

Stutsman County SCD



Stutsman County Soil Conservation District

April 2020

www.stutsmanscd.net

Ground Preparation for the Upcoming Tree Planting Season

When preparing soils for tree planting, the ground should be tilled black; looking like a garden is the best way to put it. It's easier on the trees and better for installing weed barrier fabric.

- In the bad photo to the right, the clumpy soil creates air pockets which will cause the roots to dry out and kill the trees.
- Till the ground in the spring before we come out to plant the trees. The ground should be worked to a 6" to 8" depth.
- Weeds need to be dealt with before we come out to plant and also before we lay the fabric down.
- Fabric does not lay well with vegetation holding it up. You need to work the ground around the trees to keep the soil loose and weed free for fabric installation.
- The better that the site is worked up, the better the chance of the trees surviving.
- Avoid putting any fertilizer down, as this will burn up your trees.



When the soil is prepared properly like the planting on the left, then your tree planting could potentially look like the one on the right.

RCPP

(Reginal Conservation Partnership Program)

This is a program in the Spiritwood Lake Watershed area that is a funding source through the NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service). It can aid farmers to improve their current practices for healthier soil. Practices range from; covercrops, no-till, minimal till, nutrient management, buffer strips, gully erosions and can help improve rangeland and cattle management practices including water and fencing.

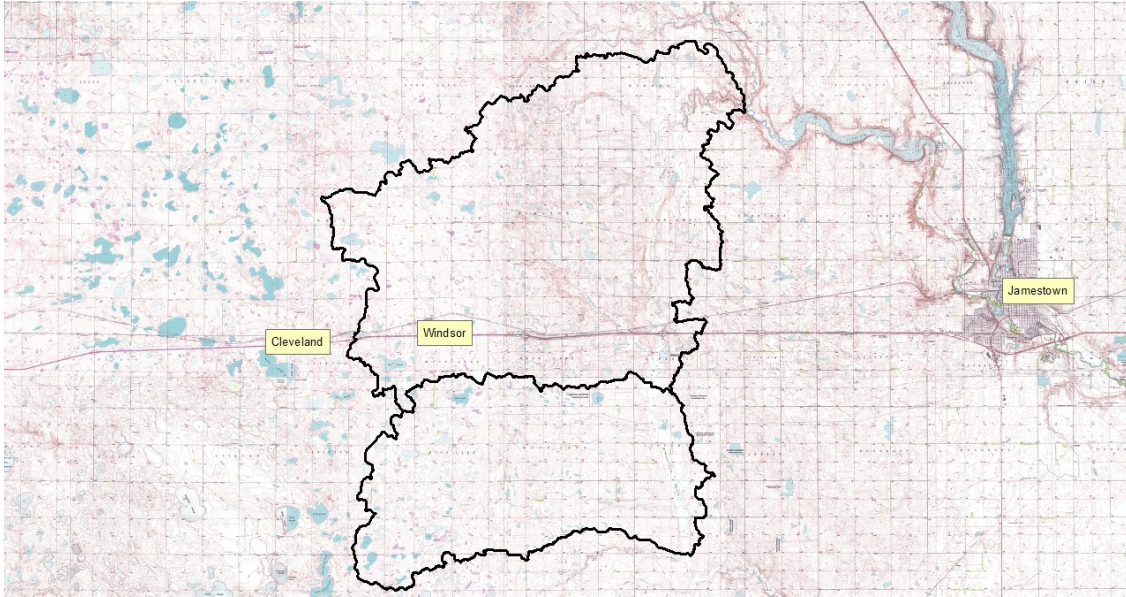
The Batching period will close on May 15th.

This is the a deadline for the producers to come in and sign up for the project. Then the projects go through a ranking system and then a contract signing deadline later in the year.

Call us at 701-252-2521 ext. 3 if you have any questions or would like us to come visit your operation.

