

Renville County Soil Conservation District

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2018

Renville Co. Soil Conservation District CONGRATULATES JAMIE AND MARY ROUTLEDGE 2018 ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Jamie and Mary Routledge who farm west of Glenburn were selected as the 2018 Renville County Soil Conservation District Achievement Award winner. The Routledge family was honored at the 80th annual Recognition Banquet of North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts on November 19th at the Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck.

Jamie began farming in 1984. He then married Mary in 1985. They direct seed corn, sunflowers, wheat, flax, and barley. Jamie and Mary have utilized the CSP and EQIP programs to implement cover crops, split nitrogen application, enhanced efficiency fertilizer, and installed 23,600' of field and farmstead windbreaks. They are always looking for ways to enhance wildlife on their farm.

The Routledge's have 2 adult daughters Elsa (Matt) Ellingson and Meta (Tyler) Tix, 4 beautiful grandchildren, 5 dogs and 11 cats. The girls continue to be very active participants in the farming operation.



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Mouse River Loop Envirothon



With the bite of fall in the air, 102 high school students from 9 area schools arrived warmly dressed for the 18th Annual Mouse River Loop Envirothon. The trail test was located on a farmstead near the Upper Souris Wildlife Refuge to fittingly cover this year's main topic, "*Agriculture and the Environment: Knowledge and Technology to Feed the World.*" After going to 18 different stations to answer questions about our natural resources, the students went to the Refuge shop site to listen to the Main Speaker, John Nowatski, NDSU Extension Ag Machine Systems Specialist, so they could prepare for their oral presentation. This year's teams were tasked with developing 3 recommendations they would make to world leaders today that will increase food production in the future. After a fabulous lunch catered by Arlen Gartner of Gartner's Jack and Jill of Kenmare, the teams began giving their oral presentations to a group of 3 Judges. The students also rotated through four informational sites which included: Air Rifles by The Berthold Sportsman's Club; Soil Health Tunnel by Kyle Thomson, NRCS Soil Survey Project Leader; Farm Technology by John Nowatzki, NDSU Extension Ag Machine Systems Specialist; and Modern Technology by Justin Pollman and Maria Ely, of Gooseneck Implement.

The 18th Annual MRLE 1st place honors went to Powers Lake, 2nd place Berthold Brainy Bombers, and placing 3rd MLS Danger Cats. The top 3 teams will automatically go to the State Envirothon at Crystal Springs in May.

The Mouse River Loop Envirothon committee would like to thank the students, teachers and volunteers for their participation in the Envirothon. A big thank you to our Sponsors: Arthur Edith Pearson Foundation, Souris River Telephone, Reservation Telephone, Mohall Fire Department, The Veterans Club of Kenmare, Scheels Sporting Goods, and Ernest Albers.





20th Annual Eco-ED

The fall colors adorned the valley at Mouse River Park during the 20th Annual tri-county Eco-Ed days hosted by Renville, Ward and Burke Soil Conservation Districts on September 5th and 6th. The students arrived in the morning and filed in for donuts and hot chocolate provided by (Arlan Gartner of Kenmare Jack and Jill) before setting off for their day of conservation.

Twelve schools totaling 370 students and 28 teaching/chaperones from MLS Mohall, Glenburn, Westhope, Newburg, South Prairie, Berthold, Burke, Lignite, Nedrose, Des Lacs Burlington, Kenmare and Bishop Ryan assembled at the park to engage in conservational topics and activities that support the North Dakota State curriculum standards for life science.



Sixth grade students were split among 5 stations ranging from forestry to water quality. Pasture and rangeland management practices were taught by using candy to show how livestock prefer some forage over others by Bruce Baska (NRCS) and Stetson Myers (WCSCD). Amy Schimetz of the Lake Metigoshe State Park educated the kids on identifying different wildlife by using real skulls, claws and furs in a game of Wildlife Jeopardy. Cody Clemenson demonstrated the process of identifying trees and their anatomy. Perry Sullivan and Susan Liebig (NRCS Soils Specialist) spoke about soil health, erosion, particles and what makes up soil while utilizing the

soil tunnel. At the last station was Heather Husband (ND Dept. of Health) who demonstrated the dynamics of watersheds, what best management practices are, and showed the kids what invertebrates are and how they can be used as good water quality indicators.

