



THE LANDSAVER



LAMOURE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Fall 2025

Volume 35, Number 2



Ladies' Ag Night has continued to be a favorite among many. This year on April 23rd, 2025 at Dakota Summers in Grand Rapids, we hosted our 13th biennial Ladies' Ag Night with over 75 ladies in attendance. This celebration of women in ag provided an evening filled with laughs, great food, and motivational tool-kits from Dr. Kerry Petsinger who taught us how to cope with the stress of farming in an inspirational way. This evening is still provided free to attendees as our way of saying thank you for all you do! In addition to everyone receiving goodie bags, there was the fun of finding the golden tickets for door prizes which centered on a pamper-yourself theme. Thank you to Danielle Dinger, NDSU Extension agent, who helped with the planning and coordination of this event!



Congratulations to

*Geinert
Family
Farms*

2025 Achievement Winner!

Stay tuned for follow-up
article to be released in our
Winter Newsletter.



Spring Tree Season

Spring 2025 tree planting season kicked off on May 5th and finished on June 2nd – rain delays became a weekly event, but the moisture was a tremendous help to tree survivability. We planted 24,520 individual trees and shrubs across 29.1 miles (153,556 linear ft) consisting of 83 different species! Immediately following tree planting season, we began laying weed barrier fabric on June 3rd and wrapped up on June 24th, totaling 22.4 miles (118,531 linear ft) for our fabric season.



Our stellar crew made 2025 field season an efficient force – Susan Muske, Melissa Shockman, Adelaide Loegering, Sydney Conelly, Jeremy Fonkert, and Collin Muske, all put in the time to conquer the miles of trees and fabric put down this year. We of course could not have been nearly as efficient or organized if we did not have Rachel Waddell, with the help of Damon McKoy, to manage all tree orders and inventory for the entire season.

28th Annual

Eco Ed Camp

LaMoure County SCD hosted our annual Eco Ed Camp on September 3rd at the LaMoure County Memorial Park. Sixth grade students from LaMoure County schools of Edgeley, Kulm, LaMoure and Litchville-Marion attended the camp, totaling 52 students! This camp provides hands-on learning about how our natural resources are connected to everyday lives, and the value each resource



holds for our environment and all living things. The camp includes five outdoor classroom sessions of Water Quality, Rangelands, Woodlands, Soils, and Wetlands, as well as a presentation from Jim Gerholdt and his "Remarkable Reptiles". Students were tested on their knowledge learned from the day, with awards given to top scores from each school as well as the school with the highest average score – LaMoure sixth graders took home the trophy this year!



Keep ND Clean hosted their 57th annual artwork contest, and LaMoure County had **THREE** winners! Check out all three winners and their artwork submissions throughout this newsletter!

CONGRATULATIONS
ASTRID!



Astrid Lundgren
1st Place - Third Grade
Kulm Public School – Kulm, ND

What is Soil Health?

By Amanda Brandt - District Conservationist - NRCS

If I asked you what your definition of Soil Health is, it would be different than your neighbor's, significant other's, a child's, or mine. *Per the National NRCS website:* Soil health is defined as the continued capacity of soil to function as a vital living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals, and humans. *Per the ND NRCS website:* Soil quality, also referred to as soil health, is defined as how well soil does what we want it to do. Both websites state that healthy soil gives us clean air and water, bountiful crops and forests, productive grazing lands, diverse wildlife, and beautiful landscapes.



LaMoure County producer planted corn into existing residue. At a minimum, the cover/armor should last until the new crop is fully canopied. When we supply the soil surface with a diversity of residues from one year to the next, we can achieve the benefits of soil armor and still maintain a fully functioning nutrient cycle

Soil health research has determined how to manage the soil in a way that improves soil function. There are five Soil Health Principles. I will go over the five principles in the next few newsletters. These are in no particular order.

1. Maximize Soil Cover-Soil Cover/Armor
2. Maximize Presence of Living Roots-Continual Live Plant/Root
3. Minimize Disturbance-Minimizing Soil Disturbance
4. Maximize Biodiversity-Plant Diversity
5. Integration of Livestock-Add livestock to cropland

All information cited in this article can be found at: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/natural-resource-concerns/soil/soil-health>) or <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/state-offices/north-dakota/soil-health>)

“What is Soil Health?” continued...



Here old and new mulch acts like a protective layer preventing soil erosion, reduces crusting of the soil surface and inhibits weeds in a garden.



Cover crops are grown primarily to protect and improve the soil but can be a great option for livestock producers. This cover crop mix was planted on PP ground by a LaMoure County producer who does not have cattle, but his neighbor does, so it's a win-win for both.

