

# DUNN DEALS IN CONSERVATION

**JUNE 2008**



*County Soil Conservation Districts team up with Research Center to launch  
"Southwest ND Soil Health Field Demonstration"*

The Soil Conservation Districts from Dunn, Central & Western Stark counties have partnered with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Dickinson Research Extension Center (DREC) to initiate a Soil Health Demonstration project in Dunn County. The project incorporates no-till farming, crop rotation, and cover crops in an effort to improve soil microbial activity, organic matter, water infiltration, and nutrient availability. Additional objectives include reducing moisture loss, nutrient inputs and fuel requirements resulting in improved profitability and sustainability.

The partnership between the Soil Conservation Districts (SCD's), NRCS and the Dickinson Research Extension Center is a very unique collaboration that capitalizes on the strengths of each entity. The project Managing Group and decision-making team includes a producer from each of the three SCD's. The Research Center hosts the project on the quarter of land at the corner of HWY 22 and 15<sup>th</sup> St. W, south of Manning. DREC will carry out all farming and grazing practices. NRCS along with other agency personnel will provide technical advice and alternatives.

The basic crop rotation includes alfalfa for three years > winter triticale/hairy vetch > corn > peas > spring wheat and > winter wheat. The quarter of land is divided into 20 acre plots and each plot is seeded with one of the rotation crops. Cover crops will be seeded following the winter wheat harvest, hayed peas, and grazed corn. These cover crops could include a mixture of crops such as sunflowers, radish, turnip, cowpea, buckwheat, sweet clover, red clover, soybean, sudan and millet. This "uncommon" mixture is currently growing in the plot where the DREC Ranch Headquarters sign is located. The goals of the cover crops are to provide ground cover, improve organic matter and infiltration as well as feed the micro-organisms.

Many producers from the area have observed or heard about similar cropping practices in Burleigh County with reports of very positive results in total production, nutrient availability and surprising water availability. The Soil Health Demonstration Project is an opportunity for producers to observe what may or may not work in SW North Dakota.

Producers may get more information including plot photos at the website:

[www.swndsoilhealth.mandakzerotill.org](http://www.swndsoilhealth.mandakzerotill.org), Dunn County SCD at 764-5646 Ext. 3, or Toby Stroh, Project Manager at 225-3811 Ext. 3.

Jeske and the Seniors at Lake Ilo



3 Students testing the Spring Creek



2008 Mr Basketball checking the turbidity of the water



### KHS Advanced Biology Class Receives Funding for more Equipment

The District teamed up with RC&D once again to do a continuance to last years project for equipment for Mr. Jim Jeske's Advanced Biology Class. The equipment that they purchased last year was the basics for water and soil testing. The equipment that they were wanting to purchase for this year is the most modern way to test water quality. The new equipment allowed the students to check their results against the manual method of collecting water samples and figuring results. With the new equipment they can compare their results and check accuracy. Under the continuance project another \$2,141.00 was funded through RC&D's SW ND Water Quality Education Projects 319 Funds. This spring the senior Advanced Biology Class went on their annual Field Trip and invited Shannon to participate. She went to Spring Creek where the students were testing the water and also followed along to Lake Ilo when the kids stopped for lunch. It was a lot of fun watching the students put the equipment to use and see the enthusiasm on their faces while participating in the activities. What a great project this has been for the district and the school.

### Attention Dunn County Producers!

The Dunn County SCD, NRCS and NDSU Extension Office is planning a **Soil Health Field Day** on July 11th. This will be an opportunity to see soil health in action. Please contact our office for more information.



### Soil Testing

~Just a reminder to get your maps in for soil testing this fall. If you have any questions, please call the office and talk to Jolyn or Shannon

~Also, the District is now offering Soil Testing on **oil field locations** or future sites. Please contact our office for more information and rates.