After the students had attended each station, burgers and hot dogs were served for lunch provided and grilled by Arlan & Elaine Gartner, to whom we owe a big thank you to! Students, teachers, chaperones and presenters were given ECO-ED shirts sponsored by the Arthur and Edith Pearson Foundation. Our goal for continuing to hold the ECO-ED is for students to engage in conservation education and activities at an early age to comprehend the importance of sustaining our natural resources.

Renville, Ward and Burke Soil Conservation Districts would like to give a huge shout out to all the presenters, volunteers and students who made the 2018 ECO-ED a success! And again, we want to say thank you to Arlan and Elaine Gartner for their generosity and outstanding lunch, as well as the Arthur Edith Pearson Foundation for funding the T-Shirts.





2018 Field Talks



What do you think of Soil? Is it the ground you walk on, a medium for growing plants, or a healthy environment teaming with microbes? Individually, we often take soil for granted, but to some farmers, it's an important part of their livelihood. The Renville County Soil Conservation District hosted the 2018 Field Talks on Wednesday, September 26th with Jay Fuhrer, NRCS Soil Health Specialist, answering questions about soil carbon and salinity concerns.

At this specific location, we continued the conversations from last fall's field talks and partnered with Jeff Aalund who planted Cereal Rye with his cover crop mix. The mix was planted in August but waited for rains before it germinated. And now it is growing nicely. The fibrous roots are literally doing what we need them to do, building soil structure in saline and non-saline areas. Even after the light frosts, the rye is growing green. Now with any luck, it will start growing again next spring to continue building that soil structure and to feed the microbes on these saline acres, so he can follow up with a broadleaf crop in 2019.

It was interesting looking at the soil profile on this location with its gravel lens in the bottom, indicative of glacial till soils. As Jay Fuhrer pointed out, we can't get away from saline soils in glacial till bedrock. The salts are in the ground. As we began farming 120 +/- years ago, the salinity wasn't an issue. After 25 years of farming, the salts still weren't an issue. After 50-75 years, we started seeing some salinity issues coming up in the profile, but they probably still weren't a huge concern yet. Now after 120 years, we have more salinity that has moved up into the top of our soil horizon. So, keeping the ground covered is even more crucial today if we want to begin turning around this trend.

A big thank you to Jeff Aalund for hosting us on his land this fall. And thank you to the Renville County Farmers Union for their help in supporting our Field Talks. And thank you to Jay Fuhrer for coming to Renville County to visit with us about his many ideas of how we can tackle these resource concerns.



Thank you Linda



Thank you Linda!! You will be missed at the Renville SCD Board meetings, countywide activities, and state conventions. Linda Savelkoul has been an integral member of the Renville County Soil Conservation District, but she has elected to pass on the reins. She broke ground as the first female SCD board member in Renville County, and hit the ground running. Linda prefers the background, but boy did she do a lot. She helped with set up and represented several times at the Renville SCD booth at the local RBAIA Show. She found locations and helped us set up and tear down Shop Talks across the county. She supported education and outreach to our youth with the Eco-ED and the Mouse River Loop Envirothon. After 15 years, we need to say thank you Linda for everything you have helped us accomplish!

Just Plant Flowers.....

By Lena Bohm, District Conservationist

As we look out over the white and brown landscape today, I recognize that the land is at rest. It has nothing else it can do but rest in our Northern climate. Fall is moving to Winter and the temperatures are dropping. And yet, I know spring is coming...and it is time to start thinking about flowers. My dad would have called them weeds, as some of you may too. But flowers are the interesting change we see in the sea of green. We see flowers on trees, in pastures, our backyards, along waterways, and anywhere they can get rooted down. All flowers are not created equal though. Some are native forbs we like to call wildflowers, like Black-eyed Susan, Purple Coneflower, and Wood Lilies. But even when we are looking to plant cover crops, we can plant flowering annual plants like buckwheat, lacy phacelia, vetches, clovers, and cowpea.

Why would we want more flowers? I don't know if the scales have tipped here, but bees are an integral

part of our eco-systems. They are like the "canary in the mine shaft." When they're gone, so is our food. And we can each individually do our part to include habitat on our farms and fields for our native bees. My challenge for you to think about, is the incorporation of flowering cover crops into your rotation, especially on areas where you can get those cover crops planted early like the end of June or first part of July. And if you have some odd corners that are a pain for you to get planted, think about seeding them to perennial vegetation with clovers and such.

