



# Williams County Soil Conservation District

## December

### 2024 Achievement Award Winner



Pictured: Cooper, Audrey, Malinda, Layne, Harper, Abigail

This year's 2024 Achievement Award winner is Layne & Malinda Ferguson. Layne and Malinda, along with their family, ranch south of Tioga. Their children are the 6<sup>th</sup> generation of Fergusons to ranch in that area. They began ranching in the fall of 2007 after Layne's grandparents retired. The operation at that time was season-long grazed with limited water sources, grazing distribution concerns and invasive grasses were becoming evident. Most of the cropland fields were enrolled in CRP and were scheduled to expire. The Fergusons were excited to start ranching and knew making a change to an adaptive grazing system would improve the condition of the

rangeland and soil health.

The Fergusons began working with NRCS through the EQIP program to install water developments and fencing. The expired CRP was border fenced and frost-free water installed to facilitate grazing. On their native rangeland, they installed 2 wells, 4 miles of shallow plowed pipelines, and 15 water tanks to enable an adaptive grazing system. Several miles of electric cross fences have also been installed to increase rest and recovery periods between grazing events. Currently there are 34 permanent pastures, and the Fergusons have also started implementing temporary poly wire rotation moves to further improve rangeland health.

This year, all the remaining cropland fields were seeded back to grass for grazing. Prior to this, they planted several years of cover crops for grazing. The Fergusons have noticed major strides in improved soil health from these years of no-till, cover crops, and integrated grazing. All their hayland fields have been fenced and converted to pastures as well. Their ranch headquarters are surrounded by large cottonwoods and other trees planted by Layne's grandparents and great-grandparents in past years. To add more diversity and another age class of trees, Layne and Malinda have added additional farmstead and wildlife tree plantings.

For the Fergusons, it's been exciting to see the improvements in their ranch's natural resources from the implementation of these practices. Their land's grassland and soil health and wildlife habitat have all increased, with improved plant production and vigor. They are very appreciative of all the grazing mentors that have helped guide them in their ranching journey.

They welcome anyone with questions to reach out to them or their local NRCS and SCD office for information on grazing systems. Their goal is to encourage their children to appreciate the landscapes and opportunities surrounding them and to improve the land for future generations.



# 2024 Tree Maintenance Award Winners



Pictured: Sue Jacobson & Courtney Olson

Kory and Courtney Olson have been selected as our 2024 Tree Maintenance Award Winners. The Jacobson farmstead, located near Wildrose, has a long legacy of tree plantings. Courtney, Kory, and their family have contributed to this history by adding many new rows and consistently maintaining the plantings. The original shelterbelt was installed in the 1980s by Courtney's parents, John and Sue. Courtney remembers helping her mom with tree maintenance as a child when the first trees were planted, and now they are at their full mature height!

In 2018 they started prepping approximately 6 acres of land for tree planting. In 2019, they took advantage of the Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) to cost share 16 rows of trees encompassing 8 different varieties. In total, nearly 2000 trees were planted. Courtney and her family continue to care for the trees, watering, weeding, planting new grass, spraying for grasshoppers, applying Plantskydd, and replacing trees in the spring. This addition completes the shelterbelt on the south and west side, while the older planting protects the north and east.

Courtney's father, John Jacobson, unexpectedly passed away this winter. These trees, which were planted on his birthday, May 9th, have now taken on an even more important meaning to her family. He had a dream of having these trees planted and was proud of the work that Courtney and her family put into them; he was adamant about the upkeep and commitment necessary for them. Earning this award will forever serve as a reminder of the roots that the trees are growing, the legacy they hold, and the lessons they are teaching their family about being good stewards of the land.



## Farewell Isabella

We are saying goodbye to our Watershed Coordinator, Isabella Sferra. Isabella has been with the District for about 2 years and has become very familiar with the producers in our country. She is headed onto her next adventure of getting her Masters Degree in Forest Resources at the University of Maine. Her last day in the office will be December 20th. Please stop in to say goodbye and wish her good luck on her next chapter of life.



Isabella has been a joy to have in the office. She played many roles in the office, from helping with Eco-Ed pollinator seed bombs, trying to get our office more cultured with food, to water sampling in all weather conditions. Her least favorite task by far was having to fold and tab newsletters, but liked to joke around with our chairman about getting him a ducky floaty. Your sense of humor will be missed! We are sad to see you go, but wish you nothing but the best in your next adventure! Also, we had to share a few slightly embarrassing photos since, she is very evasive when a camera comes out. We wish you the best of luck on your new adventure!



