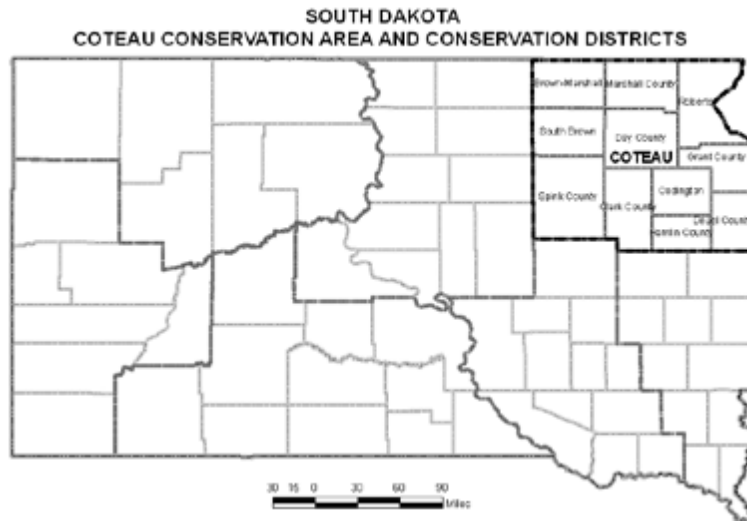


# 2019 Contour Lines



## Coteau Area

Brown Marshall, Clark, Codington,  
Day, Deuel, Grant, Hamlin, Marshall,  
Roberts, South Brown, Spink

### **BROWN MARSHALL CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Judy Skoglund, District Manager**

Spring tree planting got off to an extremely late start this year due to the late and WET spring! Luckily, I guess, we did not have many acres to plant.

At the end of March we had 8 acres of trees to plant, by mid-April we had picked up about 3 more, and then snagged a couple more in early May! We ended up with about 14 acres. We started planting on May 29th, which is when we are typically done. Spring snow and rains hung on forever it seemed! We followed up with fabric application, ending the season in mid June. I had a new crew of only two, but since the season ran so late, I ended up with most of my old crew coming back to help out!!

I again ran a tree clearance week for handplants. It seemed to work well, and I was able to clear out a lot more inventory then just a two day event. Survival checks were done in late August. The ample moisture throughout the summer provided for excellent tree growth! In August we hired an Assistant District Manager, Trisha Stearns. Trisha will work for 6 months in this position and then transition into District Manager. I will be retiring February 1<sup>st</sup>, but may be around in the spring this year to help out as needed in the office. Our producers were fortunate again this year to receive a funding rebate through James River Water Development District, IF they did not qualify for any other cost share program. Our John Deere drill continues to keep moderately busy. We currently have rented it out for approximately 300 acres.

We are currently participating in a Multi District Shelterbelt Renovation Project that includes, South Brown, Day, Marshall & Brown-Marshall Districts, along with some water quality grants.

We are involved with the following Educational activities: Northern Prairie Water Festival, Arbor Day Essay Contest, and the Speech Contest. I also assist with the SBCD local Speech Contest, Area Speech Contest, Marshall County Eco Ed Day, along with working at the SBCD Booth at the Brown County Fair in Aberdeen. We also co-publish a District Newsletter 2-3 times a year.

Planning assistance for next spring's tree season is underway. Although I hope for more acres in 2020, it does not look promising with all of the moisture we continue to get here!! Water everywhere it seems, and no where to go!

## **CLARK COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

### **Lisa Paulson & Michael Meester, District Managers**

It has been told that it takes 2 years to adjust to this job, well it is true, this is the second year for both of us. The Clark Conservation District had a challenging year with the wet conditions. Just ask a farmer how their season went, and you know how the District's season went as well. With the late April snow storm our season also got a late start. Without a tree cooler, our District had to improvise using a reefer trailer, which worked out quit well. Mike along with his crew, 4 high schoolers planted 9 acres of trees starting May 28<sup>th</sup>. Our crew worked steady to switch between tree plantings and fabric application, going where conditions allowed. To help with the season, the crew handplanted 750 trees. Fabric was laid on 9 sites totaling 26150 feet along with 430 tubes. Without the CRP sign up, tree sites were down from past years. We offered our Handplant tree sale again this year with great success. New this fall, we offered perennial plant sales with over 140 pots sold. We will continue to offer this service.

Mike has seeded 790 acres of grass, thus far with an expected 200+ yet this fall. We are fortunate to be a dealer for Millborn Seed, helping generate funds for the District. Our Turax drill was rented out for a total of 204 acres to producers. On August 19<sup>th</sup> the District was able to plant a Cover Crop Test Plot ½ mile from the office. Thanks to a producer along Highway 212 providing the land and to Millborn seeds for donating the seed. A public tour will be conducted this fall.

Our District has adopted an Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan for Clark County. We have visited all the communities in our county and educated them on the devastation of loosing our ash trees. Mike has placed ribbons around trees in each community to indicate the impact it will take. We hope each community will have a proactive approach and be prepared.

We continue to support our area 4-H program, Big Sioux Water Festival and Karst Memorial Scholarship. NESD Land and Range Judging Contest, Arbor Day essay and Poster contest and our Plant Demonstration plot still exists outside our office. This year Lisa worked at the SD State Fair conservation booth.

Scott and Stacie Lindgren were nominated from Clark County for the Izack Walton League Wildlife award. Both Scott and Stacie work tirelessly improving their 400+ acres for conservation stewardship.

On the coldest day in January (-35) Clark and Spink county co-hosted the Upper James Valley Soil Health Forum. Then again in July we co-hosted a Soil Health Bus tour. May 2<sup>nd</sup> we were fortunate to have Dr. John Ball speak in our county about the Emerald Ash Borer, Mike Meester followed up with a "Tree care Maintenance and information". Several from the public were interested.

In August we welcomed Gannon Florey as a new Supervisor.....

New this fall, the Clark Conservation District published a newsletter. We will continue to publish 4 times a year through the new seasons. We also use Social Media to promote the District with great success.

Good things are happening here at the Clark Conservation District. We hope for continued success.

## **CODINGTON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Nikki Zubke, District Manager**

2019 Tree season...we planted 51 acres of trees and installed 77,997 feet of fabric. Hand plant sales were down a little at \$13,253.00. The drill operator seeded 345 acres with the Great Plains Drill, and the JD No Till was moved around the county seeding 1477 acres. We have approximately 93 acres of CRP dormant seedings for this fall.

Community Involvement: Over the year we have donated time and/or sponsored various events: Big Sioux Water Festival, Watertown Winter Farm Show, Trees to the Pro Pheasants organization, had our drills on display at the Grassland Management school held in Watertown, Waverly Student Council 5K, Donated trees to the Scotty A. Moes Memorial Fundraiser, Rangeland and Soil Days hosted by Spink County, NE Soil and Rangeland Day, Waverly Envirothon Team.

Office side: Our newsletter is sent out to 610 recipients, 3-4 times a year. We are currently working on starting a District Scholarship in honor of Lynn Johnson.

## **DAY COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Josh Wagner, District Manager**

We had a robust spring with many tree orders, tree plantings, and grass seeding to get done. This was an unusual season for many reasons. Last fall offered a short window for dormant seeding. We had 300+ carry over acres that were moved to spring seeding. The new farm bill was delayed, the government shut down, and no new CRP ground was enrolled for trees or grass.

Spring proved to be just as challenging as winter and fall. Wet conditions delayed tree season, but ultimately, the extra moisture was a benefit to the new plantings. Planting season wrapped up on June 3, and fabric and tube installation before the Fourth of July. We planted close to 16 acres, laid 7.5 miles of fabric, and installed 1119 tree tubs for 16 different producers. Handplant/specialty plant sales were around \$33,000. Tree moving, tree row mowing, gopher getter rentals, and various maintenance activities rounded off the field season. We look forward to a busy fall, weather permitting.

The District continues to sponsor the Northeast Glacial Lakes Watershed Improvement and Protection Project. The watershed project was awarded another \$250,000.00

Environmental Protection Agency 319 Clean Water grant in 2019 to continue the project thru the summer of 2021. The project works with producers in Day, Grant, Marshall, Deuel, and Roberts Counties with the support of these counties' Conservation Districts and NRCS offices.

The project continues to monitor water quality of Enemy Swim and Pickerel Lakes in Day County, and Clear and Roy Lakes in Marshall County. The project was also awarded a grant from the South Dakota Department of Game Fish and Parks this year to survey several streams, lakes, and wetlands in the project area for aquatic invertebrates.

Information and education are a big part of the NEGL project. In 2020 the project presented at four water festivals, conducted a Lake and Stream Ecology Workshop for teachers and resource personnel, conducted a week-long fishing camp, kayak camp, and ecology camp in conjunction with Lutherans Outdoors on Enemy Swim Lake's NeSoDak Outdoor Learning Center, and several other programs that reached a total of 1,968 students.

Other areas of outreach for the District include a booth at the Day County Farm and Home Show, Arbor Day activities for the county schools, Coteau Area Legislative Banquet and the

Land and Range Contest. We continue to publish our quarterly newsletter *The District Dispatch*. We sponsored seven youth scholarships and honored those students at our annual Christmas banquet.

The District is involved in some new activities. The threat of EAB is getting closer to Day County after being detected in the state in 2018. The District met with city governments to discuss the threat and proactive measures to implement. We hosted a tree walk in Webster, exploring and discussing the area trees. A summer plant sale was offered during the end of August. We have formed a partnership with Day County Recycling Committee hoping to bring more recycling options to the county.

## **DEUEL COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Maria Broksiek, District Manager**

Spring planting looked a bit different for me than it has in the past few years as I was on maternity leave after welcoming my son, Clay, into the world at the end of April. We hired a new tree foreman to run the tree planting and fabric crews. The rest of the tree crew has been with the district for the last 5+ years, so their experience really helped in keeping the process running smoothly. The tree crew planted 11.8 acres for 9 different producers. They also laid 19,340 feet of fabric down.

The drill managers were also busy putting in the hours this past year. The Truax grass drill seeded 732 full-service acres. The JD no-till was rented out for 632 self-service acres. With all the prevent plant acres throughout the county, many cover crops were seeded with both drills. We are hoping for the weather to cooperate for some fall dormant seeding of CRP. Monitoring was completed on 4 WRP/EWP easements through the NRCS contribution agreement.

The Deuel County Conservation District sponsored the Coteau Prairie Pheasants Forever Banquet with a ½ acre tree plot for live auction, NESD land and range judging, Big Sioux Water Festival, and the local 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Deuel Students with trees for an outdoor activity day.

## **Grant County Conservation District**

**April Templin, District Manager**

2019 was a whirlwind season for Grant County. It started off with Stephanie Pauli resigning as the manager end of March. I, April Templin started working for the district in April. Somehow, I managed to make it through this terribly wet spring without too many hiccups. I too am now passing the torch down. September 29<sup>th</sup> I will be moving across the hall to work with the FSA as the new CRP gal.

The district only planted 8.2 acres of trees this year representing 11 different producers. I had three returning tree crew members, which helped having a group of young people know the ropes while I was still learning that end of the job.

To date we have seeded over 500 acres with our no till drill. We have been working with Millborn Seeds out of Brookings for all our seed needs.

Here is to hoping that 2020 will see more producers looking towards the future of conservation.

## **HAMLIN CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Peggy Loomis, District Manager**

While it was a very wet year, the Hamlin CD was able to get most of our tree plans in the ground. We planted 32.4 acres of trees, and applied 13.6 miles of fabric for 24 producers. My tree crew consisted of some that have been here for a few years and a few newbies! I also hired a tractor driver, so I was able to help out with the planting, measuring and running, instead of spending my day stressing about straight rows ☺. Very thankful and he did a great job! We sold approximately \$31,000 in hand plants and perennial stock. Through our outreach efforts, those sales have been steadily increasing. We also sold tree tubes and stakes.

Our two land rollers were rented by twenty three producers to cover 4,712 acres. We have two John Deere No Till drills; our newest purchased this year. Those were rented for use on 1311 acres to plant alfalfa, grasses, cover crops, and beans. The Great Plains drill was used to plant grasses and various crops on 300 acres for fifteen producers. With the end of planting season, we just recently packed away all rental equipment into our sheds.

Pasture pipe sales are continuing. To date this year, we have sold 8,500 feet of pasture pipe for grazing management.

We continue to mow approximately 14 acres, four times a season and are hoping to utilize our rototiller for tree planting sites.

Our district continues to be involved in the Arbor Day Essay contest in three of our area schools. We also help judge the middle school science fair each year. The Big Sioux Water Festival is held in May and the Watertown Winter Farm Show is held in February, both of which we are involved in. Scholarships are awarded to two campers each year to attend the SDWF Conservation Camp. The Hamlin CD also has a scholarship available to students continuing their education in the conservation field. The Karst Memorial Scholarship, Arbor Day Poster Contest, and the Speech Contest are all actively promoted. The Hamlin District is also involved in a Legislative Dinner each fall, with the Coteau Area Districts. This past season, I was involved in the Youth Gardening Project, in DeSmet. What a wonderful opportunity for kids to learn about gardening, local foods, soil health and conservation. My presentation was on the benefits of worms and each person made a worm farm. The Master Gardener Program was offered in Watertown this year, so I was able to attend those classes. We recently held an EAB educational night with Dr. John Ball as the presenter.

