

Stark and Billings
**SOIL
CONSERVATION**
District

U.S. Postage
PAID
Non-profit
Organization
Permit #12
Dickinson, ND

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Return Service Requested

“Assisting Residents of Stark and Billings Counties”

August 2020

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

THIS NEWSLETTER IS A DEDICATION TO A LONGTIME TREE PLANTER FOR THE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT,
Marvin Haugland



Marvin Haugland started planting trees for the soil conservation district in April 2001. In the 18 years that he planted trees for the District, Marv planted 2,702,254 feet of trees or 512 miles of trees.

Marv was more than just a guy that sat on a planter and put trees in the ground. He promoted the District's Tree Program and he assisted in all aspects of it in any way that he could. He loved trees. Marv's love for planting trees went beyond working for the District. He was the first in Divide County to utilize the WHIP

program to install wildlife habitat. He installed numerous multi row field windbreaks and block plantings at his own expense. Marv's family told him that he planted enough trees at his farm by Crosby. But he chose not to listen and continued planting more trees every year.



Marvin received the 2017 District Employee Award for his dedicated service to the District's Tree Program. *The office staff and supervisors say it was an honor and privilege to work with Marvin. He will be truly missed.*

Soil Acidity Problems in SW North Dakota



Lanning a tolerant variety

Photo
Taken
July
11th
2019



Soren a susceptible variety

As awareness of the impacts of soil acidity continues to spread and we change our soil sampling techniques (sampling 0-3" and 3-6" instead of 0-12") to better assess the issue, we are finding more and more fields diagnosed with low pH here in western North Dakota. The best management option is to lime the soil to raise the pH closer to neutral and reduce N use to slow acidification. Many are reluctant to spend the money for liming, especially on rented acres. The main issue impacting crop growth in these low pH areas is the increased solubility of Aluminum (Al) in the soil. We also can run into issues with Manganese toxicity as well. Aluminum can inhibit water uptake of roots and cause drought stress, roots are generally abnormally shaped and greatly reduced. While not a long term solution, there are some crop species and varieties within those species that can better withstand this Al toxicity issue including crops like oats, corn, some varieties of wheat, lupins, and teff.

A gene in some varieties of spring wheat has provided some tolerance to Al toxicity. Varieties such as Lanning were shown to have this trait, and varieties such as SY Soren did not. Starting in 2018 we started conducting a low pH variety trial in the region. Unfortunately our site this year was hailed out, but we plan to plant some cover crops at the site to observe species tolerance/susceptibility to issues arising from low pH. We hope to continue the work on spring wheat varieties in this region, as well as work we've done on surface applied liming rates funded by the North Dakota Wheat Commission. We also have a trial observing soybeans with different in-furrow treatment options.

The issue of soil acidity is being tackled in many ways by some innovative producers in the region. Addressing the issue itself and fixing the pH should be top priority, but crop selection can be used in an integrated approach to this issue. You can find videos from myself and Dr. Chris Augustin about low pH soils on the NDSU Extension YouTube channel https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2RNN6rvm8nU&list=PLnn8HanJ32l6SGAm9ofO4Y6mSAp9ox7_k&index=12. There are several resources available on acidic soils but if you have any questions or would like to chat feel free to contact me.

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Stark and Billings Soil Conservation District

RESOURCES/SERVICES

The Stark and Billings Soil Conservation District is interested in suggestions, opinions, ideas, concerns in our District regards to the natural resources field. Is the concerns in education/information, technical assistance or the availability of equipment to our local farmers and ranchers? If equipment, please rate which would be number 1 on your list.

CONCERNS	IDEAS	COMMENTS
EQUIPMENT	15' NO TILL DRILL POST POUNDER/DRIVER LAND LEVELER/ROLLER MANURE SPREADER OK CORRAL OTHER _____	
INFORMATION/ EDUCATION	SOIL TESTING CROP/RANGE TOURS WORKSHOPS	
OTHER		

Note You can give us comments online at our website: starkandbillingsgcd.com or comment on our Facebook page.

SUPERVISOR ELECTION

The Soil Conservation District has served the people in this area since its organization in 1943. The Stark and Billings Soil Conservation District, governed by locally elected people, have made steady progress through the years in providing for the conservation of soil and water resources in the district.

A soil conservation district supervisor for the district will be elected by all qualified electors living within the district at this year's General Election, November 3, to govern the activities of the district.

