



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.

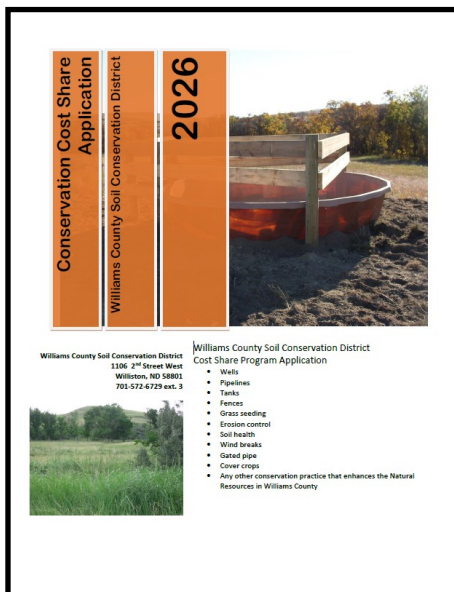
If you are interested, please call the office at 701-572-6729 ext. 3 or email joshua.pitman@nd.nacdn.net

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 (wmcoscd.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.

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:

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 25th

For more information and to confirm
your registration

Contact:

Williams County SCD
701-572-6729 ext.3



March 4th Presenters:



MASON LAUTENSCHLAGER

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.



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!**

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.

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 n ConServation at the
9th Annual Ladies Ag
Presents: **Amanda Radke**



Tuesday, July 14th,
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 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

NON PROFIT
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #94
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.

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