

# McKenzie County *Soil Conservation District*

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*Nikki Darrington*

*NRCS District Conservationist*

*Lloyd Alveshere*

*NRCS Soil Conservationist*

*Jaci Cargo*

*Business Manager*

*Kassi Makinen*

*Program Manager*

*Chauncey Rolfsrud*

*District Technician*

*Taryn Johnson*

*Education and Outreach Coordinator*

*Mandy Hanley*

*NRCS Heartland Secretary*

## **Board Members**

*Kent Pedersen*

*Clark Bohmbach*

*Darrel Minow*

*Kathy Johnson*

*Perry Ecker*

**McKenzie County  
Soil Conservation District**



# Woman in Conservation!

Jaci Cargo

The Woman in Conservation Award was developed to honor a female in our community that is outstanding in her agriculture and conservation efforts.

Adell Pedersen is the recipient of the 2019 Woman in Conservation Award for her passion for the land and the care of her animals. Adell participates in all aspects of the ranching operation, alongside her husband Ronnie, son, Kent, and nephew, Kyle, and while she has some good help, they will all tell you she calls the shots. During calving you can find her in the barn, haying in the swather, harvest in her combine, and in her spare time running to her grandkids events. The hard work and determination Adell puts forth in her ranching operation is truly amazing and does not go unnoticed by her peers.



# Cowgirls 'n Conservation!

Jaci Cargo

The 2019 Cowgirls 'n Conservation, 'Old Fashioned Fun' was a hit! After spending all summer dreaming of how to top the 2018 program, we finally decided to do the opposite of last year, so we had a CIRCUS! We wanted to take the ladies of McKenzie County back to the "old" way of having fun. As you entered the "Greatest Show on Earth" you were instantly filled with joy from the fair type atmosphere. Food booths, animal crackers, peanuts, strings of tickets, gold fish, balloon animals, and country music filled the air! Guessing booths, ring toss, a kissing booth, and can toss were creating the laughter we had all hoped for.



# ...Cowgirls 'n Conservation!



We served lemonade and popcorn as treats when people arrived. For dinner we served some good 'ol fashioned fair food, corndogs, cheeseburger sliders, french fries, and onion rings, for dessert we had mini donuts! We were blessed yet again with the awesome help of the Watford City FFA chapter and McKenzie County 4-H when it came to serving all of the food, we appreciate them so much!



The Woman in Conservation award was awarded to Adell Pedersen, we appreciate her hard work and are very proud to have her as a McKenzie County producer. Congratulations, Adell!



For entertainment we were pleased to host Jed and Melissa Rider of Alexander as they went through their operation and how they get to maintain a fun lifestyle while continuing to operate and improve their ranch. It was thrilling to also have comedian Lisa Mills join us from Atlanta, GA, and I am still laughing at her jokes. She was absolutely hilarious and one of our reviews gave her a "10+" out of five, so we are considering that a win!



This year's event would not have been as big of a hit without our primary sponsor, Lund Oil, who donated all of our amazing door prizes! Thank you, Lunds!

Our gears are already turning with ideas for 2020 but if you have an idea you would like to share, we would love to hear it!



# Welcome, Taryn!

Hi! My name is Taryn Johnson and I am the new Education and Outreach Coordinator! I've lived in Watford City for almost 7 years. I absolutely love my town and spending time with my family, reading, traveling, spending time outdoors and supporting the Wolves; which includes cheering on my 4 younger siblings who all compete in various things. I enjoy being involved in the community and serve as Secretary for the Cattlewomen's, VP for the WCCBA and as co-chair for the Rugged West Relay for Life. I am always up for trying and learning new things and love a challenge! I am super excited for my future here and learning from the amazing people I get to work with!



## No-Till Garden!

*Nikki Darrington*



Who is going to try a no-till garden this year? I'm going to have one again, and I'm so excited. My kids are going to use half of the garden as a 4-H project. I'm going to plant more tomato plants and way less zucchini plants! Stop in and visit with us about the steps in starting your very own no-till garden.



