

Williams County Soil Conservation District

April 2021

Newly Launched District Website!!

Williams County Soil Conservation District

Conserving Natural Resources for our Future

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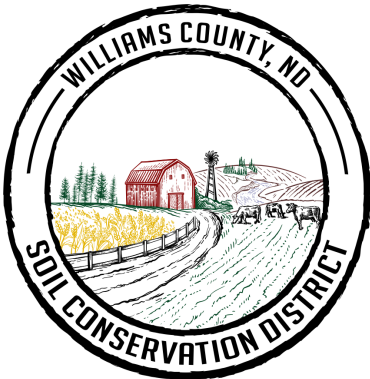


Home

www.wmscoscd.com



Welcome to the Williams County Soil
Conservation District



This winter the district has been busy getting several upgrades. We are pleased to introduce our first website that is now available to check out. The website includes services we provide as well as our most commonly sought after handplant sheet. The website also includes cost-share opportunities, newsletters both new and old, blogs, and programs offered. Also, please be sure to check

out our poll. The district is looking at trying to offer new services and would greatly appreciate the feedback.

As well as getting a new website we are excited to introduce our newly renovated logo. This logo will be the new face for the district. Although updated, we still have the same goal of conserving natural resources for our future.

Please take our poll to let us know if you would be interested in any of the following services or programs and/or comment on anything else you would like to see the Soil District offer.

Tree Replacement Program would include us going out to the site and taking count of trees or you give us the count, order handplants, and we come out the following summer to plant the replacements for you. Water Testing examples: Dugouts, ponds, sloughs, etc.

☐ Soil Sampling

☐ Tree Replacement Program

☐ Water Testing

District Services & Price List:

Machine Planting: (Includes Trees - Min. 1500ft)	\$31.00/hundred ft.
Machine Planting with Weed Barrier (Includes Trees — Min.1500ft)	\$86.00/hundred ft.
Fabric: 6' x 300' Roll	\$100.00
Fabric: 6' x 500' Roll	\$150.00
Staples Individual	\$0.15 Each
Staples Box (500)	\$75.00
Casoron Application: (Fall)	\$18.00/hundred ft.
Plantskydd 1lb. Box (Deer Repellent)	\$27.95 Plus Tax
Plantskydd 1 qt. Pre-mixed	\$19.95 Plus Tax
Plantskydd 1lb granular	\$10.95 Plus Tax
Plantskydd 20 lb. granular bag	\$112.95 Plus Tax
Poly-Pipe 1.5 inch	Call for Pricing

Rental Equipment

Shallow Pipeline Plow	\$0.25/ft
6 ft Frontier Drill	\$100.00/Day
10 ft Truax Drill: (Min. 10 Acres)	\$12.50/Acre
Custom Seeding: 30 ft Drill (Min. 40 Acres).	\$20.00/Acre
Post Pounder	\$200/Day
Weed Badgering	\$100.00/hr.

2021 Tree Planting

Our staff will be out checking and staking sites soon! Your site **MUST** be ready! In order for us to plant your trees, the ground needs to be prepped prior to staff coming out to plant. This was discussed during planning. If there is grass or alfalfa in the area where the trees are to be planted, it would be beneficial to spray and kill any vegetation before we plant. Ensure chemical is approved for new tree plantings. If the ground is in existing cropland stubble cultivate or harrow if stubble is high. Proper site prep is **YOUR** responsibility! Having your site properly prepped helps to ensure a successful tree planting and correct fabric installation. If you have any questions please contact the tree shed office 701-774-2319



Tree Reminder & Update

Arrival date of trees is not yet determined. You will be notified by a district employee when your trees are bagged and ready to be picked up. Please be patient and happy planting!

