

# DUNN DEALS IN CONSERVATION

## DECEMBER 2008

### Important Dates:

December 25-26th \_\_Office Closed\_\_ Christmas  
January 1st \_\_Office Closed\_\_ New Years Day  
January 5th \_\_Board Meeting  
January 9th \_\_Achievement Awards Banquet  
January 19th \_\_Office Closed\_\_ Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday  
January 27th \_\_319 Spring Creek Watershed meetings  
February 3rd \_\_Board Meeting



**IT'S NOT TOO LATE!**

**ORDER YOUR HANDPLANTS  
FOR 2009 NOW**

**Tree order forms available on the  
website  
[www.dunnscd.org](http://www.dunnscd.org)**



### **Manitoba-North Dakota Zero Tillage Farmers Association**

**Presents the 31st Annual  
WORKSHOP AND TRADE SHOW  
February 17-19, 2009  
Victoria Inn, Brandon Manitoba**

**For more information or registration visit  
the website at  
[www.mandakzerotill.org](http://www.mandakzerotill.org)**

## 2008 ACHIEVEMENT WINNERS

Russ and L'Nette Stein of rural Taylor were the recipient of the 2008 Achievement Award by the Dunn County Soil Conservation District. Russ and L'Nette are the 3rd generation to live and work on Russ' family farm and have made many im-



Kaylee, McKinzee, Jasper, Russ and L'Nette Stein

provements throughout the years. In 2005, to improve productivity while conserving the land, the Steins switched from conventional tillage to no-till. They have also planted many miles of trees for the environmental benefits they provide. Recently they also planted trees and foodplots to create 90 acres of wildlife habitat. Russ and L'Nette were our guests in Bismarck for the North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Annual Convention where they were recognized for the conservation efforts. They will also be honored at our 2008 Awards Banquet that will be held in January.

Congratulations Russ, L'Nette and girls!

## SOIL TESTING UPDATE

What a crazy soil testing season we had this year. We tested fields in 100 degree weather to blizzards and everything in between. We started soil testing on Aug 21<sup>st</sup> and ended Dec 12<sup>th</sup> due to the snow and cold. We were shut down for a few weeks in November due to snow. All in all we tested 333 fields totaling 35,885 acres, and we also tested one oil field site this summer. It is looking like we will have a busy spring again. We have about 40 fields from this fall that we couldn't finish. With an increase in tree numbers this spring, it should be busy, and I am hoping it is going to be too wet to get out in the fields for a little while, unlike this past spring.

New for 2009! We now have Agvisor Gold software. What does this mean for you? I know it is hard sometimes to choose a crop in the fall. You currently have up to three choices of either crop type or yield goal that we can test for. Now with the software we will be able to make changes to your tests at the office. If you choose to test for Spring Wheat at 25 and 30 bushels and Barley 50 bushels then after you get your results back to decided to plant corn, we can make those adjustments and print out a new test report for you at no charge.

Thank you to all of you who had us out in your fields this year. We wish you a prosperous growing season for 2009!



*Goodbye!  
As much as I  
hate to leave, I  
have decided to ac-  
cept a nursing posi-  
tion at Great Plains  
Clinic in Dickinson  
and will be start-*

*ing work there the middle of Janu-  
ary. I have very much enjoyed work-  
ing with my wonderful co-workers,  
the supervisors and the producers of  
Dunn County. I have learned so  
much about conservation, tree  
planting and spent many hours in  
the soil testing pickup! It has been a  
great opportunity for me and one I  
will cherish forever. Good luck to all  
of you in 2009 and thank you for  
making the last two years such a  
great working experience!*

*Shannon McPherson*

### **Spring Creek Watershed Project Informational Meetings**

**Tuesday, January 27th, 2009**

**10:00 AM MST Golden Valley City Hall**

**2:00 PM MST Halliday City Hall**

#### **Topics of Discussion:**

- **What is a 319 Project? & How can it benefit you?**  
-Greg Sandness & Mike Ell, NDDH
- **Spring Creek Watershed Assessment**  
-Keith Weston, NRCS
- **Ag Waste Systems**  
-Karl Rockman, NDDH

#### **Sponsored by:**

**Mercer County Soil Conservation District  
Dunn County Soil Conservation District**

An invitation to attend this workshop is extended to farmers/ranchers, spouses, managing partners, or anyone interested in information about Spring Creek 319 Watershed Project. There is no charge to attend these meetings. Please notify the Mercer County office at 873-2101 ext 3, by January 23rd, 2009, with the number attending so adequate materials can be arranged.



