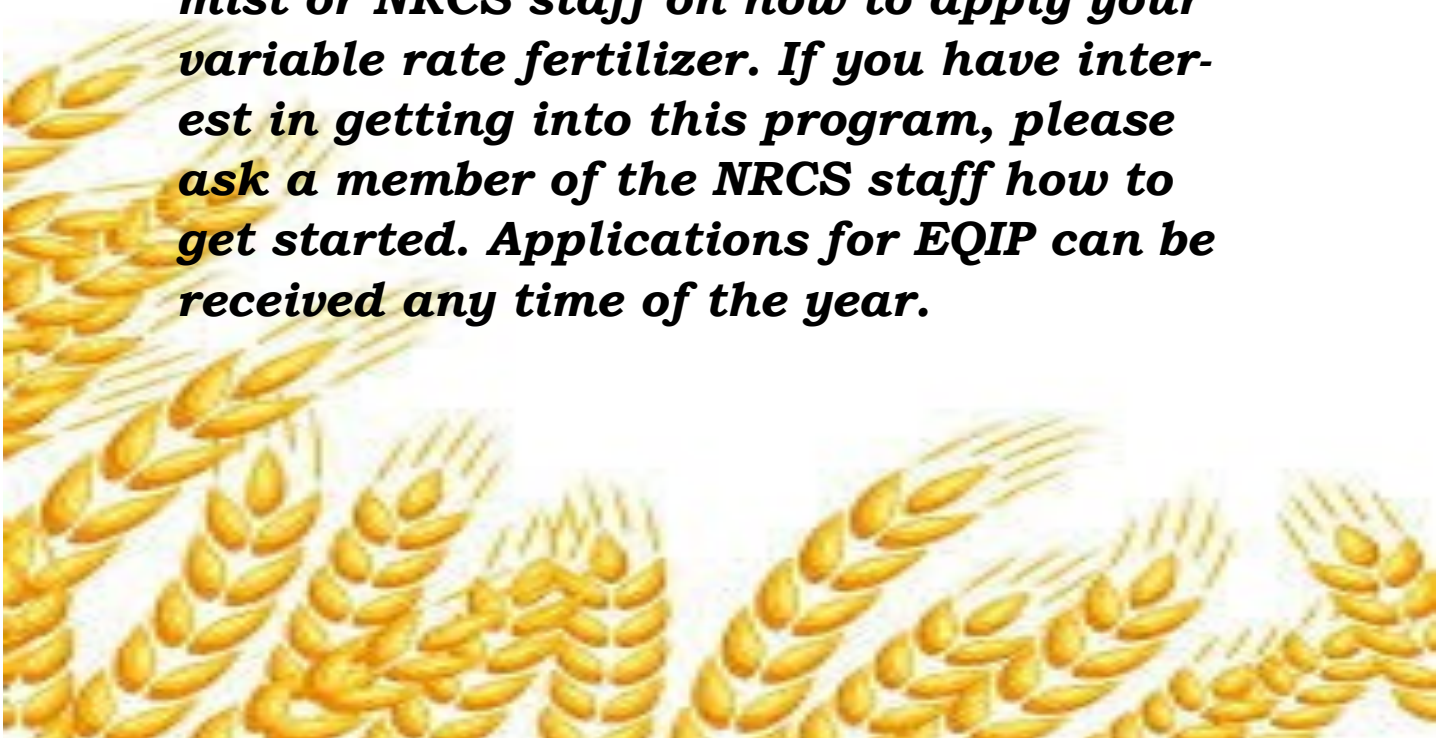
Instructions

1. In a medium bowl, whisk together sour cream, mayo, vinegar, jalapeno, celery seed, salt and pepper until smooth. Set aside to let flavors marry while you prepare the veggies
2. Mix all chopped veggies together
3. Pour dressing over veggies and mix gently until combined.

EQIP Program Practice Highlight:

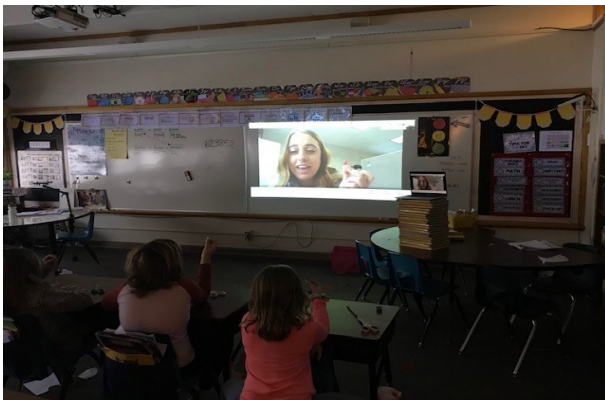
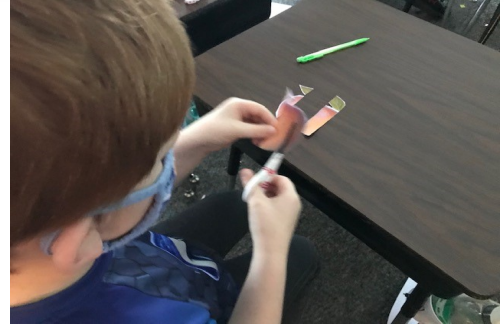
Nutrient Management

The goal of Nutrient Management is to utilize the 4 R's of fertility: right rate, right source, right placement, and right timing. Bringing attention to these four factors will help minimize the loss of nutrients to the environment along with increasing crop profitability. Precision mapping will create and identify the zones in your field which will lay the foundation of your practice. After you have those zones created, you then do soil tests in each of those zones to find the appropriate amount of nutrients you need. Consult your agronomist or NRCS staff on how to apply your variable rate fertilizer. If you have interest in getting into this program, please ask a member of the NRCS staff how to get started. Applications for EQIP can be received any time of the year.



