

Stark and Billings
**SOIL
CONSERVATION**
District

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

2493 4th Ave West, Room C
Dickinson, ND 58601
Phone: 701-495-7689

Email: bonnie.twogood@nd.nacdnet.net
Website: www.starkandbillingscd.com

“Assisting Residents of Stark and Billings Counties”

Return Service Requested

August 2018

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

Bob Klein, District Technician



for the
Stark
and
Billings
Soil
Conser-
vation
District
was
honored
at the

state convention for his 10 years
of dedication and exemplary work
for the District.

THANK YOU BOB!

WELCOME COURTNEY!



I am

Courtney Slattery

I have been with the
NRCS as an Ultima
employee since
August 2017.

I started working in
the Killdeer Field
office and then in
March I began
working in the Dick-
inson Field Office as
well.

I was born and raised on a small ranch in Rozet,
Wyoming but I have been a resident of ND since
June 2017. My hobbies include hunting, fishing,
hiking, and ranching.

Weed Spotlight: Narrowleaf Hawksbeard

Narrowleaf hawksbeard is a winter annual weed that is a serious competitor of crops in western North Dakota crops, especially pulse crops. NLHB emerges primarily in the fall but can also emerge in the spring. However, fall-emerging plants are the most competitive and most difficult to control in the spring. Effective control of fall-emerged plants minimizes yield loss and spreading by seed. There are not effective chemical control options for controlling NLHB post emergence in pulse crops. Control with fall and early spring burndowns herbicides are required. Potential impact: Under ideal conditions one plant can produce almost 50,000 seeds. Growers have observed NLHB in small areas one year and then almost complete cover the next year. Seeds blow easily in the wind and can spread quickly. One grower reported that dry pea yield was reduced by 65% in a heavily infested field. NLHB can be seen growing on field perimeters, along roadsides, and fence lines. These plants should be controlled to prevent seed from spreading into the field. If anyone sees this weed, alert the Stark County Weed Control Officer immediately.



Need handplants for 2019 spring planting season, please fill out enclosed green tree form and return to our office by **October 1, 2018**. OR order trees on line. Go to our website at starkandbillingsgcd.com



2019 TREE PLANTING

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN MACHINE PLANTING TREES NEXT SPRING CONTACT THE OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT
CALL 701-495-7689 OR STOP IN ANYTIME.

DISTRICT SERVICES AVAILABLE:

Machine Tree Planting

(Spring) - \$22.00 per 100 linear feet. This rate includes the tree stock. The ground site needs to be prepared prior to service. A 25% nonrefundable down payment is required prior to ordering.

Fabric Weed Barrier and Application

\$45 per 100 linear foot. A 25% down payment is required.

Bare Root/Seedling Handplants -

\$1.50 per tree. These trees are conservation grade about 12-18 inches in height.

Tree Tubes

5 feet high tree shelters. Enhance growth, protection from deer browse, rabbits & rodents, mower and herbicide spray. Tube is \$4.00 each or Tube with Stake is \$6.00 each.

Plantskydd

Repellent to protect trees or gardens from browsing by deer, rabbits, and rodents.



What is Conservation Client Gateway?

Conservation Client Gateway is a secure web portal that lets you work with NRCS online. Landowners and land managers, whether operating as individuals or authorized representatives of business entities, can track their payments, report completed practices, request conservation assistance, and electronically sign documents. Conservation Client Gateway provides users the flexibility to determine when they want to engage with NRCS online and when they prefer in-person conservation planning assistance.

www.nrcs.usda.gov/clientgateway

Through Conservation Client Gateway, you will be able to:

- Request a conservation plan
- Request conservation assistance for your property
- Apply for financial assistance
- Review and digitally sign your conservation plan and other key documents
- Report completed conservation practices and contract items
- Request and track payments
- Request updates (e.g. address, e-mail, phone number) to your customer profile information.

What are the benefits of using Conservation Client Gateway?

Conservation is just a click away! Use Conservation Client Gateway to sign important conservation documents, saving time and fuel, driving back and forth to the NRCS Field Office. Conservation Client Gateway is not a substitute for the time you spend with your local conservation planner. Conservation Client Gateway gives you more time to focus on your resource concerns and opportunities and conservation practices.

