

DUNN DEALS IN CONSERVATION

AUGUST 2008



Welcome Ashley Ross!

Hi,

My name is Ashley Ross and I became part of the NRCS crew at the Killdeer Field Office on May 27th. I grew up on a farm/ranch near Sheyenne, ND. I just graduated from Dickinson State University this year with a degree in Natural Resource Management. My husband and I now live in Dickinson where he is employed with Wells Fargo Bank. Aside from work we enjoy outdoor hobbies such as riding horse, hunting, fishing and going to the lake. In the last couple of months I have gotten a good taste of Dunn County and its producers. I have loved every minute of it and am especially looking forward to meeting many more people and assisting them with their conservation needs. Take Care and Happy Harvesting!

Supervisor Election

On November 4th, one supervisor will be elected for a six year term for the Dunn County Soil Conservation District. A candidate must be a land occupier and physically living in the district. The deadline for filing the Certificate of Nomination and Statement of Interest with the county auditor is September 4th, 2008 at 4:00 PM.

Forms can be obtained from the auditor or on the website at:
<http://www.nd.gov/sos/electvote/elections/forms.html>

2009 EQIP signup deadline

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program is a voluntary conservation program that provides technical and financial assistance to farmers/ranchers to address their natural resource concerns. EQIP provides cost share on a variety of conservation practices such as cross fencing, wells, pipelines, tanks, grass seeding, trees as well as incentive payments for management practices such as no-till, nutrient and pest management, prescribed grazing, and soil salinity management. For a more complete list of eligible practices and cost share/incentives rates contact the Killdeer Field Office at (701)764-5646 ext 3. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting applications for 2009 and the deadline for producers to be considered is **October 15th, 2008.**



Get your maps in to the office ASAP for fall soil testing!

Soil Health Field Tour

On July 11th Dunn County SCD, partnering with NDSU Extension, and NRCS held a Soil Health Field Tour. Producers braved the wind to tour several different sites including a field in its first year of no-till at Paul Rohdes, an established no-till field of Jim Bernhardt's, a pasture in a new grazing rotation at Bernhardt's, an established grazing rotation at Greg Steckler's, a solar powered watering system at Bernhardt's, an alfalfa trial plot of Butch Pribyl's, and the Soil Health Demonstration Plots at the Manning Experiment Station. Jon Stika, Area Resource Soil Scientist from NRCS, spoke to producers about soil health on no-till and also on grazing lands, infiltration rates, and aggregate stability. Jolyn Wasem, District Clerk talked about grazing rotations and Lee Gosline, NRCS Technician gave some insight to the watering systems on Bernhardt's. At the alfalfa plots, Roger Ashley spoke about the trials that were being done on variations of alfalfa plants. Toby Stroh, Project Manager of the Soil Health Demonstration Plot talked with producers about the project and things they have learned and would like to learn by incorporating cover crops, no-till farming, and crop rotations. Producers were then



brought back to Dunn Center and treated to pork tenderloins and beverages sponsored by the Crop Improvement Association, NDSU Extension Agency and Dunn Co SCD. A special thanks to Bernhardt's, Paul Rohde, Butch Pribyl, the Manning ranch, and Greg Steckler for allowing us to tour their operations.



Why Cover Crops?

By Suzi Tuhy, District Conservationist

Lately we have heard a lot about planting cover crops and how they impact our soil. Is this a new idea? Not really. Thomas Jefferson used cover crops in rotation to improve his soils productivity. What we have learned is that "Happy Bugs" make soil healthy. A healthy soil is a productive soil, so how do we do that? One way to keep our soil healthy is to keep feeding the bugs. Many kinds of organisms are involved in creating and maintaining the soil structure that is important to water dynamics in soil. Estimated numbers of soil species include 30,000 bacteria, 1,500,000 fungi, 60,000 algae, 10,000 protozoa, 500,000 nematodes and 3000 earthworms. That is why one of the main points is to have something growing in the soil at all times, or as long as our North Dakota climate will allow. Roots and root crops feed the bugs in the soil, while adding organic matter and acting as "biological plows". After decades of tillage, our soil has hard pan layers and cover crops help to break up that layer. Cover crop roots and earthworm activity form passageways down into the soil to improve water infiltration which reduces soil crusting, evaporation and runoff. Cover crops provide protection to soil organisms by armoring the soil in residue. Most soil organisms cannot grow outside of soil, so it is necessary to maintain healthy and diverse soil ecosystems if we want to preserve beneficial microorganisms. Considering soil organisms health and activity is a change in our way of thinking, but it is a change we can't afford to not make.





Tentative Funding for Producers Wishing to Plant COVER CROPS!

The local work group in Dunn County along with Western and Central Stark Counties applied for an EQIP FY 2009 Special Initiatives grant to provide an incentive for producers who wish to plant cover crops. The counties have been given tentative approval to receive applications. The deadline for signing the application is October 15th, 2008. Producers who are interested in this project may call the office or stop in to find out more.

Forage Beef & Cover Crop Workshop

September 24th, 2008

Dickinson Research Extension Center

Manning Ranch

8:30 am MST

Register by **September 15th** by calling 225-3811 ext 3

Key Speakers Include:

Dr. Duane Beck, SDSU

Dr. Kris Nichols, Mandan ARS

Burleigh County SCD

Doug Landblom, DREC Animal Scientist

Panel Discussion

*Driving tour of the SWND Soil Health
Demonstration Plots!*

Lunch Provided!

Southwest ND		
SOIL HEALTH DEMONSTRATION		
www.swndsoilhealth.mandakzerotill.org		
 NRCS	 SCD's DUNN COUNTY CENTRAL STARK WESTERN	 NDSU Dickinson Research Extension Center

Dunn County Soil Conservation District Supervisors

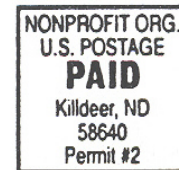
Chairmen—Larry Knudsvig

Vice Chairmen—Alex Lazorenko

Member—Gordon Kadmas

Member—Jim Danks

Member—Casey Gjermundson



District Personnel:

District Clerk: Shannon McPherson

District Technician: Jolyn Wasem

NRCS Personnel:

District Conservationist: Suzi Tuhy

Soil Conservation Technician: Lee Gosline

Soil Conservation Technician: Ashley Ross

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Web Site <http://dunnsd.org>

All programs and services of the Dunn County Soil Conservation District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, or handicap.

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