



THE LANDSAVER



LAMOURE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Fall 2026

Volume 36, Number 2

SOIL



WHERE IT ALL BEGINS



Fun at Ladies' Ag

This spring, we hosted **Ladies' Ag Night Lite**, a capped-capacity but content-rich event, where we dug deep into the importance of soil health principles to optimize our success for any soil footprint we work with, from the garden, the picky indoor plant, or the field. Together with Soil Health Specialists from NDSU Extension Soil Health Trailer, Amanda Brandt from NRCS...

Continued...

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Ann Moch (left) and Susan Muske (right) are demonstrating how much soil will blow away at different wind levels with NDSU Extension Soil Health Trailer's wind simulator.

“Fun at Ladies’ Ag” *continued...*

... and our very own Susan Muske and Melissa Shockman of LaMoure SCD, we shared about soil health principles throughout the evening with visual demonstrations and interactive discussions. Highlights from the evening included watching how much soil from an uncovered field can be blown away in 20 mph winds, seeing how rainfall interacts and moves differently between bare soil versus covered soil, and building our own soil layers dessert with ingredients that resemble what we can see in our soil, including worms! Gummy worms that is. Thank you Bottoms Up for the delicious supper and event space and thank you Sheri Shockman of We're Schmokin Now for making the chocolate mousse for the soil-layers dessert bar. We appreciate everyone that RSVP'd and attended this fun evening — we hope you took home some knowledge alongside your complimentary succulent plant!

2026 Tree Season

Tree Planting Numbers

Planting Start: May 4
 Planting End: May 29
 Total Days: 13
 Feet Planted: 129,525 ft
 (24.5 miles)
 # of Tree Plantings: 35

Fabric Installation Numbers

Fabric Start: June 1
 Fabric End: June 16
 Total Days: 9
 Fabric installed: 111,673 ft
 (21.2 miles)

Tree Shed Crew

Rachel Waddell
 Damon McKoy



Tree Numbers

Trees Planted: 15,285
 Trees Sold: 7,000
 Total trees planted & sold:
 22,285
 Total number of different
 species of trees and shrubs:
 82

Tree and Fabric Crew

(left to right)
 Adelaide Loegering
 Sydney Conelly
 Susan Muske
 Darrel Prochniak
 Jeremy Fonkert
 Melissa Shockman



FIELD TRIP TO McCRORY GARDENS

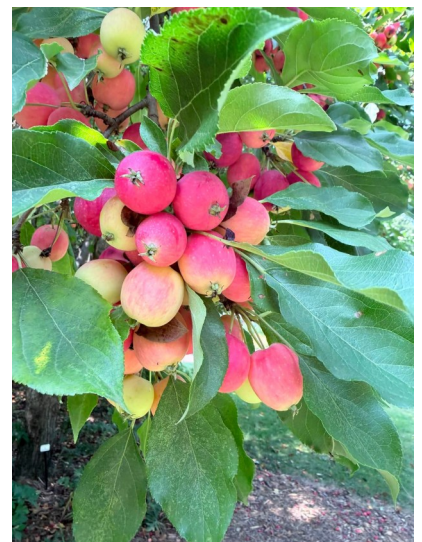
In August, we hosted a Field Trip to McCrory Gardens and the Terry Redlin Art Museum with a group of adventure seeking plant and art enthusiasts, and WOW was that a fun trip!

At the early hour of 6:30 A.M. on August 3rd, we all loaded the Farmer's Union bus in LaMoure and made our first stop at the Terry Redlin Art Museum in Watertown, South Dakota. Of the three stories to the museum, we all explored the talent and evolution of Redlin's original pieces, ranging from his adolescence creations, career drawings, then the artworks we know and recognize, and even his unfinished paintings near his retirement years. Learning the history of Redlin from the auditorium video, and seeing his talent evolve by seeing each piece made throughout the years was an experience we all wished we had more time to absorb than the 75 minutes we had!



After a quick Subway lunch in Brookings, we began our tours at McCrory Gardens and Arboretum with Sydney Paulsen, Education Coordinator for McCrory Gardens, and John Ball, SDSU Professor and Extension Forestry Specialist. Between these two extremely knowledgeable individuals, we all learned an incredible amount about different tree species, varieties of flowers, grasses, herbs, and shrubs, and even had the opportunity to taste a few edible plants like the unique Toothache plant that gives a tingling and numbing sensation when chewed! Only a couple people were curious enough to try the experience.

