



# Williams County Soil Conservation District

## February 2026

The Soil Conservation District, alongside NDSU Extension, held a fantastic workshop on January 21st. We want to thank Kelly and DeAnna Lozensky for making the trip from Ward County on the chilly, windy day. They kicked off the day talking about the regenerative processes they use on their farm. Lozensky's operate their farm based on the Soil Health Principles; minimizing disturbance, maximizing living roots, maximizing soil cover and maximizing biodiversity. They do not use fungicides, fertilizers, or insecticides in their operation, which helps promote a rich biodiversity. Lozensky's use their own wheat to mill grain products and sell them through their company, Guardian Grains. Their nutrient dense products result in a healthier gut microbiome. Follow them at Guardian Grains on Facebook for more information.

We later had Katrina Johnson from the Eastern Montana Regenerative Agriculture Association discuss different types of regenerative grazing. Conducting grazing trials on her ranch, they were able to show that regenerative grazing enhanced livestock production and grassland health. Her work emphasizes the role of managed grazing in building soil structure, increasing forage quality, and improving ecosystem function.

Trisha Feiring, Field Representative, for the ND Grazing Lands Coalition provided information on the valuable network provided through this organization. The Coalition's mission is to improve grazing lands through education and technical assistance. They work to promote regenerative, profitable grazing management and raise conservation awareness among producers, citizens, and policymakers.

To end the day, Monica McConkey from Eyes on the Horizon Consulting, discussed the stressors that go along with ranching and farming. Monica provided practical strategies for coping with everything farm related; day to day operations, financial strain, and personal matters. She gave a much needed reminder that mental health is just as important as soil health!



**REGENERATIVE AG WORKSHOP  
AND AG IMPROVEMENT  
ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING**

Williams County Soil Conservation District and NDSU Extension Williams County

**Topics/Speakers**  
Regenerative Ag: Kelly & DeAnna Lozensky – Regenerative Farming Practices  
ND Grazing Lands Coalition – Trisha Feiring  
Regenerative Grazing to Enhance Livestock Production- Katrina Johnson, Eastern Montana Regenerative Agriculture Association.  
ND Crop Improvement and Seed Association – new varieties and seed allocation updates  
Farm and Ranch Stress Management – Monica McConkey, Eyes on the Horizon Consulting, LLC.

**Wednesday  
January 21, 2026**  
9:00 am – 3:00 pm  
NDSU Williston Research Extension Center – Ernie French Center

**RSVP no later than January 18**  
[www.ag.ndsu.edu/extension/williamscountyextension](http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/extension/williamscountyextension)

Cooperative extension work is a U.S. Department of Agriculture program of research, education, and distribution in its programs and activities on the basis of equal opportunity. NDSU Extension does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, or any other protected class.



## Welcome Josh!

Josh Pitman ended 2025 by joining us at the Williams County Soil Conservation District as the new Watershed Coordinator. Josh graduated high school from Grenora Public School and then attended Williston State College, earning a degree in Business Management. Josh has stayed true to his roots in agriculture, working on different ranches around the Grenora area. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting, fishing, antiquing, and woodworking. He looks forward to meeting and connecting with farmers and ranchers and helping them with their conservation needs.

