



Williams County Soil Conservation District

July



2025 Tree Season

We couldn't have asked for a better start to our tree season this year; starting on the first day of May! We were able to knock out a majority of our tree plantings before a nice, long, and welcomed rain came through and forced us inside for about two weeks. When everything dried up, we finished the rest of our

plantings, totaling 138,607 feet of trees (26 miles) for 36 producers! We then had a quick turn around and, with a nearly brand new crew, laid down our weed barrier fabric totaling 101,140 feet (19 miles).



It was an exciting year filled with firsts for us! We made the most of our machine plantings and were able to provide our handplant-replacement service to 6 producers this year totaling 634 handplants.

Huge thank you to all the producers who we were able to work with this year, as well as our seasonal crew for making this year memorable.

See you all in 2026!



Volunteers Needed Ecological Education - (Eco-Ed) Days



Its that time of year again! We are looking for anyone that might be interested in volunteering for 1, 2, or 3 days to help run stations and direct kids from one station to another. We need volunteers from 8:45a.m. - 2:00 p.m. from September 9th - 11th. Can't make it for a full day? That's ok! We can do half days. This event truly is a great day of memory making for every student. It allows them to get hands on and learn about a wide variety of topics in such a fun way! If you have any questions, please contact Molly for more information.



An event of the Williston Area Chamber of Commerce
Agriculture Committee and the Williams County
Soil Conservation District

5TH ANNUAL *Farm to Table*

FRIDAY, JULY 18, 2025
starts at 5:30pm



MICHELE PAYN
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

- ENJOY A FARM-TO-TABLE MEAL WITH LOCALLY SOURCED FOOD + BEVERAGES PREPARED BY COOKS ON MAIN
- HEAR FROM GLOBALLY RECOGNIZED AG ADVOCATE, MICHELE PAYN
- PERSONAL TOUR OF THE ND MALTING & HOPS FACILITY

TICKETS NOW ON SALE
CHAMBER MEMBER: \$50
NON CHAMBER MEMBER: \$70



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**LIMITED
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WILLIAMS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT | ND OILSEED COUNCIL | LEONARDITE PRODUCTS, LLC.

PRESENTED BY:



WWW.WILLISTONCHAMBER.COM/FARM-TO-TABLE
ND MALTING & HOPS, INC.
5715 139TH AVENUE NORTHWEST
WILLISTON, ND 58801

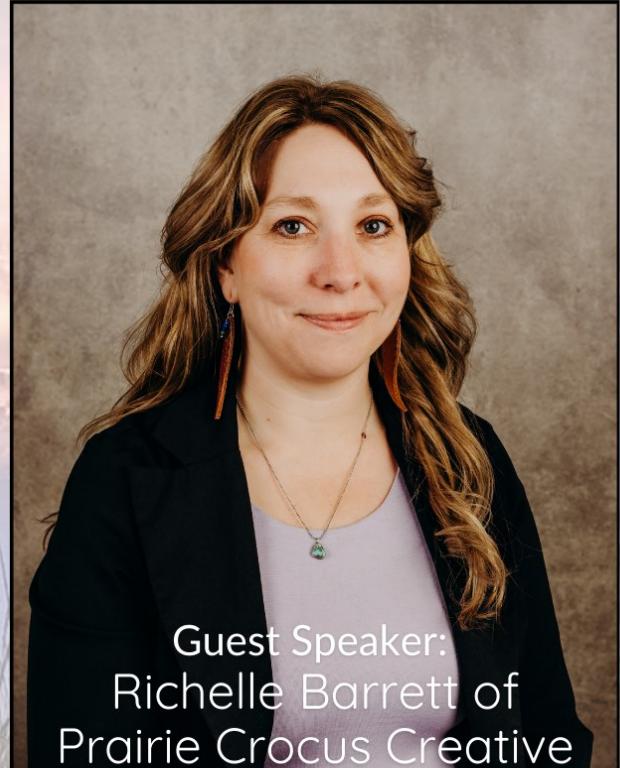
8th Annual Ladies Ag Night

ConVersation ~ n ~ ConServation

Thursday, October 23rd, 2025

Richelle Barrett is an author, photographer, mother, wife, advocate, and “Jill of all Trades” who lives on her family’s ranch in North-Central Montana. With her daughters and husband, she stays busy working outside the operation and volunteering in her community.

