



# Williams County Soil Conservation District

**August 2023**

## 6th Annual Ladies Ag Night



On Tuesday, July 18th the Williams County Soil Conservation District hosted our 6th Annual Ladies Ag Night “*ConVersation `n` ConServation*” event. This years focus was geared towards myth busting in both food and farming. With the help of our keynote speaker, Michelle Miller, also better known as the Farm Babe, we were all better able to understand the truths behind the food that we consume everyday.



Michelle brought a fun-loving personality and perspective to this evening. She visited about her history that has brought her to this point in her career and to Williston, ND. Even admitting that she too once fell victim to fear propaganda and believed GMOs were bad for you. She has since learned from her mistake and has become a strong advocate for soil health and has dedicated her career path to better educate and inform general consumers about the deception spread by wide stream media. Her message is not to poke fun of the people that fall victim to these propagandas,



but instead educate and better equip people to be able to filter out the truths and myths behind their food as well as agriculture. Fear sells! As explained when she presented the following: “If dihydrogen monoxide can rust these pipes. Just imagine what its doing to your insides?” For those that did not do well in chemistry,



dihydrogen monoxide is water. As seen if worded in a specific way, it can strike fear into those that do not fully understand what they are reading. She gave some wonderful tips throughout the night and the one that continually stood out is to continue to Ag-vocate.

This truly was a great night to enjoy good food, and even better company! Thank you to all the ladies that were able to attend, and we hope you had just as much fun as we did! A big thank you to our generous sponsors who helped to make this night possible, including the wonderful



door prizes and goodie bags! Lastly, thank you to our caterers from Doc Holliday's Roadhouse for the wonderful meal as well as our volunteer servers from the Williston Area Woodworkers! They did such a great job assembling our desserts for the night as well as being spectacular Vanna Whites!





**\$21.00 an acre**

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

Fall will be here before we know it and many producers will be busy harvesting. 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, hayland or a cover crop mix, contact our office and we'll be able to help you develop a mixture that will fit your goals. We are able to take care of your cover crop or grass seeding needs with our 30ft no-till drill. We require a map of the area to be 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: 701-774-2319

## **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:	\$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.





# Farm to Table

The 3rd Annual Farm to Table dinner was our best one yet! This was our second year involved with this event; partnering with the Williston Area Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Committee. We chose to make it a bigger event than last year by seeking more sponsorships and by bringing in a keynote speaker to strengthen our educational outreach.

This year featured keynote speaker Calli Thorne. Calli talked about the operation that her and her family own and operate. She added in a few humorous stories about their own experiences of triumph and challenges they faced along the way. They are located in Western North Dakota and operate multiple enterprises including a backgrounding feedlot, cow/calf operation, and sell beef directly to consumers.



A drone demonstration was also provided by Train ND demonstrating how drones can be equipped with sprayers to apply pesticides or fertilizers precisely,



reducing waste and minimizing environmental impact. For demonstration purposes they filled their sprayer with water and drone sprayed a field close by the tree shed. Keith Brown from the Williams County SCD gave a short presentation on the 5 principles of soil health as well as provided a history and update on the cover crop trail that is taking place on the NDSU research station. He also provided a cover crop

tour for those that were interested afterwards.

Dinner was catered by Doc Holliday's Roadhouse and featured commodities that are grown locally within the Mon-Dak region. Desserts were provided by Whisk It Good, which consisted of banana bars, lemon tarts, and double chocolate chip cookies. All of the desserts contained chickpea flour and 41 grains. Beverages were sourced from Busted Knuckle Brewery located in Williston. Wine was sourced from Pointe of View Winery in Burlington, ND and Fluffy Fields Vineyard & Winery in Dickinson, ND. They use North Dakotan fruits and honey to make their wines.



Every attendee received a take home bag that contained educational materials along with goodies for home use. The Williston FFA students did a great job serving the meal and helping with the event.



**We couldn't have done this event without our wonderful sponsors and volunteers!**



**Ag Committee Members**



Williams County Soil Conservation District  
1106 2nd St. W. Williston, ND 58801  
Office 701-572-6729 Ext. 3  
Tree Shed 701-774-2319

## Invitation to Bid

The Williams County SCD invites qualified bidders to submit bids for the items listed below. The district requires all bids to be submitted in writing clearly stating the item to be bid on with the dollar amount by 4:30 P.M. local time, September 18th 2023 at the downtown office 1106 2nd St. W. Williston, ND. Any bids received or submitted after this date will not be accepted. The three highest bidders will be notified and allowed a one time opportunity to orally raise their initial bid on September 19th. The winners will be notified after the September board meeting and will have 30 days after notification to complete purchase paid in full by qualified funds to the district.