Now foraging for food can be risky for pollinators. Bees may encounter a gamut of predators, disease vectors, or bad weather when traveling from one food source to another. And the more energy a bee needs to exert in collecting food, the more risk it is exposed to. Landscapes with a diversity of blooms throughout the spring, summer, and fall seasons can help tip the scales between a "feast or famine" for our little winged helpers. I'm not saying



expansions of noxious flowering weeds will help. On the contrary, they may sustain the pollinators temporarily, but these invasive species will often crowd out the wild plants that would otherwise have provided a variety of flower types through the entire growing season. When you are thinking about locations of flowering shrubs, perennial plantings, or annual cover crops, consider what you already have in your landscape. How will it enhance the resources or defragment your current landscape? So, flowers....what can you do for our little winged pollinators?

2018 DISTRICT SNAP SHOTS



JUST FOR FUN

WORD SEARCH! KINDS OF TREES

FIND AND CIRCLE THE WORDS ON THE LIST...WORDS MAY BE FOUND ACROSS, DOWN, OR DIAGONALLY
--FORWARDS, BACKWARDS, AND SOMETIMES OVERLAPPING. HAVE FUN!

WORD LIST

BIRCH
WILLOW
OAK
OLIVE
BEECH
CEDAR
PLUM
MAPLE
PALM
APPLE
PINE
SPRUCE
REDWOOD
WALNUT
HICKORY
SYCAMORE

T S H W S D X C S Y N V
V R A P B O Q R E A D T
A M E A W O C Z R D O H
W I L L O W B W O V A P
A G P M Q D R S M Q K R
L E P T A E Z K A S G T
N C A B I R C H C O N M
U U D E S G P I Y R B A
T R C E I W D C S M J P
Y P E C M O A K F P A L
A S L H V U R O L I V E
Q F O U B P S R W N C A
J A Z R M T O Y A E Q D



CUDDLY
CRITTERS

SCRAPPY SQUIRREL LOVES ACORNS! WHICH TREES DO ACORNS COME FROM?

(HINT: IT'S IN THE WORD LIST ABOVE.)

WORD SEARCH! WINTER FUN

FIND AND CIRCLE THE WORDS ON THE LIST...WORDS MAY BE FOUND ACROSS, DOWN, OR DIAGONALLY
--FORWARDS, BACKWARDS, AND SOMETIMES OVERLAPPING. HAVE FUN!

WORD LIST

BOBSLED
DOGSLED
HOCKEY
HUNTING
ICE FISHING
ICE SKATE
SHOVEL
SKI
SKIJORING
SLED
SLEIGH RIDE
SNOW
SNOW ANGEL
SNOWBALL
SNOWBLOWER
SNOWBOARD
SNOWMAN
SNOWMOBILE
SNOWSHOES
TOBOGGAN

W I I Z H U N T I N G L S
Z K I D O G S L E D C E A
L S N O W B O A R D O V G
E N L O D E L S B O B E E
V O E E D I R H G I E L S
O W T R D G M D E L S B N
H A A G E S U L I N N I O
S N K R P W N B T R A B W
N G S K I J O R I N G W B
O E E E T M C L M W G O A
W L C F W B L A B A O N L
M M I O S W E N L W B S L
A C N X G U Y E K C O H S
N S N O W S H O E S T N T
I C E F I S H I N G O O S



Renville County Soil Conservation District Services:

Hand Plant Trees.....	\$2.00
Machine planting.....	\$29.00/100ft
(trees are included) \$250.00 Minimum	
Fabric Application.....	\$58.00/100ft
Chemical Weed Control.....	\$12.00/100ft (\$150.00 Min.)
Mowing.....	\$75.00/hr. (\$75.00 Min.)
500' roll of fabric.....	\$145.00
Fabric cut to order.....	\$1.00/ft (\$20.00 Min.)
Replacement hand planting service.....	\$4.50/tree (Min. \$75.00)
Tree protectors.....	\$2.00
Fence posts for protectors.....	\$2.50
SCD installation of protectors.....	\$1.00 ea.

Please order your handplants for spring 2019 by end of January to ensure the species you want are available. Call Dara at 701-756-6351 EXT 3.

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Board and Staff

Jeffrey Aalund ~Chairman

Randy Bryans ~Co Chairman

Brian Johnson~ Supervisor

Linda Savelkoul ~Supervisor

Patrick Murphy ~Supervisor

Dara Abernathey ~District Manager

Silkee Hill~ District Technician

Lena Bohm ~NRCS District Conservationist

Bruce Baska ~NRCS Technician

Presorted Standard
US Postage Paid
Mohall, ND
Permit No. 8



Jamie and Mary Routledge Farm



District programs and services are available to all people regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status.