The District invested in a new no-till drill this year. We are able to seed anything with this drill: light, fluffy native grasses to small alfalfa seeds, and anything in between. The next seeding window for cool season and alfalfa is coming up very soon. Please call soon to get a spot reserved for your seeding. Call for pricing.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that if you are losing needles on your spruce trees, there is a good chance it may have a disease called Rhizosphaera Needle Cast? For more information go to www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu
The tree season has finally wined down. Overall, if you were able to get your trees in the ground, it has been a great year for growth. It seems like each year we deal with various weather elements that throw us a curve ball. And, this year wasn’t any different. But, once again, we had a great crew that put in their full effort which helped us to plant over 203,000 LF of trees. We applied over 170,000 LF of weed barrier.

The District would like to give a special thanks to Dan Iwen and Barry Rupprecht for leading the tree crews, as this was their tenth year. Thanks guys! Hope to see you for another ten!

New for 2014: Cass County Soil Conservation District has funds for the Buffalo Creek Watershed. The Buffalo Creek Watershed Project is a continuation of the former Maple River Watershed Project in Cass County. If you reside within the Buffalo Creek Watershed you may be eligible for cost-share for Implementation of Best Management Practices. Cost-share assistance will be provided at a sixty percent (60%) Federal and forty percent (40%) landowner matching ratio. Cost-share opportunities include: cover crop, nutrient management, manure management, watering facilities for livestock, tree planting, grass seeding, and septic system replacements.

2015 Machine Plantings are being drawn up now. If you are interested in getting on the list or curious about cost-share possibilities, please contact us now.
10 Reasons to Utilize Cover Crops

1. **Utilize Moisture** – cover crops can be designed to utilize high amounts of moisture
2. **Increase infiltration** – Deep rooting and tap-rooted cover crops such as turnip and radish create macropores and break through compaction layers reducing ponding on soil surface.
3. **Weed Suppression** – Cover Crops can be designed to suppress weeds (ex. Winter Rye)
4. **Reduce Salinity** – Cover Crops decrease evaporation at soil surface drawing salts down through the profile.
5. **Livestock and/or Wildlife food source** (prevent plant may be grazed after November 1st)
6. **Nitrogen Fixation** – Legumes to fix nitrogen for next year’s production crop
7. **Nitrogen Scavenging** – Deep rooting Cover crops gather nitrogen from deep in the soil profile and release the nitrogen in the rooting zone when plants decay. This nitrogen becomes available for future crops.
8. **Reduce erosion** – Cover provided by the cover crop reduces both wind and water erosion
9. **Nutrient Cycling** – Living plants are crucial to the Nutrient cycle and Soil Biology. Soil biology is driven by living plants. A field with good nutrient cycling will build soil organic matter.
10. **Build Soil Organic Matter**—Utilize the full growing season to harvest sunlight to build organic matter of your soils.
All programs and services of the Cass County Soil Conservation District are offered on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age or handicap. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

### Dates and Items to Remember

- Site prepping this fall for 2015 spring tree plantings
- September 1st: Labor Day - Office closed
- September 16th: Board meeting - 8:00am Fargo Field Office
- September 25th: Eco-Ed at Brewer Lake
- September 12th: **CSP Extension Deadline**
- October 21st: Board meeting - 8:00am Fargo Field Office
- October 13th: Columbus Day - Office closed
- NRCS is still accepting **EQIP**, **ACEP** and **CSP** applications on a continuous basis
- Continuous **CRP** being offered: (Examples: Saline Soils, Filter Strips and Windbreaks)

### District Staff

- **Wayne Stautz**  
  *Operations Coordinator*
- **Tony Peterson**  
  *District Technician*
- **Eric Dahl**  
  *Watershed Coordinator*
- **Amy Cole**  
  *District Clerk*

### NRCS Staff

- **Brent Gustafson**  
  *District Conservationist*
- **Derek Schmitt**  
  *Soil Conservationist*
- **Val Hartman**  
  *Soil Conservationist*

### Supervisors

- Richard Faught - Amenia
- Terry Hoffmann - Wheatland
- Brad Kellerman - Davenport
- John Grove - West Fargo
- Curt Knutson - Page