### John Deere 2750 Tractor

323X hours, 2wd, 3-point, PTO, 2 rear remotes, front weights

### John Deere 2020 Tractor

361X hours JD 48 loader, 3-point, PTO, 1 rear remote, rear wheel weights, fluid filled rear tires

### Case IH TLX 172 3-Point tiller

New PTO Shaft, Fresh oil in Gearboxes

### Ace Roto-Mold 500 gallon vertical water tank

Used for fresh water only, always kept inside

To schedule a time to inspect any of the items contact David at the tree shed (701-774-2319)

**\*\*All items are being sold as is with no warranty\*\***

**\*\*The district has the right to refuse any or all bids\*\***



**\*\*The Williams County SCD reserves the right to refuse service to anyone\*\***

Conservation, Development, Self-Government

All programs and services of the District are offered on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, religion, gender expression, national origin, disability, age, marital status, handicap, sexual orientation, or military status



# Little Muddy River Watershed Project Water Testing

As a part of the Williams County SCD's new watershed project, we are testing three stream sites in the Little Muddy River watershed, in addition to Blacktail Dam. This will allow us to evaluate the current status of the river network as well as the impact of management practices implemented as part of the project. On the stream sites, we are testing for nutrients, suspended solids, and E. coli. Elevated nutrients, like nitrogen and phosphorus, can affect other parameters and can cause algal blooms and low dissolved oxygen, which reduce opportunities for recreation

Blacktail Dam. Source: KFYP TV



and wildlife habitat.

Excess suspended solids obscure the water column and harm aquatic wildlife, especially macroinvertebrates (aquatic insect larvae). E. coli is both a potential pathogen and an indicator of fecal matter in the water and possible harmful bacteria. We will also be testing for macroinvertebrates later in the summer, which are an excellent holistic water quality and habitat indicator as well as an important part of aquatic food chains.

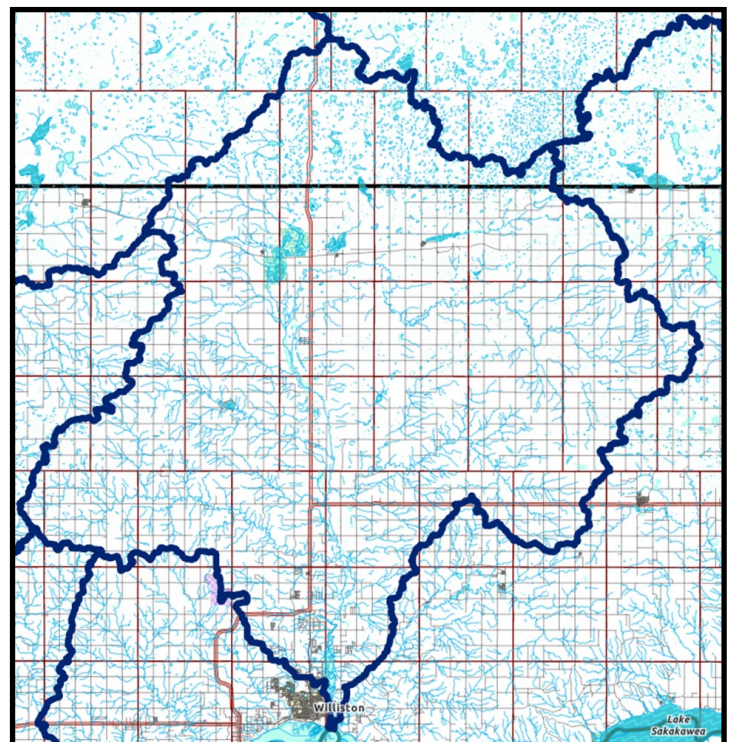
On Blacktail Dam, we are testing for temperature, dissolved oxygen, nutrients, trace metals, chlorophyll, and cations/anions. Certain metals can be harmful to people and aquatic life in high enough amounts, while chlorophyll is a measure of algal activity. Cations and anions measure conductivity, which can indicate pollution in the water. We will also be regularly testing Epping-Springbrook Dam for nutrients, dissolved solids, and chlorophyll as part of a separate watershed project intended to monitor and reduce harmful algal blooms.

**Water quality affects all of the functions of rivers and lakes: their ability to host a diverse array of wildlife, to provide good quality water for drinking and irrigation, and for safe recreation.**

For more information on water quality, the EPA has online water quality indicator descriptions under “Indicators used in the National Aquatic Resource Surveys”, which are informative and easy to understand. Our first results have just started to come in as of early June, and we will have a report ready on the season's results later on this year. As we cost-share management practices within the watershed, we hope to see an improvement in these parameters over the lifetime of this project. If you own or operate land within the watershed and are interested in receiving cost-share assistance for implementing conservation practices, please contact the Williams County SCD.

Contact Info: Isabella Sferra

williamscountyscd@gmail.com Cell: 858-333-1699



Little Muddy River Watershed

# Soil Health & Crop Tour

A field tour was held in the county on August 1, 2023 as a joint effort of Williams County Soil Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, NDSU Extension Service, and Williams County Ag Improvement Association.