# Ladies Ag Night

On Wednesday, November 13th the Williams County Soil Conservation District hosted their 7th annual Ladies Ag Night “ConVersation ‘n’ ConServation” event. This year’s focus was geared towards empowering women. With the help of our keynote speaker Andrea Flemming, also known as “That Fit Agvo-cate”, we were able to listen to her story and how she is being her raw, authentic self.



## Gold Level



## Silver Level



## Bronze Level



Andrea brought a bold and raw perspective to the audience. She shared her story including her triumphs, her failures, and her deep love for cows. She brought her true authentic self to share with the audience in hopes that they will learn to do the same thing. She encouraged the ladies to live a more authentic life. Being true to yourself and not letting the world tell you that you are just a “wife” or



you “just make the meals” or your “just a mother.” One of her key takeaways was we are not “just” anything. In fact, we should remove the word “just” from our vocabulary and learn to say we are a rancher, we bring meals out during harvest, we are valued and important.

Another key highlight was learning to go outside your comfort zone. The world is scary and full of unknowns, but there is so much to experience if we take the bull by the horns and learn to go outside our comfort zone. You never know what you might find! To be a more authentic you, involves talking about things that make you uncomfortable; talking about the good, the bad, and our mental health.



A lot of fun was had by everyone in attendance. We played a Thanksgiving trivia game and awarded the person with the most correct answers our big door prize Christmas Ornament. We learned we all could use a refresher on Thanksgiving facts. We had some fabulous door prizes that were donated by local people and businesses. 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 goodie bags. Lastly, thank you to Doc Holliday's Roadhouse for the wonderful meal as well as our volunteer servers; the Williston Area Woodworkers! Thank you for being great servers, providing some good jokes, and being fabulous Vanna Whites!





Have a great holiday season and  
a prosperous New Year!

### 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

## Williams County Soil Conservation District

1106 W 2nd Street Williston, ND 58801 Phone: 701-572-6729 Ext 3

Tree Shed Phone: 701-774-2319

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Almond (Russian)         | <input type="checkbox"/> Lilac (Common)                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apricot (Hardy)          | <input type="checkbox"/> Lilac (Peking)                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ash (Green)              | <input type="checkbox"/> Lilac (Villosa)                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aspen Quaking            | <input type="checkbox"/> Linden (American)                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buffaloberry             | <input type="checkbox"/> Maple (Amur)                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caragana                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Maple (Silver)                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cherry (Nanking)         | <input type="checkbox"/> Nannyberry  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cherry (Sand)            | <input type="checkbox"/> Oak (Bur)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chokeberry (Black)       | <input type="checkbox"/> Olive (Russian) cannot be taken across state line |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chokecherry (Common)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Pear (Ussurian)                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chokecherry (Schubert)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Plum (American)                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cotoneaster (Peking)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Rose (Hanson)                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cottonwood (Native)      | <input type="checkbox"/> Seaberry  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cottonwood (Silver)      | <input type="checkbox"/> Silverberry                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cottonwood (Siouxland)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sumac (Skunk bush)                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crabapple (Midwest)      | <input type="checkbox"/> Willow (Golden)                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crabapple (Red Splendor) | <input type="checkbox"/> Willow (Laurel)                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crabapple (Siberian)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Willow (Peachleaf)                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Currant (Black)          | <input type="checkbox"/> Ponderosa Pine                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Currant (Golden)         | <input type="checkbox"/> Scotch Pine                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dogwood (Redosier)       | <input type="checkbox"/> Black Hills Spruce                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elm (Siberian)           | <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado Blue Spruce                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grapevine (Riverbank)    | <input type="checkbox"/> Juniper   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hackberry                | <input type="checkbox"/> Redcedar  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hawthorne (Arnold)       | <input type="checkbox"/> Caroline Raspberry (fall Bearing) \$5.50 each     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Honeysuckle (Tatarian)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Killarney Raspberry (summer bearing) \$5.50 each  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Juneberry                |  |