# Little Muddy

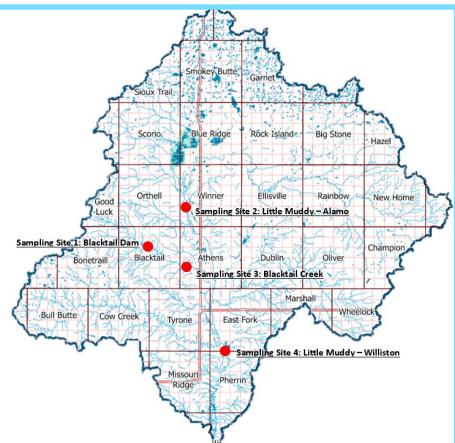
## Watershed Program Update

Water sampling efforts have concluded for 2025, and we are continuing to gather data each year on the watershed. For the Little Muddy program, we sampled Blacktail Dam and four stream sites, adding in an additional sampling site at the Blacktail Dam outlet this year. We have also been continuing to assist the Williston Parks and Recreation District on Epping-Springbrook Dam. Blacktail Dam was tested for metals, nutrients, conductivity, suspended solids, and chlorophyll; the streams were tested for nutrients, suspended solids, and E. coli. All water quality data is publicly available through the ND DEQ Surface Water Quality Data Portal. We use these results to assess the state of the watershed and guide our priorities for the program. By cooperating with local farmers and ranchers to put conservation on the ground, we can improve our watershed's health and make it a better place for people, livestock, and wildlife.

If you fall into the area on the map provided, you may be eligible for our conservation cost share program. There is no deadline to apply, and most practices are eligible for a 70% cost share rate. This includes everything listed in

the blue box. Please note that all applications have to be approved by the Soil Conservation District Board at one of their monthly meetings before any work can be started or contracts can be awarded.

If you are interested, please call the office at 701-572-6729 ext. 3 or email [joshua.pitman@nd.nacdnet.net](mailto:joshua.pitman@nd.nacdnet.net)

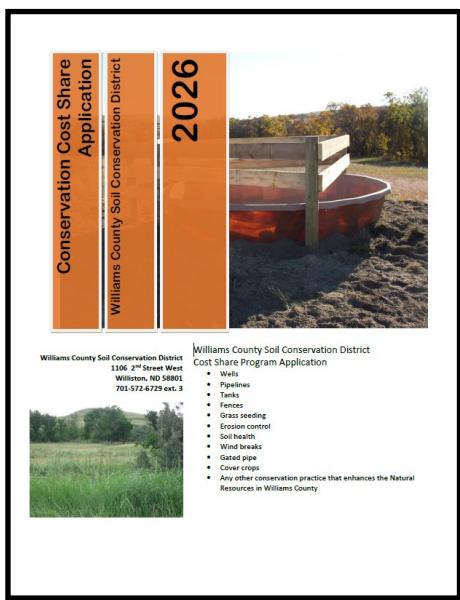


## Conservation Practices

- Grass seedings
- Cover crops
- Incentives for rotational grazing
- Tree plantings
- Grassed waterways
- Filter/buffer strips and field borders
- Fencing
- Riparian easements on cropland/rangeland
- Water Pipelines
- Salinity and sodic soil management
- Water tank (including frost free)
- Wells for livestock
- Wetland restoration/construction
- Solar pumps
- Soil tests
- Advanced precision nutrient management (640-acre cap)
- Stream channel stabilization

## Cost Share Opportunity

The Williams County SCD offers a cost share program that is available throughout the year for small scale conservation projects. Practices that benefit natural resources in Williams County may be eligible, excluding machine tree plantings and hand plants. Assistance is capped at \$5,000 per project, with a limit of \$10,000 per applicant within a 5-year period. Proposed practices must be completed to NRCS specifications within one year of approval to receive payment. There is no deadline to apply, but funding is limited. Applications can be obtained at our office or our Website ([wmscoscd.com](http://wmscoscd.com)). For any technical assistance please contact our office.





# Williams County Soil Conservation Achievement Award Nomination

The Williams Co SCD Board is currently accepting nominations for the Annual Achievement Awards Program and Tree Maintenance Award. The Achievement Award is the highest honor the SCD can bestow upon any operation. Achievement winners will be honored both at the State Convention in Bismarck and within the Williams Co SCD publications. The winning operation will also receive an aerial photo of their farm or operation. The SCD board looks to select producers who excel in promoting conservation efforts in all areas of their operation. Many producers in Williams County are very progressive in promoting conservation and conserving natural resources on their farms and ranches.

The SCD would like to give you the opportunity to share your input when selecting our winner! If you know of a producer that you feel is managing or promoting our natural resources in a conservation based manner, please take this opportunity to assist us.