The 2019 Contribution Agreement with NRCS to aid in CSP and CRP work; along with the agreement with SDACD for the WRP Monitoring and QAR's, are great additions to our annual income. The 2020 Agreements are in the works. We completed a 2018/2019 Shelterbelt Renovation grant on 6/30/2019. This project helped to remove 3.3 acres of decaying belts, and 9.5 acres were replanted; with a total project cost of \$51,883. Hamlin CD administers the 2019 SDACDE Conservation Promotion grant, which is being finalized with a report. Total funding for that project was \$12,400. The 2019 Hamlin / Codington Tree Plantings grant was completed 06/30/19, with 17.8 acres of new trees planted. Total cost of project was \$27,369. The 2018 Prairie Coteau Watershed Enhancement Project is a \$152,500 project with USFWS and SDGFP, which is currently scheduled to end 12/31/2020. This project funds grazing management plans, to include wells, pumps, pasture pipe, tanks, and rural water. We currently have two available tree planting grants, both ending 6/30/2020. The Hamlin CD will be the administrator on a new Contribution Agreement between NRCS and SDACDE. This agreement will help to facilitate trainings to every CD; with the funding opportunity for hotel, travel and expenses.

Our district newsletter is sent out twice yearly. The district has a website and is continually active on a Facebook page. Our District Board Supervisors are completing their

Conservation Conversations, which briefly describes why their personal goals for conservation. These articles have routinely been in our local newspapers. The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for our district is 2020; plans are underway for a tour/demo site. We had recently completed the planting of the perennial site; showcasing the plants we offer. All in all, the 2019 season has been another good one!

## **MARSHALL CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Jean Fagerland, District Manager**

2019 will go down in the books as an interesting year! The excessive moisture made tree planting a challenge, but we were still able to plant 39.2 acres of trees with our fabric crew laying 67929' of fabric. Several acres were pushed to 2020 and I'm not sure we will be able to get some of those next spring the way fall is going. We were pleased with the survival checks this fall. At least the abundant moisture is good for newly planted trees! We sold 10963 hand plants consisting of several fruit trees, which brings in income over \$34000 for our district. The EAB has dictated the need for shelterbelt renovations, and town residents to look for replants. The daunting task of tree removal is difficult for urban and farmsteads alike. Cost-share opportunities used by our producers are EQIP, and the multi-county Tree & Renovation Project grant. Several producers are willing to plant tree belts but are looking for CRP to become available again. We are grateful to JRWDD who has also contributed funding for additional cost share to producers for tree plantings in Marshall County.

We were given the opportunity to monitor 41 WRP/EWP easements for NRCS. We also do several products for CRP, CTA, EQIP, and CSP through our Cooperative Agreement with NRCS. These agreements have been a positive financial benefit for our District.

Our Great Plains grass drill is rented by the producer, with the district providing a technician to set it and oversee drill care. It has been used to seed approximately 406 acres with app. 45 acres planned for dormant seeding.

Marshall County is the facilitator of a Multi-Purpose/Multi-County Commission Grant. It is for dugout cleanouts, tree renovations, tree plantings on cropland (with the absence of CRP) and soil health promotions. South-Brown, Brown-Marshall and Day county participate with us in this two-year grant.

The District's booth at the area Expo displayed the Slake test cylinders with a lot of good conversation about Soil Health. Mark Kasten, from Big Sioux Nursery, gave a presentation on perennials. It was well attended with excellent information which increased our handplant perennial sales.

The district stays involved with the informational, educational and promotional activities like helping with the Northern Prairie Water Festival for 4<sup>th</sup> grades, Arbor Day Essay Contest for grades 5 & 6, Arbor Day presentations for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in our counties' schools, Eco Ed Day at Fort Sisseton for 7<sup>th</sup> graders, & the speech contest for high school students. We also assist with the Land and Range Judging Contest for area High School students. We participated with Soil and Rangeland Days held in Spink County. We develop quarterly newsletters which we distribute to over 900 owners and producers by mail or email. The District also helps to sponsor 4-H awards, SDSU's Ag Day, Legislative Banquet and the Karst Memorial Scholarship funds. We were thrilled this year to have our Arbor Day essay winner place first in the State! Our speech contestant also did very well as she placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the State! It all helps promote the District and conservation in our area!

Facebook continues to be a tool to reach the public with soil health awareness and updates on the District's projects. The district as well as the North East Glacial Lakes project has websites available. They are: <http://marshallcd.org> and <http://neglwatersheds.org>. The Northeast Glacial Lakes Project in Day, Marshall, Deuel, Grant, and Roberts counties

continue to work with producers throughout the watersheds to cost share riparian plantings, filter strips, CRP seeding, pasture renovations, and several other projects. Assisting producers and promoting conservation in a stressed agricultural time will be the on-going challenge for 2020. Looking for ways the Conservation Districts will be able to help our family farms and rural communities will be our focus.

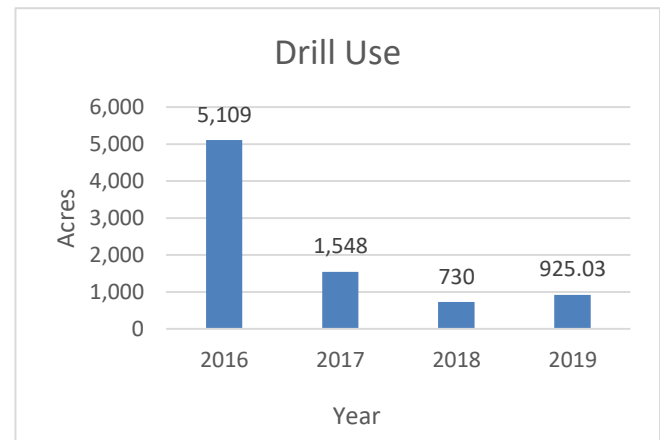
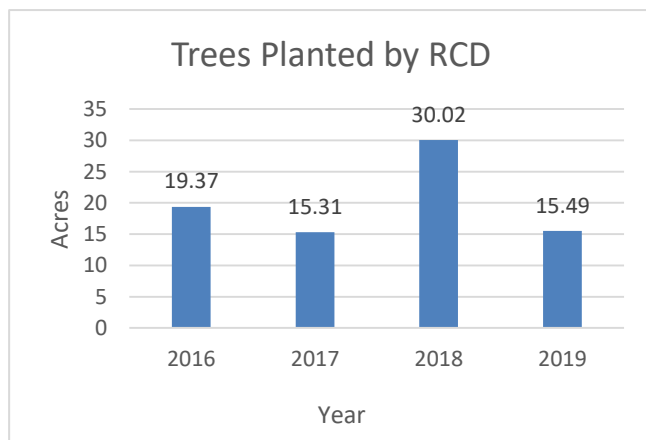
## ROBERTS CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**Jodi Hook (Manager) & Cassie Auxt (Resource Manager)**

First and foremost, I want to say thank you- Thank You to the employees of Roberts Conservation District, NRCS, and the Board for assisting in the success of our conservation district.

In 2019, Roberts Conservation District had a challenging year with the weather, which we will use as a learning experience moving forward. RCD was able to custom plant 925.03 ac worth of seed for CRP/WRP/CSP and other crops with one leased tractor. We did experience increased cover crop sales/planting this year due to the wet year and PP acres. Mowing services declined from 503 acres in 2018 to 203 acres in 2019. The other leased tractor was used for planting 15 acres of trees, which mainly consisted of new wildlife habitat. Fabric was laid on 49,037 feet of trees. In total, 6,213 trees were planted by RCD! Additional tree sales came from our handplant sales, where we ordered \$24,680 worth. Outreach this year consisted of a couple of events. RCD had a booth at the Sisseton Farm Show in January where we mingled with the attendees and were able to raise awareness of what the conservation district does. Cassie (District Resource Manager) visited all schools in the county for Arbor Day, where she presented on trees and gave each student their own Black Hills Spruce.

RCD is fortunate to have contribution agreements with NRCS. This year our duties consisted of assisting with CRP signup and monitoring, ACEP contracts, and monitoring wetland easements. We are excited and thankful for another year of working together! Quarterly newsletters are sent out to county participants via print and email services. Facebook seems to be a reliable and growing marketing/interactive platform for our customers, so much so we deleted our website and just use the state's provided site and RCD Facebook now. RCD's annual Memorial Scholarship was granted to Kailor Green of Wilmot. He will be attending Lake Area Tech for Ag Production this fall to further his knowledge and passion in the agricultural field.



## **SOUTH BROWN CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Lindsey Simon, District Manager**

2019 has most definitely been a year to remember, a winter that never wanted to end, spring flooding, that has progressed into fall and storms that most of us won't forget anytime soon. Hope this finds everyone getting caught up and enjoying the beautiful weather!

Spring planting season was one for the record books, with a super late start to all field work with muddy/wet conditions and struggling tremendously with finding seasonal help and having to rely a lot on people only working a day or two at a time. With the wet conditions and lack of crew we did still manage to get 17.9 acres of trees planted on 11 sites, with fabric installed on 9 of those 11 sites. Planting started on May 16 and ended on June 3, with numerous rain delays. On those 17.9 acres we planted 2,947 trees and installed 23,615 feet of weed barrier fabric.

Hand plant tree sales were strong again this year, with 130 pre orders and a two-day tree sale at the end of the season. Weed barrier fabric, staples, and tree protector sales were also very strong. Sales of Big Sioux Nursery fall potted stock have been very popular, with three trips to the nursery so far!

The biggest change this year was our district technician leaving after 4 years. In March we were able to hire an excellent replacement, who has done a tremendous job in the short time he has been with us. Spring planting of CRP and WRP grasses was a struggle due to the weather, and wet ground. We also had numerous breakdowns but were still able to get 1400 acres planted by mid-June. The short seeding window in August allowed us to get another 200 acres completed, and our dormant seeding window list continues to grow. Hopefully the weather will hold out and give us a couple weeks in November to seed! He has also stayed very busy this summer and fall with clipping of WRP easements. This has been a great boost for the district, and we hope this continues!

The JD no till rental drill also had a very busy spring and summer with 707 acres seeded by 16 producers thus far. This will hopefully continue through dormant seeding as we had a very successful CRP signup window!

Seed sales have been down a little bit, with not as much custom orders coming in. Our standard CRP mix is used for almost all CRP plantings, Hay and Pasture Mix, Alfalfa, and some cover crop mixes were all sold this year.

We continue to work on the contribution agreement with NRCS/SDACD to complete CSP Annual Payments, CRP File Management, CRP Status Reviews, WRP Easement Monitoring's (even though they got cut by 80% this year), and any other tasks that may be assigned. This is a great bonus for the district financially and provides us the ability to help with the workload in the office.

The districts outreach activities include sponsoring the annual Pheasants Forever Banquet in May; 2019 SD Rangeland and Soils Days in Redfield; North East SD Land and Range Judging contest in Webster. The Resource Conservation Speech Contest was once again a great turnout for both the local and area contest, both held in Aberdeen. Our area contestants did well at the state competition, with a 4<sup>th</sup> place win! Always great to see young students participating in public speaking!

We continue to administer the Robert Knichrehm and South Brown Conservation District Upper Grades Agricultural Scholarship. We awarded \$500.00 to one student for the Upper Grades Scholarship but did not have any interest for the Robert Knichrehm this year.

Hopefully 2020 will be a better year for interest! This was our 23 year of administrating the Northern Prairie Water Festival at the Barnett Center in Aberdeen. Almost 700 4<sup>th</sup> graders from the surrounding area attended the event this year. The Iowa State Extension Group Water Rocks was a new addition to our event, and they were incredible. They involve the



kids into the show with the music and dancing and keeping them engaged throughout the 45-minute session. What a great way to learn about water and conserving our resources! This wouldn't be possible without all our wonderful sponsors and volunteers every year, we can't thank them enough!

Year three of the Brown County Fair booth was a success and wouldn't be possible without the help of the NRCS staff and volunteers. Always great to get the word out about what the conservation district can do and visit with area producers.

Our partnership with Marshall County Conservation District on the Multi-Purpose Grant for dugout cleanouts, tree renovations, and soil health, continues to be a success. Didn't have as much interest this year, due to the continually wet conditions, but will continue to promote these funds. Our local Game Fish and Parks office continues to be a great partnership on numerous levels. I know we can always call on them to help us with tree pickups from the nursery, finding homes for leftover tree stock in the spring, a helping hand when needed, and a huge help and sponsorship for the water festival, we can't thank them enough for everything they do for us! The monarch weigh station project in Warner, that we partnered with them on last year, is doing fantastic and the community has done an excellent job with the upkeep! The city forestry department is always a key partnership for us, with their expertise on diseases and general guidance on tree species and zoning concerns. We have also partnered with them for Earth Day, by supplying the Black Hills Spruce Plugs and bags that are handed out to each child in attendance! Always a great event for the community!

NRCS, SDSU Extension, Day County Conservation District, and Brown County Conservation Districts hosted a Saline and Sodic Soils Workshop in Stratford this summer. The event was well received, even though the field visit had to be cancelled due to rains.