319 Watershed Project

Gully Erosion Project



The goal of the project is to protect aquatic life habitat in the creeks by reducing the potential for sediment to be delivered to the creeks. This will be accomplished by focusing on gully erosion best management practices primarily on cropland and secondly on rangeland in Moon Lake and Minneapolis Flats Creek 12 digit watershed areas.

Stutsman County SCD has a great cost-share opportunity for the producer within the black lines on the map, the area is focused around the Windsor area. We are able to work with producers on multiple practices to reduce the amount of erosion happening in Watersheds. Practices can be anything from grazing infrastructure, cover crops, nutrient management, grass waterways to grass plantings.

This project is here to help the landowners and producers in the watershed to be able to improve these areas without having to put all the money down. We are here to work with you on anything you need if you want to just try cover crops on a few acres, that's just fine we can help. Give me a call with any questions you may have I hope to hear from you 701-252-2521 ext. 3 Dustin Krueger.

Stutsman Manure Management Project

The Stutsman SCD also has funding for Partial Manure Management Systems. Many producers have utilized this project to develop winter grazing systems including: fencing of cropland acres for grazing crop residues, providing winterized waterers in grazing areas, and providing wind protection for the grazing herds such as portable windbreaks or tree plantings. If you are interested in expanding or working on creating a winter feeding plan give Dustin a call at 701-252-2521 ext 3. I would like to visit and come look at your operations.



Keeping North Dakota's streams, rivers and lakes clean demands more than dockside diligence. Even if you don't live along the shores or banks, you may be contributing to the pollution of lakes and streams because they are larger than their shorelines. They're part of a system called a watershed.

WHAT IS A WATERSHED?

Water from rainfall or snowmelt that doesn't evaporate or soak into the soil runs into ditches, streams, wetlands or lakes. The area of land from which the water drains is called a watershed.

Watersheds vary in size. If water from a few acres drains into a small stream, those few acres are its watershed.

This stream and others like it run into larger streams or lakes. Small watersheds make up larger ones.

It's easy to see how the watersheds of North Dakota's lakes can have land areas many times larger than their lake surfaces.



HOW DO YOU FIT INTO YOUR WATERSHED?

Wherever you live in North Dakota you are in a watershed. Your watershed may be covered with towns, industrial areas or farmland. Any excess nutrients, sediments and pollutants in your watershed are carried by runoff to surface waters.

You and the other people



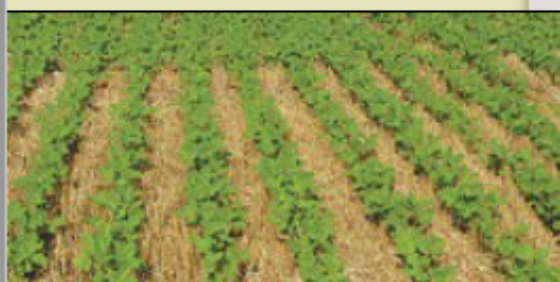
The Mississippi River watershed covers 58% of North Dakota and 41% of the United States.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT TIPS

Minimize erosion by adopting practices that slow the flow of water over your property.

Reduce excess nutrients that could wash off your land.

Collect waste oil and other automotive wastes to be recycled, rather than letting them run on to the ground.



No-till practices improve soil health and water quality. Photo credit No-Till Farmer



Rain gardens are shallow depressions that capture and treat stormwater naturally. Photo credit U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Feel free to use this information, but please credit the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality.

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who live in the watershed potentially influence the water quality in nearby streams and lakes, depending on how careful you are in your day-to-day activities.

Understanding that actions on land impact water quality should lead you to cast a more critical eye on many common activities such as gardening, lawn care, automobile maintenance, farming and ranching. These and other activities can contribute excess nutrients, sediment and pollutants to the streams, rivers or lakes in your watershed.

Rectangular Spin

WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR YOUR WATERSHED?