“What is Soil Health?” continued...

Principle #1 - Soil Cover or Soil Armor

Soil cover provides numerous benefits for cropland, rangeland, hayland, gardens, yards, orchards, road ditches, and more. A few of those benefits are:

Controlling Wind & Water Erosion - cover protects soil from wind and/or water as it moves across the soil surface. It holds the soil in place along with valuable soil organic matter and nutrients you spent a lot of money putting down.

Evaporation Rates - cover reduces the soil evaporation rates, keeping more moisture available for plant use. It also reduces salt accumulation in soil layers, improving soil conditions for crops and plants.

Soil Temperatures - cover helps soil maintain a more moderate range of soil temperatures, keeping soil cooler in the hot weather and warmer in fall weather.

Concern: Fields with residue take forever to warm up in the spring.

Reality: Soil temperature in fields with residue/ cover do rise slower in the spring but has been shown to catch up to the bare soil by the end of June.

Compaction - rainfall on bare soils is one cause of soil compaction. When rainfall hits the cover instead of bare soil, much of the raindrop energy is dissipated. Soil crusting occurs when rain hits the unprotected soil surface, breaks down the aggregates, and turns the top layer of soil into a uniform surface seal. The surface crust can be strong enough to inhibit water infiltration, seed emergence, and can lead to increased erosion.

Suppresses Weed Growth - having the soil covered will limit the amount of sunlight for weeds to grow, which means you can spend less on pesticides.

Soil Cover can be maximized by planting cover crops, annual crops, and leaving perennial crop residue on the ground.

THIS FALL THINK ABOUT LEAVING THE SOIL COVERED.

>>> Conservation Program Considerations >>>



CCLIP - Cover Crop & Livestock Integration Project IV

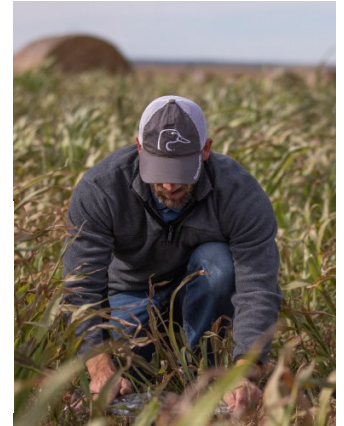
Improve soil health and functionality by restoring organic matter, increasing aggregate development, reducing soil compaction, and increasing water infiltration.

- 75% cost share: water infrastructure & cover crop seed

- 60% cost share: fencing infrastructure & portable windbreak panels

- 15% additional cost share for wildlife friendly fencing and/or water systems for enrolling into PLOTS

- 5 year program with technical assistance from Pulse USA, Millborn Seeds and Ducks Unlimited on designing custom mixes and grazing plans for your operation.



SLATE - Smart Livestock Advancing Terrestrial Ecosystems



Ducks Unlimited Virtual Fence Cost Share for livestock collars, water infrastructure, solar systems and traditional fence.

- 75% cost share: Virtual Fence and Water Developments

- 60% cost share: Traditional Fence

- NDGF - Additional 15% cost share incentive if also enrolling into PLOTS!



Contact

William Palarski, Biologist

701-355-3510 (office)

701-390-7382 (cell)

wpalarski@ducks.org



NORTH Dakota | Game and Fish
Be Legendary.



THE
HUNT
HABITAT

STARTS
WITH



PLOTS



Set up a no-obligation
one-on-one call with
Renae Schultz.
(701) 320-4695

CONSERVATION PAYS

Receive payments for enrolling your land in PLOTS. Gain additional income and increase your bottom line by providing walk-in hunting access.

FLEXIBILITY:

- Choose the PLOTS agreement that best suits your operations needs
- Cost-sharing and rental rates for additional habitat such as grass plantings are available.



>>> Conservation Program Considerations >>>



The North Dakota Conservation Forage Program

CFP will work with North Dakota's producers to restore marginal crop lands back to grasslands to improve forage availability and quality. CFP aims to accelerate grassland restoration and recover overall soil health and grassland bird habitat across the state.

- Transition payments to assist with lost income as grassland establishes
- Financial assistance toward seed & planting costs, grazing infrastructure & grassland establishment
- 10-year agreement with reduced per-acre cost compared to traditional CRP. Projects are encouraged to be grazed or hayed once fully established



The North Dakota Prairie Management Toolbox

Provides technical and financial assistance to producers for improving grassland habitat and forage quality. Enrolled acres will have a 10-year term protection establishment.