Planning for EQIP

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting applications for 2019 EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) funding source to help producers improve water and air quality, build healthier soil, improve grazing land, conserve energy, and achieve other environmental benefits. EQIP provides financial assistance for a variety of conservation activities, such as reduced tillage, nutrient management, tree and grass plantings, livestock water management, rotational grazing systems, cover crops and much more. The deadline for this EQIP signup is **mid-October 2018**, but you can fill out an application anytime throughout the year. However, earlier is better to allow time to complete the conservation planning process, which is required prior to ranking an application. Please contact the NRCS office with any questions or to set up a field visit at 701-225-3811 Ext#3 or 701-495-7689.

Helping People Help The Land

Cropping Systems



Grazing Management



Cover Crops



Contact the

Natural Resources Conservation Service

for Assistance



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

Healthy SOIL SECRETS



KEEP IT HAPPY, KEEP IT COVERED.

SOIL SHOULD BE COVERED ALL THE TIME, PREFERABLY WITH LIVING PLANTS. KEEPING THE SOIL COVERED ALL THE TIME MAKES PERFECT SENSE WHEN YOU REALIZE THAT HEALTHY SOILS ARE FULL OF LIFE. THE MICROORGANISMS LIVING IN THE SOIL NEED FOOD AND COVER TO SURVIVE – JUST LIKE OTHER LIVING CREATURES.

CHECK OUT WWW.NRCS.USDA.GOV

Do your livestock like their table?

Grazing systems mix resources of sun, soil, air, water and plants

By JON STIKA
DREC Webmaster

What do livestock think of their meal table?

Livestock are at the mercy of the producers and the grazing systems.

Grazing systems are an intricate web of many resources in balance with each other. Sun, soil, air, water, plants, and animals all play a part in how forage is produced and harvested, and how well soil, plants, and animals, are maintained.

The main players, livestock, plants and soil, work together to maintain a balance, each caring for itself and providing for their partner-players. This partner relationship is critical so all will be able to continue functioning together into the future.

How does a cow view a grazing system? As cattle move around a grazing paddock they use their many senses to determine what parts of which plants they wish to graze.

Livestock graze to meet their nutritional needs for energy and protein, drink water and rest to ruminate, all in a day's existence. When there is a wide variety of plants and sufficient growth available, a cow, for example, selects the portion of particular plants to meet her needs.

If there is insufficient plant growth, particularly if most of the plants are the same species, livestock will be less selective and probably spend more time



This calf is well hidden among some old structure and new growth forage.

extended period of time may over-graze all of the plants in an attempt to meet their nutritional needs. Ideally, all plants in the paddock would be stimulated by grazing so they remain leafy and can grow unmo- lested until they have produced enough growth, and gathered enough energy to maintain themselves, before being grazed again.

grazing to meet their needs. Ultimately, a cow sets out each day to meet her nutritional needs from what is available within the paddock to which she is confined.

The affect on the plants and soil within a paddock depends upon where and how long the livestock graze. Livestock left to graze too long in a paddock will re-bite plants as soon as they grow enough to be attractive again.

This often results in degradation of plants: some from over grazing and some from not being grazed at all. This often occurs to plants that are side by side in the paddock resulting in a patchwork of spot grazing.

Livestock left in a given paddock for an

Grazing animals do not begin their day thinking about degrading the plants in a paddock. Livestock utilize what has been provided to them to meet their daily nutritional needs.

If plants in a grazed paddock are degraded and become less productive, it is not through the fault of livestock, plants, or soil. Livestock are the tools used to harvest forage and turn that forage into something of value (beef, milk, lamb, wool, etc.) in the marketplace. A well-designed and executed grazing system will maintain (or perhaps improve) the soil and plants and produce saleable commodities.

Biologically effective management of grazing lands is an important facet of the research and education taking place at the Dickinson Research and Extension center. To learn more about this important topic please visit the DREC website at: <https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/dickinsonrec>.