



Williams County Soil Conservation District

April 2023

2023 Tree Plantings

Our staff will be out checking 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. 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, harrow, or mow if stubble it high. Proper site prep is **YOUR** responsibility! **An 811 dig ticket will be needed for any contract tree plantings including: EQIP, OHF, and CSP.** Having your site properly prepped helps to ensure a successful tree planting and correct fabric installation. Landowners will be contacted the day before planting. **As a reminder fabric installation does not occur on the same day.** The turn around is 2-3 weeks in some cases, so please be patient. If you have any questions please contact the tree shed office 701-774-2319.



3rd Grade Education - Soil Health

Five years and still going strong! It's hard to believe that this program has been providing soil health education for this long already. It is a goal to introduce all elementary children to the importance of conservation. As well as make them aware of the thriving agriculture community that they live in.



As always we were very excited to get back into the schools! This is the 5th year that our District Manager, Molly Jugovic has been going into area schools and presenting to 3rd grade about the importance of soil health. She does a 30 minute interactive presentation with the students over the principles of soil health. She also introduces them to the basic layers of the soil. As a treat once the presentation is finished each student gets to build their own edible soils horizon. A worksheet and word search are also supplied to the teachers as well as a pencil for each student. This activity is fully paid for by the Williams County Soil Conservation District. This year Molly was able to teach in 7 area elementary schools and present to over 350 students!



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 evergreens including the branches. Before fabric is installed, the area must be kept clean between rows and trees to insure proper installation of weed 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 or be stunted. It can also make the tree unstable at the base and cause the tree to fall over.

District Services & Price List:

Machine Planting: (Includes Trees - Min. 1500ft)	\$35.00/hundred ft.
Machine Planting with Weed Barrier (Includes Trees — Min.1500ft) . .	\$100.00/hundred ft.
Handplant Replacement Service (Includes Trees)	\$4.00-5.00 Per Handplant
Fabric: 6' x 300' Roll	\$125.00
Fabric: 6' x 500' Roll	\$175.00
Staples Individual	\$0.17 Each
Staples Box (500)	\$85.00
Casoron Application: (Fall)	\$18.00/hundred ft.
Plantskydd 1lb. Box	\$28.62
Plantskydd 1.3 gal refill jug	\$61.43
Plantskydd 1 qt. Pre-mixed	\$23.32
Plantskydd 1lb granular	\$11.61
Plantskydd 3.5 lb. granular shaker	\$29.63
Plantskydd 20 lb. granular bag	\$119.73
Poly-Pipe 1.5 inch	Call for Pricing/Availability
1 1/2 inch compression fittings available in limited supplies for poly-pipe.	

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
15 ft John Deere Drill	\$15.00/Acre
Custom Seeding: 30 ft Drill (Min. 40 Acres)	\$21.00/Acre
Post Pounder	\$200/Day
Tree Site Prep Service (Min. 2 hrs.)	\$75/hr.

6th Annual Ladies Ag Night

Williams County

Soil Conservation District

ConVersation ~ n ~ ConServation

Keynote Speaker: Michelle Miller

Tuesday, July 18th

Must be 21 to Attend



5:00 p.m. Social Hour

5:45 p.m. Dinner

Michelle Miller, better known as the Farm Babe, is an internationally recognized speaker; published writer & columnist, and an online influencer as a full time advocate for agriculture. She started her social media outreach over seven years ago as a way to better bridge the gap between farmers and consumers, making a name for herself as a dedicated "mythbuster" in food and farming. Farm Babe has hundreds of thousands of followers and an average social media reach of 4+ million monthly. She's been featured in Forbes & has caught the attention of the Today Show, Inside Edition, CNN, People magazine, and more... a guest on Dr Drew, has influenced corporations as powerful as Burger King, and has proudly spoken alongside some of the biggest names in food and farming today.