- 60% cost share of current EQIP rate for fence
- 60% cost share of actual cost for water development
- 90% cost share on invasive woody species removal on grasslands



For more information on CFP or Prairie Management Toolbox, Contact
Adam Brendemuhl, Range Ecologist
218-790-3095 or adam.brendemuhl@audubon.org



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Grassland and Wetland Easement Programs

Are you interested in receiving compensation for conserving grasslands and/or wetlands on your working lands? Your land may be eligible for a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grassland or wetland easement. These are voluntary and perpetual agreements. Payment rates are at an all-time high!

Grassland Easements: Enrolled areas cannot be farmed or tilled but can be grazed without restriction and hayed July 16th or after in any year.

Wetland Easements: Wetlands on enrolled land cannot be drained, leveled, filled, or burned (without a permit). Wetlands that are naturally dry can be farmed, grazed, or hayed.

To start your no obligation evaluation or if you are interested in learning more about our easement programs, please contact Coleman Nadeau at the Kulm Wetland Management District: 701-647-2866 or KulmWetlands@fws.gov

>>> Conservation Program Considerations >>>



North Dakota Pheasants Forever has seen some exciting developments in the last few months! Covering the Southeast area of the state, Jacob Klath has filled the role of Precision Ag and Conservation Specialist (PACS). Jacob joined the Pheasants Forever's state team in February 2025. Jacob

grew up on a family farm in Eastern North Dakota. His background is rooted in Agronomy, Precision Ag, and Ag production.

Jacob Klath

PRECISION AG & CONSERVATION SPECIALIST

Jacob covers our precision ag and conservation efforts in SE North Dakota, helping landowners to identify ways they can best incorporate conservation-minded practices to benefit both their operation's bottom line and our habitat mission. Jacob helps landowners navigate program options, project designs, and makes general recommendations for BMP's.

email: jklath@pheasantsforever.org

phone: (701)430-2109

Jacob's passion for the landscape extends beyond agriculture and his family farm. Hunting, fishing, and exploring the landscapes that North Dakota offers makes up much of his free

time. He states, "I'm excited to join the organization. I feel that my passion for agriculture and wildlife ties in well with the PACS position. I look forward to the opportunity to meet landowners and farmers throughout the region".

Jacob's PACS territory covers the following counties: Cass, Barnes, Stutsman, Logan, LaMoure, Ransom, Sargent, Dickey, and Richland, but he will still work with producers outside of these counties as needed. Programs offered in these areas include the Precision Ag Business Plan. This program is available for landowners and farmers that are interested in exploring options on marginal and underproducing acres. Consultations and site visits are at no cost to the landowner. The PACS team assists farmers and landowners with analyzing their field data to improve yield averages, reduce input costs, and increase soil and landscape health. They also help landowners navigate the slough of conservation programs for their operation, like CRP, EQIP, and more to find the best fit for their goals.

The North Dakota Pheasants Forever team is small, but they are mighty. Three Precision Ag and Conservation Specialists cover the state. In the Southeast (Jacob Klath) in the Northwest (Hannah Peterson), and in the Southwest (Jared Ross). Senior Field Rep. (Renee Tomala), State Coordinator (Emily Spolyar), Education and Outreach Coordinator (Seth Owens) and our Prescribed Fire Coordinator (Kelli Kuska) round out the rest of the team. All our ND PF staff work together as a team with various partners to provide landscape improvement opportunities, educational events, and assistance with conservation programs.



If landowners and farmers are interested in learning more about PF, have questions about conservation-minded solutions for your farm operation, conservation, or education reach out to the ND Pheasants Forever staff and they would be happy to help.

PATH PROGRAM Pheasants Forever is proud to announce the Public Access to Habitat (PATH) Program has expanded to North Dakota. The PATH program will complement PLOTS by providing an additional incentive to landowners willing to create new habitat on marginal cropland acres. To read more about PATH in North Dakota, check out the article on Pheasants Forever's website by scanning the QR code!

