Stutsman County SCD

Stutsman County Soil Conservation District January 2019 www.stutsmanscd.net

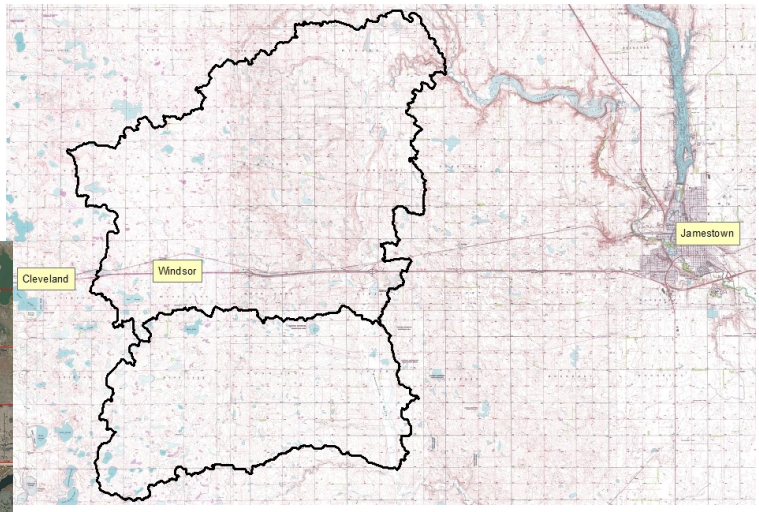
Gully Erosion Project

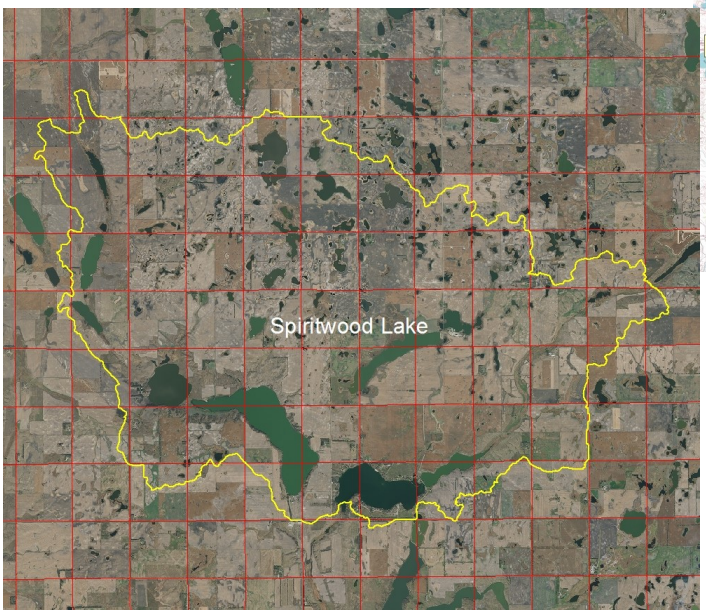
Stutsman county SCD has been trying to address the gully erosion area to the west of Jamestown north and south of Windsor. This project is focusing on areas that water has eroded fields or pasture. The goal of the project is to reduce the potential for sediment to be delivered to the creeks or other bodies of water. A way of doing the is to repair any gully erosion sites and put them back into permanent vegetation. The Stutsman county SCD has cost share available to producers in these watersheds to fix these critical areas. There is cost share available for multiple types of practices from critical area planting, to pasture and hay-land plantings, all the way to putting in a rotational grazing system.

Please stop in today or contact Dustin Krueger.

1301 Business Loop East Jamestown, ND 58401

701-252-2521 ext.3





Top is Gully Erosion project.

Left is Spiritwood Lake project.

MARCH 15th 2019 Deadline for signing up in the RCPP Grant.

Spiritwood Lake Project

Another program is through the RCPP (reginal conservation partnership program) for the Spiritwood Lake Watershed. This cost share is through the EQIP funding pool and must follow their guidelines. The practices here can be anything from cover crops, gully erosions , no-till and anything on rangeland. If you would be interested in applying for any of these practices stop in to the NRCS office before **MARCH 15th 2019** that is the deadline to sign up. This is a project we are working on to improve the water quality in Spiritwood Lake.

Again stop in and see Dustin or any NRCS employee 1301 Business Loop E Jamestown, ND 58401 or call at 701-252-2521 Ext. 3.

New Personnel In The Office

Stop in and say hi to these two new employees when you get a chance. We can't wait to work with them.

Soil Conservationist for NRCS

Hey all, my name is Shelby Larson. I am the new Soil Conservationist in the Jamestown NRCS office. I grew up on a farm and ranch south of Cleveland, ND where I still spend a lot of my free time hunting, fishing, farming, and working with livestock. After graduating high school, I packed my bags and headed east for NDSU. There I obtained a bachelor's degree in Natural Resources and a minor in Soil Sciences. Following graduation in the spring of 2017 my career took me to LaMoure, where I started full-time as a Soil Conservationist. Now in Stutsman County, I am excited to get involved in the community while getting to work with many of you!