Although short on photographs from all of the beautiful plants we saw, experienced, and learned about, each attendee walked away with new knowledge and understanding of the diversity of the plants around us, and may even have new plans to incorporate with their own home, yard, or garden.



Thank you McCrory Gardens for your hospitality and learning opportunity for us,

Thank you Farmers Union for providing excellent transportation services,

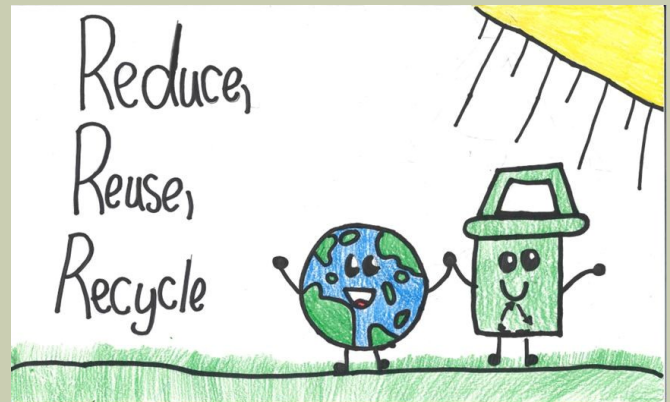
Thank you Terry Redlin Art Museum for welcoming our group with open arms,

And of course, THANK YOU to each of you that joined us on this adventure! We hope you brought home new ideas and inspiration from all that was learned.



Keep ND Clean hosted their 57th annual art-work contest, and LaMoure County had **THREE** winners!

CONGRATULATIONS!



Khloe Peterson
1st Place - Third Grade
LaMoure Public School – LaMoure, ND



Habitat - Homes for Wildlife

Astrid Lundgren
3rd Place - Fourth Grade
Kulm Public School – Kulm, ND



Azalia Hahn
1st Place - Seventh Grade
Edgeley Public School – Edgeley, ND

Soil Health — Principle #3

By Amanda Brandt - District Conservationist - NRCS



Soil health research has determined how to manage the soil in a way that improves soil function. There are five Soil Health Principles (these are in no particular order). In last year's fall newsletter, I started with #1- Maximize Soil Cover/Armor and the winter newsletter explained #2- Minimizing Soil Disturbance.

The next soil health principle I will cover is #3-Maximize Presence of Living Roots.

1. Maximize Soil Cover-Soil Cover/Armor- In fall newsletter
2. Minimize Disturbance-Minimizing Soil Disturbance
3. Maximize the Presence of Living Roots-Continual Live Plant/Root
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>, <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/state-offices/north-dakota/soil-health>, <https://menokenfarm.com/soil-health-principle-4-continual-live-plant/>, <https://www.sdsoilhealthcoalition.org/technical-resources/the-five-principles-of-soil-health/living-roots/>



Cover crop mix after corn cut for silage in LaMoure County.



Cover crop mix seeded on wheat after harvest in LaMoure County.

Principle #3 - Maximize the Presence of Living Roots or Continual Live Plants

Plants are the energy source for a healthy soil. The native prairie, which consisted of cool-season grasses, warm-season grasses and forbs, had living roots in the soil from spring thaw to fall freeze up. This system allowed for continuous plant life to feed the soil food web during the entire growing season. Healthy soil is dependent upon how well the soil food web is fed. Providing plenty of easily accessible food to soil microbes helps them cycle nutrients that plants need to grow. Sugars from living plant roots, recently dead plant roots, crop residues, and soil organic matter all feed many and varied members of the soil food web.

Our cropland systems now typically grow cool season (wheat, barley, oats & canola) or warm season (corn & soybeans) annual cash crops, which have a dormant period before planting and/or after harvest. As far as having a living root in the soil, conventional till and no-till systems are the same because they both have minimal living roots from monoculture cash crops. Continuous grazing or hayland isn't much better as far as living roots because the roots are short from being grazed or hayed.

Diversifying cropping systems and planting cover crops can help maximize the presence of living roots in our soil. Cover crops can fill in the dormant period and provide the missing live root during non-cash crop growing periods. They can be incorporated as annuals, biennials or perennials.