South Brown Conservation District, NRCS, SD Soil Health Coalition, and Pheasants Forever hosted a Non-Operating Land Owner Workshop alongside the Woman Food and Agriculture Network. This event had 27 women landowners from all over the United States in attendance, that brought a very diverse background to the table. WFAN organizer Carol, started the meeting off with a round table discussion on soil health and how to best manage the land. The afternoon was spent in the field getting to look at how cover crops and proper management of the soil affects the crops and long-term goals of the producer. Was a great event and I truly think the ladies all took away some very valuable information, that they will hopefully share with their tenants and fellow women land owners!

NRCS and South Brown Conservation District participated in the Aberdeen Ag Expo in February but due to weather and lack of advertisement by the event, the turnout was low. 2019 was our year to update our resource concerns with NRCS and SDACD. With the help of NRCS, we did three options this year, a Survey with 12 pictures of concerns that needed to be ranked the top 5 that they feel needed to be addressed; the same survey on survey monkey, but that was a bust with only 2 people completing it; and a scaled down version of the survey in a postcard format that was included in our Spring newsletter. This only resulted in 3 returned postcards, but the printed survey's that were mailed out to the township boards, highway department, coops, and Ag related businesses, resulted in 106 total survey's returned throughout Brown County. South Brown's top concerns were (1) Excess Salt Accumulation (2) Wind Erosion (3) Soil Compaction (4) Inadequate Livestock Water (5) Overgraze Pasture/Range. We are very happy with our turn out and hope this information gets used in future funding opportunities.

Lindsey has attended the annual Leadership Training in Pierre, Coteau Area Meeting in Webster, SDACDE Coteau Area Employees Meeting in Clark, and David and Lindsey will both be attending the SDACD Convention in December!

Hope this finds everyone doing well and having a successful year!

## SPINK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Ivy Pazour, District Manager

What a year... Does that about sum up everyone's 2019? We started 2019 off with hosting a Soil Health Forum with Gabe Brown, Justin Fruechte, Jim Kopriva, Jason Schley, and Lee Brieze in January. Despite being -30 degrees that day we had a great turnout and some great information was shared. From there we rolled right into spring. Just like most, this spring was not easy with all the moisture, but we did what we could. Tree planting was a stop and go type of season. We finally finished up our 26.6 acres up in early June. We only had one site too wet to plant so I will call that a win for this year. Fabric was soon finished up after the trees were planted. As for crews, the tree crew from last year all came back so they knew what they were doing. The fabric only had one new guy, but he had laid fabric for a neighboring county last year, so he was well trained. As always, our crews did great and we could not have made it through planting season without them. We also had a good year for handplant sales. We are selling more and more bigger yard trees and fruit trees from Baileys and perennials from Big Sioux so has been a great way to get more people through our doors. Besides trees we also sell tree tubes, shrub tubes, watering bags, Plantskydd, fertilizer packets, fabric staples, and fabric by the foot or roll.

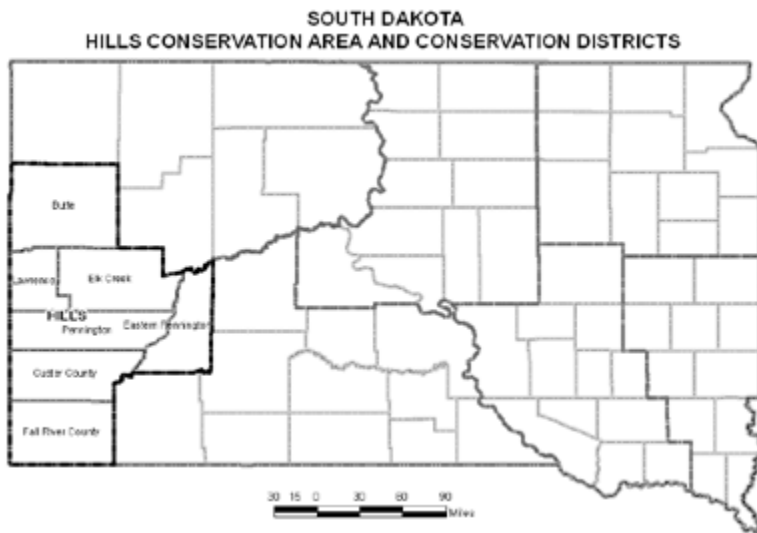
Dennis was able to plant 210 acres this year with his drill. Definitely a slower year for him. CRP clipping wasn't much better with only a few sites able to be clipped. With a slower summer and the weather like it was we focused on selling cover crops. We teamed up with a local agronomist and was able to sell cover crops to new customers around the county. This was the first year we got a bulk order of seed in and keep it on hand. There were times I was a little worried we would have to carry some over for the winter, but we got it all sold by the end of the season.

One of our biggest projects this spring was getting a Regenerative Ag demonstration plot started. One of our board members was generous enough to let us use 19 acres of crop land to have this plot. With the wet conditions the original planting plans changed but Dennis was still able to plant sunflowers with companions, cover crops, German millet, along with pollinator plots and grasses. The purpose of the site is to show what we can do with diverse crop rotation, cover crops and companion crops to improve soil health and lower input costs. We hope to host tours in the years to come to show how we have improved soil health, increased soil biology and reduced the use of fertilizer and chemical inputs to improve profitability. We have many great partners on this project including, Armadale Farms, Precision Soils and Jim Millar, Millborn Seeds, Mustang Seeds, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, and Next Level Ag.

The other big project that we were apart of was hosting the 2019 South Dakota Rangeland and Soil Days on June 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. We had an amazing turn out with 100 kids and 30 adults/volunteers from all over the state coming to Redfield. It was so much fun hosting this event for the past two years. I might even miss organizing it a little next year. Val from Murdo will be hosting it next year and 2021 and she will do great! **Thank you to all the districts that donated and came to help those days!**

As summer went on, we were still busy with hosting a Soil Health Bus Tour to Blue Dasher Farms and Jim Kopriva's Farm. A few days later we took part in the Leopold Tour at the Johnson Farm in Frankfort. Jamie Johnson is one of our board members, so we are very proud of their accomplishments. While all of this was going on, I was in the process of going through the Master Gardener course. It was a great course and a lot of it applies to what we do. I learned a lot about the trees that we sell and will be able to pass on pruning info and other tree care tidbits to our customers next spring. To round out the summer I helped with the District booth at the State Fair. It is always a great day and we got to talk to a lot of people about what Districts do.

The district has been involved with many educational and promotional activities this year including; Northern Prairie Water Festival, Women in Ag Day, Land and Range contests, Legislative Banquet, Karst Memorial Scholarship (we had a Spink County student get one of the scholarships!!), Arbor Day Essay Contest, and Area Speech Contest. We have updated the website and a Facebook page, which has been great to keep the public up to date on what is happening with the District.



## Hills Area

Butte, Custer, East Pennington,  
Elk Creek, Fall River, Lawrence,  
Pennington

### **BUTTE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Yvette Kirkman, District Manager**

2019...I'm not going to lie, it was a disappointment. We went from 10 sites in 2018 to 2 this year and they were so small we did them both, planting and fabric all in ONE day. We had to dodge a little rain shower in between tasks but thank goodness my little crew was willing to wait it out and get er' done! Lots of frustrations this year, the weather, the delays and the nursery issues, I was glad to get it in the books and move on to other things. 2020 is looking bleak as well, as I write this column, I have ONE machine planting scheduled. We held our Hills/NW Area employees meeting on July 8<sup>th</sup>. We welcomed Roger Shull, East Pennington District Mgr., replacing Lesa Stephens and Shauna Kopren, Perkins Co District Mgr., formerly the NW Area Forester and replacing Kelsie Kronberg. We decided not to have a training session due to the many concerns with Big Sioux Nursery. We had a lengthy discussion, many questions and concerns for Bonnie and Lindsay to take to the Big Sioux meeting the next day. Hills/NW will continue to have a booth at the Central States Fair, we have decided to only do the one-day event and will have several games and lots of swag. Our Arbor Day presentation was re-scheduled due to school conflicts and I was unable to attend because of tree delivery. Our V. Chairman, Cliff Conry, jumped in and took over the presentation, we were able to give each student a set of earbuds with Butte Conservation District – Arbor Day 2019 on them! We partner with the City of Belle Fourche and our foresters Allyssa Gregory and Josh Larson to make it a fun event with Q&A and planting a tree on the school grounds.

The 2019 Conservation Producer of the Year recipients were the Dan and Cindi Conner Ranch. They were presented with a sign and poster at the Butte/Lawrence County Fair in August. They were also SD-SRM and National SRM Award Winners!

Belle Fourche FFA was the winning SD Envirothon team in 2019 and they traveled to North Carolina to compete in the NCF Envirothon competition July 27- Aug 3. Get your districts involved, it is a great experience, check it out at [www.sdenvirothon.org](http://www.sdenvirothon.org) or contact SD Coordinator Kim Smeenck at [kim.envirothon.sd@gmail.com](mailto:kim.envirothon.sd@gmail.com).

Butte Conservation District continues its partnership with the Belle Fourche River Watershed Partnership, we started Segment 9 in August. The partnership has been able to provide cost-share to producers who don't meet other criteria and those with projects focused on range and irrigation improvement practices. We have sponsored several tours and assist in the promotion of soil health. Check us out at [www.bellefourchewatershed.org](http://www.bellefourchewatershed.org)

and if you are interested in having our rainfall simulator/soil quality trailer at your workshop/event/tour, please get in touch with us. Partnerships are an important part of conservation and we have great working relationships with many organizations, BLM, GF&P, USFWS, Weed & Pest, and many other local, state and federal agencies. Pooling our funding sources helps us assist many more producers.

This year has been no different than any other, I always have a project going, I guess I wouldn't know what to do with myself if I had spare time! I have enjoyed the challenge of being the Sec/Treasurer of SDACDE, Tami and Peggy are great leaders for the group and do a lot of work for us! Thank you for putting your trust in me for this past year. Look forward to seeing you all in December and planning the next awesome Leadership Conference for all of you.

## **CUSTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

\_\_\_\_\_, District Manager

*No report.*

## **EAST PENNINGTON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Roger Shull, District Manager**

This has been a very educational year for me, and the people that I have talked to have been some of the nicest, and helpful I have met. There are many different aspects to this job, and it seems like as soon as you learn one, another one presents itself. No matter what question I come up with, someone has an answer, it is very humbling to see.

Our Drill has been rented out to do approximately 1,000 acres this year to landowners within our district. Even though we had some repairs this year it continues to be a reliable source of income.

This year the tree planting numbers were very low, compared to previous years I am told. We did plant 3.6 acres of trees. It was a good year to start this position as far as tree plantings go, I feel that I am better prepared for the next tree planting season. The trees came in early enough, but so did the rain, we also kept our cooler going longer than normal. We sold over 4300 trees this year going into July and had very few left when we finally said enough is enough and shut it down.

We didn't get as much tilling done this year, in part because of rain and due to my inexperience with getting the various plots lined up to till in between the rain days. However, I did run the tractor/tiller enough to know I will have a much better season next year. The tree spade needed some work on its hydraulics and by the time I finished getting it running we had lost our window of moving trees. I have been moving a few trees this fall. This year we had no participants in the Arbor Day contest in the school, also no one in the speech contest. Part of it is because of me not being up to speed with what is needed to promote it, but I'm told that in the past it was getting more difficult to get participation from the teachers. We haven't had speech participants for many years. With all the rain this year we were unable to go to the school with trees for Arbor day. I did reach out to one of the teachers in the school this fall but have not received a reply yet.

We will keep reaching out to people to educate them about the Conservation District. The district will continue to host an awards banquet in the fall, put out a quarterly newsletter, take fall orders for perennials, offer a Bio-Control grant and tree planting assistance, and try to interact with the school. We do not have a crew for tree planting, so the spring gets

very busy with tilling and tree moving in addition to the tree plantings, it helps that the people in this office are very supportive.

## **ELK CREEK COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Tylee Evans, District Manager**

Elk Creek district manager, Tylee Evans, will be unable to attend the SDACD convention this year. A lot of her family is out of town and she will be watching over the place and livestock! Many can relate to livestock needs! They can be a big passion in many lives. Elk Creek CD is very active promoting state and national activities such as the Arbor Day Poster Contest, Speech Contest, and scholarships. Elk Creek also is a Meade County 4H donor and sponsors trophies for the fair. For the past 3 years, we have done our own Arbor day presentations to 4 rural schools in our district. We visit each school and do a hands-on activity and letting students take home a bareroot conifer to plant! This has been very successful.

Our social media presence has grown with our active Facebook page. Many posts include local events, updates, and general news and articles. We still produce a newsletter to send out to over 400 participants! We will also start advertising our No-Till Drill in our newsletter. Even without it in the newsletter, interest and renting of our 4' No-Till Drill has increased this summer and fall!

Last spring, Elk Creek ordered in 10,697 trees! What a huge amount to go towards conservation. We also planted 3,462 of those trees for 8 different landowners across Meade County. Elk Creek is hoping to see an increase in orders for 2020.

## **FALL RIVER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Peggy Koupal, District Manager**

*No Report.*

## **LAWRENCE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Zindie Meyers, District Manager**

No two years are ever alike in the conservation world so here's a review of 2019 so far with some familiar themes and a few new twists:

Machine planting was minimal again, but hand plant sales remained strong.

The district's Long Range Plan was updated.