\$30 Registration due by July 11th at 1106 West 2nd Street

Williston, ND 58801 or call 701-572-6729 ext. 3

Event Location: Williams County Soil Conservation District Tree Shed:

Located on the NDSU Research Station Property: 14120 Hwy 2 Williston
(0.6 miles west of Hwy 2 and Hwy 85 junction)



New Conservation Opportunities

Are you interested in implementing new conservation practices on your operation? Perhaps seed marginal cropland to grass or incorporate cover crops into your rotation to improve soil health or begin a prescribed grazing rotation?



The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022 is providing assistance to agricultural producers to invest in climate and clean energy solutions, through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Core practices identified as Climate Smart activities will be eligible for financial assistance. This will promote climate-related benefits. This EQIP-IRA program will be implemented through EQIP but will have a fast-track option through the ACT NOW application process. These applications are ranked every two weeks, and it allows us to approve and obligate a ranked application through an expedited process. This signup period is in effect now through June 9th, 2023.

CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program) is another conservation program opportunity. The signup deadline for this program is April 14th, 2023.

Please call or stop by the office to visit about these conservation opportunities and see how they may fit into your operation.



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Helping People Help the Land

Site Prep Services

The district offers tree site preparation for those who lack the equipment and/or time. 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. 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!

Deer & Rabbit Problems

If you are having problems with deer, elk, moose, rabbits, or mice in your tree rows 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. Effective for approximately 3-4 months during the active growing season. This product is also listed for organic production.



Custom Seeding

\$21.00 an acre



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

Spring is quickly 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. Contact our office if you are looking for a seeding recommendation that will fit your operation needs. We are able to take care of your cover crop or grass seeding needs with our 30ft no till drill. Requirements include: a map of the area you want seeded, copy of the seed tags, and our custom seeding sheet signed. Stop in or give David a call before our slots fill up!

Tree Shed Office: 701-774-2319



Welcome Ramona McLean to the Team

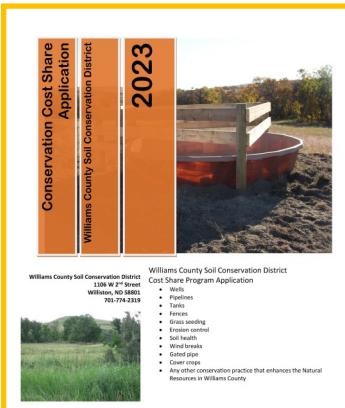
Ramona McLean joined Williams County Soil Conservation District in March, 2023. She was raised in rural Eastern Oregon and lived for a time across the border in Western Idaho. She has lived in Williston for the past 23 years. Three of her four children and five of her seven grandchildren also make Williston their home. Ramona can often be found tending her flower beds or enticing birds and squirrels to visit the feeders throughout her yard. Some people may recognize her from working at Western Veterinary Clinic or JCPenney.

2nd Grade Education

This year, the Williams County Soil Conservation District has expanded its environmental education program to include second grade classes in Williams County. Isabella Sferra, our watershed coordinator, has been going into classrooms and working hands on with the students.

In addition to the presentation for third grade classes in the county on soil conservation, we began a program for second grade students on trees and botany. We hope to introduce students to the beginnings of the study of plants, as well as their importance to our lives and those of the organisms around us. Students first discussed the functions and importance of trees, their habitats, types of leaves, and the purpose of different tree parts. They were then able to draw and label leaf types and the core parts of trees. Overall, we reached over 400 second grade students from Trenton to Tioga. We hope to continue to expand and improve our environmental education efforts in the future.

This program helps to cover costs associated with conservation practices such as fencing, cover crops, grass seedings, shallow pipeline, tanks, etc. just to name a few. All applications are reviewed by the Williams County Soil Conservation District Board at their monthly meetings and once approved the applicant has one year to complete the project from the date of approval. The maximum amount per contract is \$5,000 and is based off of NRCS payment rates. The max number of contracts allowed per person



is two in a ten year period. If you have any questions, feel free to call the office. The applications can be obtained at our office, Facebook Page, and website.

Seasonal Help Needed

We are looking for seasonal help for fabric installation.

- ◆ Must be 16 years old or older
- ◆ Possess a good work ethic: labor intensive and outdoor conditions
- ◆ Willing to work weekends (Saturdays)
- ◆ Competitive pay
- ◆ Flexibility

Job would start around 2nd or 3rd week of May and go into the first part of June. Weather dependent.