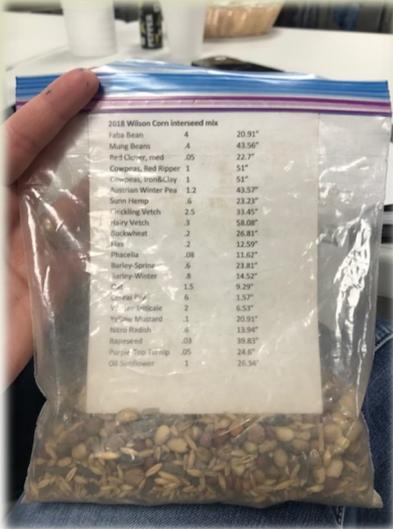
The MCSCD also sells all the supplies you will need:

500' Roll of Fabric:	\$150.00
Staples:	\$00.30 each



# Café Talk!

Lloyd Alvesshere



Hal Weiser, Soil Health Specialist with Natural Resources Conservation Service and Doug Landblom, Beef Cattle Specialist with NDSU Dickinson Research Extension Center helped us with a Café Talk at the McKenzie County SCD's new shop, east of Watford City, February 22. It started out with a round table discussion about producers' operations, asking about rotations and if they had tried cover crops and how they turned out for them. Doug gave a presentation on the Manning crop-livestock integrated system. Showing how incorporating livestock can improve soil health and be profitable. He also reviewed the 5 soil health principles of soil armor, minimize soil disturbance, plant diversity, continual live root/plant, and livestock integration. Hal talked about glomalin, the sugars that are released into the soil from live plant roots. He explained how glomalin holds soil particles together to form stable soil aggregates. He demonstrated this with the slake test. With the slake test, he drops two soil aggregates into two columns of water. As the water enters the air spaces in the aggregate, the aggregate, from a field with no-till and good crop rotation holds together. The aggregate, from a conventionally tilled field with no crop rotation explodes as the water enters the pores. When this happens in a field during a rain, the no-till soil will let the rain infiltrate and the conventionally tilled soil will crust and the rain will runoff. There was several good questions and lots of discussion that filled the afternoon. Thank You to Doug and Hal for sharing their perspective on systems and regenerative agriculture.



# A Note From FSA!

*Marcy Feilmeier*

## **CRP Participants Must Maintain Approved Cover on Acreages Enrolled in CRP and Farm Programs**

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) participants are responsible for ensuring adequate, approved vegetative and practice cover is maintained to control erosion throughout the life of the contract after the practice has been established. Participants must also control undesirable vegetation, weeds (including noxious weeds), insects and rodents that may pose a threat to existing cover or adversely impact other landowners in the area.

All CRP maintenance activities, such as mowing, burning, disking and spraying, must be conducted outside the primary nesting or brood rearing season for wildlife, which for North Dakota is April 15th through August 1st. However, spot treatment of the acreage may be allowed during the primary nesting or brood rearing season if, left untreated, the weeds, insects or undesirable species would adversely impact the approved cover. In this instance, spot treatment is limited to the affected areas in the field and requires County Committee approval prior to beginning the spot treatment. The County Committee will consult with NRCS to determine if such activities are needed to maintain the approved cover.



# SEASONAL HELP WANTED!

The MCSCD is currently seeking out our 2019 Seasonal Workers! We are looking for eager people that love to spend their spring/summer outdoors!

If you are interested in learning more, contact Kassi at (701) 842-3628 Ext. 3



## THE BEES KNEES!

Nikki Darrington

Why do we care about bees? Other than the fear of getting stung, I honestly did not think much about bees before I started working for the NRCS. Did you know that “Approximately one in three mouthfuls of food and drink require the presence of a pollinator? Without bees, there would be no apples, pumpkins, strawberries, or many other fruits and vegetables.” That was taken from the book, “Attracting Native Pollinators” by Dr. Marla Spivak. It is a very interesting book, and we have it in the office as a resource. Come and borrow it anytime. May 20th is World Bee Day. Take a moment and educate yourself on the importance of all pollinators, I love strawberry pie too much to not.

## GET CONNECTED!

Looking to dive deeper into soil health? Check out ‘Get Connected’ for the latest happenings in the #soilhealth world!



Search on YouTube!

Check out the Menoken Farm You Tube Channel for all the talks from the RSWD – Regenerating Soil With Diversity



Twitter Finds!

Jason Mauck: @jasonmauck1

Derek Axten: @DerekAxten



World Wide Web!

[www.bluedasher.farm](http://www.bluedasher.farm)



Facebook!

McKenzie County Soil Conservation District

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# *NRCS Earth Team Volunteers!*

*Nikki Darrington*

The Earth Team is the volunteer component of the USDA - NRCS. Earth Team volunteers play an important role in helping NRCS fulfill its commitment to working with people to protect and conserve our Nation's natural resources. When you sign up as an Earth Team Volunteer you are on your way to becoming a caretaker of natural resources in your community. To sign up, contact me at 701-842-3628 extension 3.



We have found out that conservation is a passion of a lot of our volunteers and this program helps them explore that. In each newsletter I would like to highlight one of our many dedicated Earth Team Volunteers. The first volunteer is Britney Barnett. Britney has lived in the Arnegard area for a couple of years now and is engaged to Daniel Dwyer.