For the first time in my memory we had no participants in the Arbor Day Essay Contest, but had two speech contestants, also a first during my employment. And one of them became the state winner.

The district was consulted concerning grazing management on Lookout Mountain, a prominent feature on the edge of Spearfish which has multiple users.

I've taken more calls about voles and/or rabbit damage than I can ever remember.

As the Hills Area NOLO coordinator I gave presentations to five districts and have submitted a grant proposal for an outreach workshop.

Lawrence County's Planning & Zoning Department is doing a major update of its Comprehensive Plan, a policy guide for decisions that affect the physical and socioeconomic

development of the county. The district is participating in stakeholder meetings to help shape the new document.

Lastly, the Hills Area selected Lawrence CD board chairman and SDACD president, Karl Jensen, as its Endowment Honoree. Many of you know Karl and would agree with me that he is a worthy choice.

## **PENNINGTON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Lindsay Mader, District Manager**

Hello All! Boy, did this year go by fast or what? There were 6 plantings completed by the conservation district this year. One producer made his own no till tree planter and planted two shelterbelts with it. Instead of using fabric, he put hay around his trees as a weed barrier. We planted 4 shelterbelts with the machine planter and due to the wet conditions one producer chose to plant his own 2 rows by hand. The total amount of trees planted for these 6 shelterbelts amounted to 3,977 with 16,721 ft of fabric. Besides those plantings, we sold roughly 6,306 handplants this year. I videoed the process of tree planting and installing fabric with the drone and have the video on the Pennington Conservation District Facebook page if anyone would like to use it to show producers the process. Between the 2 no till drills that we lease out to producers, our district has seeded 1,457.5 acres this year. I have also spent a decent amount of time researching alternative weed barrier options. As you may know, I found hemp fabric from a company in California. I am currently working on testing samples along with the NRCS PMC. I am also working with the NRCS to get it on the cost share docket for the 2021 fiscal year.

We are still working on a thinning grant that we received last year from the Conservation Commission. We received another thinning grant for \$20,000 from the Conservation Commission this year. We have 26 acres of thinning from last years' grant that has been completed this year. We have 10.5 more acres to get finished before June of 2020. The 3 producers that finished the 26 acres have all been very satisfied with the results.

Along with keeping up with all the work for the district and the cooperative agreement with the NRCS, we also added a good neighbor authority agreement with the Forest Service and the South Dakota Department of Agriculture Resource Conservation & Forestry Division this fall. The Pennington Conservation District has hired 3 employees to work in the Black Hills National Forest. We are currently looking for one more employee. The four-person crew is initially working on timber sale preparation duties including cutting unit boundary layout and painting trees within cutting units. I am serving as the crew's supervisor and I am responsible for all the administrative duties associated with hiring, payroll, benefits, and logistics. I started working for the Pennington Conservation District in May of 2017 at 25-hour weeks. With the additional agreements, I am now up to 40-hour weeks, 2 and a 1/2 years later. I have joined the SDACDE legislative committee this year and I was voted to represent the Hills Area on the Big Sioux Nursery Board last March.

Our district has also actively been looking to buy land to house our tree cooler, drill sheds, etc. We would also like to turn it into an educational farm/ research center and plant test plots. We would like to plant strips of different crops as well as trees and host tours and workshops out there. Eventually we would also like to build a building where we can have our annual banquets, a place to go inside when we have tours and workshops, etc. We have found a couple options but are keeping our options open at this time.

This year we participated in Rapid City and Box Elder's Arbor Day celebrations that they host for their communities. They were both great learning opportunities. We hosted an alternative forage and cover crop workshop with Millborn seeds and NRCS. We also hosted

a soil health workshop at Shawn Freeland's maze for a class of 8<sup>th</sup> graders from Rapid City. Our annual banquet will take place on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 where we will have Dwayne Beck speak to our producers about cover crops and no till farming practices. We have sent out 4 newsletters this year and added the interested NOLOs, 34 people, to our mailing lists. Although I have a hard time getting into schools and getting participation for the arbor day essay contest and poster contest, since it isn't required. I did my best to promote it and get as many kids to participate as possible. We had one student submit a poster and around 80 students submit essays. We also hosted a local speech contest as well as the area speech contest. The judges for both contests were a mix of county commissioners, NRCS employees, FSA employees, and one of my board supervisors. We had 6 students in both contests. We also promoted the karst memorial scholarship. The Hills Area Conservation Districts helped man a booth at the Central States Fair along with NRCS for the whole week this year. We had a lot of fun. The backpacks, stress trees, tattoos, coloring books, and soil tunnel were a huge hit. I helped judge Ag sales for the FFA LDE in Rapid City on October 8<sup>th</sup> this year too.

I was also able to get out with the drone and take videos and pictures of Box Elder Creek and the Cheyenne River. I need to get out and do the after photos. The producers that gave me permission to go out to their places when it started flooding in May told me the banks have sloughed in so bad that they lost around 100 acres of land by the Cheyenne River. Stay tuned for the before and after photos of that.





## North Missouri Area

Campbell, Edmonds, Faulk, Hand, Hughes, Hyde, McPherson, Potter, Sully, Walworth

### **CAMPBELL COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT** **Casey Eisemann, District Manager**

*No Report.*

### **EDMUNDS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT** **Meshele Townsend, District Manager**

2019 was a hard year. Weather made things difficult for producers to plant crops, trees and livestock needs. Lack of water wasn't a problem this year. Trees planted were down due to lack of programs available for producers to take advantage of and ECCDs new tree grant coming in late in the season. ECCD had only 19 acres planted in 2019. Going forward ECCD is working to have a tree grant available every year to help producers needs with trees, fabric, renovation and seed. To date I have a wonderful biologist to help with planning tree plots. For 2021 ECCD has 5 producers that we hope to plant for and many more producers are looking to have plantings in 2021. 2020 looks to be a slow year for planting to date. Hand plants for 2019 were strong and we are looking to make it even stronger yet. The board voted to increase the cost on many items, potted being the biggest increase. ECCD purchased this year a new 15ft John Deere No Till Drill. This helped make things go faster and easier to help move the drills around the district for producers. Producer's timeline was cared for more effective. Planted acres this year was up from last year which was real nice.

Seed sales were our biggest hit in decreased revenue by 84%. What we found was producers are looking for the cheapest prices for their seed. The lack of faith in the commodity prices across the board and the weather. Long story short they didn't want to spend any money if they didn't have to.

Arbor Day was a lot of fun! ECCD did something new this year with the 5<sup>th</sup> graders. We made healthy soil and then ate it. Using candy, cookies and pudding we talked about the different parts of the soil...not dirt. Healthy Soil makes everything better. This was a project so much fun we did it for the Grow with youth kids. Another big win with the kids. We also handed out pencils, stickers, activity books and a BHS potted tree. The poster and Essay

participants received a certificate and the winners received certificates as well. Kids are the producers of the future.

ECCD held our 8<sup>th</sup> yard and garden clinic March 30<sup>th</sup> in Ipswich; topic was Shade and sun perennials. Great turn out! Our annual Soil Health Clinic was held on February 4<sup>th</sup> in Ipswich. Brian & Nick Jorgensen talked health strategies and how it profits them. Brian Schmidt's topic, diversity is key, to making a difference to the land and profiting from the changes. Supper was provided free of charge and a good way to bring producers together to talk about what the speakers shared. In the end this is the goal of the clinic to start discussion in hopes some will visit the office to learn more.

2019 was our 3<sup>rd</sup> year of an intern. Our intern Emma started in May and finished end of September. The best part is she was hired in October as a trainee soil con. in Illinois. To have an intern then land a permanent position in the conservation field is wonderful.

ECCDs goal in doing the internship was to educate what conservation is and in hopes of helping the industry recruiting. Making a difference one person at a time.

We had 3 board members attend the Aberdeen water festival September 19<sup>th</sup> and the District Manager as volunteers. This year's new program "Water Rocks" from Iowa was a big hit with all the kids and adults.

2019 was a great year, went fast and many challenges. 2020 I hope shows districts, a light at the end of the tunnel for better things to come. To present it will be a very slow year I feel for ECCD even with all the things we are trying to help ourselves.

## **FAULK COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Kristine Meyer**

*No Report.*

## **HAND COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Shawn Wik, District Manager**

*No Report.*

## **HUGHES COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Douglas Boes, District Manager**

The Hughes County Conservation District under the direction of Manager Douglas Boes completed another tree planting season with a total of 72,477 feet planted along with a total of 92,708 feet of fabric installed. HCCD also provided a Hand planting service that consisted of us helping producers hand plant approximately 4,992 trees. We continued to also sell approximately \$30,346.54 worth of conservation grade bare-root trees, tall fruit trees, large bare root trees, grasses and perennials.

Our district's complete No-Till drill service, consisting of our two 15' John Deere 1590 drills and a 15' Great Plains drill pulled by our two Cat Challenger tractors and operated by our personal were used for a total of 1500 acres in order to help producers where and when necessary. Our districts pasture sprayer along with our Kubota UTV sprayer were used to help burn down or control weeds on approximately 160 acres. Our districts 7' land pride mower with sprayer attachment was operated by our personal for a total of 19 hours to

help our producers maintain weed free tree groves along with the clipping of several pollinator plots in order to help our producers maintain contract responsibility. Our district also supplied producers with a 4' Kasco drill rental program, along with supplying producers with rentals on two handheld tree augers, and two fabric cutting bully tools. Our district also made available to producers thru rental agreements a 1000-gallon water tank trailer in order to help producers' water new or existing tree groves. Our district continued to provide a rototilling service to area producers.

Our district also sold containers of Plant Skyde animal repellent to area producers in order to help producers keep damaging critters off their trees. Our district also designed and built a 4' fabric machine that is available to producers through a rental agreement, and this fabric machine was used by producers. Our district also sold 21 tree tubes and ties to producers along with \$3259.00 of 6'x750' and 4'x300' fabric, along with 8 1/2 boxes of staples. HCCD also began its role as a seed supplier to help producers find their perfect match for each project, with this role the district can reach out to 4 or 5 different companies and request bids, delivery dates, and other specifics that increase profitability chances for each producer along with the district. The district is also accepting credit card payments for all its services. Which was proven to be a great asset during tree season this year. The District was very proud to pick 3 students this spring and award each with a \$1000 scholarship.

All four newsletters have been sent out for this year. The district continues to offer ads to area businesses to help defray the cost of our newsletters and continues to reach out to more Agricultural related businesses each year. We maintain a Facebook Page where we advertise our services, news releases, and dates for certain functions.

We are now busy working on tree and seeding plans for the 2020 planting season and have several growers that we are working with so far. Our district was awarded 2 \$15,000 grants one ending in 2020 and the other one in 2021. These grants allow us to continue with our efforts to help support our producers that wish to protect our natural resources. These along with others wanting to create a tree plan on their own or with the assistance of programs such as woody Habitat, CRP and Equip will help to insure that we have a good number of tree planting and fabric installation acres to accomplish next season, along with our increasing acres numbers of grass drilling, along with many rototilling, mowing, and spraying projects on the books for the spring of 2020.

## **HYDE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Tonja Jessen, District Manager**

2019 proved to be challenging and some of our plantings were not able to be completed due to the weather. In spite of the late starts and excessive moisture we were still able to complete plantings on just 34 acres of trees for ten different land owners. Over 15 miles of fabric were installed on the plantings and an additional 12 miles of fabric was installed on a SDGF&P planting.

The District still has a 12' Truax grass drill, a 20' JD No-Till Drill and a 45' Summers Land Roller. The demand was great but because the weather didn't cooperate it was not able to be utilized for all the acres planned.

Hyde and Hand County Conservation Districts are in the middle of the sixth phase of the Hyde/Hand Enhancement project in coordination with the South Dakota Conservation Commission. This project will benefit landowners and operators in these counties by providing cost-share for shelterbelt renovation and establishment of new belts that do not qualify for federal or state assistance. We are in the process of applying for a seventh phase

as all the funds from phase six has been spoken for and there are still producers on the wait list.

In 2005 the District started the Hyde County Conservation District Scholarship which offers a graduate of the Highmore-Harrold School District a \$500 scholarship. In 2009 the district suffered the loss of long time Board Member and friend, Ray Wieseler. It was then decided the scholarship would be renamed in his honor and is now known as the Ray Wieseler Memorial Conservation Scholarship. This year's recipient was Maria Pazour.

Additionally, the District sponsors an Arbor Day celebration at the school to show the K- 6<sup>th</sup> Grades the importance of trees and what benefits we get from them. The District has a special program for the 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade and hands out a Black Hills Spruce seedling to every Fifth grader. Awards are also presented to the local winners of the Arbor Day Essay and Poster contests at that time.

Once again the Hyde County Conservation District, with the help of the Hand County Conservation District, Hyde and Hand offices of NRCS and County Weed and Pest Supervisors sponsored the Info Show in March at the Ree Heights Auditorium. Once again we had almost 90 people in attendance for great food and information provided by Pat Guptil, Quinn area producer, as our featured speaker.

Even with this year being so crazy with the weather issues I still can't help but to be grateful to live in this area and South Dakota! To quote Eleonora Duse; "If the sight of the blue skies fills you with joy, if a blade of grass springing up in the fields has power to move you, if the simple things of nature have a message that you understand, rejoice, for your soul is alive."

