

Central Stark & Western
SOIL CONSERVATION
Districts

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PAID
Non-profit
Organization
Permit #12
Dickinson, ND

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Dickinson, ND 58601
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Return Service Requested

“Assisting Residents of Stark and Billings Counties”

September 2014

Assistance is available without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.

WHY PLANT TREES?

There are many good reasons to plant trees. The right tree in the right place can provide:

- Wind protection
- Savings on heating and cooling costs
- Beauty
- Privacy
- Income
- Wildlife habitat
- Protection from wildfires

But not all trees are right for all spaces— some are best suited for windbreaks in the country, while others are best in a city lot. It’s important to know what trees will work in what space, and how to plant them so they will thrive and provide the benefits you want.

Need handplants for 2015 spring planting season, please fill out enclosed green tree form and return to our office by October 3, 2014.



NEW PROGRAM FOR TREE PLANTING

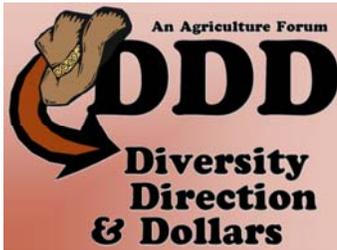
Need trees, but haven’t qualified for financial assistance? Through a grant received from the **North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund**, our district may be able to help fund your tree planting. A landowner is eligible to receive 60% financial assistance of the total project costs (up to \$25,000) for trees, machine planting, fabric application and tree tubes on at-risk species. Actual planting would be in the spring of 2015.

To apply, contact Bob Klein at the Soil Conservation District office.

Other financial assistance programs:

- EQIP
- Continuous CRP
- Forest Service





Mark your calendar for January 5, 2015 for Diversity, Direction and Dollars at the Ramada Grand Dakota Lodge

Attention All EQIP and CSP Contract Holders

Another summer is nearly gone and harvest is right around the corner. However, if you are a current EQIP or CSP contract holder, you need to keep in mind that you must get your practice(s) installed by the schedule noted in your contract to remain in compliance with your contract obligations. There are a lot of practices that still need to be installed prior to freeze up. Please notify the NRCS office at 225-3811 ext 3 prior to the installation of any practice. We want to make sure the practice(s) will be installed to meet our NRCS standards and specification and to make sure all necessary field visits and paperwork is completed prior to installation. Feel free to contact the office if you have any questions and/or changes in your operation.

RCPP

A new conservation program, called the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), was authorized in the 2014 Farm Bill and will benefit areas all across the nation. RCPP streamlines conservation efforts by combining four programs (the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program, Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative, the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative, and the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion) into one. The RCPP will competitively award funds to conservation projects designed by local partners specifically for their region. Eligible partners include private companies, universities, non-profit organizations, local and tribal governments and others joining with agricultural and conservation organizations and producers to invest money, manpower and materials to their proposed initiatives.

To learn about technical and financial assistance available through conservation programs, visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted or local USDA service center. For more on the 2014 Farm Bill, visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/FarmBill.



Windbreaks are barriers made of living trees and shrubs that are used to reduce wind speed. They are the most commonly used type of agroforestry in the United States. Windbreaks can also be used to reduce noise and odors. There are also windbreaks that are not considered agroforestry because there is no tree/crop or tree/livestock inter-

action, such as those that protect farmstead buildings. In any case, the vast majority of windbreaks are planted for a single purpose, to slow the wind, which results in reduced soil erosion, increased crop yields or protected livestock. Many people think windbreaks take up land that could be producing a cash income, even though windbreaks do increase yields and subsequent income.

October 3, 2014

EQIP Batching Deadline

Environmental Quality Incentives Program Continuous Signup

What is it? A voluntary financial assistance program (cost-share).

How does it work? Applications compete for funding based on environmental benefit. Funded applications receive a payment rate to install conservation practices according to NRCS specifications.

Who is it for? Owners and operators of agricultural land.

Why sign up? Conservation systems can pay for themselves over time, but setting up a new system can be expensive. EQIP can assist with installing a variety of best management practices and trying out some new methods, such as: Livestock water developments (wells, tanks, pipelines), grazing systems (new cross fences), grass plantings for hay or pasture, rangeland restorations, tree plantings and renovations, and cropland enhancements (cover crops, no-till, etc.).

Where to get more information? Stop by the Dickinson Field Office or contact the office at 225-3811 ext 3





Cover Crops for Prevented Planting

Fact Sheet

Natural Resources Conservation Service North Dakota

August 2014

Wet field conditions late into the planting season can result in farmers opting for the “prevented planting” option for an insured crop. Planting a cover crop on prevented planting acres has become more popular in recent years as a soil and resource management tool. Multiple soil health, agronomic and other resource benefits are addressed if prevented planting ground is seeded to a cover crop compared to black or chemical fallow.

Soil Health Benefits of Cover Crops on Prevented Planting Ground

- Control erosion
- Dry wet soils by reestablishing the plant transpiration part of the water cycle
- Build soil organic matter
- Reduce nitrogen loss
- Fix additional nitrogen with legumes
- Feed beneficial soil biology and stimulate their activity
- Eliminate fallow syndrome (P deficiency in subsequent crop from loss of mycorrhizal fungi)
- Cycle, sequester and recover nutrients
- Avoid or treat compaction from excessive traffic
- Control evaporative soil salinization



A cover crop mix of cool season broadleaf, cool and warm season grasses and legumes

Other Resource Benefits

- Increase crop/rotation diversity
- Provide pollinator habitat
- Provide wildlife cover and food source
- Increase available water storage capacity for water retention
- Manage weed pressures
- Early winter grazing opportunities

Cover Crop Establishment

Seeding dates of cover crops on prevented planting ground must comply with Risk Management Agency guidelines. Typically, they are seeded after the late planting period for commodity crops grown in North Dakota. Farmers should always inform their insurance agent of intentions to plant a cover crop and obtain the latest information on cover crop restrictions and guidelines for prevented planting.

Some considerations for cover crop establishment are:

- Herbicide carryover
- Fertility - if nitrogen has been lost to denitrification, 30-50#/acre application needed for establishment
- Salt tolerance
- Seeding depth

Other Cover Crop Selection Considerations

Cover crops are chosen to attain resource benefits as listed above. Other items to consider are:

- Cost
- Availability
- Seeding time
- Subsequent commodity crop to be grown
- Termination method
- C:N ratio, desired timing of nutrient release and speed of residue decomposition
- Inoculation to get N benefit from legumes

Cover crops are categorized by major crop types to aid in cover crop selection based on time of seeding and desired diversity to acquire benefits. Major crop types include grass or broadleaf types and cool and warm growing season growth characteristics. In addition broadleaf species are characterized as being legumes. Science supports the idea that diversity is good for the ecology of agricultural ecosystems. Cover crop mixes are used to add diversity to agricultural production systems, manage residue decomposition and achieve desired benefits for soil health and the production of the subsequent crop.