District Technician

Hello, my name is Danny Newton and I am the new district tree technician for Stutsman county. Originally from Dickinson, I was raised in a military family and had the opportunity to live throughout most of the country. Football and school brought me to Valley City State University where I studied fisheries and wildlife. I worked seasonal for USGS working with piping plovers. I also had the opportunity to work for the university sampling fish in small streams and rivers throughout eastern North Dakota. In my free time I enjoy fishing and hunting. I am excited to get involved and help in any way I can !

Board Members

The Board members and staff would like to thank Gary Marks for being on our board for the past four years. He is an active farmer south of Jamestown. He took off time away from his farm to attend our meetings and other programs that would help better our district. We hope to see you around Gary. Thank you again.

Bob Martin accepted our invitation to take Gary's position on the board. Bob recently retired from the Corp of Engineer. He is Active on other boards and we will keep him busy on the Soil Conservation District board.

A look at yield response to drainage and no-till

By Abbey Wick, NDSU Extension Soil Health Specialist on Jan 20, 2019 Published in AgWeek

This week's observation is related to yield response to two management practices, tile drainage and no-till.

We often hear these two practices being talked about together, for example, "If I install tile drainage, I can start using no-till on high clay, valley soils." I'm not sure I have the answer, but I like the thought process of stacking tools. Let's talk about what the data/ research tell us to help guide decisions.

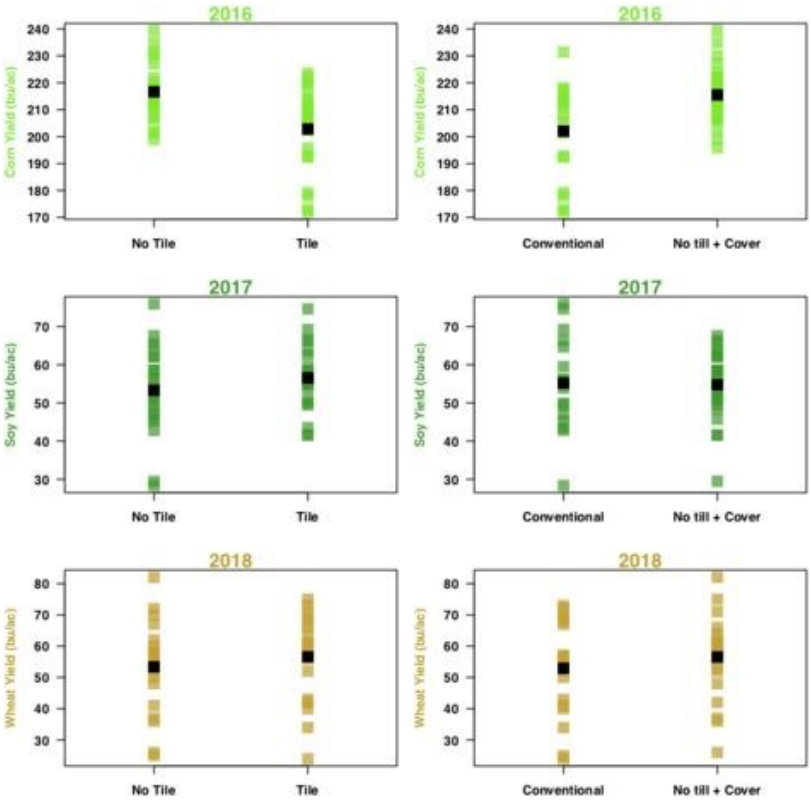
At the Soil Health and Agriculture Research Extension Farm in Mooreton, N.D., we have been evaluating yield response for a corn (2016), soybean (2017), wheat (2018) rotation on Fargo clay soils. Here's the setup: The northern half (80 acres) of the field is tiled and the southern 80 acres are un-tiled. There are no-till and conventional tillage (chisel plow, field cultivator) replicated strips (three of each) on both the tiled and un-tiled parts of the field. There are full size equipment strips, not small plots. The entire field is planted to one crop.

The no-till parts of the field (on both tiled and un-tiled) have cover crops in each part of the rotation. We interseeded corn with cereal rye/radish, planted green with soybean, flew on an oat/radish cover crop mix before leaf drop in soybean, and used a practice called bio-strip till with radish/faba bean/flax into wheat stubble.

We hand-collected grain from specific points and also used yield monitors and weigh wagons to determine crop yields. We collected soil samples in each of the strips for measuring soil health parameters. (The soil data will be in a follow-up Soil Health Minute).

Crop yield response to management approaches (NDSU graphic)

Here are the results. Let's first look at the three graphs on the left-hand side of the figure. These are for the no-tile and tile crop yield comparison. The black square is the average yield and the color squares on either side of that black square show the variability in yield (similar to the highs and lows you see on a yield monitor during harvest). Look at both the average yield and the variability because that tells you the whole story.