Virtual Activity with the Edison 3rd Grade Class

On January 29th we held a virtual activity with the Edison 3rd Graders to teach them the importance of protecting soil and ways they can help us protect the soil. We loved hearing their stories about how they protect the soil at home!



Meet The Staff!



Hi, my name is Merna Inslund. I am a new Heartland Consulting employee contracted out to the NRCS. I grew up in McGregor, ND. Later I moved to Pierre, South Dakota and worked for the SDDOT where I was the Records Management Specialist for 17 years. I returned to ND about 5 years ago. I have 3 children and 7 grandchildren. In my free time I enjoy working in my yard and spending time with my grandchildren. I'm looking forward to learning about the NRCS and the programs they have to help farmers and ranchers.

ND PHEASANTS FOREVER

North Central Soil Health & Habitat Program

THE PROBLEM

Salt-impacted soils (excess levels of salts in the soil solution) are an increasing concern for North Dakota farmers, with an estimated 5.8 million acres affected in the state. The salts limit a crop's ability to take up water resulting in symptoms similar to drought-stress. This not only reduces yields, but in many cases, leaves barren areas in fields that are susceptible to soil erosion.

THE PROGRAM

The North Central Soil Health and Habitat Program seeks to address salinity issues impacting soil health in Benson, Bottineau, Burke, McHenry, Mountrail, Pierce, Renville, Rolette, and Ward counties through cost-sharing seed for cover crop and grass mixes. Growing green in these areas allow water to move through a plant and transpire without raising salts to the surfaces, reducing inputs on those acres while lowering salts levels and providing wildlife habitat.

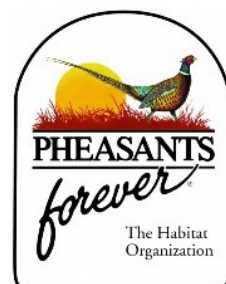
PROGRAM DETAILS

- 60% cost-share on cover crop and grass mixes
- Customized seed mixes provided by Pheasants Forever staff
- Flexible short term contracts
- Haying and grazing permitted outside of the primary nesting season (April 15th-August 1st)

PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions or interested in learning more about the North Central Soil Health and Habitat Program? Contact Joey Rasco with Pheasants Forever at

jrasco@pheasantsforever.org or (636)295-1398



Joey Rasco

Pheasants Forever

Hello! My name is Joey Rasco. I am the new Precision Ag & Conservation Specialist with Pheasants Forever based out of Minot, ND. I cover the northwest and north central areas of the State. I started with Pheasants Forever at the end of November and am excited to be here. I am originally from Missouri and hold a degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Management from the University of Missouri. Right out of college I worked for the Missouri Department of Conservation, but prior to accepting my role with Pheasants Forever had been working in agronomy sales for a little over 2.5 years.

My aim is to work alongside farmers utilizing current technology and provide you the tools to make management decisions based on profitability and return on investment. In other words, I can help identify those acres that are losing money and present you with a suite of options to help improve your return on investment, soil and water quality, and create wildlife habitat. "Turning Red Acres, Green.", as we like to call it here at Pheasants Forever.

Something that I have become familiar with in my short time here in North Dakota is salt impacted soils. It is something many farmers struggle with across the State. Areas impacted by salinity are typically unprofitable, reduce the average yield of your field, and if left untreated can impact more acres in your operation. One way to help combat salt impacts and begin restoring your soil is through the use of perennial grasses and cover crops. Using salt tolerant species and keeping the soil surface covered will aid in removing excess water in the soil through transpiration (through the plant) instead of evaporation from the soil surface. To put it simply, in doing this, the concentration of salts in the rooting zone should recede, and at minimum stop these areas from spreading.

A program Pheasants Forever has available for this area that specifically targets saline soils is the North Central Soil Health & Habitat Program. It is a flexible, short term program that offers up to 60% cost share on cover crops and perennial grass mixes. If you are interested in decreasing inputs, rehabilitating salt impacted areas, reducing soil erosion, and creating wildlife habitat, this could be a great program for you!

The goal for us here at Pheasants Forever is to help farmers and landowners find the right program that fits their needs and their operation. By using precision data, calculating ROI, and being able to present several alternative scenarios, it allows the grower the confidence to make the best decision for their operation and have the numbers to back it up. I want to help you get the most out of every acre.

Planting season will be here before you know it and now is the time to put together a plan for 2021. If you are interested in learning more about the North Central Soil Health & Habitat Program or other options that Pheasants Forever can assist you with, I would be more than happy to chat. My contact information is listed below or you can reach out to your local NRCS office. One of my favorite quotes is "If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail –Benjamin Franklin". Here's to planning on a successful 2021!

Joey Rasco

Cell: (636) 295-1398

Email: jrasco@pheasantsforever.org

Twitter: [@Joey_Rasco](https://twitter.com/Joey_Rasco)

<https://pheasantsforever.org/Conservation/Precision-Agriculture.aspx>



Ward Soil Conservation District

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Check out our website for tree orders, past newsletters and so much more!

<https://www.wardcountyscd.org/>

Office will be closed on the following days:

May 31st

July 5th

September 6th

October 11th

November 11th

November 25th

