



Conservation Circular

Marshall County Conservation District—PO Box 8—505 Vander Horck, Britton, SD 57430
 Telephone 605-448-2442 Fax: 855-256-2568

Winter Issue
 2016



\$5.00 per rod (16.5ft) for shrubs planted 6' or less
 \$4.30 per rod for trees planted over 6'
 \$5.25 per rod for sod plantings
 \$9.00 per rod for weed barrier fabric

COST SHARE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE!



**TIME IS RUNNING
 OUT!
 ORDER YOUR TREES
 SOON!**

Livestock Protec- tion	Wildlife Habitat
Water Quality	Farmstead Energy
Snow Management	Edible Fruits
	Healthy Benefits

2015 District Year In Review

District Services

- Planted 50.1 acres of trees—field windbreaks, farmstead windbreaks, renovations, & riparian plantings(31 sites)
- Over \$20,600 dollars of hand plant trees sold
- Laid 24.5 miles or 129,368 feet of weed barrier fabric
- Seeded 1202 ac of grass, cover crops or pollinator habitat with the Great Plains Grass Drill

Educational Activities

- Sponsored a booth at Britton Winter Festival with an Edible Landscape presentation by Blaine Martian
- Sponsored Arbor Day Essay Contest for 5th graders
- Held an educational Arbor Day session with 3rd graders in Langford and Britton
- Sponsored the Resource Conservation Speech Contest for high school students
- Distributed materials to Marshall County Churches for Soil Stewardship Week
- Co-sponsored the NESD Land & Range Contest
- Assisted with 750 fourth graders at Northern Prairie Water Festival in Aberdeen
- Assisted with the State Conservation District booth at the State Fair in Huron
- Sponsored Eco Ed Day at Fort Sisseton for Marshall County 7th Graders
- Promoted the Karst Memorial Scholarship

Conservation Projects/Programs

- Participated in the NE Grazing Grant Project offering cost share assistance for grazing operations including pipelines, tanks, rural water hook-ups and dugouts
- Participated in the Multi-County Shelterbelt Renovation Project that assists landowners with renovating their existing shelterbelts or new plantings
- Co-sponsor of the NE Glacial Lakes Project that works to improve the watersheds for all area lakes



what's underneath

healthy soil has amazing water-retention capacity.

Every **1%** increase in organic matter results in as much as **25,000** gal of available soil water per acre.

Source: Kansas State Extension Agronomy e-Updates, Number 357, July 6, 2012

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Want more soil secrets? Check out www.nrcs.usda.gov

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

ORGANIC MATTER MATTERS

PLANT COVER CROPS TO:

- *Improve soil health*
- *Provide forage*
- *Increase water infiltration*
- *Reduce soil compaction*
- *Bring nutrients to the surface for next year's crop availability*
- *Increase profit margins*
- *Manage excessive moisture*

HANEY SOIL TEST WORKSHOP

WED. FEB 24 10-3pm
SUMMIT FIRE HALL

- Haney soil test compare to conventional soil tests
- Save input costs
- Pesticides using WIN-PST tool
- CSP enhancements
- EQIP programs

Jason Schley from Ag Vision Labs presenter
Lunch will be provided

Seeding Plans?

MCCD's Great Plains Grass Drill available for rent \$10 an acre

Call to get your name on the list 448-2442 #3

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)



unlock the secrets in the soil

www.nrcs.usda.gov

"We know more about the movement of celestial bodies than about the soil underfoot."
-Leonardo da Vinci



Living in the soil are plant roots, bacteria, fungi, protozoa, algae, mites, nematodes, worms, ants, maggots, insects and grubs, and larger animals.

science of soil

soil is made of about **45%** minerals, **25%** water, **5%** organic matter, and **25%** air



what's underneath

Healthy soil has amazing water-retention capacity. Every **1%** increase in organic matter results in as much as **25,000** gal of available soil water per acre.

One teaspoon of healthy soil contains **100 million-1 billion** individual bacteria

All of the soil microbes in **1ac/ft** of soil weigh more than **2 cows**

Earthworm populations consume **2 tons** of dry matter per acre per year, partly digesting and mixing it with soil



what it does

Healthy soil is key to feeding **9 billion** by **2050**

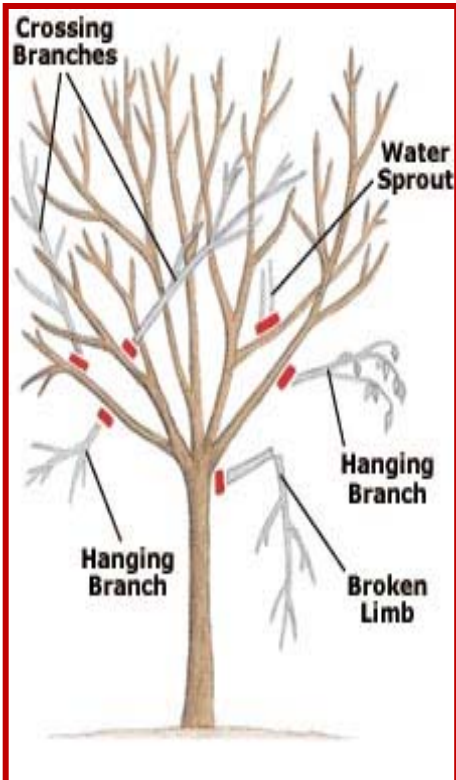


SOIL HEATH INITIATIVE EQIP FUNDING AVAILABLE!

