



Williams County Soil Conservation District

April – 2026

Tree Plantings

Our staff will be out checking sites soon! Your site **MUST** be ready! In order for us to plant your trees, the ground needs to be prepped prior to staff coming out to plant. If the site is not properly prepared the District maintains the right to not plant trees. The trees are planted in the area that you and the staff have chosen and fabric installation will occur after **ALL** trees in the county have been planted. Keep in mind the weeds may grow from the time they are planted, to the time we get back to lay the fabric. You are responsible to keep the weeds maintained during this time to ensure the fabric installation can be completed.

The District maintains the right to refuse service due to adverse site conditions. If you are unable to get your site prepped properly, the Soil Conservation District does offer site prep as a service. Call ASAP if you would like to get on our site prep list. Proper site preparation helps ensure a successful tree planting and correct fabric installation.

Tree planting generally starts the first week of May, so **be sure to have your site ready to go by May 1st!** If there is grass or alfalfa in the area where the trees are to be planted, it would be beneficial to spray and kill any vegetation before we plant. Ensure chemical is approved for new tree plantings. If the ground is in existing cropland stubble; cultivate, harrow, or mow if stubble is high. Proper site prep is **YOUR** responsibility! **An 811 dig ticket is required for all sites that the District is performing site prep for, as well as contract tree plantings: EQIP, OHF, and CSP. If the landowner does not provide a district staff member with a ticket number, your site will not be planted!**

Trees are planted as the weather permits. Not everyone can be first or last! Proper approval from neighbors if applicable is the responsibility of the landowner. Having your site properly prepped helps to ensure a successful tree planting and correct fabric installation. Landowners will be contacted the day before planting. **As a reminder, fabric installation does not occur on the same day.** The turn around time is 2 - 4 weeks in some cases, so please be patient. If you have any questions please contact the tree shed office 701-774-2319. Thank you!

Handplant Tree Reminder & Update

You will be notified by a District employee when your trees are bagged and ready to be picked up. Please be patient and happy planting!

Tree Pick-Up Address:

14120 Hwy 2 West Williston, ND

on the NDSU Research Station Property (follow the signs to our building)

Grazing, Crops, and Planning for the Future

GRAZING, CROPS, AND PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Wednesday, March 4th & Thursday, March 5th
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM per day
NDSU Research Extension
Ernie French Center
1420 West 2nd Avenue, ND 58001
\$30 Registration
Lunch provided both days

Please RSVP by February 25th
For more information and to confirm your registration:
Contact:
Williams County SCD
701-522-4222 ext.3

March 4th Presenters:

MASON LAUTENSCHLAGER
Mason Lautenschlager is a 3rd generation farmer and rancher. He has been experimenting with longer rest periods for his rotational grazing, summer calving, electric fencing and bale grazing. He has been experimenting with longer rest periods for his rotational grazing, summer calving, electric fencing and bale grazing.

BRANDON BOCK
Brandon Bock is a 3rd generation farmer and rancher. He has been experimenting with longer rest periods for his rotational grazing, summer calving, electric fencing and bale grazing. He has been experimenting with longer rest periods for his rotational grazing, summer calving, electric fencing and bale grazing.

GAGE IVERSON
Gage Iverson is a 3rd generation farmer and rancher. He has been experimenting with longer rest periods for his rotational grazing, summer calving, electric fencing and bale grazing. He has been experimenting with longer rest periods for his rotational grazing, summer calving, electric fencing and bale grazing.

March 5th Presenter:

REG SHANDRO
Reg Shandro is a 3rd generation farmer and rancher. He has been experimenting with longer rest periods for his rotational grazing, summer calving, electric fencing and bale grazing. He has been experimenting with longer rest periods for his rotational grazing, summer calving, electric fencing and bale grazing.

In the first week of March, we hosted a two-day workshop filled with great speakers! Thank you to all the participants that traveled in some rough weather to make the days as successful as they were. A huge thank you to our speakers for keeping us all entertained, as well as providing a great educational opportunity and sharing their real life experiences!

To kick off the first day, Mason Lautenschlager, a mentor from the North Dakota Grazing Coalition, shared about his operation located near Berthold, ND. He discussed the holistic management practices he implements on his ranch. He has been experimenting with longer rest

periods for his rotational grazing, summer calving, electric fencing and bale grazing. A huge topic of discussion was his energy-free water infrastructure that is currently being utilized by his herd.

Brandon Bock was the next speaker who discussed his regenerative practices on his farm. He has been steering away from traditional insecticide and fungicide treatments and has eliminated most pesticides on his operation. He only spot sprays



certain areas that need more help controlling weeds. Bock farms main focus is on improving soil health. Healthy soil in turn will produce a better crop with higher nutritional value. More input such as fertilizer will hurt the soil along with the pocketbook. Smaller acres with less input have had a better return on investment versus large acres with more input. By eliminating most chemicals out of the operation they have begun to heal the soil. Increased biological life has been seen both above and below ground. When soil health is out of balance it can harm the whole ecosystem. Brandon has seen the value in keeping seed from previous years and planting them again on his farm.

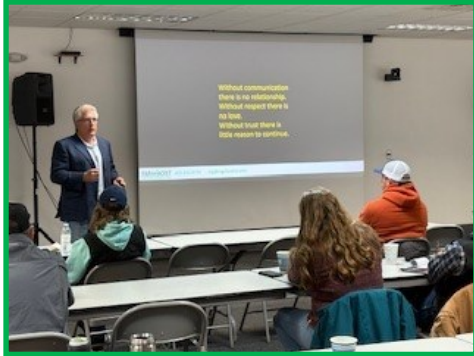
The last speaker on the first day was Gage Iverson. Gage operates Dove Tail Creek Ranch just North of Winnett, MT. The operation covers an extensive amount of land with rougher terrain and limited water sources. Water wells are often deeper than 800 feet, so Gage utilizes pipelines to provide water to numerous pastures. He runs a few different herds and discussed his rotational grazing system as well as his ideal cow body structure. He is on the list to get e-collars this year to install on one of his herds; this will help with his rotational grazing practices and being able to move the herd easier in the future. His herds are stretched out over a staggering 6 hours of drive time! He is excited to add in additional water sources and implement the virtual collars to further improve the rangeland health on his operation.



We dedicated the whole second day of the workshop to succession planning with guest speaker Reg Shandro. Reg brought his real world personal experiences to help relate to the challenges that every farming and ranching family face. Often, the succession of the operation is not discussed until there is a death in the family. Not having an open channel of communication before a parents death, causes a lot of turmoil for the children. He expressed this is a hard topic to talk about and that fair is never equal when dealing with a farming/ranching legacy.

In the afternoon, each participant was able to go through a 20 question assessment where they were able to rank their own succession assessment and action plan. This provided an insight into areas that may need to be worked on urgently and which ones are in good standings.

He stressed that managing a farm business has been constantly changing over the years and is becoming more overwhelming, but creating a plan for the future is a MUST!



District Staff:

- District Manager: Molly Carlson
- Equipment Manager: David Telck
- District Technician: Amie Taylor
- Watershed Coordinator: Josh Pitman
- District Clerk: Ramona McLean

NRCS Staff:

- District Conservationist: Malinda Ferguson
- Manage. Program Analyst: Cindy Simpson

Board of Supervisors

- Blake Wheeler
- TJ Halverson
- Evan Whiteford
- Brandon Hoffman
- Ryan Davidson

District Services & Price List:

Machine Planting: (Includes Trees - Min. 1500ft)	\$0.45 per foot
Machine Planting with Weed Barrier (Includes Trees — Min.1500ft)	\$1.25 per foot
Handplant Replacement Service (Includes Trees)	\$4.00 - \$5.00 Per Handplant
Fabric: 6' x 300' Roll	\$135.00
Fabric: 6' x 500' Roll	\$200.00
Staples Individual	\$0.20 Each
Staples Box (500)	\$100.00
Casoron Application: (Fall)	\$0.20 per foot
Plantskydd 1lb. Box	\$30.63
Plantskydd 1.3 gal refill jug	\$65.61
Plantskydd 1 qt. Pre-mixed	\$20.10
Plantskydd 1lb granular	\$11.32
Plantskydd 2 lb. Granular shaker	\$17.48
Plantskydd 3.5 lb. granular shaker	\$28.86
Plantskydd 20 lb. granular bag	\$87.55
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
5 ft Truax FLX88 Drill	\$100.00/Rental - \$10.00/acre after 3 acres
10 ft Truax Drill: (Min. 10 Acres)	\$100.00/Rental -\$12.50/acre after 5 acres
15 ft John Deere Drill	\$100.00/Rental -\$15.00/acre after 5 acres
Custom Seeding: 30 ft Drill (Min. 40 Acres)	\$21.00/Acre
Post Pounder	\$200/Day
Tree Site Prep Service (Min. 2 hrs.)	\$75/hr.

Celebrating 38 years of Laurie



When people think of the Williams County Soil Conservation District (SCD) tree program, the name that often comes to mind is Laurie Brunelle. Laurie has been a crucial figure in the history of Williams County SCD, serving



ing as the longest standing seasonal employee for an astonishing 38 years. Her journey with the Soil Conservation District began back in 1988 as a tree planter and has continued to present day. She has planted an incredible 6,016,890 linear feet of trees and has helped install 2,103,764 linear feet of fabric. Laurie was a pioneering member on the first crew for Williams County SCD to lay fabric as part of a groundbreaking trial back in 1991. That year she helped install 5,000 linear feet of fabric



for four producers. Over the years, she has remained the dependable fabric cutter, executing this role until she decided to step back in 2023. She stated she was getting too old for this part of the job. After 34 years of dedicated service in laying fabric, her impressive legacy is nothing short of remarkable. Over the years, she has braved every kind of weather imaginable, rain, hail, and even the occasional snow flurry. There have been moments when she's gotten soaked with dirty tree water from the barrels



thanks to the planter inevitably hitting a hidden rock. Remarkably, only a few trees have been launched at the tractor driver or other tree planter as a result. She is one of the hardest working individuals in our organization and takes great pride in all aspects of work that she does. Laurie has been a steadfast source of wisdom and mentorship for every tree crew she has trained, including our present-day crew. Laurie has continued to provide her invaluable exper-



tise and guidance, helping the operation to run more smoothly.

With over 38 years of planting trees, Laurie has become a cornerstone of the conservation tree business. No fear though, she will be back planting trees again this Spring! If you see Laurie, please congratulate her on her unwavering dedication to conservation!



Tree Site Prep Service

The District offers tree site preparation for those who lack the equipment and/or time. Site preparation (plowing/tilling) is essential for proper soil-to-root contact, providing for better fabric installation, and helping to ensure a successful planting. This is especially important for sites in native sod or in a grass lawn with fabric being installed. This service allows the area planted to trees to be worked in strips instead of cultivating the entire area. This will reduce the amount of weeds. Planting season is coming soon, so give us a call at the tree shed for more details and to get on the list before time runs out!



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!

First 20 people to
register and pay will
receive a children's
book written by
Amanda!

Happy Retirement



After seven years, Keith Brown, our Soil Health Specialist, has decided to hang up his shovel and retire from the District. Throughout his career, Keith has been a pivotal figure in the conservation community, and has brought large amounts of passion to his job and helping people help the land. His work in soil health and cover crop trials has supported multiple producers in Williams County. Keith's dedication to regenerative agriculture has continued to help foster relationships, not only with the producers in and around the county, but with our partnerships in conservation across North Dakota.

If you see Keith around, make sure to extend appreciation for Keith's service to the District over these last seven years, and wish him all the best in this new and well-earned chapter of his life!

Deer & Rabbit Problems

If you are having problems with deer, elk, moose, rabbits, or mice in your tree rows and/or garden consider using Plantskydd. Plantskydd is a pest repellent that works by emitting an odor, associated with predator activity stimulating a fear based response that helps to repel animals. This product is available in the office in a 1 lb. box, 1 qt. pre mixed spray bottle, 2 lb. granular shaker, 3.5 lb. granular shaker, or a 20 lb. granular bag. Plantskydd should be effective for approximately 6 months during winter and 3-4 months during the active growing season. This product is also listed for organic production.



Please give use a call or check out website if you would be interested in a different form or size of Plantskydd. We are able to provide a variety of different sizes in granular, powder, or liquid form.



Custom Seeding

\$21.00 an acre



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

Spring is quickly approaching and many producers are itching to get back in the field. Whether you lack the time, equipment, or man power contact the district for your conservation seeding needs. Contact our office if you are looking for a seeding recommendation that will fit your operation needs. We are able to take care of your cover crop or grass seeding needs with our 30ft no till drill. Requirements include: a map of the area you want seeded, the seed, copy of the seed tags, and our signed copy of our custom seeding sheet. Stop in or give David a call at 701-774-2319 before our slots fill up!

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 \$10,000 per project, 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 District
1106 2nd Street West
Williams, ND 58853
701-572-2319 ext. 3

Williams County Soil Conservation District
Cost Share Program Application

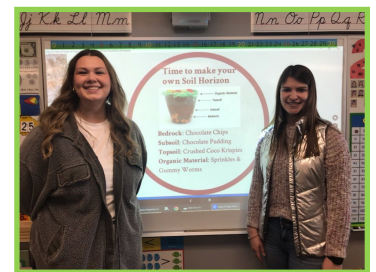
Practices that may be eligible:

- Wells
- Pipelines
- Tanks
- Fences
- Grass seeding
- Erosion control
- Soil health
- Cover crops
- Any other conservation practice that enhances the Natural Resources in Williams County

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 ethnicity status in any of its activities or operations.

3rd Grade Education — Soil Health

Fast forward and eight years have passed! The Williams County Soil Conservation District has been providing soil health education for 8 years to youth in our county. Our goal is to introduce all elementary children to the importance of conservation and the natural resources around them. In addition, we want to make kids aware of the thriving agricultural community they live in. As always, we were very excited to get back into the schools this year! Our District staff presents to all Williams County 3rd graders about the importance of soil health. They do a 30 minute interactive presentation with the students over the principles of soil health, and introduces them to the basic layers of the soil. To apply what they have learned, once the presentation is finished each student gets to build their own edible soils horizon. A soil health worksheet, word search and pencil are also supplied to the teachers for each student. This year we were able to teach in 11 elementary schools and present to over 500 students!





Williams County Soil Conservation District
1106 W 2nd Street
Williston, ND 58801
Phone: 701-774-2319

NON PROFIT
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #94
WILLISTON, ND 58801

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Tree Maintenance After Planting

If you have trees planting this spring by the Soil Conservation District, ensure all the trees are vertically straightened, soil packed around seedlings, and any exposed roots must be covered with soil.

NOTE: There should not be any soil on the green portion of the evergreens, including the branches. Before fabric is installed, the area must be kept clean between rows and trees to insure proper installation of weed barrier. Trees must be checked regularly to ensure they will be ready for the weed barrier.

Tree Fabric Maintenance

Fabric is a low-maintenance tool in tree plantings, but it is NOT a no-maintenance tool.

Fabric effectively reduces weeds near tree plantings, however if a weed is growing next to the tree, it will need to be removed by hand. Keep fabric from rubbing on the tree trunk. The fabric is supposed to break down after 5-7 years, but in our climate, plantings still have fabric after 30 years. **Trees can be girdled by the fabric after a few years of growth.** The fabric should be checked every year to see if the tree is growing into the fabric. If so, the fabric needs to be cut on each side of trunk. If trees are left to grow into the fabric it could kill the tree or be stunted. It can also make the tree unstable at the base and cause the tree to fall over.