In rural areas you can:

- Practice building soil health.
- Use conservation tillage.
- Practice crop rotation.
- Install grassed waterways.
- Plant filter strips around feedlots.
- Retire highly erodible land.
- Practice sound pesticide and fertilizer use.
- Recycle agricultural chemical containers.
- Construct diversion dikes or channels around feedlots.
- Recycle fluids from vehicles and machinery.

In urban areas you can:

- Maintain plant cover to reduce runoff.
- Mulch gardens and exposed soil.
- Terrace land to slow runoff.
- Direct runoff to areas where it will soak into the soil.
- Minimize pavement and impermeable surfaces.
- Minimize soil disturbance at construction sites.
- Maintain septic systems.
- Use low- or no-phosphate soaps.
- Recycle automotive fluids.

North Dakota Prescribed Fire Cooperative

Interested in adding a powerful tool to your grazing land management? Audubon Dakota and NRCS have developed the North Dakota Prescribed Fire Cooperative (NDPFC), a program assisting landowners to utilize prescribed fires as a management tool for free. Landowners enrolled in the NDPFC only need to establish fire breaks and attend a winter prescribed fire workshop. Prescribed burns will be used as “burn-benefit” field trainings, allowing rural fire departments and conservation professionals the opportunity to learn more about fire ecology and managing rangeland fires.

Prescribed burns have several benefits for range lands, including controlling noxious weeds such as Canada thistle and leafy spurge along with woody species such as Russian olive. Prescribed fires also recycle nutrients locked in dead vegetation back into the soil, creating conditions for healthy, vibrant forage grasses. Beyond benefits for livestock, grasslands that experience prescribed fires can create high-quality wildlife habitat, enhancing hunting opportunities and preserving North Dakota’s natural heritage.

If you’re interested in enhancing your pasture and learning more about the North Dakota Prescribed Fire Cooperative, please contact Juli Bosmoe (phone: 605-290-2571; email: Juli.Bosmoe@Audubon.org)



Soil Health and Income Protection Program (SHIPP) Pilot

SHIPP is a voluntary program that allows contract with agricultural producers for a contract term of 3, 4, or 5 years. Recently expired CRP acres are not eligible for enrollment and participants must plant the lowest practical cost perennial conserving use cover crop. The 2018 Farm Bill authorizes a maximum of 50,000 acres for SHIPP.

Eligible Land must meet the following criteria to enroll in SHIPP:

- be less productive land on the farm
- have been planted (and not in CRP) in crop years 2017, 2018 and 2019 and
- have a total of no more than 15% of the eligible land per farm enrolled in SHIPP

How to Apply

Producers may apply for this limited time SHIPP pilot at their local FSA office from March 30 - August 21, 2020.



Cows grazing cover crops

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Classic

- Deadline for sign-up is May 29th 2020



Stutsman County Soil Conservation District
1301 Business Loop East
Jamestown, ND 58401-5946

Board & Staff Members

Stutsman SCD

Board of Supervisors

- ◆ Robert Hess, Jud
- ◆ Bernie Wanzek, Courtenay
- ◆ Cody Kreft, Streeter
- ◆ Gloria Jones, Jamestown
- ◆ Bob Martin, Jamestown

Find us on the web at:
www.stutsmanscd.net

We are located in the
USDA Service Center
1301 Business Loop East
Jamestown, ND 58401
701-252-2521 ext. 3

NRCS

Darin Hirschhorn

District Conservationist

Marc Murdoff

Soil Conservationist

Shelby Larson

Soil Conservationist

Soil Conservation District

Kelli Connolly

District Clerk

Kylee Reiser

District Technician

Dustin Krueger

319 Watershed Coordinator

Cody Hoggarth

Farm Bill Specialist

Tree Planting!



It's never too early to
start talking about
tree plantings, stop
in today!

The District was formed to assist people in
Stutsman County through the District Mission:

*"To take available technical, financial, and edu-
cational resources, whatever their source, and
focus or coordinate them so that they meet the
needs of the local land user for conservation of
soil, water, and related resources."*