Tree of the Quarter:

Caragana (*Caragana arborescens*), also known as the Siberian Peashrub. The Caragana is a long lived, drought tolerant legume native to Siberia. It is well suited to North Dakota as it can tolerate high winds and cold temperatures. It is a slightly exotic looking tree, with pinnately compounded leaflets and a vivid green color, turning to yellow in fall. It has a showy yellow flower in spring and pea-like pods, which turn brown when mature. Caragana can reach 14 feet in height with a crown of 12 feet. This tree is an excellent choice for planting in windbreaks and living snow fences.

**2015 Tree Planting Season**

The tree planting for this season is wrapping up, with the last few sites receiving weed barrier fabric. Planting started out very well but was hampered by the wet spring. The crews persevered, however, and we were successful in planting **228,000** linear feet of trees. Of that amount, **94%** had weed barrier fabric applied. Dan Iwen and Barry Rupprecht returned for their 11th year of tree planting, and Keri Cole finished her 1st year. The District would like to thank them for their hard work this year.

If you would like to discuss a planting for 2016, please contact us now to get plans drawn up. There may be cost share options available.

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**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  
Matt Waclawik—Resource Conservation (Wetlands)  
Blake Johnson—Agriculture Engineer

**District Supervisors**

Terry Hoffmann—Wheatland  
Brad Kellerman—West Fargo  
Curt Knutson—Page  
Brooks Whitmore—Page  
Richard Faught—Amenia

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**http://cassscd.org**

**Check us out on Facebook!**
Urban Conservation

“Our Hard Working Pollinators” was the theme of this year’s stewardship week. But why pollinators? Pollinators are Keystone Species, meaning they are species which others depend upon. Almost 90% of flowering plants rely on pollinators for fertilization and nuts to be produced.

Our North Dakota pollinators include native bees, honey bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, bats, and flies. These beneficial insects are under pressure from loss of habitat, loss of food sources, disease, and pesticides. Studies have shown that several pollinator populations have drastically declined. As important as pollinators are to agriculture and ecosystem health, surprisingly little is known about their status, or how to reverse their decline.

What can be done to help our pollinators? Create a pollinator habitat! Over time this habitat would provide adequate food, water, and a safe living space for our native pollinators. The use of pesticides should be eliminated from the area, and should be strategically designed with a diversity of plants allowing a variety of pollinators to feed on the nectar at all times of the season.

If you are interested in creating your own pollinator habitat or for more information please contact:
Ashley Fisk
701.282.2157 Ext. 121
Ashley.Fisk@nd.nacdnet.net

Reminder: Continuous CRP signup is ongoing. Also, CSP and EQIP sign up is still available.

There is funding through a Outdoor Heritage Fund Grant for Tree Planting. For information on any of these programs, stop by the office or call us.

Noxious Week Control

The Cass County Weed board will reimburse the chemical control of noxious weeds on private non-crop, non-CRP land. Reimburse rates are set at 80% of the cost of specified herbicides and an application reimbursement of $3.50/acre. The total reimbursement is set at $1000 per operator or landowner.

The deadline for application is October 31st, 2015. Applications may be picked up at the Cass County Weed Control Office at 1201 Main Avenue in West Fargo or at www.casscountynd.gov/county/boards/weed/. For more information, call Stan Wolf, Weed Control Officer, at (701) 298-2388.

Conservation Quote of the Quarter: “We have the world to live in on the condition that we will take good care of it. And to take good care of it, we have to know it. And to know it and to be willing to take care of it, we have to love it.” Wendell Berry

AgWeek TV

Machine planting trees with the Cass County SCD was featured on the June 28th episode of AgWeek TV. Didn’t catch it on TV? You can view it on the AgWeek TV website at http://www.agweek.com/event/article/id/27060/
Cass County No-till Demonstration Plot

The Cass County SCD is excited to announce, the first of its kind, large scale no-till demonstration farm in Cass County. The 80 acre site, located near Gardner is a large scale demo plot designed to showcase a four crop rotation using no-till farming practices. The farm is intended to be a learning center for area producers and soil health advocates. Cooperating producer, Nick Vinje, has been practicing no-till on his farm for 4 years and is excited to be hosting the area’s first no-till demo. Originally, Vinje began practicing no-till to reduce the amount of labor he had to perform as a one man operation. After time and some noticeable successes, Vinje wanted to get more involved with soil health. He turned to his local NRCS office where he started working with District Conservationist Brent Gustafson and field office staff. Vinje says “NRCS has been a huge help in making the transition, from technical assistance to cost share programs, it has definitely made the transition easier.”

He has expanded his rotation from a wheat, corn and soybean rotation to corn, soybeans, wheat, field peas, winter rye, and sunflowers. Vinje also plants a wide variety of cover crops on his farm, another key ingredient in soil health improvement. Through increasing his crop diversity and cutting out tillage, Nick is not only reducing his labor but improving his soil by increasing soil organic matter, improving water infiltration, and reducing nutrient loss. Vinje hopes the demo site can be a learning opportunity for himself and everyone involved, “We should really be able to get creative with cover crop mixes and crop rotations by having smaller scale test plots to try new ideas, until we find what works best in our area.” For more information on the Cass County no-till demo and upcoming tours please contact the Cass County Soil Conservation District.

Upcoming Events

July 21, 2015 - Board Meeting at 8:00am Fargo Field Office

Happenings........Soil Conservations Valerie Hartman and Derek Schmitt have both accepted District Conservationist Positions in the NRCS. Val will be the DC in Oliver County, North Dakota and Derek will the be the DC in Lake and Porter Counties in northeastern Indiana. We wish them the best of luck in their new endeavors!!
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.