EQIP funding for NE South Dakota is now available through a Soil Health Initiative that involves grazing on high residue crops or cover crops. Four core practices must be implemented, but secondary practices such as—portable tanks, portable windbreaks & temporary fences may also be included.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY FEBRUARY 19, 2016
Call NRCS office for details

Source: Comparison of the Nature & Properties of Soils page 17; Alan Bristle, Ray R. Weil | Water holding capacity: Kansas State Extension Agronomy e-Updates, Number 357, July 6, 2012 | Bacteria in a Teaspoon: Soil Biology Primer page 1; Elaine Ingham, Andrew R. Moldenhauer, Chris Edwards | Microbes weigh! The Nature & Properties of Soils page 451 | Earthworm population consumption: Earthworms a Pests-Global publication by Sperry-Duker, Assoc. Prof. of Soil Management and Richard Steuber, Assoc. Prof. environmental Soil Science | Feeding people: The United Nations | USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



PRUNING TREES

The best time to prune most trees is during the dormant period. This keeps trees from putting energy into growth that you are removing anyway. Be sure tools you use for pruning are well maintained. Dull blades or anvil type pruners mangle tree tissues and slow wound closure. For pruning guidelines visit: <http://sda.sd.gov/conservation-forestry/information-publications/tree-care>.

A Look at Pruning

GOOD

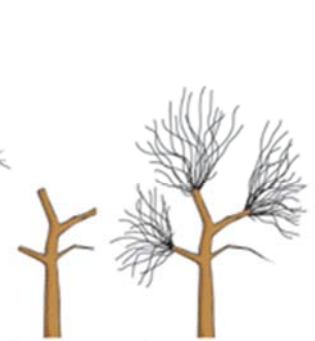
NOT GOOD



Before Pruning



Well-Pruned, Open Head



Topping produces clumps of uncontrolled growth

NORTHEAST GLACIAL LAKES WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT & PROTECTION PROJECT

- ◇ Water Quality Data collected on area lakes
- ◇ In-lake Sampling completed
- ◇ Tributary Sampling
- ◇ Riparian Area buffers cost-shared
- ◇ Stream bank /shoreline stabilizations
- ◇ Grass Waterways
- ◇ Financial assistance for Grazing Mgt. Improvements
- ◇ Animal Waste Mgt.



Check out the Project Website at: www.neglwatersheds.org or call your local NRCS office

Plant a Living Snow Fence

Plant trees and shrubs to keep snow off your driveway, farmyard, or feed lot. Living snow fences can also be used to help keep township, county, or state roads free of snow. Stop in and plan your planting soon!



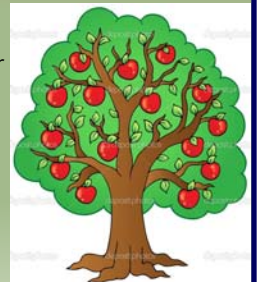
5th & 6th

GRADE STUDENTS

*This is your chance to win
\$\$\$\$\$*

*All you have to do is write a creative
essay or poem about trees
& Arbor Day.*

*For more information ask your
teacher, call our
office or check
out our website
@Marshall
cd.org*





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\$\$ SPEECH CONTEST \$\$

SD students in grades 9-12 are eligible to compete for \$2,300 in higher education scholarships which are provided by the East River and Rushmore Electric Power Cooperatives and SD REA . The theme for the 2016 contest is "Why Manage Water for Conservation?" Scholarships are awarded to the top 3 finalists: 1st place is \$1,100; 2nd place is \$750; and 3rd place is \$450. Contest entries are due at the local District office by March 26, 2016. An entry form & complete list of rules can be found online at: <http://sdda.sd.gov/legacydocs/Forestry/educational-information/PDF/2016Speech-BrochureTouchstone.pdf>. For more information please contact our office at 448-2442 #3.

CSP

The Conservation Stewardship Program helps agricultural producers/operators maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resources concerns. Participants earn CSP payments for conservation performance. *Stop in at the NRCS office soon to sign up.*

CONTINUOUS CRP

- Salinity areas
- Grassed Waterways
- Riparian Areas
- Filter strips
- Duck Nesting Habitat
- Pheasant Habitat
- Pollinator Acres
- Windbreaks & Shelterbelts



**SDACDE
 KARST SCHOLARSHIPS**

The SD Association of Conservation District employees offers three \$500 memorial scholarships to High School seniors who are planning on furthering their education in an agricultural related field. The scholarship is available to students who will be attending a 4-yr college or a vocational school. Deadline for the application is March 31, 2016. Find an application at the Conservation District office or at www.Marshallcd.org.

HELP WANTED

Marshall County Conservation District is accepting applications for our Spring tree planting and fabric season. The positions are full time seasonal positions running 6-8 weeks beginning mid April. To apply or to request more information, please call our office at 448-2442 or stop in at the USDA Ag Service Center in Britton.