



Cass County Soil Conservation District Conservation News

Spring 2015



It's Spring!

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2015 \$1000.00 Scholarship Winner: Tabitha Miller

The District has the desire to encourage Cass County youth in following a path into Natural Resource Management and other related fields of study. We are excited to have chosen our 2015 Scholarship Winner, Tabitha Miller. Tabitha is currently a senior at West Fargo High School. She wrote a great essay that put her in first place.

Tabitha will begin studying Wildlife Management in the fall at Valley City State University. She has ambitions to become a game warden.

Good Luck, Tabitha !



Tabitha Miller

Ladies Ag Night

The District held its annual Ladies Ag Night in Casselton on March 12th. We had two great speakers from NDSU Extension.

Kelcey Hoffmann spoke on the new "Design Your Own Succession" plan that is an aid in helping farmers make decisions regarding their farm and future generations.

Julie Garden-Robinson gave a presentation on how to safely prepare time-saving freezer meals and crockpot cooking.

The meal and pie selection were delicious. The caterers from One-On-One did a fantastic job. The pies from Kerry's Sweet Shop were excellent! The lemon meringue was



gone in a heartbeat. You can bet next year we will order more lemon!

The mailing list: Our master mailing list for Ladies Ag Night mysteriously disappeared. We had to resort to using our newsletter mailing list, which is why the invitations were sent to "Occupant". Hopefully, we were able to get everyone's address that didn't receive an invitation and we will update our list for next year. We apologize to anyone that did not receive this year's invitation.

Jeff Miller, New SCD Operations Coordinator



Jeff Miller has been hired as Operations Coordinator for the Cass County SCD effective March 3rd, 2015.

Growing up on a farm in southern Minnesota and spending all my free time outside hunting, fishing and roaming around instilled a strong land conservation and land ethic in me as a child. Desiring to learn more about conservation, I attended college at North Dakota State University, graduating in 2005 with a Bachelor's Degree in Natural Resources Management.

After college, I worked as a geologist with Aggregate Industries. As I traveled around the country, from Virginia to Colorado, I was brought close to the soil and subsoil of the US, with particular emphasis on glacial Lake Agassiz and the glacial fluvial history of the Red River Valley. Later in my career with Aggregate Industries I became a Plant Manager at a sand and gravel mine and processing plant in Clay County, MN.

I bring to the Cass County SCD a deep seated desire to protect and preserve the rich and abundant soil and environment in our area, realizing that if we have a good and productive soil we will see a strong farm economy, good wildlife habitat, and leave the land in good shape for our future generations. I look forward to working to promote this ethic. I can be reached via phone at 701-282-2157 ext.3 or by email at jeffrey.d.miller@nd.nacdnet.net.

Check out our redesigned website at <http://cassscd.org/>

Conservation Quote of the Quarter: "I saw all the people hustling early in the morning to go into the factories and the stores and the office buildings, to do their job, to get their check. But ultimately it's not office buildings or jobs that give us our checks. It's the soil. The soil is what gives us the real income that supports us all." ---
Ed Begley, Jr.

Ashley Fisk, New SCD Urban Conservationist



Ashley Fisk has been hired as an Urban Conservationist for the Cass County Soil Conservation District effective March 9th, 2015.

As a native of Fargo-Moorhead I have gained a passion to conserve and protect

my hometown community. In addition, my love of for the great outdoors has taught me the importance of conservation, preservation, and restoration techniques.

I attended college at North Dakota State University in 2012 graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Natural Resources Management and a Zoology minor. I have had opportunities to volunteer within our community working on educating area youth on wildlife. I also worked for the Fish and Wildlife Service as a Rangeland Technician utilizing geographic information systems (GIS) as a foundation for creating wetland easement agreements for waterfowl production areas. The last few years I have worked at Syngenta conducting field

trials on diverse field crops where I had a front row seat for observing agricultural concerns including the effects of soil erosion, compaction, and pollution.

I am excited to be the new Urban Conservationist so I can use previous experiences to reach out and give back to the community in which I grew up. I can be reached via phone at 701-282-2157 ext 3 or email ashley.fisk@nd.nacdnet.net.

Red River Basin Initiative Funding Available

Written by NRCS District Conservationist Brent Gustafson

The Natural Resources Conservation Service has funding available through the Red River Basin Initiative to improve water quality, reduce flooding impacts, and enhance wildlife. Financial and technical assistance is available to install practices on private, working, agriculture lands. These practices include, but are not limited to, residue & tillage management – no till and reduced till, cover crop, crop rotation, pest management, nutrient management, wetland restoration, riparian buffers, filter strips, and grassed waterways. Applications for this funding will be accepted through Friday, May 15, 2015. Please contact the NRCS office for more information or to apply for this funding.



The 2015 Tree Planting season is here!

We have received the trees for our machine planting and your hand planting projects. For cooperators who are having us plant your trees, we request that you get your sites tilled and ready for us to stake and plant. Please let us know when this has been completed. District Technician Tony Peterson will be in contact with you a day or so before the tree crew arrives to ensure the site is ready for planting.

BOARD MEMBER NEEDED

The District is currently looking for a Cass County resident to fill a vacant position on the board. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact the office at 701-282-2157 so we can give you more information. You can also join us at our next meeting to see how the District operates.

Cass County Soil Conservation District

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STEWARDSHIP FOR TODAY & TOMORROW

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.

District Staff

Jeff Miller—*Operations Coordinator*

Tony Peterson—*District Technician*

Eric Dahl—*Watershed Coordinator*

Amy Cole—*District Clerk*

Ashley Fisk—*Urban Conservationist*

NRCS Staff

Brent Gustafson—*District Conservationist*

Derek Schmitt—*Soil Conservationist*

Val Hartman—*Soil Conservationist*

District Supervisors

Terry Hoffmann—*Wheatland*

Brad Kellerman—*West Fargo*

Curt Knutson—*Page*

Brooks Whitmore—*Page*

Upcoming Events

April 21, 2015 - **Board Meeting** at 8:00am

April 30, 2015 - **Make Your Own Rain Barrel Workshop**
Lindenwood Park, 6:00—8:00pm

May 7, 2015 - **Make Your Own Compost Tumbler Workshop**
Lindenwood Park, 6:00—7:30pm


May 19, 2015 - **Board Meeting** at 8:00am

May 19, 2015 - **Reforest the Red** at Oak Grove, 2:00-7:00pm

May 25, 2015 - **Memorial Day:** Office Closed

This Newsletter Has Been Sponsored By

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