

Cass County Soil Conservation District Conservation News

Spring 2023



Tree of the Quarter: Juneberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*) is a hardy native shrub. Juneberry, also called Serviceberry or Saskatoon, is multi-stemmed and grows to 12 feet wide and tall. This shrub likes loamy to sandy loam soils, with plenty of organic matter. Juneberry has some tolerance to drought but requires adequate moisture to set fruit. Blooming occurs in early Spring and late frosts will have a deleterious effect on fruit production. The blueberry-like fruits are actually pomes, more closely related to apples. The fruit is sweet and coveted wherever it is found. However, It's not only humans who enjoy the fruit.

Deer will heavily browse the leaves and stems, and birds will strip the ripe fruit off the shrub. Netting and caging is required if harvesting fruit is desired. Juneberry makes an excellent food forest and shelterbelt additions.

Tree Planting Season is Here!

Even though the Winter feels like it will never end, Spring will be here soon! Prior to machine planting, there are a few things that need to be done. Cultivating the site is imperative 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 the publication *Tree Planting Owner's Guide* on our website. The guide covers, from start to finish, the keys to a successful tree planting. We are excited to get out into the field and assist producers with getting conservation on the ground!



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Ladies' Ag 2023

Many in the county, including us, look forward to the Ladies' Ag event ! Right on the cusp of spring, the event brings together women that are involved in, or have an interest in agriculture. We welcomed over 130 attendees to the Air Museum in Fargo for a wonderful night of celebrating women and agriculture. Once again, One-on-One Catering prepared a delicious meal of ham, scalloped potatoes, corn, salad and dessert. The centerpieces consisted of flowers by Fleurish Floral Designs. Dan Heising was the keynote speaker. Along with his wife Stacy Nelson-Heising, they own and operate Cottonwood Ciderhouse, a producer of fine, locally grown hard apple cider. He walked the crowd through the genesis of their business and how the cider is made. As always, the raffle baskets were a hit! Next year we will do it all again!



Quote of the Quarter

"It's spring fever. That is what the name of it is. And when you've got it, you want-oh, you don't know what it is you want, but it just fairly makes your heart ache, you want it so!"

Mark Twain

Upcoming Events

April 11th-**Board Meeting:** Fargo Field Office
 May 9th— **Board Meeting:** Fargo Field Office
 May 29th— **Memorial Day:** Office Closed
 June 13th — **Board Meeting:** Fargo Field Office

Education and Outreach Roadshow



The staff of the Cass County SCD, in between grant writing, tree planning and day-to-day operations, spent time traveling around the county this past winter. Education and Outreach presentations are an excellent way to not only promote soil conservation but to offer hands-on learning for students and adults.

Presentations included:

Wildlife Adaptations: Wildlife use a variety of techniques to survive harsh winter conditions. We discuss animals that live in the arctic, Canada and the United States. Students not only learn about the adaptations but are able to touch and feel a wide variety of tanned animal pelts, from American Bison to Canadian Lynx to Raccoon. This is our most popular presentation from preschool to adult education.



Living Ag Classroom: Over 2,500 area fourth graders spend six minutes at 12 stations, learning about everything from corn and soybeans to soil conservation.

Stream Table: The stream table offers hands-on learning about rivers and stream dynamics. We were invited to NDSU to present on rivers and streams to graduate level courses.

City of Fargo Video: The importance of pollinator plants, especially in urban areas, was the focus of the City of Fargo produced video "The Impact of Pollinators on our Food System." The video was shot at a Pocket Prairie owned by Fargo VTC and can be found on the Fargo Cass Public Health Youtube Channel.



Cass County Soil Conservation District

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