She is passionate about production agriculture, capturing and telling the stories of the people producing our food, and connecting with the women who are the backbone of the industry. Join her and the Williams County Soil Conservation District to empower women in all avenues of life.



Guest Speaker:
Richelle Barrett of
Prairie Crocus Creative

Williston ARC
822 18th Street East,
Williston, ND

5:00 PM Social Hour
5:45 PM Dinner

Must be 21+ to attend

\$30 Registration due by
October 17th, 2025
at 1106 West 2nd Street
Williston, ND 58801
701-572-6729 ext 3



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

Machine Tree Plantings 2026

Now taking appointments for new tree plans

Things to consider



- Soil types
- Tree species
- Orientation of windbreak for best protection
- Width and density of windbreak
- Setback and easement restrictions
- Building distances
- Overhead wires
- Underground utilities/septic tanks/pipelines
- Water needs
- Mature size of tree
- Site preparation
- Livestock protection
- Fabric

Pricing:

Minimum amount billed is 1500 ft. whether footage is met or not

Machine tree planting (includes trees) \$.35 cents per foot.

Machine tree planting (includes trees) with 6ft wide conservation grade fabric installed \$1.00 per foot.

Any footage over the minimum amount is billed out accordingly to the prices listed above.

Site Preparation:

Site preparation is offered by the district. Tree plans must be completed before the ground freezes.

District will need to be notified and a contract signed before the district will perform site prep. Sites must be initially broke up in the Fall

Pricing: \$75/hour

Minimum amount charged is \$150



Proper site prep is the responsibility of the producer

Deadline to have a tree plan made and a site visit from one of our staff members is Oct 31, 2025

Call the Downtown Office:
701-572-6729 ext. 3

For more information call the office or check out our website at wmscoscd.com



Flooded No More, Grass Seedings Bring New Life to an Old Field

Ducks protested loudly as I surveyed their new home. This tributary of the Little Muddy River near Alamo was full from recent rains and was bursting with life. Minnows hide beneath the algae mats as insects buzzed overhead. The grass on the bank was growing so tall that it was dropping down into the water, providing more cover for the wildlife making this creek a home.

Two years ago, this sea of grass was an unproductive crop field that flooded so badly, it was in preventive planting for two years in a row. In addition, salinity was increasing, destroying any vitality left in the flooded field. Desperate to find a solution and produce something, the landowner reached out to see what could be done. Because of the tributary running through the land, the area was eligible for Little Muddy River Watershed project assistance.

Working with the landowner, a custom grass mix was created that could handle the salinity and keep the water levels from getting out of control. This mix allowed the owner to convert the cropland into a hayfield and make the field productive again. Also, because of the areas watershed project eligibility, the landowner was able to cost-share 70% of the seed and planting costs. Thus solving his field problem at a very affordable rate.

One year after planting, the field is alive and thriving. Looking out I could see the changes in the area already taking place. Where there was once a swampy cropland with more puddles than crops, was now a sea of grass. Instead of salinity destroying the soil's fertility, there was grass taking the salt up and holding it. And finally, instead of a headache that the landowner had to swim to get into, there is a hayfield that he is looking forward to harvesting in two years.

If you are interested in the Little Muddy River Watershed Improvement Program, contact Collin Bryant at collin.bryant@nd.nacdnet.net or at the office at 701-572-6729 ext. 108 to see if you qualify.



Grenora K-3 Workshop

In the midst of the rain during the month of May, we were lucky enough to host an educational workshop for a few of the grade schoolers from Grenora. The grades present included Kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade, and 3rd grade. They were lead around to 3 different stations and were able to get hands on with a few environmental education activities.



The first station included taking a tour of the tree cooler and learning why the trees are stored at cold temperatures prior to being planted. They were able to look at the sweat tub where some species of trees need to be “sweated” to break dormancy. The students were able to look and get a brief overview of the tree planter and fabric machine that is used for machine tree plantings.

The second station included learning how to determine how old is a tree. They learned that they can estimate a tree’s age by counting the growth rings on a cut truck of tree. Each ring represents one year of growth, with a light and dark band

together making a complete ring. Each student was able to make there own tree cookie necklace and take home with them.



The final station allowed students to learn about soil health and what is needed for plants to grow. The students learned that plants need soil, water, and sunlight to grow. Each student was able to decorate and plant there own millet in a cup. Later on they would be able to observe the seeds germinating, the roots developing, and eventually their millet growing. A lot of excitement and fun was had by the Soil Conservation staff, the NRCS staff, and the Grenora students and teachers!