## Conservation Practices that Save: Windbreaks/Shelterbelts

For homeowners in rural areas, well-designed windbreaks can cut home heating costs by 10 to 25 percent. Up to one-third of the heat loss from a building is caused by air leakage through cracks and other openings. High winds can force cold air through cracks around poorly fitting windows or frequently opened doors, aggravating the heat loss from unprotected buildings. Windbreaks reduce the force of the wind on the exterior surfaces of buildings and thus the amount of cold air that enters the home.

About 11 percent of the America's energy use goes to heating and cooling of residential homes. Nearly two-thirds of residential energy use is for heating (53 percent) and cooling (12 percent). Individual savings depend on local site and climatic conditions, the building's construction quality, an individual's living habits, and the design and condition of the windbreak.

Windbreaks or shelterbelts are barriers used to reduce wind speed and usually consist of trees, shrubs, or a combination. For the greatest protection, the windbreak needs to be oriented perpendicular to the troublesome winds. The reduction in wind speed behind a windbreak modifies the environmental conditions in this sheltered zone. The sheltered zone extends as far as ten to fifteen times the height of the windbreak downwind from the windbreak. The greatest wind reduction occurs between two to five times the height of the windbreak downwind. For maximum wind protection, the windbreak needs to be dense and tall.

Home Heating savings are not the only energy benefit from windbreaks. Windbreaks are very effective in controlling drifting snow. By strategically locating windbreaks upwind of roads and highways, blowing snow can be reduced, resulting in less snow accumulation and ice development on roads. This

A resident of Ft. Collins, Colorado, built a home on rural acreage in 1970 and planted a windbreak for protection at the same time. For the next 20 years, he recorded the amount of natural gas used to heat the home. As the windbreak matured, he observed a decrease in gas use with an estimated 40 percent savings overall in the 20-year period.

results in less fuel being used to remove snow from highways. This windbreak application is also known as living snow fence. In a state like Minnesota, where the State spends an average of \$100 million per year in snow removal, this can be a significant savings. Minnesota performed a cost benefit analysis of living snow fences and found that for every dollar spent on a living snow fence, there was a \$17 return. This included not only the savings in fuel but also less economic disruption resulting from closed roads. The living snow fences also can save lives by improving driving conditions during the winter.

Windbreaks also:

- Protect livestock– increase feed efficiency, increase weight gains, increase survival of newborns, improve animal health, and ultimately increase profits;
- Reduce wind erosion;
- Increase crop yields by 5 to 20 percent, and increase crop quality;
- Reduce pesticide drift;
- Improve irrigation efficiency;
- Filter dust and other air pollutants;
- Provide wildlife travel corridors and habitat;
- Store carbon; and
- Reduce noise

Agriculture Canada conducted a 2-year study comparing heating costs in a well sheltered farmyard with those of a completely unsheltered one. The study, conducted during the winters of 1981-1982 and 1982-1983 near Indian Head, Saskatchewan, use two identical, electrically heated trailers kept at 72 degrees F. The study found that the sheltered trailer used 27 percent less electricity.



*A windbreak saves energy and adds comfort and livability to homes in open country.*

## Dunn County Soil Conservation District Supervisors

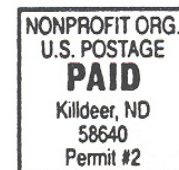
**Chairmen**—Larry Knudsvig

**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.

## PLEASE SUPPORT OUR 2008 SPONSORS!

### American Bank Center

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### Benz Oil Company

Killdeer, ND 764-5556

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Beulah, ND 873-5054

### Consolidated Telephone Communications

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### Continental Real Estate, Deb Harsche

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### Dennis Water Well Drilling

Dickinson/Stanley, ND 483-0932/628-3484

### Dickinson Ready Mix

Dickinson/Killdeer, ND 483-9175

### Earth, Energy & Water Systems

New Salem, ND 873-8479

### Farmer's Union Insurance, Sue Sadowsky

Killdeer, ND 764-5905

### Farmer's Union Oil Company

Killdeer, ND 764-5202

### First International Bank

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Watford City, ND 444-9288

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Dickinson, ND 225-2674

### Nodak Mutual Insurance, Pat Howard

Killdeer, ND 764-5776

### Opp Well Drilling

Glen Ullin, ND 348-3891

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Dickinson, ND 483-4070

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### Tony's Auto Repair

Killdeer, ND 764-5558

### Union Bank

Halliday, ND 938-4311