Some opportunities for maximizing living roots are:

- Seeding cover crops after small grain harvest or silage corn.
 - This is considered an annual and usually consists of cool season grass and broadleaf and provides soil cover over the fall, winter and early spring months.
- Plant cereal rye after harvest, preceding a soybean crop.
 - Cereal rye is considered a biennial and is winter hardy and will also grow in the spring to use up excess moisture.
- Seeding perennial grass and/or alfalfa on non-productive or saline areas.
 - Perennials provide living roots much longer than annuals or biennials.

If you are interested in trying cover crops on your cropland or want to visit about what cover crop mix may be best for your operation give me a call at 701-877-5170, ext. 3 or email me at aman-da.brandt2@usda.gov.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/ parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

LaMoure SCD Equipment and Services

Call 701-877-5170 ext. 3 or 701-320-8724



Kuhn manure spreader \$350/day, Vertical spread, 600 bu.;
Artsway manure spreader \$400/day, 700 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



Tree row tiller \$100/day
Strapped onto a trailer for easy towing with a pickup



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!

\$50.00/hundred linear foot
(includes trees)

Weed barrier \$60.00/hundred linear foot



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

Good day, LaMoure County. Fall will officially be here when you read this. Just a couple of things. I have received a lot of concerns and/or questions regarding the state of apples/trees. Some issues being seen are cedar apple rust, apple maggot, and the codling moth. As with any management decision, please contact me for more resources that can support you. But a 'please read this part first'...

The big news this year is Pine Wilt. This is bad, folks. This disease can kill a tree in one growing season. Yes, the number one. It was discovered in mid-August and is close; as in Forman, ND close. I want everyone to watch for it. If you have Scotch Pine, Austrian Pine, and Mugo Pine. Again, it will kill them, fast. It is spread by a (microscopic) nematode (unsegmented roundworm). There is no fix known because it is able to spread by riding on the native Sawyer Beetle and there is no product that will take care of that pest (as far as I know). The reason this reacts so quickly is because the nematodes reproduce multiple generations per season and each generation is in the tens of thousands. The nematodes end up collapsing the pores that transport the trees water supply.

The effected pine trees should be removed and destroyed to prevent the spread. Shelter belts and other plantings of the non-native pines I listed will suffer. Alternatives are: Ponderosa Pine, and Swiss Stone Pine. There may be others. Here is the NDSU news release on the disease confirmation: <https://www.ndsu.edu/ndfs/news/2026-08-13-pine-wilt-disease-confirmed-north-dakota> Please be sure to contact me for more information on this forestry issue that will spread faster than you can say Emerald Ash Borer. Back to this year's apple tree concerns and how you can tell what is impacting yours.



Photo of pine wilt as referenced from NDSU article link provided.

Cedar Apple Rust: If your tree's leaves show spots on the upper side that start as yellow orange and develop a powdery rust spot, this may be cedar apple rust. Some years are worse than others. Ironically, the drought should have kept it at bay but the trees received enough, or excess moisture, during the spring; before our drought. Cedar Apple Rust may cause leaves to drop earlier and develop fruit that is misshaped. University of Minnesota Extension states "Fungicides are not recommended to protect trees from infection with cedar apple rust and related rust fungi. Trees and shrubs often tolerate infection." and "There are no fungicides available to home gardeners that can be used on trees that produce fruit that will be eaten by people."

Apple Maggot: you will see spots on the apple that will dimple as the fruit ripens. You can confirm this by cutting open a suspect apple and looking for lines throughout the fruit which is evidence of its path. If that is what you see, there is a good chance the apples have/had the apple maggot. Products are available to manage an infestation. They get applied in the spring. If 'maggot' doesn't turn you off, the next one will.

Codling Moth: you will see holes in the apples. It is literally the worm in the apple. Again, cut the apple open, the larvae (worm) may still be in there, maybe not. This issue will cause the fruit to drop before its ripe. You will also see it affect your yield. Traps get hung to see if they are present. Then decide if you will use the appropriate insecticide. Timing is everything.

I hope this finds everyone had a safe, healthy, and happy summer. Enjoy fall, everyone.

*Julianne T. Racine, B.S.A.S.
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North Dakota State University
Julianne.racine@ndsu.edu
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Left to Right: Ross, Kristi, Emily, and Justin Fredenburg.

Welcome,
**JUSTIN
FREDENBURG,**
to LaMoure County SCD
Board of Supervisors!