Board of Supervisors

District Staff:

District Manager: Molly Carlson

Equipment Manager: David Telck

District Technician: Amie Taylor

Watershed Coordinator: Collin Bryant

Soil Health & Cropping System Specialist:
Keith Brown

District Clerk: Ramona McLean

Blake Wheeler

Evan Whiteford

TJ Halverson

Brandon Hoffman

Ryan Davidson

NRCS Staff:

District Conservationist: Malinda Ferguson

Management Program Analyst:

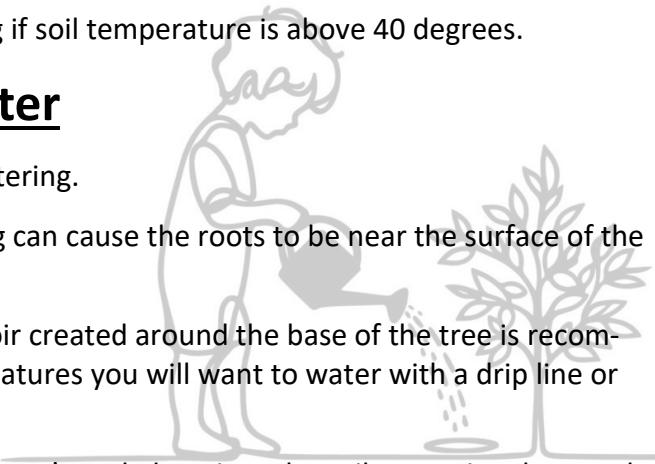
Cindy Simpson

When to Water Newly Planted Trees and Shrubs

- ⇒ Clay soils can hold more water and need to be watered less frequently than sandy soils.
- ⇒ Trees and shrubs need to be watered when they are first planted.
- ⇒ From 1-2 weeks after the initial planting, you should water approximately every 2-3 days.
- ⇒ After 3 weeks from the date of initial planting you should water weekly until roots are established.
- ⇒ During a drought all trees benefit from supplemental watering.
- ⇒ Water trees until the soil freezes. Tree roots continue growing if soil temperature is above 40 degrees.

How to Water

- ⇒ Water about 1-1.5 gallons per inch of stem caliper at each watering.
- ⇒ DO NOT over water. That is a common mistake. Over watering can cause the roots to be near the surface of the soil instead of going down deep.
- ⇒ Slowly watering with a drip line or trickle of water in a reservoir created around the base of the tree is recommended when the tree or shrub is first planting. As the tree matures you will want to water with a drip line or trickle of water around the area shadowed by the tree crown.
- ⇒ A common mistake is doing frequent shallow watering that doesn't soak deep into the soil. Watering deep and less frequently creates root growth and drought tolerance.
- ⇒ Excessive watering can make a tree dependent on irrigation instead of on normal rainfall amounts.



Minimizing Tree Stress

- ♦ Newly planted trees and shrubs experience a symptom called "transplant shock" when first planted. During this stage the tree is more susceptible to root damage, disease, and drought.
- ♦ Drought stressed trees shouldn't be fertilized. Applying fertilizer can encourage a lot of new growth which uses more water than is available. The salts in fertilizers can harm stressed roots as well.
- ♦ Mow grass and weeds around the trees as this will reduce competition for water.
- ♦ Don't water with saline water as it may make drought conditions worse.
- ♦ Stressed trees are more vulnerable to insect and disease attacks.
- ♦ Keeping plant leaves dry will help prevent leaf diseases.
- ♦ Trees that were already stressed going into a drought year will become even more susceptible to disease and pests.
- ♦ Herbicides that can kill or damage broadleaf weeds can also kill or damage broadleaf trees if applied improperly.
- ♦ Never use weed-and-feed products as they can harm roots.





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

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USDA NRCS
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

2026 Program Sign-up



Sign-up Deadline Friday, September 19th, 2025

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.

Site Prep Services



The district offers a paid tree site preparation for those interested. This service helps simplify the tree planting process while also ensuring your tree site is prepared properly. Proper site prep is vital for a successful tree planting because it helps prevent weeds, shallow planted trees, and fabric failure. Not to mention, our site prep service saves you time and work! Get on the list to get your site prep done this fall!