# TREE PLANTING UPDATE

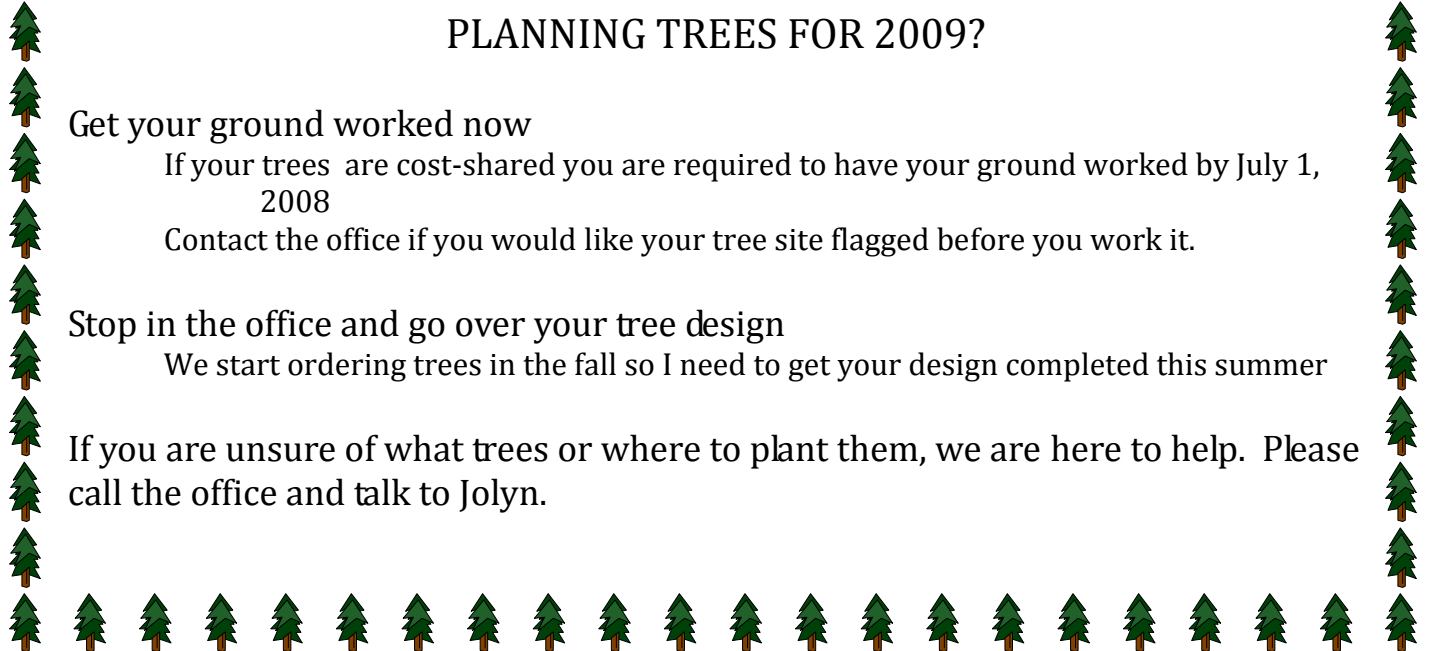
Dunn County SCD completed tree planting on May 15th, planting just over 45,000 feet of trees. Although we started out very dry, we were fortunate to get some much needed rain to make this tree season a good one. Our numbers were down this year, but we worked with a couple of new cost-share programs. Along with Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) both cost-share programs through NRCS, we also worked with the Forest Service this year through their Firewise and Living Snow Fence Programs.



Tree planters Josh Dolechek and Leif Bergrud stand with Marc Fridley after our first Firewise Program tree planting



## PLANNING TREES FOR 2009?



Get your ground worked now

If your trees are cost-shared you are required to have your ground worked by July 1, 2008

Contact the office if you would like your tree site flagged before you work it.

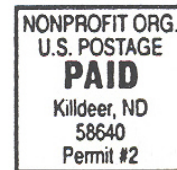
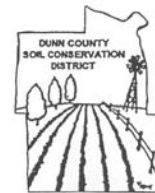
Stop in the office and go over your tree design

We start ordering trees in the fall so I need to get your design completed this summer

If you are unsure of what trees or where to plant them, we are here to help. Please call the office and talk to Jolyn.

**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

**E-mail Addresses:**

jolyn.wasem@nd.nacdnet.net  
suzi.tuhy@nd.usda.gov  
lee.gosline@nd.usda.gov  
shannon.mcpherson@nd.nacdnet.net

**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**

Killdeer, ND 764-5838

**Benz Oil Company**

Killdeer, ND 764-5556

**Beulah Vision**

Beulah, ND 873-5054

**Consolidated Telephone Communications**

Dickinson, ND 483-4000

**Continental Real Estate, Deb Harsche**

Killdeer, ND 764-5777

**Dean Bender Chevrolet**

Killdeer, ND 764-5888

**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**

Killdeer, ND 764-5666

**Jim's Repair**

Taylor, ND 974-3663

**Killdeer Pharmacy**

Killdeer, ND 764-5093

**Lynn Linseth Construction**

Killdeer, ND 764-5892

**McKenzie Electric Co-op**

Watford City, ND 444-9288

**Milo Burwick & Sons Well Drilling**

Dickinson, ND 225-2674

**Nodak Mutual Insurance, Pat Howard**

Killdeer, ND 764-5776

**Opp Well Drilling**

Glen Ullin, ND 348-3891

**Quality Quick Print**

Dickinson, ND 483-4070

**RDO Equipment**

Hazen, ND 748-2708

**Selle Implement, Case International**

Halliday, ND 938-4550

**Southwest Grain**

Killdeer, ND 764-5514

**Tony's Auto Repair**

Killdeer, ND 764-5558

**Union Bank**

Halliday, ND 938-4311