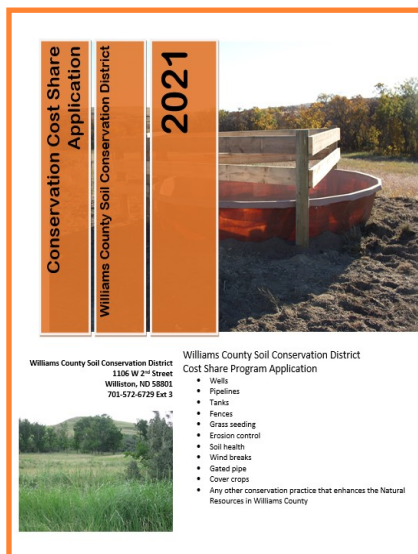
Tree Pick-Up Address:

14120 Hwy 2 West Williston, ND
on the NDSU Research Station Property
(follow the signs to our building)

Check us out
@WilliamsCountySoil
Conservation



2021 District Cost-Share Program



The District is still accepting applications for 2021. This grant will help to cover costs associated with conservation practices such as fences, fresh water systems, grass seedings, etc.

All applications are reviewed by the board and once approved the applicant has one year to complete the

project. The maximum dollar amount per contract is \$5,000 and is based off of our partner agency, NRCS pay rates. The staff will help design and set up a conservation plan as well as help find a grass/cover crop mix that works best for your operation. If you have any questions feel free to call the office. For other cost-share opportunities check out our website and discover what else is available.

Post Pounder

Have some fencing projects you've been putting off? Our trailer mounted, self powered post pounder will make even your toughest fencing projects easier and not to mention time saving. Call the tree shed if interested in renting for the day. This is rented out on a first come first serve basis at \$200 a day.



2021 Board of Supervisors



Pictured from left to right: Chairman- Donald O. Anderson, Vice Chairman- Blake Wheeler, Ryan Davidson, Amber Anderson, and TJ Halverson.

CSP 2021 Program Applications



Helping People Help the Land

CSP helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address resource concerns. Enrolled participants will receive annual payments for maintaining and enhancing conservation activities. Applications are continuously accepted. 2021 application are due to NRCS by April 23, 2021. Sign-up at your local USDA Service Center, or visit www.nrcs.usda.gov for more information.

USDA **NRCS**
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Williston Field Office
1106 West 2nd Street
Williston, ND 58801
701-572-6729 Ext 3

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Custom Seeding

\$20.00 an acre



**Min. 40 acres &
Max. 160 acres**

Spring is vastly approaching and many producers are itching to get back in the field. Whether you lack the time, equipment, or man power contact the district for your conservation seeding needs. If you are looking at seeding a field back to pasture or planting a cover crop mix; for not only soil health benefits, but also grazing purposes and are unsure of what mixture would work best for your goals. Contact our office and we'll be able to help you find a mixture that will fit your needs. We are able to take care of your cover crop or grass seeding needs with our 30ft no till drill. The charge is \$20/acre with a minimum of 40 acres that is charge regardless if the acre amount is reached. We would just need a map of the area you are wanting seeded, copy of the seed tags, and our custom seeding sheet signed. Stop in or give us a call before our slots fill up!

Tree Shed Office: 701-774-2319

Deer & Rabbit Problems

If you are having problems with deer, elk, moose, rabbits, or mice in your tree rows and/or garden areas consider using plantskydd. Plantskydd is a pest repellent that works by emitting an odor, associated with predator activity



stimulating a fear based response that helps to repel animals. This product is available in the office in a 1 lb. box for \$27.95, a 1 qt. pre mixed spray bottle for \$19.95, 1 lb. granular shaker for \$10.95, or a 20 lb. granular bag for \$112.95 plus tax with all plantskydd products. Plantskydd should be effective for approximately 6 months during winter and 3-4 months during

the active growing season. This product is also listed for organic production.

Please give use a call or check out website if you would be interested in a different form or size of plantskydd. We are able to get a variety of different sizes based on your needs. Whether it be granular, powder, or liquid form.