In 2016, the average corn yield was higher on the un-tiled part of the field than the tiled. Average soybean and wheat yields were not different between tiled and un-tiled treatments (or in other words, we consider the yields to be the same).

Let's now look at the graphs on the right-hand side of the figure. The average corn yield was higher on the no-till/ cover crop treatments than the conventional tillage management approach. Average soybean and wheat yields were the same.

With both the tile/no-tile and conventional/no-till comparison, we need to keep in mind that these results represent sample locations from a single field. If we wanted to gain more confidence that these crops consistently responded to these practices in this way, we would need to repeat this study on multiple, similar fields.

We know that yield isn't everything when we are talking about a soil health system, but overall, what does this dataset tell us? We are not seeing a consistent difference in yields by management (tiled/un-tiled; conventional/no-till) of the three crops for the treatments. For example, we are not seeing that corn, soybean and wheat yields are ALL higher on the un-tiled part of the field versus the tiled. We are also not seeing consistently higher yields on no-till/cover crop versus conventional tillage. This is OK; it means we need to continue taking measurements and evaluating the system long-term.

I'm also OK with seeing "no difference" in yield because then we can look at the inputs and costs associated with inputs. Then you can decide what is most important: Income? Ability to reduce erosion? Peace of mind? Water management? It is likely a combination of goals, but now you have some data/research to consider as well.

Research credits: Caley Gasch (NDSU Soil Health) and Aaron Daigh (NDSU Soil Science)

Future Tree Plantings

Just a reminder if you are looking at doing a tree planting in 2020 and want to have cost-share you need to stop in and visit with Danny. Outdoor Heritage Fund deadline is usually beginning of July so need to have the plan ready by then. Also EQIP has some deadlines and they are mentioned in this newsletter if you have any question you can always give us a call.

NRCS Programs

Current Contract Holders:

If you have a current contract with the NRCS **now** is a great time to start planning and preparing for 2019. It's always a good idea to double-check your seeding mixes and dates, fence lines, grazing rotation, and/or any other practices you might have planned in 2019. Please contact us with any questions.

EQIP Deadlines:

NRCS is accepting Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) applications to target resource concerns you may have. It offers a flat-rate cost share for implementing a conservation practice. There are many different conservation practices available for cost-share. Some common practices include: cover crops, cross-fencing, watering facilities, nutrient management, tree planting, and reduced/no-till. EQIP application deadlines: **February 15th** for animal feeding operations, irrigation, organic, and water management OR **March 15th** for the local work group funding pool. Any applications submitted after the March 15th deadline will be saved for the next round of batching.

CSP Deadline to be Determined:

NRCS is currently still accepting Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) applications for the 2019 year. We are expecting a deadline and more information to be out soon since the recent passing of the Farm Bill. If you are interested in the CSP program stop in the office or give us a call so you can fill out an application and start planning as soon as possible. You can reach us at (701) 252-1920 ext. 3.

Help Wanted

The Stutsman County SCD will be looking for seasonal workers to work from early May to mid July We will be taking applications in April. You may contact us by stopping by the office or giving us a call 701-252-2521 ext. 3.

Skills necessary to perform the job include but are not limited to:

- Lifting bundles of trees and rolls of weed barrier fabric
- Riding tree planter and fabric machine
- Driver's license required

2018 Leopold Conservation Award Winners

The Wilson Family Farm

Sand County Foundation proudly presents its Leopold Conservation Award to individual or a family's dedicated to leaving their land better than how they found it.

The Leopold Conservation Award recognize extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation, inspire other landowners through their example and help the general public understand the vital role private landowners can and do play in conservation success.

The Wilson's have excelled in being able to leave the land in better condition and educating the pubic. We here the at the Soil Conservation District just want to congratulate the Wilson's on this prestige's award, and bringing it to Stutsman County.

Congratulations to the Wilson's.

2018 Overall Achievement Award Winner

The Schlecht's—Brandon, Jenny, Reanna, and Kennedy

They operate a 999 head full containment feedlot, they graze cattle on 1500 acres and raise crops and forage on 1100 acres of land. Lately they have been starting with cover crop and have seen forage increase spreading manure on their alfalfa ground.

Tree Maintenance Award

Ryan Huebner

Soil Health Award

Darin Dockter

Water Quality Award

Brandon and Lacey Koenig

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Board & Staff Members

Stutsman SCD

Board of Supervisors

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

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

We are located in the USDA Service Center

1301 Business Loop East

Jamestown, ND 58401

701-252-2521 ext. 3

NRCS

Darin Hirshkorn

District Conservationist

Marc Murdoff

Soil Conservationist

Shelby Larson

Soil Conservationist

Soil Conservation District

Deonn Larson

District Clerk

Daniel Newton

District Technician

Dustin Krueger

319 Watershed Coordinator

Cody Hoggarth

Farm Bill Specialist

Tree Order

It's not too late to stop in or call with those last minute tree orders!

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

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