Due December 30th

## Plantskydd Products

- Plantskydd 1 lb. Powder \$27.95 Plus Tax
- Plantskydd 1 qt. Pre-Mix \$19.95 Plus Tax
- Plantskydd 1.3 Gal Refill Jug \$57.95 Plus Tax
- Plantskydd 1 lb. Granular \$10.95 Plus Tax
- Plantskydd 3.5 lb. Granular Shaker \$27.95 Plus Tax
- Plantskydd 20 lb. Granular Bag \$112.95 Plus Tax

## Fabric & Staple Products

- Fabric Roll \$125.00 (6' x 300')
- Fabric Roll \$175.00 (6' x 500')
- Fabric Partials 0.40 cents/foot
- Staples \$85.00 (Box 500)
- Individual Staples \$.17 cents

## Tree Pricing & Services

Hand Plants	\$2.50 Each
Machine Planting (Includes trees)	\$35.00/100ft. (Minimum 1500 ft.)
Machine Planting w/ Fabric (Includes trees)	\$100/100ft. (Minimum 1500 ft.)
Application of Casoron	\$18.00/100ft. (Minimum 1500 ft.)
Tree Site Prep	\$75/hr. (Minimum 2hrs.)

# of Trees Ordered (\$2.50 each)

# of Raspberries Ordered (\$5.50 each)

Subtotal **(Do not pay using this sheet if for Handplant Service)**

(Agricultural producers purchasing trees or trees being used for a conservation purpose are not subject to sales tax. Please check and sign below)

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

6 % Sales Tax

Please provide payment with order sheet!

Total Sale

Please make all checks out to Williams County SCD and mail checks to the office

1106 West 2nd Street Williston, ND 58801

No guarantee on any trees purchased from Williams County SCD

# Fire Relief Funding Options

- **EQIP -Wildfire Disaster Assistance Program**
  - Signup Deadline January 31st
  - Applications processed in the order they are received
  - Contact the NRCS office (701-572-6729 ext. 3) for more information and to sign up
- **Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)**
  - Offers financial and technical assistance to ag producers to repair and restore land affected by natural disasters such as fire
  - Contact the FSA office for more information (701-572-6729 ext. 2)
- **Windbreak Renovation Assistance for Wildfire Recovery**
  - Funded through the ND Forest Service and the Outdoor Heritage Fund
  - Contact Matt Olson, NDFS Forest Stewardship Manager at 701-683-4323
- **North Dakota Stockmen's Association**
  - Out of the Ashes Wildfire Disaster Relief Program
  - Call 701-223-2522 for more information

*This is not an all inclusive list of fire related resources. Our thoughts and prayers are with all those impacted by the fires.*



## New to the Fleet

In August, a new 5 ft no-till Truax drill was delivered. This is the newest addition to our drill rental program. This drill requires a minimum of a 60 hp tractor with a draw bar and at least 1 remote. It can also be used with

a heavy duty skid steer with a lift capacity of 2,000 lbs.

This drill is ideal for small acre projects including; lawns, seeding between tree rows, or food plots. The drill contains multiple seed boxes to allow for a variety of seeds to be used, such as grass seed and cover crops. The 5 ft FLX88 drill can be rented out for \$100/day.



## Eco-Ed

### The 2024 Sponsors



On September 10, 11, and 12th the Williams County Soil Conservation District hosted their annual Eco-Ed days. This event is an education program geared towards all 6th graders in the county. This year we hosted 456 students. The schools that attended this free event were: Bakken, Trenton, Tioga, Bainville, and a handful of homeschoolers.

In 2017, the Williams County SCD chose to break away from the normal curriculum and design a day with the main focus being on pollinators. Pollinators are truly an irreplaceable part of our ecosystem and deserve to have more light shed on their declining populations. We live in a prominent farming community and many crops are dependent on pollinators. With that being said, we have been continually fine-tuning and finding ways to improve our Eco-Ed program.

We have partnered with the Williston Area Woodworkers for the past several years to help build pollinator houses. This partnership has enabled each student to build their own pollinator seed house and take it home. The behind the scenes work that this group puts in for this program each year is remarkable and truly appreciated! Not to mention the amount of them that volunteer for all 3 days of the event.



This year we received generous donations from Kraken Oil & Gas, Triangle Electric, Brigston Electric, KLX Energy Services, and Chord Energy. These generous donations are truly a great asset to our program and without them this event would not be possible!

Some of these students have never used a power drill, bit n brace, or tools in general. This provided a great learning opportunity for each student and allowed a majority of the students to build their first woodworking project!