Nominations for the awards can be made by completing the form below and returning no later than **March 13, 2026**. Nominations can be dropped off any time during business hours, mailed to the Williams Co SCD at 1106 West 2nd Street Williston, ND 58801, or emailed to [molly.carlson@nd.nacdnet.net](mailto:molly.carlson@nd.nacdnet.net).

If you have any questions please feel free to contact us at 701-572-6729 ext. 3

**Nominee Name / Farm Ranch Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Awards (please select at least one)**

**Achievement Award**  **Tree Maintenance Award**

**Reasons for Nomination:**

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**Nominator Information**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Reside in Williams Co:**  yes  no

**Contact Information:** \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*If the nominator wishes to remain anonymous that is fine as well\*\*

# Williams County SCD 2025 Annual Report

## January:

Election of Board of Supervisors  
District Cost Share  
3rd grade kids programs begin

## February:

1st Quarter newsletter sent out  
3rd grade kids program continued  
Hard Red Spring Wheat Show  
Soil Health practice/improvement workshop

## March:

Staff attended District Annual Meeting  
Finish up with 3rd grade programs  
First round of Outdoor Heritage Applications submitted

## April:

Began looking at tree sites  
Custom Seeding Program  
2nd Quarter newsletter mailed out  
Home and Garden Show—Booth  
Picked up trees from Nurseries

## May:

Staff began tree plantings  
Cover crop trials seeded  
3rd year of handplant service started  
Surplus tree sale  
Began water sampling

## June:

Fabric application started for the crew  
Handplant service continued  
Fabric application finished up

## July:

Cohosted Farm to Table event with Williston Area Chamber of Commerce  
Tree plans started for 2026  
3rd Quarter newsletter sent out

## August:

2nd round Outdoor Heritage Applications submitted

## September:

Tree plans and site visits continue for 2026  
Hosted Eco-Ed for all county 6th graders  
Deposit letters sent out for tree plantings

## October:

Fall Site Preps  
Tree deposit letters sent out  
Hosted local District Banquet  
Hosted 8th Annual Ladies Ag Night  
Installed shallow poly pipe for livestock  
Finished up water sampling for the year

## November:

Said goodbye to Watershed Coordinator - Collin  
Machine Tree Planting/Handplant deadline  
Assist with Special Assignment Pizza - 4th grade  
Casoron application for trees  
Custom seeded dormant grass sites

## December:

4th quarter newsletter mailed out  
Staff and board members attended State Convention  
Welcomed Josh Pitman as Watershed Coordinator



# GRAZING, CROPS, AND PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE



Wednesday, March 4th &  
Thursday, March 5th



9:00 AM - 4:00 p.m. per day



NDSU Research Extension -  
Ernie French Center  
14120 HWY 2 Williston, ND 58801



\$30 Registration



Lunch provided both days

**Please RSVP by February 25<sup>th</sup>**

For more information and to confirm  
your registration

Contact:

Williams County SCD  
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.

## March 4th Presenters:



Mason Lautenschlager ranches in Berthold with his wife, Hannah, and three young children. They manage 2,400 acres of native and tame perennial pastures with a blend of a cow herd and yearlings. Mason has implemented numerous holistic management practices, including summer calving, rotational grazing with long rest periods, electric fencing, energy-free water infrastructure, bale grazing, and swath grazing.

### MASON LAUTENSCHLAGER



### BRANDON BOCK

Bock Farms believes in one simple approach; by improving the soil, the soil will take care of our faith, our environment, our community, and ourselves. They accomplish this through regenerative farming. Their farm is on a journey to heal the land that has been degraded over roughly 120 years by tillage, high synthetic fertilizer, chemical use, and lack of diversity. Healthy soil means grain with nutrient density and diversity that is free from chemical residue.