## **Get to know Britney!**

"Hi! I'm from Valley City, ND and graduated from Concordia College in 2011 with a bachelor's degree in biology.

I decided to go to Montana for a summer and then I'd apply for graduate school but fell in love with public land and the mountains captured my soul and that 1 summer turned into 5.5 years.

I served as an AmeriCorps Member with the Montana Conservation Corps for the first few years, as a Crew Member on a backcountry wilderness trails crew (didn't come out of the woods for 15 weeks, it was amazing, relied on a pack string of mules for mail and supplies, no cell service, best summer of my life), I then became a Crew Leader and lead my own crew and later a Senior Youth Crew Leader; in which I trained Youth Crew Leaders to lead their own crews of teenagers during the summer.

During my time as an AmeriCorps member I developed a passion for volunteering, community involvement, sustainability, public land, working alongside young adults and supporting local businesses. In my free time I'd either be hiking, at the farmers market or volunteering.

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I was eventually hired on as staff at the Montana Conservation Corps as a Youth Program Coordinator in Missoula. I organized (recruited, hired, trained) summer service experiences for middle schoolers and high school students, the experiences weren't summer camps, these young people did a variety of projects (trail maintenance, construction, wildlife surveys, Wilderness character studies, structure building on trails, building new hiking and mountain biking trails) with the Forest Service. I also organized volunteer projects for the community and several schools in Missoula.

And now, here I am, trying to learn all about farming and ranching with Danny. It's great. But I'm also still trying to be involved in similar ways as I was out in Montana. Such as being part of Earth Team, volunteering with the NDSU Extension Office, and serving on the Lewis & Clark Trail Museum Board. I hope to spend lots of time when the weather is better on the Maah Daah Hey trail with my bike and canoeing the Little Missouri River.

Why do I like to volunteer?! Oh my. I LOVE volunteering. I enjoy it because doing so let's you share your passion with others. It allows you to be connected to a community of amazing people. I'm able to be a steward of the land in varying capacities. Volunteering is great because you can make connections and learn about your neighbors. It's just a really good way to meet people.”

**Thank you so much for volunteering towards the betterment of conservation in McKenzie County, Britney!**



*Photo Contest!*  
Taryn Johnson

Our spring photo contest is in full swing and we want to see your conservation photos!

Conservation photos are anything that show our natural resources- Soil, Water, Air, Plants, and Animals!

The winning photos will be featured in our end of year calendar. Please submit them to Taryn Johnson via Facebook or email at [Taryn.Johnson@nd.nacdnet.net](mailto:Taryn.Johnson@nd.nacdnet.net)

Good luck and Happy Spring!



# Ma! The Meatloaf!

Chauncey Axelson

## Summertime Beef Meatloaf

### Ingredients:

- 2 pounds Ground Beef (93% lean or leaner)
- 2/3 cup seasoned dry bread crumbs
- 2 large eggs
- 1-1/2 teaspoons freshly ground black pepper
- 1 cup savory herb stuffing mix
- 2 large sliced tomatoes

### Cooking Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350°F. Line rack on broiler pan with aluminum foil. Combine Ground Beef, bread crumbs, eggs and pepper in medium mixing bowl, mixing gently but thoroughly. Shape half of beef mixture into 8 by 4-1/2-inch loaf on prepared rack. Top beef with stuffing mix and half the tomatoes; gently pressing into beef. Top with remaining beef mixture, pressing to completely cover stuffing and tomatoes. Seal edges of meatloaf. Top meatloaf with remaining tomato slices.

Bake uncovered in 350°F oven 1-1/2 hours or until instant-read thermometer inserted into center registers 155°F. Turn broiler to high. Broil meatloaf for 5 minutes or until tomatoes are caramelized and instant-read thermometer registers 160°F. Let stand 10 minutes before cutting.

## Hand Plant Pick Up!

If you ordered hand plant trees this fall/winter be prepared for a phone call. The trees are typically picked up the third or fourth week in April, weather permitting. When the trees come we will call with a pick up time. Our tree shed is not staffed at all times, so we have one day only for pick ups.

**Reminder:** The new tree shed that is located ¼ of a mile North of Highway 23 and 1806 intersection. North of Schaffer Cemetery.



# Cover Crops!

Kassi Makinen

“Cover crops steal my moisture.” “We don’t have a large enough growing season to plant cover crops.” “I can’t put vetch in because it will mess up my lentils.” “Cover Crops are expensive.”