Hybrid Soil Health and Drought Management Seminar

In order to help producers plan for a possible continuation of the drought, a Soil Health & Drought Management seminar was conducted on March 23. One of the featured speakers for the seminar was Kevin Sedivec, NDSU Extension Rangeland Management Specialist. Sedivec talked about grazing management strategies for potential drought. Sedivec noted that precipitation during May and June is critical for forage production in North Dakota along with fall precipitation in September and early October. Due to the lack of precipitation last fall, there will likely be a delay in forage plant growth and grazing readiness by 2-3 weeks this spring. Based on past years with similar conditions, Sedivec showed data indicating that even with normal spring precipitation we can already expect a reduction in forage production of 20 to 25% or even severe reductions in forage production in the range of 35 to 55% loss. If you were unable to participate in the workshop, Sedivec did give a similar presentation for a webinar series conducted by the NDSU Extension Service on Preparing Your Ranch for Drought that can be found online at:

<https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/drought/preparing-your-ranch-for-drought-webinars>.

Another concern in many livestock operations for this year will be availability and quality of water. Kelly Leo, Williams County Extension Agent, talked about livestock water quality and precautions that producers should take to make sure water is safe for consumption by livestock. As water levels dropped last summer due to evaporation, several components in the water became more concentrated. Without any runoff to fill surface water sources such as wetlands, stock ponds, and reservoirs this year, water quality should be monitored closely. Potential concern are issues such as high levels of total dissolved solids or salinity, sulfates in the water, nitrates and microbiological contaminants such as cyanobacteria, more commonly known as blue-green algae. Kelly has a packet of materials on water quality and testing available at the Williams County Extension office. This packet will also be available at the Williams County SCD. The Extension office also has equipment that can provide a ballpark estimate of salinity and sulfate levels of water in the field.

As we are likely to see some reduction in forage production this year even if it does start raining, Keith Brown, Soil Health & Cropping Systems Specialist with the Williams County Soil Conservation District talked about cover crops and annual forages to possibly supplement hay or grazing opportunities during the coming year if conditions remain dry. This may include annual forages for haying or cover crops for later season grazing. Producers will need to determine what fits their situation but it is not too early to start thinking about forage needs for 2021.

For the final workshop presentation Caley Gasch, NDSU Assistant Professor of Soil Health, talked about Mycorrhizal Fungi, a symbiotic fungi in healthy soil that help support plants. Plants allow mycorrhizal fungi to colonize their roots and use root exudates formed from photosynthesis to supply the fungus with carbohydrates and sugars that the fungi use as a food source and energy. In return, the fungi provide nutrients, especially immobile nutrients like phosphorus and water to the plants through their extensive network of mycelial hyphae produced by the fungus. Benefits to the plant from this association in addition to enhanced nutrition can include improved drought tolerance, better pathogen resistance, and reduced toxin uptake by the plants. As such, mycorrhizal fungi are important hidden partners in the soil. Adding as much diversity to cropping systems as possible tends to favor higher populations of fungi.

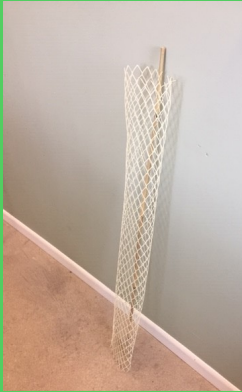
If you would like some help or suggestions on how to incorporate any of the principles into your operation to improve soil health, stop by the SCD office or give me a call.

Keith Brown

Soil Health & Cropping Systems Specialist

Tree Tubes

Having trouble protecting your trees from browsing animals and rodents? Trouble keeping the wind from breaking off and damaging young trees? Tree tubes might be something to try. The district has a variety of different size tree tubes on hand, as well as a few different styles. If interested please contact the tree shed 701-774-2319.



These tubes are made with a tough but flexible polyethylene & polypropylene material. Making it harder for nibbling creatures to damage trees.

