

Cass County Soil Conservation District Conservation News

Fall 2020

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Tree of the Quarter: Dolgo Crabapple (*Malus Dolgo*) is an extremely cold hardy apple tree brought from Siberia in the late 1800's. Due to a long bloom period in the spring, the Dolgo Crabapple is an excellent pollinator tree for many other types of apple trees. The apples produced are large for crabapples, at around one to one-and-a-half inch in size. Deep red in color, they taste very good, making them candidates to eat right off the tree or turn into jams, jellies and juices. Though the apples ripen by late August into early September, they persist on the tree well into the winter. This tendency makes the Dolgo Crabapple a great tree for wildlife, including squirrels, deer, raccoon and birds. Dolgo Crabapple can be incorporated into machine plantings or purchased through the Cass County SCD Tree Store.



2020 Achievement Award Winner

The Cass County Soil Conservation District is proud to recognize Morken Farm, Amenia, as our 2020 Achievement Winner. Harvey and Mary have been farming around Amenia for many years and are transitioning their farming operation over to Joe and his wife Robin. The Morken's have been working with NRCS since 2011 where they have utilized EQIP and CSP which have helped their journey towards a more sustainable and efficient operation. Recently they have been working to reduce tillage and try some new planting widths in order to facilitate establishment of cover crops in a corn/ soybean rotation. They are also putting numbers to the no-till and keeping excellent records of cost for conventional operations and

the new conservation measures. So far, they are showing that conservation is not only good for the bottom line, but also good for the land. Congratulations to the Morkens!



District Staff

Jeffrey Miller—Director

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Tony Peterson—Programs Manager

NRCS Staff

Josh Monson—District Conservationist

Matt Shappell—Soil Conservationist

Matt Waclawik—Wetlands Specialist

Blake Johnson—Agriculture Engineer

Paul Flahave—Designated Conservationist

Tim Cogger—Program Assistant

Amy Bauroth—Heartland Secretary

District Supervisors

Terry Hoffmann—Wheatland

Brad Kellerman—West Fargo

Curt Knutson—Page

Warren Solberg—Horace



A Harvest Respite

Harvest is upon us yet again. On our little homestead, we have been busy picking elderberry, digging potatoes, and harvesting squash. Green and red and yellow combines are working day and night, run by tired farmers eager to get the crop off the field before Autumn decides to turn to Winter. The wild harvest is in full swing as well, with migrating ducks, sleek whitetail deer, and raucous pheasants being collected by sportsmen and women. The delicious meat will grace the tables all winter.

Even though it is a very busy season (though aren't they all?), take some time to reflect on what it takes for the land to offer up its bounty. Without seasons, bag limits and technology limitations on wild game, it would be very easy for the modern day human to eradicate nearly every species in one year. Our natural resources, for the most part, are not infinite. Habitat and protection allows wild game to flourish. Rich soil allows our region to grow bountiful crops. In order for that to continue, we need to look down the road.

Each and every person can make a difference for the environment around us. Crop farmers can reduce tillage on the landscape and allow more residue to remain over winter. Every speck of soil that blows away or is washed away by water is gone from that place forever, as soils are not a renewable resource. Urban dwellers can plant native grasses and forbs for habitat and food for pollinating insects, a class of invertebrates that is very important for crop production but that is losing footing in the landscape. Ranchers can implement cross-fencing of pastures, both to boost forage available to livestock as well as to protect it from overgrazing. There are a myriad of ways we can all do something beneficial.

As the leaves fall, the grasses dry, and the icy breath of Winter breathes down our neck, take some time to plan contributing positively to the natural world. In today's world it's easy to point fingers and blame problems on someone else, but if we all took some effort to do our part we will all benefit.



2020 Scholarship Winner

We are excited to announce we have awarded a scholarship for the 2020-2021 school year!

Carson Hovelson has been awarded first place, with a \$1000 scholarship. He graduated from Maple Valley High School in 2020 and is attending North Dakota State University majoring in Crop and Weed Science.

Congratulations to Carson!

Grass Seeding Season

Once again, the District put the no-till drills to good use this season. Utilizing both the 30' and 7' Great Plains drills, the crew seeded a variety of projects. Between the spring and late summer seeding windows over 3,000 acres in Cass County was seeded. We completed a wide variety of projects including pasture plantings, alfalfa, Pocket Prairies, multi-species cover crops, and perennial grasses between tree rows. The District would like to thank the producers that had us seed for them, and look forward to continuing to help landowners in Cass County put conservation on the ground.



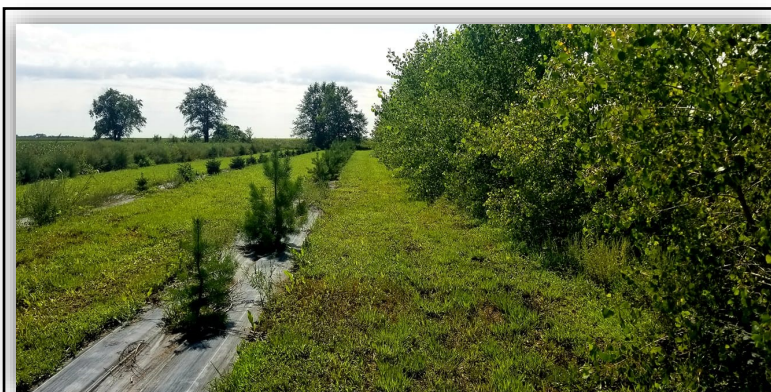
Quote of the Quarter:

“In early October, the woods begin to come alive again, and that surprises many people, who think of them in autumn as places of decay and dying, falling leaves and animals hiding away for their long winter hibernation. But it is summer there that is the dead time, in summer the air hangs heavy and close and still, nothing flowers, nothing sings, nothing stirs, and no light penetrates. But, now, there is a stirring, a sense of excitement.”

Susan Hill

Upcoming Events

October 12th- **Columbus Day:**
Office Closed
October 20th-**Board Meeting:**
Fargo Field Office
November 11th- **Veterans Day:**
Office Closed
November 17th-**Board Meeting:**
Fargo Field Office
November 26th-**Thanksgiving:**
Office Closed



Tree Counts

Fall is an excellent time to get out and get an accurate count of handplants needed for 2021. By ordering early, you will ensure you get the species and quantities that you need. To make it even more appealing, we are offering a 5% discount on orders received by December 31st, 2020. Simply enter **Orderearly2020** in the Tree Store, write it on your order form, or mention it when you call. We are making it easier than ever to get conservation on the ground!

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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.

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