

Cass County Soil Conservation District Conservation News

Spring 2021



Tree of the Quarter: Common Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana L.*) is a member of the rose family. Native to North Dakota, the common chokecherry is a deciduous large shrub that forms dense thickets on the prairie. Rarely reaching heights over 20 feet, this shrub has a myriad of slender stems. The leaves are a glossy dark green, simple and alternate with closely spaced sharp teeth. In the fall, they turn from green to yellow. In

the Spring, the common chokecherry forms aromatic flowers in cylindrical racemes, grown on the current year's leafy growth. The fruit is astringent, with a large, toxic pit in the middle. The fruit is so prized for jellies and wine, among others, that it was first cultivated as an orchard crop in the US in 1724. Hardy, beautiful and delicious, the common chokecherry is an excellent choice for a windbreak or wildlife planting.

Tree Planting Season is Here!



Spring is here! With the tree orders from the nurseries arriving soon we will be busy putting conservation on the ground! Prior to machine planting, there are a few things that should be done. Cultivating the site is im-

perative to a successful planting, as an adequate seedbed allows for good soil-to-root contact. Clumpy, cloddy soil makes it difficult for the trees to flourish. Prep work on the front end of the planting goes a long way in ensuring a long lasting, beautiful planting. You can find our new publication, *Tree Planting Owner's Guide*, on the website. The guide explains, from soup to nuts, the keys to a successful tree planting. The District would like to thank **Daniel Iwen** for returning for his 16th planting season and **Mike Bush** for his 2nd. Their hard work contributes to our success every year.

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District Supervisors

Terry Hoffmann-Wheatland
Brad Kellerman-West Fargo
Kelli Bowen-Casselton
Jodi Meisch-Mapleton
Warren Solberg-Horace

Weed Board News



The Cass County Weed Control would like to remind producers of the Landowner Assistance Program for 2021. Owners or operators of non-crop, non-CRP acres can apply for assistance for partial reimbursement of chemical and application costs. 80% of the cost of the herbicide and \$3.50 per acre of application will be reimbursed, with a maximum single operator payment of \$1,500. Also remember to be diligent in scouting fields for the appearance of Palmer Amaranth. Contact Weed Control or NDSU Extension if you believe you have found the noxious weed.

Quote of the Quarter

*" Watch the trees all
dressed up in the Spring,
While posing as they stand
in line,
Placing their best foot for-
ward, showing off their
leaves and fighting for at-
tention,
One tree at a time"*

Charmaine J. Forde



Curt Knutson, District Supervisor from Page, has retired from the Board effective February 2021. A Supervisor since 2013, Curt brought his unique voice to the Board. He is committed to no-till farm practices and believes strongly in being a steward of the land. We would like to thank Curt for his years of service and wish him the very best in the future.

Upcoming Events

March 16th-**Board Meeting**-Fargo Field Office

April 20th-**Board Meeting**-Fargo Field Office

May 18th-**Board Meeting**-Fargo Field Office

May 15th and June 16th-**Make a Rain Barrel Workshop**-Various Locations

May 18th and June 8th-**Make a Compost Tumbler Workshop**-Various Locations

May 31st-**Memorial Day**-Office Closed

June 15th-**Board Meeting**-Fargo Field Office

Welcome our newest Board Members!



Jodi Meisch, is a life-long resident of Cass County, residing in Mapleton. Jodi works by day as the Office Manager for Dakota Audubon, with a deep and abiding interest in land conser-

vation and stewardship of natural resources. Jodi installed a Pocket Prairie at her home last year, and will be adding to it this year!

Kelli Bowen lives in Casselton. She works for Peterson Farm Seed as well as writing a lively blog that can be found on the NDFB *On Your Table* blog. Kelli has an active interest in conservation, land stewardship, and the environment around us.



Red River Basin Wildlife and Water Quality Enhancement Pilot Program

The Cass County SCD has partnered with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department and the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality to bring a new program for establishing perennial grasslands in the Red River Valley. The program, funded through a grant from the Outdoor Heritage Fund, is intended to increase wildlife habitat and reduce potential nonpoint sources of pollutants impairing water quality in the Red River Basin. Marginal cropland acres or land that is often affected by excess moisture are a prime target for the program. Participating producers will receive land rental payments on acres converted to perennial grass under a 5-year producer management agreement. Participants will also receive cost-share for grass seed associated practice implementation. For more information on the project please contact the office for more information.



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Stewardship for Today & Tomorrow


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