

Central Stark & Western
**SOIL
CONSERVATION**
Districts

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Non-profit
Organization
Permit #12
Dickinson, ND

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Return Service Requested

“Assisting Residents of Stark and Billings Counties”

2012 Annual Report

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

NEW SUPERVISOR



Justin Zent is our new Central Stark Soil Conservation District Supervisor. Justin farms East of Lefor along with his dad, Richard, and his, uncle Duane and cousin, Garrett. The Zent's operation consists of primarily small grains and corn as well as beef cattle. Justin said he pretty much runs the crop end of things, he doesn't work with the cattle.

Welcome aboard Justin!

CHUCK RETIRES



The Board and staff would like to thank Chuck Schorsch for his dedicated service over the years and the accomplishments that he helped bring about. Chuck served as an elected supervisor for the Central Stark Soil Conservation District from 1995 to 2012.

Thank you Chuck!

Tree Awards



Central Stark Soil Conservation District
Tim & Jeanette Schlenvogt



Western Soil Conservation District
Don & Amanda Kuntz
and Morghann

Range Award



Western Soil Conservation District
Bill & Sarah Cerkoney
and Bryce

Soil Health Awards



Central Stark Soil Conservation District
Craig & Amanda Fisher



Western Soil Conservation District
Bill & Candace Kessel



Bob Klein received a 5 year certificate at the State Convention in Bismarck for his years of service and dedication to the Central Stark and Western Soil Conservation Districts.



Western and Central Stark Soil Conservation Districts were presented the **AWARD OF EXCELLENCE** from Lincoln-Oakes Nurseries at the 2012 Soil Conservation Districts State Convention in November. A valued customer purchasing 31,197 trees. Bob Klein and Bonnie Twogood accepted the award on the behalf of the districts.



Central Stark and Western Soil Conservation District's 2012 Overall Achievement Winners



Lucas & Jolene Hoff from North of Richardton, ND were selected by the Central Stark

SCD for their efforts in applying conservation practices. They have implemented a no-till crop rotation with wheat, corn, sunflowers and for the first time this year soybeans. The Hoff's have been planting cover crops for five years. They have a cow/calf operation with Red and Black Angus Baldies. The Hoff's are in the process of developing a feeding area manure management plan. The plan includes the abandonment of his previous feeding are and implementing a rotational system for his winter feeding operation, which will significantly reduce the potential water quality impacts.

Brothers, Ron & Don Decker have a partnership, along with the help of their parents, Ted and Marian, South of Belfield, ND. The Western Soil Conservation District awarded Ron & Don the Overall Achievement Award for 2012. The Decker's have been using a no-till system for their rotations consisting of spring wheat, corn, sunflowers, winter wheat and alfalfa for hay. They raise Black Angus cattle utilizing a managed grazing system and background calves. Ron and Don have planted 23,000 feet of trees within the past five years. Their favorite past time includes snowmobiling, skiing and mechanic work.





The Bowman-Slope, Dunn and Central Stark & Western Soil Conservation Districts nominated Desiree Havelka for the North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts Professional Award. Dez Havelka, IT Specialist, has been an essential component to keeping SCD & NRCS staff working and “connected” for decades. As a long time promoter of conservation, Dez starting her career with the Stark County Soil Conservation District and then served the Soil Conservation Service in Area Three as the Area Administrative Clerk. She then worked diligently to educate herself to become an IT Specialist. From server issues, networking problems, phone operations, program upgrades to technical questions, Dez is always efficient, effective and professional at assisting SCD, NRCS and FSA staff to assist producers and implement conservation.

Dez and her husband, Ron, attended the SCD State Convention to accept the 2012 Professional Award.

Thank you Dez and Congratulations!



Tree Handplant Day in our new facility at 497 26th Avenue East



14,877 handplants sold

205, 312 feet of tree planted

* 329,451 feet of this years fabric applied

AND

* 230,881 feet of last years fabric re-applied

Thanks to our crews for the extra long season and a big thank you to our producers for understanding the difficult situation we were in.



2012
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The Area V Soil Conservation Districts meeting was hosted by Central Stark SCD on July 17, 2012 at the Richardson Assumption Abbey. The group toured the Red Trail Ethanol Plant.



16th Annual DDD Workshop was held on January 17, 2012. 107 Producers attended the annual Diversity, Direction and Dollars. Speakers included: Hal Weiser and Ty Eisenbraun on Soil Health; Roger Ashley on What Happened in 2011; Dave Hynek spoke about the Impact of Oil; Virg Robinson on Market to Market; Troy & Stacy Hadrick on Discovering Your Influential Power and A New Way of Farming Teaming With Nature by Sarah Singla from France.

YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS



The Office staff presents the Soils Tunnel at the Kids Day At The Farm in April. Kids can view the world below the ground surface. With the aid of a flashlight, children can crawl through the tunnel and encounter numerous soil related images on the walls.



Tom Gibson presents lyceum programs to grade schools in the area. “Pete Bogg” demonstrates the Amazing Water Machine and shares some ways that we all can practice conserving water.

Conservation Stewardship Program - FY 2013

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) presents a significant shift in how NRCS provides conservation program payments. CSP participants will receive an annual land use payment for operation-level environmental benefits they produce. Under CSP, participants are paid for conservation performance: the higher the operational performance, the higher their payment.

CSP offers participants two possible types of payments:

- Annual payment for installing and adopting additional activities, and improving, maintaining, and managing existing activities
- Supplemental payment for the adoption of resource-conserving crop rotations

The annual payment limitation for a person or legal entity is \$40,000. A person or legal entity cannot exceed \$200,000 for all contracts entered into during any five-year period.

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a voluntary conservation program that encourages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by Undertaking additional conservation activities and Improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities.

Applicants must:

- Be the operator of record in the USDA farm records management system for the eligible land being offered for enrollment
- Have documented control of the land for the term of the proposed contract;
- Include the eligible land in their entire operation as represented for other USDA programs;
- Be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions and adjusted gross income.

Applications will be evaluated relative to other applications addressing similar priority resource concerns to facilitate a competitive ranking process among applicants within a State who face similar resource challenges.

The entire operation must be enrolled and must include all eligible land operated substantially separate that will be under the applicant's control for the term of the proposed contract.

Soil Health Management

Implementing Soil Health Management Systems can lead to increased organic matter, more soil organisms, reduced soil compaction and improved nutrient storage and cycling. As an added bonus, fully functioning, healthy soils absorb and retain more water, making them less susceptible to runoff and erosion. This means more water will be available for crops when they need it. Soil Health Management Systems allow farmers to improve profitability because they spend less on fuel and energy while benefiting from the higher crop yields resulting from improved soil conditions. To learn more, contact the Dickinson NRCS Service Center at 701-225-3811 Ext 3.



“WRONG SIDE UP”

EQIP Deadline

March 15, 2013

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting applications to help producers improve water and air quality, improve soil health, improve grazing lands, conserve energy, and achieve other environmental benefits. EQIP provides financial and technical assistance for a variety of conservation activities, such as reduced tillage, crop rotation, cover crops, nutrient management (enhanced or precision), integrated pest management, tree and grass plantings, water developments, rotational grazing systems and more. The deadline for the next signup period is **Friday, March 15, 2013**.