### GAGE IVERSON

Gage Iverson is a 5th generation rancher on the Dovetail Creek Ranch north of Winnett MT. In summer 2019, a fire burned 50% of their summer pasture. In 2020 the ranch went through a grasshopper induced drought, followed immediately the next year by an actual drought. These events ultimately led Gage to begin practicing regenerative agriculture to increase the available grazing days. Four years later, Gage has doubled the stocking rate of these pastures and has begun questioning industry paradigms of what is really required to run cattle in Central Montana.

## March 5th Presenter:



### REG SHANDRO

Reg Shandro defies classification, with a unique combination of technical and soft skills in agriculture, finance, and family conflict and mediation. He has developed a proprietary process that is practical and effective, building family harmony and farm prosperity. Assisting farmers with succession planning and managing conflict is his calling.

**Join us for a full day of  
succession planning!**

# North Dakota Conservation District

## Employees Association

### Conservation Studies

#### Scholarship

The North Dakota Conservation District Employees association (NDCDEA) established a scholarship for high school and college students interested in pursuing conservation education. The scholarship is open to high school seniors and college students who are residents of North Dakota and intend to or are currently pursuing an undergraduate degree in agricultural/natural resource management/environmental or related field at a two or four-year university in the state of North Dakota. Four scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$1000.00 each.

Interested applicants are required to complete the application form and compose an essay of no more than 500 words on the topic chosen by the NDCDEA. Applicants will need to maintain at least a 2.5 GPA and be a full-time student. Scholarship will be paid after the President of the Association receives the previous semester's transcript. The \$1000.00 will be sent to the school of attendance unless the recipient is a graduating college senior, in which case the scholarship monies will be paid directly to the recipient. If the scholarship winner does not maintain the 2.5 GPA, the second-place qualifier will be awarded the \$1000.00. Applications and essays must be mailed by **February 20th, 2026**. Essays will be judged by the NDCDEA board of directors. The scholarship winner will be notified following the selection.

#### 2026 Conservation Studies

##### Scholarship Topic:

“Why are native grasslands critical to North Dakota’s ecological health, and what management practices help maintain or restore them?

**\*\*For application sheet see our Facebook page and Website.\*\***

# ConVERSATION on CONSERVATION at the 9th Annual Ladies Ag *Presents:* Amanda Radke

Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup>,  
2026

5:30 pm Social Hour  
6:30 pm Dinner



Welcome to women  
of all ages!

\$30 Registration Fee

Amanda Radke is a force in American agriculture who celebrates rural America. She is a rancher, children's book author, speaker, consultant, agricultural advocate, and a fierce defender of faith, family, freedom, property rights, and the farming and ranching community. She has spent years walking boldly into rooms most of us would avoid – bringing truth, common sense, and rural grit right into the heart of Washington, D.C., classrooms, boardrooms, and living rooms across the country. Amanda reminds us, that no matter our paths in life, our stories matter and our voices need to be heard to effect positive change for our rural communities to be a place for our kids and grandkids to grow, build, and thrive. A mother of four, Amanda has a heart for children, and her passion is teaching kids about agriculture through her children's books. Through humorous, real, raw, and relatable stories, Amanda will encourage, challenge, and inspire attendees to stand confidently with passion and purpose to protect, preserve, and propel what makes the heart of rural America a special place to be. For her published collections, you can visit [www.amandaradke.com](http://www.amandaradke.com) for more information.

Location:  
Williams County  
Tree Shed  
14120 Highway 2  
Williston, ND

Contact Molly or Amie at  
701-572-6729 ext. 3 to  
register by July 7th!



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**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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

#### District Staff:

District Manager: Molly Carlson

Equipment Manager: David Telck

District Clerk: Ramona McLean

District Technician: Amie Taylor

Soil Health & Cropping System

Specialist: Keith Brown

Watershed Coordinator: Josh Pitman

#### NRCS Staff:

District Conservationist:

Malinda Ferguson

Management Program Analyst:

Cindy Simpson



#### **2026 Board Members:**

Left to right: Ryan Davidson, Evan Whiteford, Chairman -  
Blake Wheeler, Vice-Chairman TJ Halverson, and  
Brandon Hoffman.