A couple stops on the tour featured new varieties released by NDSU that are being increased under contract with the Ag Improvement Association for future distribution to Williams County producers. One of the stops was at Tom and Blake Wheeler's, who are increasing Treasure barley and Spilde oats. The second stop later in the tour was to look at the new Stanley durum and Carson oats from NDSU being grown by Beau and Amber Anderson.

Another stop on the tour featured intercropping at Justin & Sara Jacobs' farm. Intercropping is a term used to describe growing multiple crops together in the same field at the same time. The crops may be seeded together as a mixture or in the same or alternating rows. Reasons for adopting intercropping include an interest in soil health, reduced production risk, decreased input costs and increased land use efficiency. Intercropping can potentially manage production risk by reducing disease incidence or severity, spreading weather risk among multiple crops, increasing crop competitiveness, reducing fertilizer needs, and/or increasing harvestability. This year the Jacobs' are growing Austrian winter peas and yellow mustard together as an intercrop.

While at the Jacobs' farm, we also looked at a field of winter rye and talked about the possibilities of using rye as a cover crop or grain crop to diversify rotations and keep a living root in the soil to improve soil health.

There was also a tour stop around the 13 mile corner at one of Andrew Sylte's fields. A couple years ago Sylte started a program to improve soil health on a couple of his fields using cover crops with livestock integration. The Williams County SCD has been tracking some soil health parameters on these fields and has observed a significant increase in moisture infiltration rates and soil microbial biomass, indicating the soil health is improving in these fields.



At this stop, Isabella Sferra, Watershed Coordinator with the Williams County SCD, also talked about the goals and objectives of the Little Muddy River Watershed Improvement program recently adopted by the district and county cost share opportunities available through the district for conservation programs that could potentially improve the water quality in the watershed.

On the western side of the county, a stop was made at a full-season cover crop field planted by the SCD for Charles Miller. At this stop, Malinda Ferguson, District Conservationist with the Williams County NRCS talked about programs available through NCRS to improve soil conservation and soil health while Keith Brown, Soil Health and Cropping Systems Specialist with the Williams County SCD discussed integrating cover crops into cropping systems.



The tour concluded with an evening meal at the Williams County SCD tree building for roughly 25 tour participants.



## 2023 Tree Season



Tree season 2023 started out similar to last year. Snow received in April, setback planting season about 3 weeks. As the season went on, we found ourselves trying to plant when we could in-between the rain showers. June got confused with July and the crew ended up installing fabric in 90 degree heat for a good portion of the season.

This was our second year offering our Handplant Replacement Program with the final number of trees installed being 966 trees. This year turned out to be a busy and fantastic year to put trees in and we finished tree season installing 192,759 linear feet (37 miles) of trees and 170,521 linear feet (32 miles) of fabric.

This season would not have been possible without the dedicated crew that worked endless hours in all weather conditions to ensure everything was completed. A big thank you for all of those seasonal workers who helped to make this another successful tree season!

If anyone is interested in a machine planting for 2023 please call the office to get the process started. **Tree plans need to be completed by the end of October.** It is best to have handplant order sheets turned in by **November 1st** to ensure availability. The sheets can found in our office, Facebook page, and website.



## 2024 Program Sign-up



### Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Technical & Financial Assistance for Installing Conservation Practices

- Water Well
- Grass Seeding
- Nutrient Management
- Irrigation
- Wildlife Habitat
- Tree Planting
- Tree Renovation
- Cover Crops
- Grazing System

**Sign-up Deadline Friday, September 22nd, 2023**

Please stop by the Williston NRCS office  
or call 701-572-6729 ext. 3 for more information.  
NRCS will set up a time to meet with you for a field visit to begin the conservation  
planning process. We look forward to working with you!

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

## Pipeline Plow

Water sources are starting to dry up and it's more important than ever to make sure you have fresh water systems in place. Water quality can also be a concern as the risk of algae blooms brought on by hot weather and lack of rain increases. Now is a great time to put in your shallow pipelines, whether it's for personal use or under contract. The pipe carried on hand is 1.5 inch poly-pipe that is rated for NRCS specs. The district also carries a range of 1.5 inch compression fittings. Pipe can be installed up until the ground freezes.

- Plow Rental: \$0.25/foot
- 1.5" Pipe: Call for pricing
- Pipe Fuser is available when plow is rented





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

NON PROFIT  
US POSTAGE PAID  
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WILLISTON, ND 58801

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## *On the Horizon*

- **Eco-Ed Education Days:** September 12th & 13th - all county sixth graders come out for a 2 day event that the district hosts. We are always looking for volunteers to help those two days. If interested please contact Molly!
- **Board Meeting:** September 21
- **Achievement Award Winner Banquet:** October



### District Staff:

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

### NRCS Staff:

District Conservationist: Malinda Ferguson

### Board of Supervisors

Donald Anderson  
Blake Wheeler  
Evan Whiteford  
TJ Halverson  
Amber Anderson