While we know these are all problems, we can help you find the correct solution and make cover crops work for **YOU!**

There are many different options. Season long cover crops provide great cover for your fields as well as options for grazing or haying. We suggest season long mixes to be planted prior to July 1st.

Planting a cover crop after the removal of hay or early harvested cash crops, such as winter wheat, hay barley, peas, lentils or oats, will keep a living root in the ground as long as possible and enhance the nutrients. We suggest this is done before August 15th.

If you have a cash crop, such as wheat or canola on the field there are also options for cover crops after harvest. A fall/winter mix can help with winter grazing, hay or even providing a cash crop for the following year. We suggest this is done around September 1st.

The MCSCD can help create mixes for your specific needs as well as seeding the cover crop with our no-till drills.



# Kids Corner!

Something new to our newsletter!

We are excited to visit with the kiddos of Wolf Pup Daycare about soil and soil health.

We asked the students what their idea of soil is and, "kids say the darndest things!"



**Camryn Wagenecht**

Age 5

"I think soil is gas."



**Seth Forbes**

Age 5

"I think soil is oil."

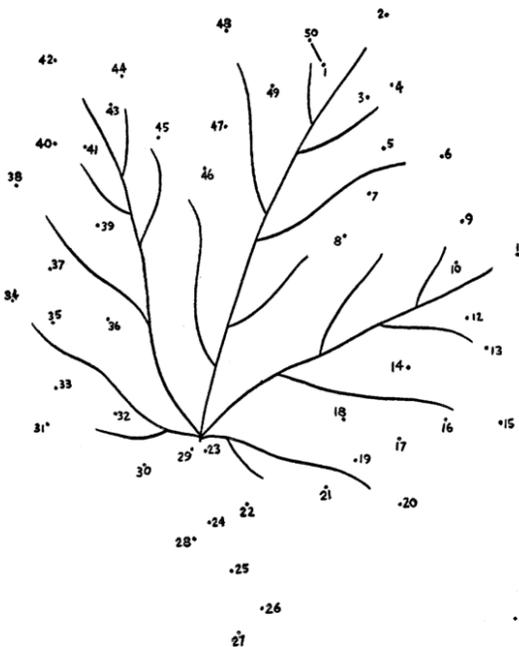


**Colt Lawlar**

Age 5

"I think soil is bones."

## FOLLOW THE DOTS



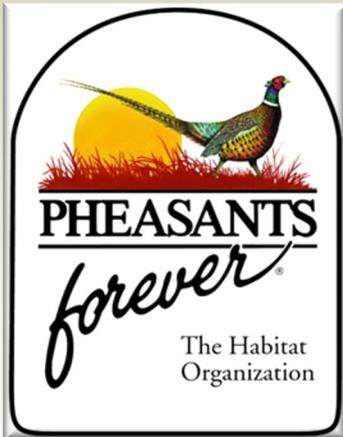
Coloring & Activity Pages by: HonkingDonkey.com



"Pete, you better come along with me to Hawaii so both you and your corn fields can wear a grass skirt next year."

# A Note From Pheasants Forever!

*Emily Spolyar*



Pheasants Forever, a non-profit organization started in 1982, focuses on expanding conservation efforts through their new Precision Ag and Conservation program. This program helps farmers and landowners make land management decisions based on their ROI per acre. In areas where land is historically losing money, a conservation-minded program has the potential to not only provide soil health and water quality benefits but could also offer a more economical solution to under producing acres.

Resources are often misallocated on land that is not ideal for crop production, causing overall yield and profits to drop considerably. When examining these acres, Pheasants Forever's local Precision Ag and Conservation Specialist, Emily Spolyar, can input an operations budget and yield information to determine what these acres are costing and what can be done to make the acres profitable again.

Pheasants Forever aims to find the right economic and agronomic fit for conservation programs, which they realize varies greatly between individual operations. The ability for growers and landowners to make these decisions based on economic aspects helps ease the uncertainty behind implementing practices such as cover crops, perennial cover, access payments, or other available programs.

If this is something you think your operation could benefit from, contact the McKenzie county NRCS office or reach out to Emily Spolyar directly at the following contact information:

**Emily Spolyar**  
**(517)250-2440**  
**[espolyar@pheasantsforever.org](mailto:espolyar@pheasantsforever.org)**

*McKenzie County*  
*Soil Conservation District*  
*PO Box 583*  
*Watford City, ND 58854*

PRSRT STD  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Watford City, ND  
*Permit No. 3*

**Current Resident OR:**

**New Tree Shed Location!**

**Just a reminder that our NEW tree shed location is  
624 Hwy 1806  
Watford City, ND 58854**

All programs and services of the Soil Conservation District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, age or handicap. USDA is a equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.