

CONSERVATION NEWS

Cass County Soil Conservation District Newsletter

Winter 2014

Welcome our new Supervisor, Curt Knutson

Curt and his wife, Tamara, have lived in Page, ND since 1972. Their three grown sons and nine grandchildren live in Fergus Falls, MN.



Curt and Tamara have been farming since 1984. They grow corn and soybeans, with most of their acres in No-Till.

After graduating from high school in his hometown of Ashby, MN, Curt joined the Army. He served one year in Alaska and one year in Viet Nam. Upon returning from the service, he started college, graduating from NDSU with a BS in Mechanized Ag. Curt also joined the ND Air National Guard. He served in the Guard for 17 ½ years, retiring in 2009 as the last serving Viet Nam veteran in the NDANG.

Curt has held various positions in community organizations and currently is serving as a Trustee in his local church.

Curt will make a welcome addition to the District Board of Supervisors.

ND One Call Important Changes:

There were some changes made to the ND One Call Laws. If you are planning to dig please stay safe and make note:

- √ Potential fines have increased from \$5,000 to \$25,000 per violation
- √ Ground marking time has increased from 10 to 21 days
- √ Utilities are now able to recoup costs if they are notified more than 3 times to locate facilities

Law requires 48 hours notice for facilities to be located prior to digging. This can be done by calling 811 or going online to

www.ndonecall.com

APWA UNIFORM COLOR CODE	
WHITE :	Proposed Excavation
PINK :	Temporary Survey Markings
RED :	Electric Power Lines, Cables, Conduit and Lighting Cables
YELLOW :	Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum or Gaseous Materials
ORANGE :	Communication, Alarm or Signal Lines, Cables or Conduit
BLUE:	Potable Water
PURPLE :	Reclaimed Water, Irrigation and Slurry Lines
GREEN:	Sewer and Drain Lines

KNOW THE COLOR CODE!

Upcoming Events

January Board Meeting

Tentatively Scheduled for January 21st starting at 8:00am

@ Fargo USDA Service Center

February Board Meeting

Tentatively Scheduled for February 18th starting at 8:00am

@ Fargo USDA Service Center

Please check our website at cassscd.org for updates on these

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- Annual update
- Welcome new board member
- ND One Call information
- CSP program information
- Urban/Low Impact Development Cost Share Program

2013 was a great year for conservation in Cass County.

- ✓The district worked closely with our partners NRCS and FSA in setting up CRP, EQIP, and CSP contracts that involved either tree plantings or grass plantings. We would like to thank all the cooperators in the county for giving the District the opportunity to apply conservation to their land. The District assisted these cooperators in planting **260,000** lf of trees and installed **190,000** lf of weed barrier. Almost 80,000 trees were planted in Cass County in 2013.
- ✓Our Eco-Ed outdoor educational program was held at Brewer Lake. Andre DeLorme, Director of Prairie Waters Education and Research Lab, Kathryn, ND, gave an interesting presentation on mussels in North Dakota rivers.. Central Cass School endured the windy weather while rotating thru the five stations: Water Quality, Woodlands, Prairie, Wetlands, and Soils.
- ✓The 319 Watershed program held a well-attended Cover Crop Workshop in Emden. Josh Dukart, District Technician/Certified Educator of Holistic Management, Burleigh County SCD, presented valuable cover crop information during the workshop. The 319 program provided cost-sharing on 19 septic system replacements, 4 well sealings, 4 cover crop plantings, 4 windbreaks/shelterbelts plantings and 1 stream bank restoration project. Water sampling was also conducted along the Maple and Rush Rivers, at the Maple River Dam and at several drain tile outlets throughout the county.
- ✓The Urban Conservation program held several workshops this past year. Three community education workshops were held including construction of rain barrels, building compost tumblers, and a composting for soil health workshop.
- ✓In celebration of Arbor Day and Earth Week, the District with its many community partners including Fargo Forestry, Fargo Park District, River Keepers, hosted two community events. The “Plant it For the Planet” event hosted community schools for a tree-planting day and an Arbor Day proclamation from Mayor Walaker. The “Reforest the Red” event allowed community residents to participate in tree planting along the Red River to enhance the riparian forest. Both events were well attended and are planned again for 2013.
- ✓In March, the District held a Women in Agriculture luncheon at the Hilton Garden Inn. The event featured several speakers including Mary Podall, NRCS ND State Conservationist, a soil quality demonstration, and a soil quality dessert activity! We thank the our Sigma Alpha and Common Ground collegiate volunteers for their help with this event.
- ✓The District participated in the Ag in the Classroom program which was held at the Red River Valley Fairgrounds. This event educates approximately 2000 Cass County 4th graders on various agriculture and conservation practices.
- ✓We participated in several Water Festivals for 4th graders this year. Our Urban Conservationist hosted our stream table and other water quality demonstrations for over 2,000 students and educators.
- ✓We had a booth at the Big Iron Farm Show. Big Iron gives us a great opportunity to discuss soil conservation with the producers that stop by the booth. We also display our tree planting equipment at a second area.
- ✓River Keepers was named our 2013 Urban Conservation Achievement Winner for their commitment to water education and outreach in the Red River Valley.