Justin Fredenburg is a fourth-generation farmer from Edgeley, North Dakota, with a degree from North Dakota State College of Science of Wahpeton for Diesel Technology. He worked 23 years at Anderson's in Edgeley as a Diesel Mechanic and Shop Manager while also farming full-time but has since devoted his time to focus on family and farming. Alongside his wife Kristi, they practice minimum till on their corn and soybean acres northwest of Edgeley. Outside of the farming

operation, Justin and Kristi spend their time with their children, Emily (19) and Ross (17) by way of traveling, camping, fishing and hunting when they can, and attending any and all sporting events they are involved in!

Justin's first experience with LaMoure County Soil Conservation District was when his mother worked for "West LaMoure" back when the county was split into East and West districts. What excites Justin most about being a board member with LaMoure County SCD is the opportunity to learn from the experiences of fellow board members – a "circle of good knowledge" is how he defined our collective of farmers and ranchers. He shared that each board member has a unique mindset and way of thinking about the land and ways to manage for soil health, and having a chair at this "circle of good knowledge" is something he is excited to be part of. We are grateful to have Justin on the board and look forward to gleaning from his expertise and experience for managing our soils in LaMoure County!

LaMoure SCD Arboretum Tour



On Saturday, August 13th, we hosted an Arboretum tour as an addition to the Witt's End Garden Tour. Susan and Rachel were present to answer questions about the different trees and plants at the Arboretum.

The LCSCD Arboretum is located at the southwest corner of 4th Ave NW and 5th St NW. Parking is west of the flag poles. It is open to the public and we now have a picnic table under the big willow tree.

The purpose of the arboretum is to provide education and information on a variety of trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and grasses that can grow and thrive in our area. Thanks to Mary Lou Gentzkow and Harlan Witt for maintaining and beautifying the property.

Youth Outreach

Edgeley Library

In June we collaborated with NDSU Extension and NRCS to deliver a Soils themed session as part of Edgeley Public Library's youth summer reading series. This event started with reading, "Up in the Garden, Down in the Dirt" book in the library followed by our collective outdoor learning opportunities. NRCS brought their "Soil Tunnel" for youth to explore through and learn about the life below their feet; LaMoure

SCD brought sand, silt, clay, and soil examples for hands-on learning to share what soil is made of and how it is built over time, and NDSU Extension demonstrated water infiltration with different soil particle sizes, highlighting the variability of water movement through soils that have different soil structure, and how that influences plant growth and soil health.



LaMoure County 4H Camp

In August we led a session for LaMoure County 4H Camp about "Nature Stamping", or also called, "Eco-Printing"! We shared about the natural colors and dyes that can be harvested from nature, and showed how to extract those dyes with a hammer. Each student went home with a cotton handbag that they designed themselves with colors from flowers, grasses and leaves. Did you know that rose petals produce a rich purple color and not red?!

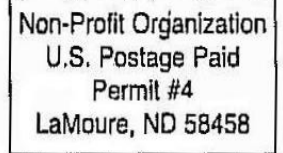


29th Annual Eco Ed Camp

LaMoure County SCD hosted our annual Eco Ed Camp on September 9th at the LaMoure County Memorial Park. Sixth grade students from LaMoure County schools of Edgeley, Kulm, LaMoure and Litchville-Marion attended the camp, totaling 65 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 Rep-tiles". Students also partook in a scavenger hunt to put what they learned from all five sessions to the ultimate team challenge!



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



Pre-Sort

Board Members:

Christof Just, Chairman
Aaron Stroh, Supervisor
Justin Fredenburg, Supervisor
Lynn Haro, Supervisor
Ann Moch, Supervisor

Office Location: 211 South Main St., LaMoure

District Staff:

Susan Muske, District Manager
Melissa Shockman, Outreach Coordinator
Rachel Waddell, Tree Shed Coordinator

NRCS Staff:

Amanda Brandt, District Conservationist
Rani Lloyd, Business Tools Specialist

Office Phone: 701-877-5170 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.

NEW OFFICE PHONE NUMBER

Due to federal phone restructuring, the LaMoure County USDA Service Center is now operating under a new telephone system, resulting in a NEW office phone number.

As of August 28th, 2026, the office phone number and designated extensions are now:

701-877-5170

Ext 2 — FSA Ext 3 — NRCS/SCD Ext 5 — Loans



Check out lamourescd.org



Or scan the QR code!