2 ft Yellow mesh tree tube with bamboo stake \$1.00

3 ft Yellow mesh tree tube with bamboo stake \$1.50



2 ft and 3 ft comparison



Twin walled, translucent tubes provide a protected environment for tree seedlings to go in. Offering protection from the wind, animals, and spray drift.

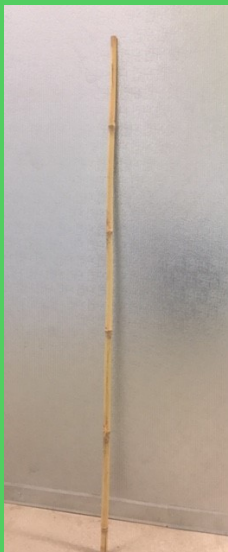
1 ft Solid plastic tube

\$1.25

Double patented surface provides more strength and durability and also creates a microclimate that tends to accelerate growth.

2 ft Green mesh tree tube with bamboo stake

\$4.00



1/2 diameter stake that is great for adding extra support to new trees. They are eco-friendly and will biodegrade.

6 ft Bamboo Stake

\$2.00

After Trees are Planted

All the trees should be vertically straightened, soil packed around seedlings, and exposed roots must be covered with soil. NOTE: There should not be any soil on the green portion of the ever-greens including the branches. Before fabric is installed, the area must be kept clean between rows and trees to insure proper installation of barrier. Trees must be checked regularly to ensure they will be ready for the weed barrier.

Tree Fabric Maintenance

Fabric is a low-maintenance tool in tree plantings, but it is NOT a no-maintenance tool.

Fabric will control the weeds in a planting very well, though some weeds may grow right by the tree and need to be carefully pulled. Keep fabric from rubbing on the tree trunk. The fabric is supposed to break down after 5-7 years, but in our climate plantings still have fabric after 30 years. Trees can be girdled by the fabric after a few years of growth. The fabric should be checked every year to see if the tree is growing into the fabric. If so, the fabric needs to be cut on each side of trunk. If trees are left to grow into the fabric it could kill the tree. The tree may be stunted and not reach its growth potential. It can make the tree unstable at the base and cause the tree to fall over.



Site Prep Services

The district is now offering a tree site preparation service starting for the 2021 tree planting season. We will be offering a chisel plow for fall prep when needed and a roto-tilling service before planting begins. Site preparation (plowing/ tilling) is essential for proper soil-to-root contact, providing for better fabric installation, and making for a more successful planting. This is especially important for sites that are in native sod or in a grass lawn with fabric going down. This service allows the ease of being able to work up an area in



strips instead of tearing up everything. This will cut down on the amount of weeds and not to mention work. If you have sod or a site that needs broken up and lack the time or equipment, we will be glad to help. The district will provide the tractor, tiller, and operator. Planting season is coming soon so give us a call at the tree shed for more details and to get on the list before time runs out!

Williams County Soil Conservation District
1106 W 2nd Street
Williston, ND 58801
Phone: 701-572-6729 Ext 3

NON PROFIT
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #94
WILLISTON, ND 58801

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Supervisors:

Donald Anderson
Ray

Blake Wheeler
Ray

Ryan Davidson
Tioga

TJ Halverson
Tioga

Amber Anderson
Williston

Pipeline & Plow Prices

This summer is forecasted to be dry again. It is inevitable that dugouts will be dry and water quality degraded. That's why it is more important than ever to have fresh water systems in place for your livestock needs. The District has a shallow pipeline plow for rent as well as poly-pipe in stock.

- Plow Rental: \$0.25/foot
- 1 1/2" Pipe & Plow Rental: Call for Pricing

- Pipe Fuser is available when plow is rented



District Staff:

District Manager:
Molly Jugovic

Equipment Manager:
David Telck

District Clerk:
Desiree Novotny

Soil Health & Cropping
System Specialist:
Keith Brown

NRCS Staff:

District Conservationist:
Kevin Seitz

Soil Conservationist:
Malinda Ferguson

Soil Conservation Tech:
Scott Nordloef