To go along with our pollinator theme, we had a pollinator seed bomb station taught by Isabella Sferra, our Watershed Coordinator. At this station, the students were able to learn about different types of pollinators, why they are important, and about the decline in their populations. Each child was able to get hands on at this station and build their own pollinator seed bombs. A bag of premixed material was given to each student. Water was then added to their bags to allow the material to combine and form a sticky mixture. The students wore gloves and carefully rolled this sticky material into 2 round balls and placed on a sheet of cardboard to dry. The seed bombs have to dry for up to 48 hours depending on the size. The idea behind this activity is that kids are able to throw or plant these balls and wait for the native flowers to grow.



The next station the students attended was Electrical safety with Mountrail Williams Electric Cooperative (MWEC). Ryan does an amazing job with his presentation as well as demonstration. He covers how electricity works and the importance of safety around electricity in several different real world examples. This station better equips these students with how to deal with an electrical situation.



At another of the stations, Keith Brown, Soil Health and Cropping Systems Specialist with the Williams County Soil Conservation District, talked to students about the differences between dirt and soil. An apple was used to demonstrate how little of the earth's surface is actually available to produce the food to feed the world's population and how soil is a very finite resource that needs to be conserved. He discussed and demonstrated how improving soil health and structure benefits crops and food production through improved water infiltration into the soil and moisture storage in the soil.

The kids got a chance to get hands on at our forestry station that was presented by Scott Dai. Scott jumped right in after being hired 3 weeks prior as the 4-H Youth Development Extension agent for Williams County and did a fantastic job. The kids were able to look at trees and discuss the characteristics they saw as well as differences between them. They were able to count rings on tree cookies and play a fun interactive game of deciding what

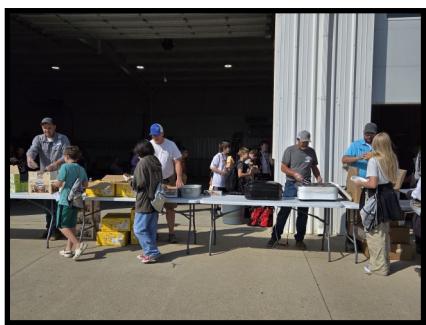


products were made from wood and which were man made.



Rangeland was presented by our very own District Conservationist, Malinda Ferguson. At this station, the kids learned the value of native rangeland through a fun Bingo game. Native rangeland serves a variety of purposes including helping improve water quality, feed for livestock, wildlife and pollinator habitat as well as recreation. They learned how plants grow and how to identify common plants found in native rangeland in this area.

This was another great year for this event and we hope the kids had just as much fun as we did. A big thank you to Kraken Oil & Gas out of Sidney, MT as well as Brigston Electric for donating hamburger patties for lunch for all 3 days. The meal served for all the students and volunteers consisted of a grilled hamburger, chips, cookies, apple sauce, and a bottle of water. Thank you to Brigston Electric for providing the grill and KLX Energy Services for helping to grill all 3 days. You guys did a fantastic job!



We appreciate all the hard work and effort these volunteers put in to help make these three days possible! My last thank you needs to go out to all of my volunteers and station personnel that donated one, two, or three days of their time to make Eco-Ed days a success. Without each one of you this would not have been possible!!

*District Manager,*

*Molly Carlson*



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

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WILLISTON, ND 58801

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### District Staff:

**District Manager:** Molly Carlson

**Equipment Manager:** David Telck

**Watershed Coordinator:** Isabella Sferra

**Soil Health & Cropping System Specialist:** Keith Brown

**District Clerk:** Ramona McLean

### Board of Supervisors

Donald Anderson

Blake Wheeler

Evan Whiteford

TJ Halverson

Ryan Davidson

### NRCS Staff:

**District Conservationist:** Malinda Ferguson

**Management Program Analyst:** Cindy Simpson

## CSP 2025 Program Applications



Applications are due for  
Conservation Stewardship Program  
**February 28, 2025**

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. 2025 application are due to NRCS by February 28th, 2025. Sign-up at your local USDA Service Center, or visit [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov) for more information.

**USDA**   
United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Williston Field Office  
1106 West 2nd Street  
Williston, ND 58801  
701-572-6729 Ext 3  
[malinda.ferguson@usda.gov](mailto:malinda.ferguson@usda.gov)

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All sponsoring parties do not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, martial status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations.