

## Let's get personal...Have you ever "Soiled Your Undies"?

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On July 24<sup>th</sup> 2020, the LaMoure NRCS and SCD employees decided to run a trial of "Soil Your Undies".

**Procedure: Select a site-** Three sites were selected for this trial based on knowledge of local producer's operations.

**The process:** We buried a pair (2 garments) of Woman's 100% cotton brief underwear, one at 6-8 inches in the soil and the other one at 12 inches (1 foot) down. We labeled the underwear with an A and a B, the A labeled underwear were dropped in the hole at roughly 6 inches and the B labeled underwear were dropped in the hole at about 12 inches. We also placed a flag at those locations and took a GPS point. The "guidelines" say to wait 60 days and then dig up the undies and observe what happened.

### Site 1:

Barnes-Gardena Loam Soil type

**Crop:** 2019- Soybeans, 2020- Preventive Plant (PP) with a cover crop consisting of Brassica, Buckwheat, Crimson Clover, Purple Top Turnip, Radish (graze), Dwarf Essex Rape, Sun Hemp, Oats and Annual Ryegrass).

**Date Seeded:** 6/30/2020

**Resource Concern:** Salinity & Water utilization



### Site 2:

Barnes-Svea Loam Soil Type

**Crop:** Pasture

**Date Seeded:** Seeded in 2018.

**Resource Concern:** Water utilization



**The suspected outcome:** "Healthy soil" contains organic matter, and as a result, it also houses organisms that eat organic matter, such as bacteria, earthworms, fungi, etc. Turns out these guys also like 100% cotton underwear. In just two months (60 days), cotton underwear buried in "healthy soils" will be completely eaten through, leaving behind little except the elastic waistband. (Farm and Dairy- 7-13-2018)

**Our 60 days is up on September 21<sup>st</sup> so look for an update in our next newsletter on how soiled our undies are or check it out on the LaMoure County Soil Conservation District website at <https://www.lamourescd.org/>.**

### Site 3:

Barnes-Svea Loam Soil Type

**Crop:** 2019- Soybeans, 2020- Soybeans

**Date Seeded:** May

**Resource Concern:** Soil Salinity, Compaction & Water utilization



### Here is a little more information about the "Soil Your Undies Challenge":

Farmers and Ranchers across North America have taken to planting "their" underwear. But why? The Soil Your Undies Trial was started in California. The Farmers Guild came up with the idea to show the impact and importance of healthy soils. (Farm and Dairy- 7-13-2018)

Is your soil healthy? Healthy soil is the at the heart of healthy food systems, healthy ecosystems and healthy communities. Do you take soil tests? Soil tests are sometimes conducted to determine soil health. They can determine nutrient content, composition and other soil characteristics, like pH levels or Electric Conductivity levels. Some soil tests specially look for nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, sulfur, iron, zinc, copper, boron, aluminum and lead. They also can identify the amount of organic matter in the soil, which are materials containing carbon. Soil tests can help farmers, ranchers and gardeners by finding out if there is a deficiency or excess of a nutrient(s) in their soil. This gives them the knowledge they need to adjust management practices accordingly. Sometimes soil tests can be a little complicated, so to make things simpler or more visual of healthy or unhealthy soils, farmers, ranchers and gardeners have turned to burying their underwear! (Farm and Dairy- 7-13-2018)