Great opportunity for high school or college kids looking to earn a few extra bucks!

If interested or would like more information contact Molly Jugovic
@ 701-774-2319 or email at
molly.jugovic@nd.nacdnet.net



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Soil Health and Crop Education Workshop

While the threat of an incoming snow storm had an impact on attendance, about 40 people participated in a Soil Health and Crop Education workshop held on March 10. The workshop was sponsored by the Williams County Soil Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, NDSU Extension Williams County and Williams County Ag Improvement Association was held at the Williston Research Extension Center.

The focus of the soil health portion of the program was on living roots and diversity as these two soil health principles are key components to improving soil health and resilience. Keith Brown, soil health and cropping systems specialist with the Williams County SCD, talked about the interaction of plant roots and soil microbes in forming aggregates in the soil. Soil aggregation is a good indication of soil health and is important in allowing water to infiltrate the soil to become plant available moisture. As part of the presentation, TJ Halvorson, Williams County producer in the Tioga area, set-up his microscope and showed workshop participants the abundance of life that is in the soil.



James Rogers, forage crop production specialist with the NDSU Extension Service talked about livestock integration and cover crops as they relate to soil health while Justin Jacobs provided an update on the intercropping research he has been conducting as a means of adding more diversity to cropping systems. Justin is a research specialist with the Williston Research Extension Center.

On the crop education side of the program, TJ Prochaska, NDSU Extension Crop Protection Specialist, provided an Entomology Outlook for 2023. Grasshopper concerns going into the 2023 growing seasons was one of the main focuses of the outlook but he also touched on some other potential insect concerns for the upcoming growing season, including wheat stem sawfly.

Kelly Leo, NDSU Extension Agent in Williams County provided information on Ventenata, a new weed threat. Ventenata is a non-native winter annual grass that has the potential to impact range, pasture, wild lands, and annual crops. Its low forage value and shallow root structure can lead to decreased agricultural production. Ventenata has been a problem in western states such as Idaho and Washington for many years and is becoming more prevalent across Montana. Producers are asked to be on the lookout for any sign of this invasive weed in North Dakota.

Matthew Leardini with Sustainable Oils talked about their line of camelina varieties that are emerging as the crop feedstock of choice for renewable diesel production. As a crop, camelina exhibits superior agronomic performance including increased drought and frost tolerance, and lower carbon intensity scores, versus other oilseed feedstocks including canola and soybeans and provides producers with a new diversification option. Mike Schaeffer with Nuseed was also on hand and discussed their Omega 3 canola seed.



Following the conclusion of the program, the Williams County Ag Improvement Association conducted their annual meeting. Working closely with NDSU Extension Williams County, the Ag Improvement Association plays a key role in the increase of new varieties released by NDSU within the county and helps to support many ag related programs.

After the workshop, Williams County producers were invited to stay for an input session on a potential Little Missouri River Watershed Improvement program. The Williams County Soil Conservation District is considering a project to utilize funds from an oilfield release that occurred in 2015 within the Little Missouri Watershed area. This fund is intended to go towards conservation programs that will improve water quality in the Little Muddy River. The purposes of the meeting were to gauge interest in the program and gather input on conservation problems to help the District in targeting our efforts.

If you have any questions or comments on the watershed project, please email williamscountyscd@gmail.com, or call the office at 701-572-6729 ext. 3.





Williams County Soil Conservation District
1106 W 2nd Street
Williston, ND 58801
Phone: 701-774-2319

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WILLISTON, ND 58801

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Tree Reminder & Update

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)



District Staff:

District Manager: Molly Jugovic
Equipment Manager: David Telck
Watershed Coordinator: Isabella Sferra
District Technician: Christy Sperling
Soil Health & Cropping System Specialist: Keith Brown
District Clerk: Ramona McLean

Board of Supervisors

Donald Anderson
Blake Wheeler
Evan Whiteford
TJ Halverson
Amber Anderson

NRCS Staff:

District Conservationist: Malinda Ferguson