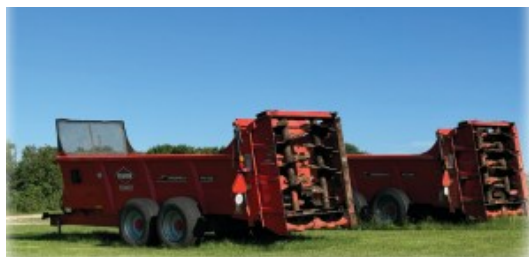
If you are interested in the PATH Program, please contact Emily Spolyar at (517)250-2440 or espolyar@pheasantsforever.org



>>> Conservation Program Considerations >>>

LaMoure SCD Equipment and Services

Call 883-5344 ext. 3 or 701-320-8724



2 Kuhn manure spreaders \$350/day each
Rent one or both to get the job done faster!
Vertical spread, 600 bu. capacity

John Deere 16 ft. no-till drill \$10/ac
Separate seed, fertilizer, and small seed box



Great Plains 16 ft. native grass drill \$10/ac
Seed box agitators and large tubes
accommodate fluffy seed mixes



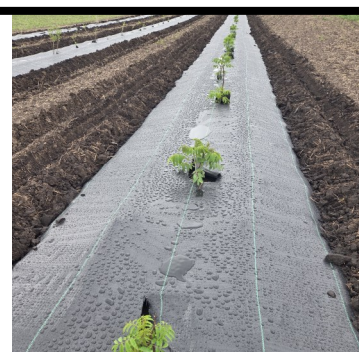
Montana post pounder \$200/day
Easily attaches to skid steer loaders
Strapped on a trailer to easily pull with a pickup



Hire us to plant your tree rows!

\$27.50/ hundred linear foot
(includes trees)

Weed barrier \$55/hundred linear foot
Site must be prepared before freeze up





Keep ND Clean hosted their 57th annual artwork contest, and LaMoure County had **THREE** winners! Check out all three winners and their artwork submissions throughout this newsletter!

CONGRATULATIONS
IRIS!

Keep North Dakota Clean



Iris Lundgren

2nd Place - Pre-K/Kindergarten

Kulm Public School – Kulm, ND



New Face to LaMoure County SCD

To say that I, Melissa Shockman, am beyond excited to fill the role of Outreach Coordinator here at LaMoure County SCD is an understatement – *I am thrilled!*

As a LaMoure County resident for about 8 years now, I am excited to provide my conservation experience and passion to LaMoure County residents as well as our soil, water, and natural resources. A little bit about myself – I was born and raised in southern Minnesota and found my path to North Dakota by way of college, attending NDSU for Wildlife and Natural Resources Management. I have traveled and worked across North Dakota for various conservation entities, emphasizing on wildlife habitat creation, preservation, and management on both private lands and public lands. My greatest joy in conservation is helping find balance on our landscape that works well with landowners and provides benefits to our soil, water, and wildlife. Here at LaMoure SCD, that is exactly what we do – we provide products, services, and technical assistance to help improve LaMoure County resource concerns and also share that same knowledge and awareness through education and outreach opportunities. I look forward to continuing LaMoure SCD's conservation efforts and expanding upon those where I can!



Check out lamourescd.org



Or scan the QR code!

By Julianne T. Racine, B.S.A.S.

Good day, LaMoure County. Fall approacheth. In fact, by the time you read this I believe it will officially be here. Today we will talk about tree dormancy. Dormancy is to temporarily cease or slow down a function for an amount of time. In this case it is a tree's growth and production. Let's learn more about this fascinating function that deciduous trees perform as part of their life and survival.

There is water throughout the tree. Plant cells have two walls. Water is stored within the inner cell wall where the nutrients are. As daylight gets shorter, sensing cold temperatures, the cell draws water from the inner cell and stores it within the two cell walls. The inner cell is also withholding the starches and sugars from foliage and other growth processes. This helps the tree withstand the colder temperatures because water is between the cell walls leaving the interior available to store more sugar which will be needed in spring. Moving right along. We all know water expands as it turns to ice.

The thought is the bark is already stressed due to the cellular expansion. When the bark warms it could be thawing enough to signal cellular activity. When it freezes again the concentration of cells against the bark could result in cracking with the stress and cold. There is a LOT more to it than that and research continues to be done for better understanding this process. For now, this is my brief interpretation of what I understand about the dormancy process. It is important to point out that this is not happening evenly throughout the tree. Just the portion that gets enough heat to trigger a change.

Tree splits/cracks can be caused by a variety of reasons. When the wonderful ND wind causes trees to twist, the tree can crack, especially if the tree is young, not robust enough for this zone and/or have thin skin (bark). Another possibility is trees with opposite branches, such as the ones pictured, have two branches competing to be a leader. Sort of like Siamese twins; two heads, one body. On a tree, within the visible bark is another branch with its own bark. This is where you hear the term 'included bark'. The stress caused by two branches growing inside one skin is a lot of pressure and will result in a split. Sometimes it doesn't create a problem. Sometimes it will. Disclaimer: as of this writing I only have the images pictured here and have not visited so I cannot tell if the leader has been compromised, has included bark, twisted, has a frost crack, or something else. Another reason you see cracks in trees is weather. Physiologically a lot happens in the dormancy process but the take home here is to remember temperature is a huge factor in frost crack.

