



# Stutsman County SCD



Stutsman County Soil Conservation District

January 2021

[www.stutsmanscd.net](http://www.stutsmanscd.net)

## Stutsman County Manure Management Phase 2

We are nearing the end of the of our grant time period. We do still have money available to cost-share any winter feeding projects. The intent of the program is to protect uses of priority waterbodies in the county by reducing runoff from concentrated livestock feeding areas. This can be accomplished through either the installation of runoff containment systems (full manure management systems) or the conversion of concentrated feeding systems to unconfined feeding systems (partial manure management systems). Section 319 cost-share for the practices of full and partial manure management systems are available to any county livestock producer. This is to prevent runoff from entering surface waters and may be coordinated with other programs such as EQIP through NRCS.

Priority for cost-share is determined by proximity to adjacent waters of the state (within one mile) which hold specific recreational uses and serve as fisheries.

### Partial Manure Management Systems Definition

The purpose of partial manure management systems is to provide livestock producers, particularly those with cow-calf operations, with a cost effective means of complying with current environmental regulations. The goal of the project is to rotate livestock winter feeding areas so that concentration in any area does not happen longer than 45 days. For a cow-calf producer this can be an ideal situation, 1) the cows remain mobile during the winter months leading to improved animal health (i.e. cows are not sedentary during this time period); 2) livestock waste is spread out during the winter leaving little or no expense involved in manure spreading in spring and summer; 3) often crop ground can be used for this winter rotational feeding, which is ideal for high nutrient use crops such as corn. Other ideas which have been incorporated elsewhere include swath grazing, bale grazing, and cover crop grazing. These ideas provide opportunities to limit costs further by reducing labor and machine hours.

Producers in Stutsman County can apply for cost-share and planning assistance for installation of partial manure management systems. Practices involved with partial manure management systems include fencing, watering facilities, pipelines, wells, portable windbreaks and many others. Portable windbreaks can be cost-shared at a rate up to two feet per head on each operation. Partial manure management systems can be used on operations below 450 head of beef cattle. For more information on this project contact Dustin Krueger at (701) 252-1920 ext. 3422.



# Spiritwood Lake Watershed Project Phase II Update



Phase I of the project went exceptionally well, all the funding was used up.

Some accomplishments include.

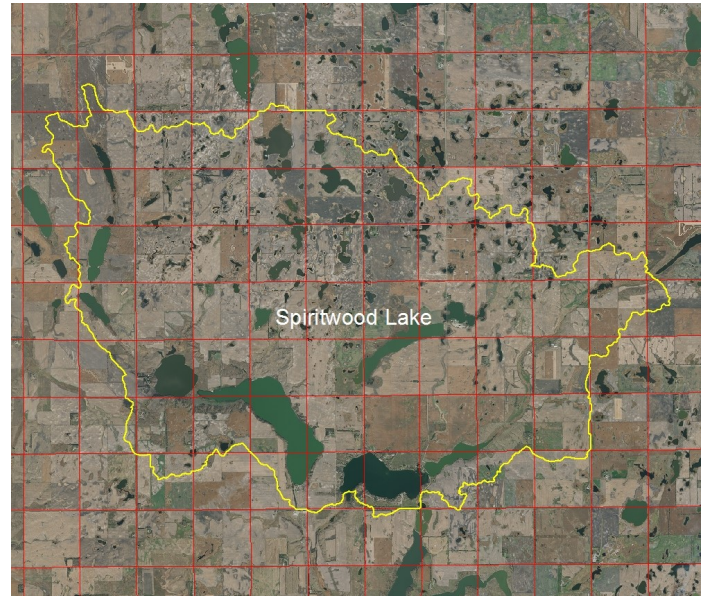
- 57 septic systems inspected
- 10 septic systems renovated
- Newsletters and information sent out every year.
- The hypolimnetic draw down has been brought over to Phase 2.

## Phase 2

Spiritwood Lake project has been moving along nicely. June of 2020 we were able to secure more funding for this project that will go through 2023. Accomplishments involve septic system renovation and grass plantings in this grant period.

Many practices are available for area producers and landowners with in the yellow line on the map to the right secure cost-share. Some practices include cover crops, critical area plantings, nutrient management, no-till, grass plantings, improved management on grazing acres including water development and fencing, and working on partial manure management systems.

If you would like any more information about how we could help you out call Dustin at 701-252-1920 ext 3433.



## Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

RCPP funding comes over from EQIP and is a funding pool just for producers in the Spiritwood Lake Watershed. Most EQIP funds are state wide. With the localized funding source you have a greater chance at securing cost-share for practices to improve your operation and conservation on the farm.

RCPP funding has many practices that it can give assistance to. Some of the funding has been used in cover crop and critical area planting. Other practices may included minimal till/no-till, nutrient management , grass plantings and range-land improvement practices.



This is the final year for this funding so contact Dustin or Darin at 701-252-1920 ext 3 for more information. We would love to come out and see what you are doing on your operation.

**The batching date deadline is May 14.**

**Applications are due at that time!**

# Producers Should Be Prepared for Drought

Continuing drought conditions will have impact on forage production.

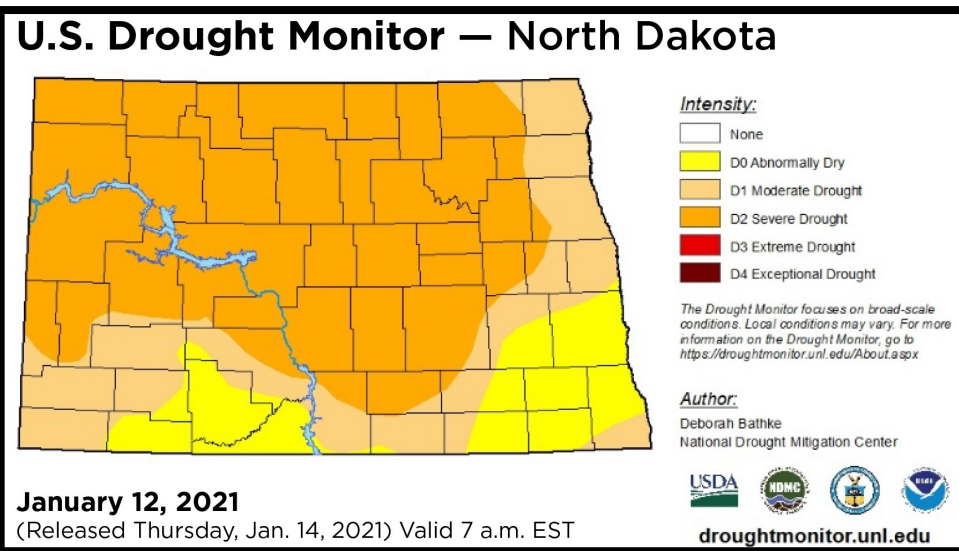
NDSU Agriculture Communication— News Release

North Dakota producers need to be prepared in case drought conditions persist into 2021, according to North Dakota State University Extension specialist.

The 2020 drought affected forage production on pastureland and hay land.

“Depending on your grazing management practices, many pastures would have gone into the winter stressed, leaving plants vulnerable to death of new tillers, thus leading to slow and delayed growth this coming spring,” warns Kevin Sedivec, NDSU Extension rangeland management specialist.

North Dakota went into the fall of 2020 with precipitation in most of the state at 35% to 150% below normal. Thus, the 2021 growing season will start with very little moisture in the top soil and little to no subsoil moisture.



“If the drought extends into the 2021 growing season, expect a severe loss in forage production,” Sedivec says. “We recommend that ranchers and farmers put together a drought management plan early so they are prepared if drought persists.”

Seventy to 80% of forage production on pasture and hay land occurs by July 1 in the northern Plains, so if the spring and early summer are dry, producers could see a 50% or greater reduction in forage produced, depending on the severity of drought and past management.

“The only silver lining is drought-stressed grasses abort seed production, so forage quality should be greater longer into the grazing season,” says Miranda Meehan, NDSU Extension livestock environmental stewardship specialist. “If summer moisture does occur and plants remain immature, regrowth potential will be greater and nutritional quality higher later into the grazing season.”

Even with normal spring precipitation, shallow-rooted plants will benefit while deep-rooted plants will suffer due to lack of subsoil moisture.

“Under this scenario, plan for a 10% to 30% reduction in forage, depending if you overgrazed, properly grazed or undergrazed your pastures,” Meehan says. “Severely grazed pastures may even experience greater than 30% reduction under normal spring precipitation conditions.”

A wet spring will lead to a best-case scenario. Usually, wet springs result in above-normal forage production. However, with no subsoil moisture, forage production still may be below normal if pastures were overgrazed in 2020.