## **MCPHERSON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Karen Yost, District Manager**

Spring keeps getting later and later every year seems to be the new normal. Once the trees were delivered tree planting went very well. We machine planted 7,831 trees on 30.2 acres for 15 producers. We laid 3,734' of fabric for 3 producers that wanted just fabric. Laid 72,961' of fabric. We installed 350 tree tubes. We added the potted perennials and grasses from Big Sioux, which helped raise hand plant sales.

We had a few break downs with the drills this year. That seems to be a normal thing too. Doug seeded 1,610 acres of grass. We had 500 acres that were too wet to get into, we are hoping to finish them up this fall yet. Seeding was up double from last year. Seed sales were also up double from last year.

In January the McPherson County Conservation District and NRCS hosted the SD Grassland Coalition's Winter Road Show in Eureka, with speakers Roland Kroos and Patrick Toomey. We had a very good turnout.

We had two contestants for the speech contest this year, one went on to the state contest. We had no participants for the Arbor Day contests.

We sent out a newsletter to all our producers and to the surrounding areas. We want to let them know what services we have and that we are here to help with their conservation needs.

We donated to the Northern Prairie Water Festival for 4<sup>th</sup> graders. We donated trees for the Fireman Fun Night Fund raiser, and staples for 4-H Achievement Days. We also had Kent Vilieger come from Huron to do the rain simulator at the 4-H Achievement Days.

We started our tree test plot this year. Wanted to show the producers the difference between fabric and tree tubes and no fabric or tubes and tilling or no tilling between rows. We are doing testing on spruce trees with tree tubes. We are also working on a no till community garden.

We added an 8' rotary tiller to our service's list this year and are looking for a new tree planter. Over all it's been a good year for the District.

I would like to thank Doug, Kurt and my tree and fabric crews for all their hard work. Also, to John and our District Supervisors. Another year well done.

We have seeding and tree plantings plans coming in for 2020. I'm looking forward to the challenges of 2020. Thanks again to everyone that helped make this a great year.

## **POTTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Kimberly Schweiss, District Manager**

After 6 years, this August we finally completed and paid off our settlement agreement with the IRS. Unfortunately, with the lack of CRP funding and other cost-share programs for tree planting we are still struggling financially. We have cut costs as much as possible including reduced wages and no employee benefits, but it will take a couple years of high acres of tree planting and increased hand plant sales for us to build back up again.... so, the struggle will continue for a while yet.

District Manager/Secretary Kimberly Schweiss returned to work last November after having surgery in Rochester, MN to remove a brain tumor. Attended the Leadership Conference in Pierre in March. Arbor Day was celebrated in April. Kimberly along with Jenna Schweiss, gave Arbor Day presentations to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade students at Gettysburg and Hoven elementary. The students made dirt cups to learn about the benefits of soil health and they were taught about trees and other SD state information. Each student was given a Black Hills Spruce tree and goodie bags and their teachers were each given a plant. NRCS D.C. Tom Nadgwick and Soil Conservationist, James Beavers were also present to give tabletop rainfall simulator demonstrations. We had all 19 students in the Gettysburg 5<sup>th</sup> grade class participate in the Arbor Day poster contest and the essay contest. Certificates and trees were presented to them at their elementary awards program. We helped sponsor the break at the Women's Ag Day in Faulkton in June.

Plantings were way down but this spring we machine planted about 14.27 acres of trees and machine applied about 30,497 feet of fabric on 8 sites. Two of those sites were CTA sites. We applied 71 tree tubes for producers. We had a small but great crew with our District Resource Manager, our tractor driver who has been with the district for 12 plus years and 2 new high school kids. Despite some wet weather conditions planting went well. We sold individual trees, shrubs, fabric, tree tubes and posts, native grasses and perennials and garden perennials. Again, we leased a tractor from John Deere and continue to do rotary mowing and tilling for customers. We are still purchasing grass seed and cover crop seed for producers/customers and rent a no-till drill and offer the service to drill and plant the grass seed and cover crop seed for the producers.

Supervisors, District Mgr/Secretary, Resource Manager, NRCS Staff and our Pheasants Forever Wildlife Biologist attended the NMA Meeting in June in Lebanon, SD. Schweiss attended the Windbreak Training in Aberdeen on July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Our Conservation District building, and cooler were again utilized during the Potter County Fair and 4H Achievement in August 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>. This year the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Vendor Fair was held on Saturday in the conservation building with about 20 vendor participants and a great turnout. We had a booth with our conservation district information available and pollinator plant kits from Big Sioux Nursery available for purchase. We had potted a few of our unsold surplus trees and had those available for sale during the vendor fair. The annual BBQ lunch was also held in the building on Sunday of the fair.

We continue to work directly with the USDA NRCS, FSA, SD Soil Health Coalition, SD Grasslands Coalition, US Fish and Wildlife, GF&P offices and other county boards and organizations as needed. We still have our Pheasants Forever Wildlife Biologist, Isaac Full covering our office along with James Beavers, NRCS Soil Conservationist and Tom Nadgwick, NRCS District Conservationist. We also have Dillon Blaha as our new Resource Unit Conservationist (RUC). We still collect & report the local weather data on a daily basis for the National Weather Service. This includes rainfall, snowfall & total accumulation as well as daily high and low temperatures for the area.

Due to cost & staff restraints we still do not publish a newsletter but are still hopeful to maybe start again in the future. We utilize the local newspapers in Gettysburg and Hoven as much as possible along with email and word of mouth to get our information and services we offer out to everyone. We have a Facebook page that we hope to start utilizing even more in the future and are slowly working on our webpage. We are all still dedicated to the continuing education and preservation of conservation!

## **SULLY COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Sarah Severson, District Manager**

*No Report.*

## **WALWORTH COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Linda Thorstenson, District Manager**

It was a long drawn out spring. We rented the no till drills out for 1341.26 acres. We planted 14.5 acres of windbreak, putting fabric on all those acres. We sold 3718 conservation grade handplants. Also sold 476 potted or large bareroot trees. Sponsored the Arbor Day Essay contest with the local schools.



## NorthWest Area

Corson, Dewey, Harding,  
Perkins, Tri-County, Ziebach,

### **CORSON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Annie Walker, District Manager**

We started the year out by trading off our 1590 JD no till drill for a new 1590. Planting for producers was slow this spring but overall the drill use was up almost 800 acres over 2018. We continue to rent out 2 manure spreaders and a corn planter as well.

Mike Beer, a long-time board member, was appointed to the board this year and Barb Campbell, another long-time member, ran unopposed. We are happy to keep them with us. This spring we planted only 7 acres for 7 different producers. Most of them were producers filling in rows or CSP plots, only 1 plot was over 2 acres which was a non-cost shared plot. I am thankful it was a smaller year for district-planted plots though as it would have been very hard to get many of them done due to all the soggy ground around the county. The rain was a blessing for the trees we were able to plant but I did feel like we were mudding some in. What I didn't plant behind a tractor I made up for in pot and handplant sales. Each year my number of customers continues to grow and I am so thankful for all of them. Again we purchased the majority of our bareroot stock through Big Sioux and a few through Lincoln Oakes. We partnered with Perkins Conservation District when ordering large potted stock from Wolcyn Tree Farms. In addition to their delivery to McIntosh, I also purchased another stock trailer full of trees later which also sold out in just a couple days. Lesson learned: just buy lots and lots of extra potted trees.

For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year we partnered with the BIA to repopulate native cottonwoods that were destroyed in a fire a few years ago along the Grand River. We ordered 2650 trees to be planted largely by BIA and volunteers which took around a week to complete. We plan to continue this project next year as well.

I attended Convention in September of 2018. Supervisors took part in hiring the new North West Area Forester who just started October 28<sup>th</sup>. I've been working with Allyssa Gregory out of Lead for grant funded tree plot plans which I've enjoyed, but having a forester specific to this area is much more ideal.

As always, we celebrated Arbor Day with 2<sup>nd</sup> graders at McIntosh Elementary School and we also visited McLaughlin 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. We gave a short presentation explaining what Arbor Day is, handed out a tree to each student, and planted a tree with the McIntosh 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. Weather didn't allow us to plant a tree in McLaughlin but we left one to be planted later. We continue to sponsor the Arbor Day Foundation, our local 4H chapter and the Corson County Fair.

## **DEWEY COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Jamie Weidemer, District Manager**

*No Report.*

## **HARDING COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Bonnie Schmidt, District Manager**

The tree plantings have really picked up these last couple of years. Our plantings were up from last year. Still a few breakdowns. It was a very wet spring as I am sure the rest of you have had the same problems. The producers are very happy with the way the shelterbelts are looking.

Our local conservation tour is promising to be an interesting time. We talked about turning manure piles and how important it is to let the manure age before using on your crop land and pastures. They demonstrated the Canadian thistle beetles and how they are helping to get rid of their Canadian thistle. Afterwards, we had a banquet to present a picture of their ranch to the producers.

We are still very involved in the Arbor Day essay and Poster contests.

The Conservation District still sells cover crop seed. It is a very beneficial arrangement for the producer and for the district.

I can't wait to see everyone in September at Convention.

## **PERKINS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Shauna Kopren, District Manager**

2019 has been a busy year for the Perkins County Conservation District. We were able to machine plant 13.9 acres on 8 different farms with 5,075 trees planted during the spring of 2019. Approximately 20,194 feet of fabric was also laid on these plantings. Like many other counties throughout the state, Perkins County struggled to get all the plantings done due to the constant heavy rain this spring. We did have a very successful year selling handplants, grass seed and perennial flowers which we are planning on selling more of.

In July, Kelsie Kronberg who served as district manager for Perkins County since 2016, moved across the hall to the Farm Service Agency and I, Shauna Kopren, applied for the district manager position. I officially started mid-July and so far, have loved every part of being the district manager and am happy to have joined the family. My old position of Northwest Area Natural Resource Specialist has been filled by Tiffany Martin whose first day is October 28, 2019. Join us in welcoming her to South Dakota!

Our drill continues to be a sought-after commodity, but with the extremely wet spring and summer we had, the drill didn't get quite as much use as we would have liked. And now it is looking like we will be having just as wet of a fall. We are hoping that it dries up enough for our farmers and ranchers to get their fall work done. The drill is rented out to the producers for \$11.00 per acre and \$50.00 per day. A little over 920 acres were planted by our drill this spring. We will be trying to advertise the drill more in the upcoming year by sending out more newsletters and by advertising around the county.

The district sponsored a poster contest, an essay contest, SDACDE and SDACD. We provided trees to local 5<sup>th</sup> graders for Arbor Day in Bison and Lemmon. The district also helped NRCS with their workshops throughout the year including the low stress handling



workshop. The district is also helping to host a career fair in Bison for all the local high school students November 19.

The highlights and happenings in our district over the past year have made for a fun filled learning experience and I can't wait to see what next year has in store!

## **TRI-COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Amy Schuelke, District Manager**

The Tri-County Conservation District had a short, but successful spring. We were behind in starting any of our plantings due to mother nature and the trees being delivered in May.

The tree crew planted 26.92 acres of trees; 7,055 trees, 20 plots, and 38,186 Ft. of fabric.

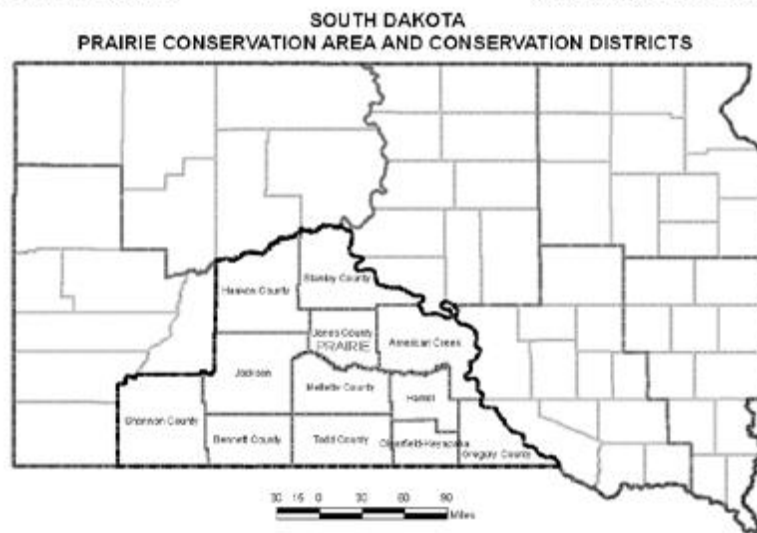
The total number of trees ordered and sold was 10,957. Looking forward to this year of tree sales and optimistic about it being a great year.

Amy Schuelke and Josh Larson the Community Forester continue going to the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade class rooms at the Faith School talking about Arbor Day. Have the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes in the Faith School participating in the Arbor Day essay contest.

## **ZIEBACH COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Fanny Brewer, District Manager**

*No Report.*



## Prairie Area

Bennett/Badlands,  
Clearfield/Keyapaha, Gregory,  
Haakon, Hamill, Jackson, Jones,  
Mellette/Todd, Stanley,

### **BENNETT AND BADLANDS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Patty Beck, District Manager**

Tree plantings completed in the 2 Districts totaled 14.2 acres for 5 producers. We brought in a total of 13,635 trees, shrubs and perennials.