All in all, it was a very productive and busy year. We look forward to working with producers and organizations, both rural and urban area, to help Cass County continue to make strides in conservation.

2014 Tree Planting: Wow, it’s been wicked cold !! And, we all know what our heating bills have been this year. So, this is just a friendly reminder to place your tree order. Handplants are available for \$1.40 each. Machine Planting is \$26.00 per 100 LF. Cost-share is available for machine plantings. Contact us for cost-share qualifications and rates.

Online tree store: <http://www.casscd.org/Store/>

Applications for Conservation Stewardship Program due February 7, 2014

BISMARCK, ND Dec. 2, 2013 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is opening the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) for new enrollments for federal fiscal year 2014. Starting today through February 7, 2014, producers interested in participating in the program can submit applications to NRCS.

“Through the Conservation Stewardship Program, farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners are going the extra mile to conserve our nation’s resources,” NRCS Chief Jason Weller said. “Through their conservation actions, they are ensuring that their operations are more productive and sustainable over the long run.” The CSP is an important Farm Bill conservation program that helps established conservation stewards with taking their level of natural resource management to the next level to improve both their agricultural production and provide valuable conservation benefits such as cleaner and more abundant water, as well as healthier soils and better wildlife habitat. Weller said today’s announcement is another example of USDA’s comprehensive focus on promoting environmental conservation and strengthening the rural economy, and it is a reminder that a new Food, Farm and Jobs Bill is pivotal to continue these efforts. CSP is now in its fifth year and so far, NRCS has partnered with producers to enroll more than 59 million acres across the nation.

The program emphasizes conservation performance — producers earn higher payments for higher performance. In CSP, producers install conservation enhancements to make positive changes in soil quality, soil erosion, water quality, water quantity, air quality, plant resources, animal resources and energy.

Some popular enhancements used by farmers and ranchers include:

- Using new nozzles that reduce the drift of pesticides, lowering input costs and making sure pesticides are used where they are most needed;
- Modifying water facilities to prevent bats and bird species from being trapped;
- Burning patches of land, mimicking prairie fires to enhance wildlife habitat; and
- Rotating feeding areas and monitoring key grazing areas to improve grazing management.

Eligible landowners and operators in all states and territories can enroll in CSP through February 7th to be eligible during the 2014 federal fiscal year. While local NRCS offices accept CSP applications year round, NRCS evaluates applications during announced ranking periods. To be eligible for this year’s enrollment, producers must have their applications submitted to NRCS by the closing date.



Urban Conservation Cost-Share Program Update

Last newsletter we introduced you to the District’s new Urban Conservation cost-share program to help urban and rural landowners and organizations offset the costs of implementing low impact development and related conservation practices.

We are excited to announce that we have accepted our first applications for this program and will continue to take applications on a first-come, first-served basis until April 1, 2014 or until our funding has been exhausted.

We encourage all those interested in the program to visit the *urban* tab on our website at www.casscd.org to read the full application instructions including what practices will be covered and eligibility criteria. You can also contact our office for more information on the program at (701) 282-2157 x3.

Cass County Soil Conservation District

1665 43rd Street South

Suite 103

Fargo, ND 58103-3319

Phone: (701) 282-2157 extension 3

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