Why did I talk so much about frost crack? Because that is what we have typically observed around here and the images are similar to what I have learned to be just that. Another possibility is a tree getting struck by lightning. A tree could also be rotted and/or be otherwise compromised internally and as the tree grows it would not have the structure to keep the tree together. Mother nature is complicated nor is she perfect. Enjoy your trees while you can, check their disease resistance, and make sure they are suitable for our weather.

Julianne T. Racine, B.S.A.S.
Extension Agent, Agriculture & Natural Resources
North Dakota State University
Julianne.racine@ndsu.edu
(701) 883-6080



Figure 1—Owner Submitted Photo



Figure 2—Owner Submitted Photo

NDSU

EXTENSION
LaMOURE COUNTY



Events and Training Opportunities



Let's paint the nation
GREEN on
Monday, October 6!



Conscious Discipline

10 Steps to Positive Discipline

Tuesdays, Nov. 4 – Dec. 2, 5:30—7:30pm CT

Church of the Nazarene

520 1st Ave SE, LaMoure

*Meal &
Childcare
Provided*

Class is FREE. Registration required.

Growing Futures approved (7.5hrs)

To register scan QR code or call 701.845.8528 or email amy.j.tichy@ndsu.edu

Scan to register



Lead Local—Training for aspiring, elected and appointed leaders serving on boards, councils and committees

Nov. 6, 2025, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

BankNorth Mall Community Room, LaMoure

100 1st Ave SW, LaMoure

Cost: \$75 Includes lunch, breaks and materials

To register, scan QR code or contact:

Danielle Dinger, NDSU Extension—LaMoure County,
701-883-6080 or danielle.dinger@ndsu.edu



Register by Nov. 3

This training will help participants:

- Feel better prepared to serve as an effective board, council or committee member
- Recognize the components of an effective meeting
- Learn basic parliamentary procedure and how to use it
- Understand different personality styles and how they can work together effectively
- Use effective tools when dealing with conflict

LaMoure County SCD
PO Box 278
LaMoure, ND 58458-0278

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #4
LaMoure, ND 58458

Pre-Sort

Board Members:

Christof Just, Chairman
Aaron Stroh, Supervisor
Boyd Dallmann, Supervisor
Lynn Haro, Supervisor
Ann Moch, Supervisor

District Staff:

Susan Muske, District Manager
Melissa Shockman, Outreach Coordinator

NRCS Staff:

Amanda Brandt, District Conservationist
Rani Lloyd, Business Tools Specialist

Office Location: 211 South Main St., LaMoure

Office Phone: 701-883-5344 Ext. 3

District programs are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.

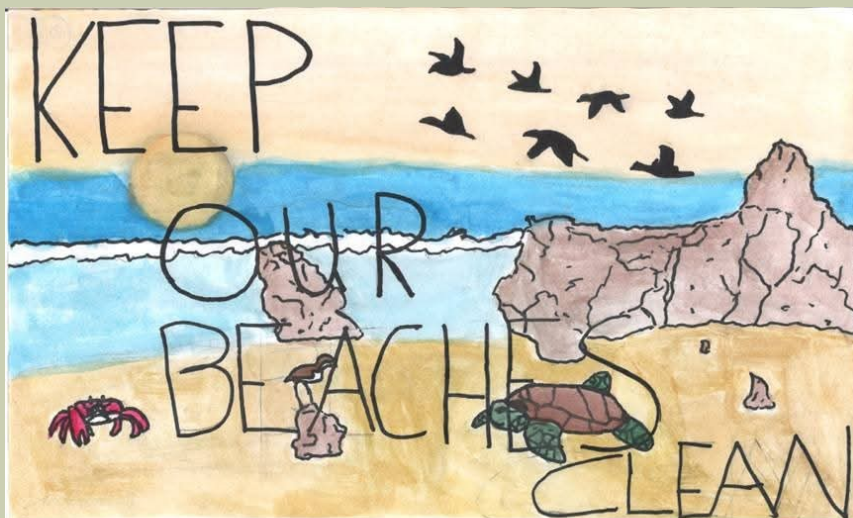
District board meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m., LCSCD office, but are subject to change. Be sure to contact the office for the latest info.

Meetings are open to the public.



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CONGRATULATIONS
ALISE!



Alise Buckeye-Olsen
3rd Place - Seventh Grade
Edgeley Public School – Edgeley, ND