Both Districts continue to be involved in informational, educational and promotional activities, including the Resource Conservation Speech contest, Stewardship Week, the Arbor Day essay contest, SD Youth Range Camp, SD Rangeland & Soils Days, and the Karst Scholarship program. Bennett CD sponsors the local 4-H Conservation Award. Both Districts co-sponsored a booth at the Bennett County Fair, Rodeo and Achievement Days with NRCS. Bennett CD donated trees to the local Pheasants Forever Chapter to be auctioned at their banquet. The IWLA Wildlife Habitat Award program is promoted by Bennett CD and nominations are sent in.

The Districts jointly put out 2 newsletters to approximately 500 producers in the two Counties, with the fall issue focusing on trees. We had a Tree Planting Grant for 2019 for the 2 Counties and plan to apply for another grant for 2020.

The Bennett Conservation District has 2 drills, a John Deere 1560 and a Truax, and Badlands Conservation District has 1 drill, a CrustBuster, which we rent out. The producers operate the drills themselves.

### **CLEARFIELD/KEYAPAHA CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

**William Engel, District Manager**

*No Report.*

### **GREGORY COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Tina Schonebaum**

The Gregory County Conservation District machine planted 7,082 trees, sold 5,604 hand plant trees and laid 53,796 feet of fabric.

The county drills were not as busy this spring due to the wet year. The 12' Truax No-Till Grass Drill was used to plant 230 acres. The 15' 1590 JD No-Till Drills were used to plant 3407 acres. The land roller was used on 620 acres.

We sponsored the Arbor Day poster and essay contest for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students.

## **HAAKON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Dusti Barry, District Manager**

I think we all can agree that 2019 has been quite a challenging year. Here in Haakon County, we were extremely fortunate to have had only 3 sites to plant, and we managed to get them all in between the rains. The total was right at 15.8 miles of shelterbelts, or 15.1 acres. Handplant sales totaled nearly 7800, a little less than a normal year but definitely not alarming considering the difficult spring. I've recently completed checks of our recent shelterbelts, and they are all establishing really well, while the rain was a pain to deal with, it benefited them greatly, and I am counting my blessings, knowing we got quite lucky this spring.

The summer months were fairly quiet for us, we participated in a few community projects, including a K-8<sup>th</sup> grade Ag Education Day, in conjunction with our local SDSU Extension office and the community library. It was a huge success, and we got a lot of comments from the community members expressing how much they appreciated our putting it together! We hope to make it an annual event. I spent a good chunk of time "re-vamping" a district sponsored butterfly garden at our local kiddie park – it had been neglected for several years in the past and ended up being quite the project, however it is looking so nice now, and the community really enjoys it as well. One of my favorite parts of my job is making an impact in our local community! Of course we did the "usual" district activities as well – school visits, Arbor Day contests, etc. We have a full year of activities planned for our local youth as well.

We publish a newsletter twice each year, the fall issue will be coming out the first week of October to (hopefully!) encourage those early tree orders from our customers. We are also offering, for the first time, the option for our customer base to receive the newsletter in a digital format via subscription to our email list (saving paper saves trees right?).

Planning for our annual award banquet in December is also underway, we are excited to celebrate the members of our community who are model stewards of their operations.

We can be found on the web at [sdconservation.org/haakoncd](http://sdconservation.org/haakoncd), and we try to keep a current Facebook page as well! We are looking forward to an exciting finish to 2019, and a prosperous 2020 as well!

## **JACKSON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Paula Holley, District Manager**

This season's tree planting was exciting for me personally because it was my first. We planted 7,528 feet of trees for three landowners. The first trees were planted on May 14 and the last were planted June 10<sup>th</sup>. Two of the three wanted fabric installed, this service was hired out and 4,329 feet of fabric was installed.

Since our last update our 1590 John Deere Drill was leased to ten landowners seeding 1121 acres.

We again had local fifth graders from the Kadoka School entering the Arbor Day Essay Poster and Essay contest, each receiving a tree seedling and a backpack to take home.

This year's Annual Youth Range Day which is always held on the Gene, Monica and Trevor Williams Ranch adjacent to the Badlands National Park was a big success. This event began in 2002 with seventh graders from Kadoka, Interior, Longvalley, Midland, Philip, Wall and homeschooled invited to participate. We work with partnering agencies from NRCS, US Forest Service, US Fish & Wildlife and Badlands National Park as instructors for the four break-out sessions of Soils, Range, Wildlife and History/Paleontology with a lunch provided. This year it was held on September 18, the weather was beautiful and we had 70 students plus 22 adults in attendance.

We continue our work with landowners, Jackson County and the County Weed and Pest Supervisor in the education and control of Canada Thistle and noticeable invasion of "Common Mullein" throughout the county. We work with 20-25 local landowners in ordering the spring gall flies and the fall stem miners to aid in the control of Canada thistle. This year wrapped up the "Cottonwood Fire" recovery grant providing almost \$5,000 in assistance to 2 landowners that suffered extensive damage in the 2016 Cottonwood fire.

## **JONES COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Valerie Feddersen, District Manager**

*No Report.*

## **MELLETTE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT & TODD COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Laurie Chauncey, District Manager**

Todd County Conservation District hosted the environmental fair with 179 Todd County 5th grade students attending from nine elementary schools in the County. There were 8 presenters from various entities that presented on various Natural Resources. Rosebud Economic Development Corp (REDCO), SD Science and Discovery Center, SDDA Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry, Niobrara National Park Service, Niobrara Council, SDSU Extension, NRCS Soil Scientists, SDACD, South Central RC&D and the Conservation District all worked together to make this event successful.

Both Districts sponsor speech, poster, and essay contests.

The Conservation District helps put on the Ranchers Workshop each year it alternates between Todd and Mellette County. South Central RC&D, NRCS, FSA, SDSU Extension partner in this activity that follows bootstraps four areas that are important to successful operations. This year's workshop had 4 presentations and was attended by 80 local and area producers. Both districts are working on a cover crops project that will include a field day in Mellette County and a demonstration plot. The District continues to have Commission grants available for producers and notifies via newsletter and newspaper. The District provided trees and assisted in planting for the Todd County Elementary on Arbor Day.

Mellette and Todd County Conservation Districts had a fairly successful year. Mellette County planted approximately 6000 trees on 20 acres Mellette County installed about feet 53000 feet of fabric. Mellette County has two JD 1590 no-till drills. These two drills were used for a combined 1585 acres so far in 2019. The JD 450 drill was used by two producers for a combined 177 acres.

Todd County planted approximately 2200 trees on 8 acres. Todd County laid approximately 30,500 feet of fabric. The Todd County 450 drill was used by 1 producer to seed 83 acres. The small Truax drill was used on one site to plant 0.69 acres.

## **STANLEY COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Mary Beth Fravel, District Manager**

2019 was a year of challenges across the state and we were luckier than some counties. We only had 3 producers with new shelter belt plantings for a total of 14180 ft. We sold a total of 4652 trees. This spring we purchased the Trees are Us fabric machine which worked wonderful for the soils in Stanley County and we are hoping to get many years of use from it.

With only 1 field manager, Matt Stoesser we still managed to help many producers with small projects. He drilled 558 acres, mowed 25 acres and sprayed 138 acres. We also rented a small drill and the mower out a few times on a daily cost basis.

We selected two entries from the Stanley County 5<sup>th</sup> grade class and submitted them to the state Arbor Day essay and poster contest. The winner of our \$500 scholarship was Austin Hand who is attending SDSU.

With the season behind us we are planning for next year and the future with the need for a new tractor and pickup, plus a tree cooler and looking for a permanent home to park out equipment. The challenges sometimes seem greater than the rewards but that is the way with farming.

**SOUTH DAKOTA  
SOUTH JAMES/MISSOURI CONSERVATION AREA AND CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**



## [South James Missouri](#)

[Aurora](#), [Beadle](#), [Bon Homme](#),  
[Brule/Buffalo](#), [Charles Mix](#),  
[Davison](#), [Douglas](#), [Hanson](#),  
[Hutchinson](#), [Jerauld](#), [Sanborn](#),  
[Yankton](#)

### **AURORA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Wendy Mathers, District Manager**

Like so many other counties, we were very limited on our work this spring because of the wet conditions. We were only able to plant about a third of the trees we had planned to plant. We'd bought a 15 ft Great Plains drill for this year and have been able to plant about 350 acres with it. (We're hoping to do some dormant seeding this fall yet).

This year we did a different type of Arbor Day presentation. Jess DeVries at Douglas County and I hosted a joint county presentation. South Dakota Dept. of Ag Agroforester, Nathan Kafer presented on clear cutting tree areas as well as insects and diseases of trees; NRCS Area Resource Conservationist, Ryan Forbes had a wind simulator demonstration and NRCS Range Conservationist, Jay Hermann had a rainfall simulator demonstration. We invited the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade schools from both counties and received many positive comments afterwards.

This summer seems to have been spent playing "catch up" with different projects and trying to plan for next year. Jess DeVries (Douglas County) and I just handed out candy and wildflower seeds at the Corsica-Stickney homecoming parade last week.

### **BEADLE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Robin Viestenz, District Manager**

Although our spring & summer were wet, we were still able to get trees in the ground. We planted 8500 trees on 58 acres for 27 producers/landowners.

The no-till drill was only used for approx. 150 acres this spring, doing mostly food plots and cover crops.

Tree site maintenance and CRP clipping have kept us busy this year with 4 tree sites being weeded, 8 sites mowed, and 7 fields being clipped.

Our 4 Soil Health Demonstration Sites – consisting of 5 acres each, throughout the county are starting to show improvement. We will be starting tours in 2020 to showcase their status. We continue to make improvements on our urban demonstration site and will

hopefully have a few things to showcase next fall. Ducks Unlimited also asked us to partner with them in a Regenerative Ag project.

Fall 2019 will be the start – or restart - of the Huron Area Water Festival, designed for 4<sup>th</sup> graders throughout the county, which the district has been busy coordinating.

We had excellent participation for the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Arbor Day Essay Contest; 100 trees were distributed to surrounding schools and we supplied 300 trees to the Huron School District for Arbor Day presentations and Farm Tours for the area 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students. In July we helped out at Farmer's Union Camp held at Lake Byron, by doing a demonstration activity for their theme of "reduce-reuse-recycle".

Other outreach activities this year included participation in the annual Ag Banquet, DakotaFest, distributing Harvest bags and sponsoring sale barn coffees.

It's always good to have our conservation message heard through different events, hopefully next year we can show how to get more conservation on the ground.

## **BON HOMME COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Peg Haenfler, District Manager**

Hello from Bon Homme Conservation District.

2019 Spring was quite a challenge!!! Tree Planting acres was way down this year. Only had 12 acres scheduled to plant. Hindsight that was good with the wet conditions. BHCD was only able to plant 9 acres. There were 2 sites too wet to plant. Our district still requires the operator to provide the tractor and driver to pull the tree planter.

Grass Seeding – We provide a complete grass seeding service – we seed most of the acres with the Truax drill. This year we seeded approximately 450 acres.

Equipment Rental – We have a 2010 1590 No Till Drill, 12' Brillion drill, 2012 Truax drill, gopher machine.

Fabric – this season 23,000 feet of fabric was installed

Tree Clean & mow - The district weedbadgers and disks 20 acres – mows 16 acres of trees, plus mow weeds on CRP grass sites

We provide Haybusting and Krimping for waterways

School Activities – We promote Arbor Day and the Conservation Speech Contest – provide conservation activity books to all K-6 students in the county – gives trees to all 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students – promote Arbor Day essay writing – award prizes and money to winning essay writers – participate in the Czech Day parade

Supervisors consist of Stan Schuch (Chairman), Stan Hieb (Vice Chairman), Jim Koenig (Treasurer), David Walloch (Supervisor) and Larry DeJong (supervisor)

## **BRULE-BUFFALO COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Tina DeHaai, District Manager**

Our Conservation District's activities:

Brule, Buffalo, and Lyman Farmer & Rancher Banquet is where we do our awards and it was held in Jan 18, 2019. We had one award winner.

We sponsor Brule and Buffalo County producers to the SD Grazing School. Three in 2018 and four in 2019 were sponsored.

New or Special Projects undertaken by our conservation district:

Our District has four Commission Grant Projects that we are working on. Two projects are Renovation with Tree planting, one is Brush Management, and the other is Multi-County Water Development.

District Business:

Planted 48 acres of trees and application of fabric on those acres

Seeding grass was completed in timely manner for spring and we will have over 400 ac of dormant to do.

We did early spring chemicals but moisture kept us from summer chemicals.

We have been working on invasive cedars in pastures with the forestry cutter, Diamond Mower, and Saw.

We have completed tree renovations for trees next spring.

## **CHARLES MIX CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Dawn Shulte, District Manager**

The Charles Mix Conservation District had a busy year with planting 35 acres of trees in our county. In addition to that we installed over 125 rolls of fabric. Didn't get too much drilling done in the spring with all the rain, but we are going strong now in August, September, and November.

Our Cedar Tree Removal has also kept us busy this year. We have many large contracts to remove cedars in the river hills, and on existing CRP contracts. We have also been busy working on our Brush Management grant we received. The district has also potted up many trees that we offer to customers. We have sold many potted trees this year through our local farmers market and word of mouth. This is a very good way to help our bottom line on tree sales.