“A wet spring should alleviate the need to implement a drought plan,” Sedivec says. “However, you still need to plan for delayed growth due to drought-stressed plants. Delayed growth would result in a delayed pasture turnout by one to two weeks.”

Be prepared to implement your drought management plan if the summer growing period becomes dry,” he adds. “Wet springs followed by droughts lead to poor-quality feed during the second half of the grazing season.”

For more information on coping with drought conditions, check out the NDSU Extension publication “Strategies for Managing Drought in the Northern Plains” at: <http://tinyurl.com/DroughtManagementStrategies>.



# Preparing Your Ranch for Drought Webinars

Register here: <https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/drought/>

**All webinars will begin at 1 p.m. CST and last two hours.**

**Thursday, February 11 • 2021 Drought Outlook**

- Adnan Akyuz, ND State Climatologist
- Kevin Sedivec, Rangeland Management Specialist

**Thursday, February 18 • Drought Trigger Dates & Grazing Strategies**

- Kevin Sedivec, Rangeland Management Specialist
- Miranda Meehan, Livestock & Environmental Stewardship Specialist

**Thursday, February 25 • Supplemental Feed & Forage Options**

- Karl Hoppe, Livestock Systems Specialist
- Kevin Sedivec, Rangeland Management Specialist

**Thursday, March 4 • Water Supply & Quality**

- Miranda Meehan, Livestock & Environmental Stewardship Specialist
- Gerald Stokka, Extension Veterinarian/Livestock Stewardship Specialist

**Thursday, March 11 • Herd Management & Reduction Strategies**

- Janna Block, Livestock Systems Specialist
- Lisa Pederson, Livestock Specialist

**Thursday, March 18 • Managing Stress During Drought**

- Sean Brotherson, Family Science Specialist

## Instructions for Joining Webinars

1. Register for webinars at
2. Join Zoom Meeting using the link or call in information provided after completing the registration.
3. You should log in a few minutes before the start of the webinars because they will begin promptly at 1:00 pm (CST).

All webinars will be recorded and posted at <https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/drought>

## Trees of the Letter Featuring: Colorado Blue Spruce & Quaking Aspen

**Colorado Blue Spruce** – is not native to North Dakota but has a hardiness for zone 2 to survive the cold.

- Medium growth rate with height of over 45 feet at mature height with a long-life span of over 50 years, generally.
- Shade tolerance– Low
- Drought tolerance– High
- Flooding tolerance– Low



**Quaking Aspen** – is a tall slender deciduous tree. Over time the Aspen will become clear of its lower branches and generally grows straight up.

- Zone 2- Survives well in North Dakota
- The Aspen has a fast-growing rate with a mature height over 45 feet. This tree has a long longevity of typically over 50 years.
- Shade tolerance– Low
- Drought tolerance– Low
- Flooding tolerance– Medium



To find more information on these trees or other trees go to: <https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/tree-selector> .

This is a great tool to find more information on a tree or even find trees that fit what you are looking for. The Tree selector tool by NDSU has drop down boxes to find certain demands you would like.

### New Employee Alert

Hi, my name is Amber Struxness and I am the new office manager for the Stutsman County Soil Conservation. My husband Jason and I live out in Woodworth, ND where we currently farm and raise cattle. We spend most of my time raising our 3 boys, Mason, Gavin and Cale. They always keep life interesting for us. I love spending time outdoors with my family and traveling with my husband to beautiful beaches in the winter months.



### District Conservationist

Hello everyone! Darin here and I wanted to let you know of some good information that is available to you on soil health. NDSU has a YouTube channel called NDSU Soil Health. They have a lot of videos from local producers, agronomists and researchers about the different aspects of soil health. Are you looking at wide row corn? How about managing low Ph soils? Maybe salinity and of course cover crops? Take a look and I think you will learn something. The address is [NDSU Soil Health - YouTube](#). With covid and the winter you might have some extra time at home and these videos are perfect for that time. Thanks and stay warm I hear its supposed to get cold.  
Darin



Stutsman County Soil Conservation District

1301 Business Loop East

Jamestown, ND 58401-5946

All programs and services of the Stutsman County Soil Conservation District are offered on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age or handicap. 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.

## 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](http://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

#### **Amber Struxness**

District Manager

#### **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 educational 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."*