Any person, firm, or corporation who holds title to or is in possession of any lands lying within the district whether as an owner, lessee, renter, tenant, or otherwise, and physically lives within the boundaries of the district is eligible to run for the office of supervisors.

Any person desiring to run for the office of soil conservation district supervisor may secure nomination petitions and further information from Stark or Billings County Auditor.
Or call the Soil Conservation District office at (701) 225-3811 Ext#3.

**The deadline for filing nominating petitions is
4:00 pm August 31, 2020.**

2021 TREE PLANTING

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN MACHINE PLANTING TREES NEXT SPRING CONTACT THE OFFICE

AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

CALL 701-225-3811 Ext#3
OR STOP IN ANYTIME.



HANDPLANTS/REPLACEMENT TREES

Need handplants for 2021 spring planting season, please fill out enclosed green tree form and return to our office by **October 1, 2020**. OR order trees online. Go to our website at starkandbillingscd.com



NRCS- Environmental Quality Incentives Programs (EQIP)

EQIP

You may be asking what is EQIP and how do I sign up? EQIP is a voluntary conservation program, which offers farmers and ranchers a tool to address their natural resource concerns.

EQIP FAQs

Who is Eligible for EQIP? To be eligible you must be engaged in livestock or agricultural production, have an interest in the farming operation associated with the land being offered for enrollment, and have control of the land for the length of the contract.

What is the first step in applying to EQIP? The first step is to contact our office so we can discuss your ideas. We need to make a field visit prior to snowfall so we can identify your resource concerns and find ways to address them.

What practices are eligible for EQIP? Many structural, vegetative, and management practices are eligible. Eligible Livestock Practices include: Wells, Tanks, Cross Fencing, Pipelines, Pasture & Hayland Seedings, and Ag Waste Systems. Cropland Practices include: Incentives for converting to a No-Till System, Cover Crop and Variable Rate Technology.

How am I accepted into the program? Since the requests for EQIP contracts outweigh available funding, EQIP applicants compete through a ranking system. The application is ranked on how well it will optimize environmental benefits.

If you have any question about EQIP or other conservation practices, please feel free to call our office at (710) 225-3811 Ext#3.

Grass Drill for Rent

The Soil Conservation District is providing a 10-foot John Deere BD1110 grass drill for rent. The drill rents for \$10/acre with a \$100 deposit. The minimum charge for the rental of the drill is \$100 nonrefundable.

Please call (701) 225-3811 Ext#3
for available dates.



Payment, rental agreement and map with acres to be seeded will be needed before renting. The rental agreement can be found on the Stark and Billings SCD website:

starkandbillingscd.com

2020 Price List

HAND PLANTS

\$1.50/ TREE

3-5' HAND PLANTS

\$4.00/ TREE

MACHINE PLANT

\$22/ 100 FEET PLANTED

(INCLUDES TREES)

A TREE PLANTING WITH LESS THAN 1000 FEET WILL BE CHARGED A MINIMUM OF \$220.00 TO BE PLANTED

WEED BARRIER

6' X 500' WEED BARRIER ROLL

\$225.00/ ROLL

3' X 300' WEED BARRIER ROLL

\$67.50/ ROLL

3'x3' WEED BARRIER SQUARES

\$1.00/ EACH

STAPLES \$.10/ EACH

WEED BARRIER APPLICATION

\$45.00/ 100 FEET APPLIED

WEED BARRIER APPLICATION WITH LESS THAN 1000 FEET WILL BE CHARGED A MINIMUM OF \$450.00 TO BE APPLIED

TREE TUBES

5' TUBES

\$4.00/ EACH

5' TUBES WITH STAKE

\$6.00/ EACH

PLANTSKYDD

GRANULAR 1 LB CANISTER

\$13/ CAN

GRANULAR 3 LB SHAKER

\$26/ BAG

1 LB POWDER BOX

\$22/ BOX w/ SPRAY BOTTLE

2 LB POWDER BOX

\$40/ BOX

10' GRASS DRILL

\$10/ ACRE

\$100 MINIMUM

RENTAL USER AGREEMENT CAN BE FOUND ON THE STARK AND BILLINGS SCD WEBSITE

Call at (701) 225-3811 Ext #3

Visit our website <https://www.starkandbillingscd.com>

Like our new page on Facebook (Stark and Billings Soil Conservation District) to keep up to date on the latest news.