Other than that, we have 3 guys, and our business manager working almost full time with little to no seasonal help this year repairing equipment, cultivating trees, hand planting trees, spraying noxious weeds, drilling, shredding, and mowing. With all the water this year we have had to switch gears daily and sometimes hourly making it hard to keep up with the maintenance of shelterbelts, and equipment repairs.

## **DAVISON CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Deb Bartscher**

*No Report.*

## **DOUGLAS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Jessica DeVries, District Manager**

What a year!! 2019 was a challenging year to say the least. Not only the Conservation District but also the producers of the county. On average, Douglas County receives 22-23 inches of precipitation in a calendar year. As of September 29<sup>th</sup>, we have already received 39.25 inches. Ideal planting days were rare this year, however, we managed to get 11.4 ac planted before the extended deadline set by the NRCS. Fabric was also laid on all the sites except 2. With having a brand-new crew and this being my first-year planting on my own without help for another district, I was very pleased with the end results. In addition to



selling handplants this year we sold 145 5-foot bare-root fruit and ornamental trees, trying to gear a little more to including and educating the urban population.

The District also has a three-phase project with Plant Material Research on a piece of donated land. We will be working with cover crops, pollinators, and urban landscaping over the next few years. We are excited for the project and have several local businesses that are on board to donate supplies and time to help make this project a success. Our ultimate goal is to have our own outdoor classroom for schools and other groups to enjoy. Once again, this year we went to the four schools in our District to talk with the Kindergarten classes and give them a Black Hills Spruce seedling to grow. A letter was sent home with planting and care instructions. It also encouraged the kids to have their parents take pictures of them planting their tree and post it to our newly developed Facebook page, *Douglas County Conservation District*. Douglas and Aurora Districts joined forces with the NRCS, and Nathan Kafer, State Forester, to hold a Soil Health Day at the Elementary school in Stickney for all the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders in the two counties. It was a huge success and look forward to continuing the joint effort to get kids excited about conservation.

The District did several things as community outreach this year: participated in Homecoming parades, sponsored the Outdoor Youth Expo, attended 2 town team games where the District paid \$1 and a seeding for a foul ball. The kids and the parents walked away happy and so did the District as we were able to get our name out to the community and what we are provide for services. We also held a t-shirt design contest for all the elementary kids in the county. The winner had their design printed on our field shirts, along with cash prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> place. As far as advertising for the District, Aurora and Douglas Co started running an ad on the local high school live feed, called Jags.live, had hats made to give producers and koozies to hand out at the parades and other public functions that we attend. I also helped at Dakota Fest at the South Dakota Conservation District booth that we shared with Farm Bureau.

We've had a crazy year here in Douglas County with lots of positives. We are excited for our community involvement to continue to grow as we expand our education and outreach efforts in the future. Our volume and profitability are increasing and helping us to further our objective of conservation.

## **HANSON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Annette Steilen, District Manager**

Hanson County had a decrease in Shelterbelt plantings this year as well as hand plant sales. But we still were able to keep busy thru the season. We offer tree tube installation as well as hand planting.

With all the flooding in the County, we feel like being able to get any trees in is good.

Hanson County saw a lot of Prevent Plant acres...where there are usually corn or beans, this year you saw cover crops. We were able to drill about 800 acres for producers and sold Thousands of pounds of Cover Crop seed. We had 3 Grants this year, 2 for trees and 1 for cover crops. All have been greatly appreciated by the producers that have benefited from them. We are hoping that we can offer them again next year.

We did not get any CRP grasses drilled...the ground has been too wet when the timing fit the NRCS requirements. Its headed towards the end of November & the ground is still too wet. We have a leased tractor from John Deere and were only able to get 78 hours on it...Most years we have to be careful not to get too many hours on them.

We also go the visit the 4<sup>th</sup> graders for Arbor Day and each of them get a Black Hills Spruce to take home with them. We also helped the 4-H program in Hanson County by donating a

few trees for their Achievement Days site. The hope is that in the future there will be more shade and a prettier place for the youth to show. Our District is seeing changes as we head into 2020...We will have 2-3 new Supervisors and a new District Manager! Heres hoping that 2020 is a dryer year and we can be in the fields more!

## **HUTCHINSON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Brian Mettler, District Manager**

*No Report.*

## **Jerauld County Conservation District**

**Lisa Sall, District Manager**

When all of the snow finally melted and we could actually see some signs of spring we invited Dr. John Ball to come and talk about trees. This event brought in a good crowd of both urban and country dwellers. Dr. Ball mostly discussed the Emerald Ash Borer and how it will affect cities and rural tree belts. This got me thinking about the town of Wessington Springs and how many ash trees are in our park. We are currently reviewing a tree inventory that was done 5 years ago to assess how many trees our city would need to replace if/when the EAB shows up.

The cold and wet spring handed everyone a challenging tree-planting season. We were able to start planting May 16<sup>th</sup>, but then had to shut down to wait for dry weather again. Lucky for us we were able to finish all 14 sights planned within the extended planting date deadline. Granted there were wet spots we had to skip over but we got the majority of the trees planted. Due to all of the wet areas we ended up with more leftover trees than we expected. Other producers saw the wet weather as good tree-planting weather and bought more hand plants, so it worked out well in the end.

Jerauld Conservation District continues to support area youth with sponsorships with the local FFA, the South Dakota Wildlife Federation Youth Conservation Camp, and an annual Arbor Day participation day at the elementary schools. The local Nature Trail and Tree Demonstration Plot continue to be active tools to serve both community and traveling visitors stopping in Wessington Springs.

Together with Dan Wehmeyer as our new District Conservationist, we continue to serve the conservation needs of Jerauld County. A spring and fall newsletter keeps the area informed of our events, NRCS programs, and other partner's programs and opportunities.

## **SANBORN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Spencer Grubb, District Manager**

I like to start tree planting the last week of April, this year we weren't able to start until the first week of May. We did manage to get all our trees in by the May 22<sup>nd</sup> NRCS deadline. We planted a little over 10 acres of trees this year. This was my first year as a district manager and we had a brand-new tree crew. I thought we did well

We bought a 15-foot grass drill last year to plant warm/cool season grasses. There has been a nice amount of interest throughout the county in the new drill. We are having a hard time try to plant because of all the water in our county.

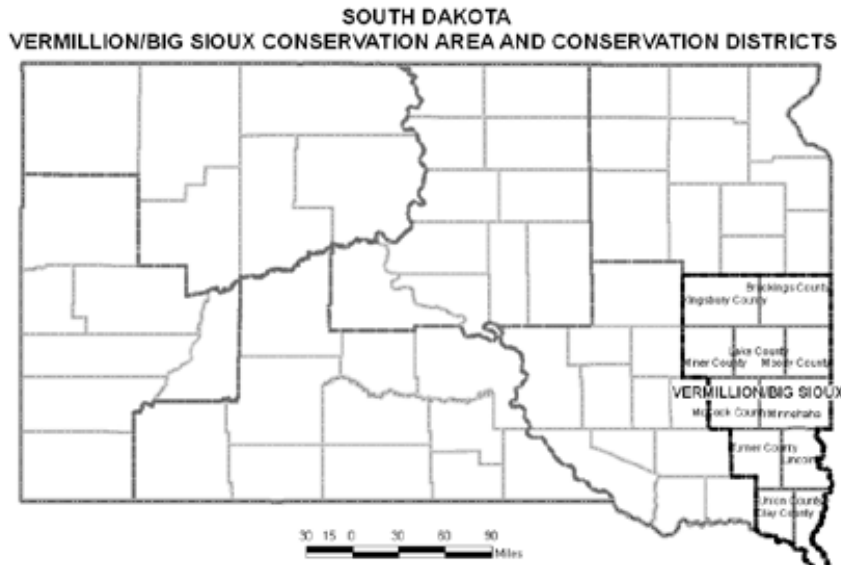
Nathan Kafer (the SD Dept. of Ag area forester), and I visit the fourth-grade classes at our three schools in the county for Arbor Day. Nathan does a very nice presentation with prizes and I give each student a Black Hills Spruce to plant. Our district also provides educational opportunities for student's annual speech and poster contest. We also provide materials and awards for 4-H members who participate in conservation projects areas. Our district has sponsored several soil health outreach activities. We provide technical assistance to producers for shelterbelts both new plantings and renovations options. We do cover crops planting assistances. Our district is presently revising our printed and mailed newsletter and our social media information.

Our future plans are ongoing for updates to our web pages, and our newsletters. Our partnerships with NRCS and other conservations entities continues to broaden through participation in joint projects.

## **YANKTON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Cassie Richelieu**

*No Report.*



## Vermillion/Big Sioux Area

Brookings, Clay, Kingsbury, Lake,  
Lincoln McCook, Minnehaha, Miner,  
Moody, Turner, Union

### **BROOKINGS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Joan Crooks, District Manager**

#### District Services Completed:

Hand Plant Sales - \$72,750

Machine Plantings – 41 acres

Tree Fabric – 95,146 linear feet (18 miles)

Tree Fabric Removal –

Grass Seeding – 2,300.8 acres (seeded to date)

Grass Seed Sales – \$52,660

The board purchased a John Deere 7000 4-row corn planter to assist producers in seeding food plots.

The 27th annual Big Sioux Water Festival was held May 17, 2019. Approximately 1,100 fourth grade students along with their teachers and parents attended from 25 area schools. The Big Sioux Water Festival is the largest one-day water festival and the 2<sup>nd</sup> longest running water festival in the State! More than 50 presenters from SD and MN lead the festival activities, experiments and exhibits by providing hands-on activities to educate students about water conservation, water history, uses of the resource, and current water issues. Students discover how water impacts their lives and the importance of clean water for all living things now and into the future.

Approximately 200 volunteers from surrounding communities volunteer to help make this event successful. THANK YOU to the conservation districts that supported the festival financially and/or by volunteering their time to help make the water festival a big success! Since 2011, the Brookings CD has collaborated with Larson Manufacturing in observing Arbor Day. Over 500 trees were distributed to employees at the plant in Brookings and their warehouse in Albert Lee, MN. We also provided 60 trees for a local church to distribute in observance of Soil Stewardship and Arbor Day.

The Brookings County land judging school was held September 10, 2019. 134 students from six area high schools attended the event. The soil pits are also utilized for several SDSU soils classes throughout the week.

The BCCD hosted their 6<sup>th</sup> annual Conservation Tour for the Brookings County Commissioners, Brookings City Council, Farm Service Agency, SD Legislators from District 4 and 7. This year we were honored to also have staff from Senator Thune, Senator Rounds

and Rep. Johnson's offices! Each year the district showcases conservation projects in the county. This has been a huge success in our county and an event that the County Commission looks forward to every year.



### ***of Soil and Water Conservation 1944-2019***

The BCCD celebrated their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. To commemorate this historic milestone, the District hosted a successful open house pancake breakfast. I was reminded that I have been employed with the District about as long (34 yrs.) as the District is old! It was fun to visit with many past supervisors and employees!

Brookings County Conservation District 2019 Tour.

Celebrating 75 yrs. of Soil and Water Conservation 1944-2019.

Corteva Grow Pollinator Habitat program was launched this spring. The Brookings County site was among the first in the nation to be planted and will help provide critical habitat, especially for Monarch butterflies, honey bees and grassland birds.



2019 board and staff (l-r): John Heylens, Joel Koch, Mark Stime, Darrell DeBoer, Jerry Oines, Rick Kerr, Joan Crooks, Jon Finnegan, Stephne Miller, Kirk Steege.



John Heylens (BCCD Supervisor), Stewart Lewis (Bruce Mayor), Sara Bertsch & Taylor Reaves (Senator Rounds office), John Weber (Rep. Johnson's office), Darrel DeBoer & Jerry Oines (BCCD Supervisors), Joan Crooks (District Manager), Jordan Cardenas (Senator Thune's office), Mark Stime (BCCD Advisor), Jon Finnegan (District Res. Conservation Specialist), Rep. Fred Deutsch, Senator VJ Smith



Adee Honey Farms processing facility in Bruce, SD.

Biggest honey farm in the U.S with 3,000 hives in Brookings, SD and 15,000 in Bruce, SD.



Dean and Nancy Skoglund, Bruce SD, bought 10 acres near Bruce in 1999. Since then, they've planted over 1,200 trees with the BCCD's help. They created a value-added Ag greenhouse (only 4 in SD), along with a Game Fish and Parks Pollinator plot for wildlife. Dean and Nancy received the BCCD Tree Care Award in 2017.



Mike Bartley (County Commissioner), John Heylens, Darrel DeBoer, Jerry Oines (BCCD Supervisors), Angela Boersma (County Commissioner), Joan Crooks (District Mgr.), Mark Stime (BCCD Advisor), LeeAnn Pierce (County Commissioner), Larry Jensen (County Commissioner), Stacy Steffensen (Commission Dpt. Dir.), Jon Finnegan (District Res. Conservation Spec.)



## **CLAY COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Misi Kayl, District Manager**

*No Report.*

## **KINGBURY COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Tanya Flegel, District Manager**

*No Report.*

## **LAKE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Michelle Goodale, District Manager**

2019 has been a year for the record books. Starting with winter storms from January thru April, and then lingering and continuous rainfall events throughout the Spring and Summer months, and topping that all off with a flooding storm event on September 12<sup>th</sup>, which brought on damage in the City of Madison, Lake Herman, Lake Madison, and Brant Lake, and bridge and road damages throughout the county due to prolonged flooding and rainfall events. Approximately 50% of the cropland in Lake County was not able to be planted the spring of 2019 due to the extremely saturated soils in Lake County.

Every season of the year has presented all of Lake County with challenges to overcome. I believe most of eastern South Dakota has suffered right along with Lake County. Going into spring with super saturated ground conditions and rainy, stormy weather that just never wanted to give up. Most fields that eventually got planted to crops, were planted later than in a normal year, and the same goes for tree plantings. When it was said and done; we completed 15 acres of trees and installed 30,000 feet of fabric mulch on those tree plantings. Tree planting started later than usual, and the weather presented its own challenges. Working around the weather we managed to complete as much as we could for trees plantings in 2019, with a couple of sites still not being possible to plant this past spring. For the most part, the ample moisture seemed to promote decent tree growth in 2019 and improved survival rates for the trees that were planted.

We continue to sponsor the local Arbor Day Essay Contest each year, and we submit the local winner to the State Arbor Day Essay Contest. We continue to receive good student participation in the local essay contest. Lake CD also sponsors the local level of the Resource Conservation Speech Contest. Lake Co Conservation District also continues to assist with the Big Sioux Water Festival held at SDSU campus each year in May.

Lake County Conservation District continues to monitor and maintain three sediment retention structures in the Lake Herman Watershed. In 2019 these structures also played a role in water retention in the Lake Herman Watershed. The three structures helped to slow down the pace of water moving through the south west portion of the Lake Herman watershed and assisted with preventing even greater flooding damages in Lake County.

Due to the extenuating ground and weather conditions, the Madison NRCS Office had many applications for the special EQIP Initiative for Erosion Prevention and Soil Health.

Lake Co Conservation District has also assisted NRCS with annual monitoring on WRP easements and certification on CSP contracts, among other items under a contribution agreement with NRCS.

We continue to assist and participate in the 319 Implementation Project for the Big Sioux Watershed Project, which includes Brookings, Moody, Lake, Minnehaha, and Lincoln

Counties. There has been a large amount of conservation work accomplished through this project. It is a very large watershed, and we hope to continue to see many conservation improvements continue to be implemented in the future as well.

Lake County Conservation District is working with the NACD Soil Health Champion Program under NACD. Lake Co Conservation District currently has 2 Soil Health Champions, Bill Nelson and Aaron Johnson. We are also working currently to sponsor a "Soil Health Day" annually here in Lake County before the beginning of harvest.

In 2019 NACD embarked on a new project which is a Soil Health Case Study. NACD's project includes a video interview with the Soil Health producer on their Soil health implementation and economic benefits realized in their operation during the soil health implementation. Lake County Conservation District assisted NACD with coordinating this project locally in Lake County. NACD interviewed Aaron Johnson, Soil health champion in Lake County, as one of the 25 interviews that NACD is trying to complete nationwide. NACD did the initial video interview the very end of October 2019. We are excited to see the final video package the NACD releases.

## **LINCOLN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Sean Newberg, District Manager**

In 2019 the Lincoln Conservation District planted 17 acres of machine planted trees along with about 34,000 feet of fabric. Our biggest design was 7 acres all used towards wildlife habitat! We decided to purchase a grass drill in the spring and even with the wet year we managed to knock out slightly over 200 acres in our first year and are looking to double that in 2020 if conditions allow. We are a dealer for Millborn seeds which allows us to do more for our producers with less work for them. In March Sean attended the Big Sioux Water Festival as a committee member helping teach our area's 4<sup>th</sup> graders the importance of water and keeping it clean. He also attended a few other events at the GFP Outdoor Campus in conjunction with Minnehaha and the local Canton parade. We have had one our best years in 2019 in the recent past and look forward to continuing to provide more services for our producers in the future!

## **MCCOOK COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Stephanie Albin, District Manager**

We have had a wet year. As soon as I went and picked up the trees from Big Sioux on April 23,19 we worked that evening unpacking and counting and setting them up in the cooler, we started planting the next day. We finished planting on May 15,19. All of my crew came back this year, they are a hard working and very dependable, I enjoy working alongside them every day during planting season and enjoy it when they stop in too see me and catch up during off season.

We planted 12 Shelterbelts. There was 1 we couldn't plant due to flooding or we would have had 13. We had been chosen for a Commission Grant and that served 5 producers who installed Shelterbelts in McCook County. We planted 1 very large Woody Habitat Shelterbelt Grant funded by Game Fish and Parks. Tubing that one took us a few days. An added bonus, the NRCS had a person take pictures of it for us with a drone and it's a beautiful site, It took us 2 days to plant it was the largest one I've ever planted. The Perennial sales were ok not as good as last year but we had a new greenhouse/floral shop open up on Main street and that may have had something to do with it. This year I hope it



will it will pick up. I hope to get some signs up. I have 6 already signed up for Shelterbelts for 2020 and have a few more that would like too and will be getting back to me.

I will continue to monitor the trees and check on last year's plantings also, the wet year had really helped them grow! The Cover Crops that were Commission Grant funded are doing very well and the producers had never planted one before are pleased with the outcome. Both No Till, Great Plains Drills 26 & 13 are busy along with the Land Roller as of August rentals and seed sales were \$35,250.

I will keep working on Contribution agreements with the NRCS as it's a great resource for additional funding for our county. We are also getting some NOLO paperwork.

We are working with the B.E.E. Elementary 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders, we did a tree planting demonstration at the Football field in Bridgewater and will do another this year along with tree tours and classroom educational activities. I'll keep sending all the Schools the Speech contest material and hope someone will try, so far not much luck. We will continue to support the FFA, 4H and Envirothon. I continue to use Facebook as a resource to get any information on Sales, Education information for our county out there and that is an added bonus to keep cost down. We had a very important member of our board pass away suddenly and we will all miss Dean Christensen dearly. It took us a little time to even bring up filling his position but as of last month's Board meeting, Matt Eichacker accepted Deans Spot for the rest of his term. We are very grateful to find such a proactive and knowledgeable individual to join our team!

Fred and I attended the area meeting and look forward to the Safety Benefits Meeting in Mitchell and SDACD Meeting in Pierre in December. I can't wait to see what 2020 has in store of us!!

## **MINNEHAHA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**John Parker, District Manager**

Educational activities are a large part and priority of the Minnehaha Conservation District. The year 2019 starts with the Sioux Empire Water Festival a two-day event with 2300 4th graders and 60 volunteers. We continue with Ag Day at the Pavilion, Zoo Day at Great Plains Zoo, speech contest, Arbor Day, along with summer enrichment programs for students at the Gevik land and finishing the season with regional land judging with the FFA (approx. 25 schools).

Working with the Big Sioux River project encompasses the entire county as well as adjoining counties and water sheds. The project provides producers/land owners opportunities to enhance and preserve the land & water for themselves and future generations.

We are very fortunate to work closely with NRCS, FSA along with Game Fish & Parks and others. We planted 35 acres of trees and installed fabric. Our grass drills have covered 2559 acres so far this season with 950 acres additional for cover crops.

We sprayed 225 acres of pasture for weed control and mowed and maintained 300 acres of CRP ground for producers. Soil sampling for the City of Sioux Falls provides us with work from April-freeze up.

MCD serves the residents of Minnehaha and surrounding area by promoting & providing services, programs and educational information to promote wise use of the land & water, along with ways to conserve what we all strive to improve our lives, planet and surroundings.

Thanks for a great year 2019.



## **MINER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Tami Moore, District Manager**

This was quite a year – for everyone in Miner County as well as other counties across the nation. We very seldom complain about too much water, but this year put many producers to the test. Calving was miserable, to the point that many producers could not even get to their cattle. And then spring planting was also a struggle. After calving was over, the moisture was good for our pastures and native grass seedings (where it didn't drown out) Tree Planting – Luckily for us, 2019 was the year that we had scheduled the lowest number of acres of trees to plant – possibly since the district was formed in 1952. It was for sure the lowest number since I have been at the district. We planned for 22 acres on 14 sites, and ended up planting 12 acres on 9 sites. And of the 9 sites we planted, many of those trees will be lost because of the excessive moisture. The average acres since 1952 had been 100 acres, but these last 5 or 6 years have lower the average to approximately 75 acres. We planted 59.9 acres of trees for 19 producers for a total of over 24.5 miles of trees. Our tree crew ranges from 22 years of service to 6 years of service. We try to run our tree crew with 5, sometimes 6 crew on large sites. The tractor and planter load on a trailer pulled by our 2018 Ford 4x4 ¾ ton pickup and a 1995 GMC Cube Van loaded with the trees pulling a trailer with a 2013 Polaris 4-wheeler and trailer. We love the cube van – we can stand up in the van. Our tree cooler is inside a quonset. We drive our van into the quonset, the trees go directly from the cooler into the van. Then at the site we dip the trees in the back of the van, move them to bags for each row, directly into the tree planter boxes. We try to minimize the amount of air exposed to the trees as much as possible. We drive or walk each row of trees immediately behind the tree planter to make sure each tree is being properly planted. Our tree planter is old, but it does such a good job we hate to change it. We sold over 5,500 hand plant trees to 117 members of the community. We are proud of our hand plant sales considering our population size.

Grass Seeding – We provide a complete grass seeding service – we seed with a 2016 Great Plains Grass Drill with No-till Attachment. We lease our tractor. We also order the seed for most of our producers. We are very pleased with our drill operator – he is a young farm kid with a lot of knowledge on maintaining equipment. All spring grass seeding was moved to August or Dormant seedings. We were only able to plant 3 sites this August (we caught that short window of dry weather) for a total of 107 acres. We hoped to plant in November, but the sites were still too wet. So our seedings have been moved to 2020.

Equipment Rent – We have a 2019 John Deere 1590 No-Till Drill. The drill was used on 1,878 acres by 20 producers. We were very please with this number considering all the prevented plant acres in our county. The John Deere seeded 1,009 acres of cover crop, 372 acres of Alfalfa, 215 acres of Wheat, 103 acres of Peas, 90 acres of Oats, 60 acres of Soybeans, and 29 acres of Grass. We have a 2019 Rite-Way 46 and a 2017 Rite-Way 46' Land Roller available for rent. As of September 1, the Land Rollers have been used on over 7,250 acres by 29 producers. We have an Aluminum Enclosed Spray mounted on our 2007 Yamaha 4x4 400 4-Wheeler for spraying tree rows. We have a Grass/Fertilizer Spreader and a 4' Land Roller used for lawns and seeding in rows of trees. We also purchased a 4' Dew Drop Native Grass Seeder, that will be provided with the 4-wheeler and driver.

School Activities – High School – We promote and provide prize money for the Conservation Speech Contest. We promote applications for the Karst Memorial Scholarship. The 6<sup>th</sup> graders participated in the Arbor Day Essay and Poem Contest. We had a Nature Field Day for 5<sup>th</sup> grade. We make a Leaf Booklet with the 5<sup>th</sup> graders of trees that grow in Miner County. For Arbor Day Celebrations the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students learned about Arbor Day and proper planting techniques and received a Black

Hills Spruce to take home and plant. We donate to the Big Sioux Water Festival for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade students in Miner County to attend. In 2<sup>nd</sup> grade we celebrate the importance of the water cycle, while make a 'water cycle bracelet' and coloring water cycle pages. We celebrate Earth Day with have an Earth Day party and make Dirt Cups with the 1<sup>st</sup> grade. The District gives out conservation awards at the Elementary Awards Day.

The district participates in Soil & Water Stewardship Week and Miner County Parade of Trees. We had to cancel on participation in the Miner County Farm & Home Show because Tami was at the NACD Annual Convention. The Conservation District gave a presentation for the Miner County Weed Board. The district has an Appreciation Banquet for the employees and board members. We help out with delivering Meals on Wheels in the Howard area. Each year our district donates \$100 to the SDACD Endowment Fund. The district has 'conservation awards' for 4-Hers that have projects concerning conservation. Miner CD is working on involvement with the Emerald Ash Borer Management in our towns.

Miner Conservation District is involved in the following grants: Conservation Practices Grant (which includes tree plantings, cover crop plantings, and Shelterbelt Renovations), Pollinator & Rain Gardens, Public Awareness & Education, & SD Discover Center Education Grant. We also participate in the NRCS Cooperative Agreement.

District Manager, Tami Moore, is the President of the SDACD Employees Association, NOLO Coordinator for Vermillion/Big Sioux Area, and representative for the Big Sioux Nursery. The Supervisors consist of Dale Shumaker (Chairman), Donald Threadgold (Vice Chairman, Representative for the Eastern SD Research Farm), Tim Clarke (Treasurer), Marvin Kizer (Supervisor), and Julie Calmus (Supervisor).

## **MOODY COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Harvey Schafer, District Manager**

*No Report.*

## **TURNER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Charlie Groen, District Manager**

*No Report.*

## **UNION COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Misi Kayl, District Manager**

*No Report.*

**That completes the 2019 year in  
Conservation!**



**Looking forward to what we do in 2020!!**