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Issue  
**TWO**

Vol. 35

A Quarterly Insight Into Conservation and Agriculture Today

Towner County Soil Conservation District

# by The Acre



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## "Ladies Ag 2019"

*Hit Me With Your Best Shot...*



I truly feel this was the best Ladies Ag ever!! We had a great speaker, guests (Old and New), great outpouring of donations and sponsorships, and an amazing time just being with other women. Although agriculture has its lows, we can come together for a night of fun and fellowship. It is also chance for women to laugh, talk, and take home gifts donated by sponsors who believe in you & the work you do. We put this event on as an opportunity to thank you and let you know how appreciated you truly are! The theme, "Hit Me With Your Best Shot... You Can't Knock Me Down", best describes many of the farmers spirits over the past year. These impacts also affect families. Jessie Veeder reminded us how important small communities are and to get involved. It's also okay to come back and work and raise a family in rural North Dakota. She read her poems, sang a couple of her songs, including Work Girl, and made sure everyone enjoyed their time away from duties at home or the farm. Carie emphasized how important mentorship of the next generation of female leaders is, as well as knowing that everything we do as moms and wives doesn't have to be

perfect. Just be you and do your best! The Influential Award goes to someone who is a positive voice and takes action to make sure agriculture is shared to those around them. Cathryn Teubner was recognized as this year's winner. She incorporates Ag in the Classroom into her curriculum and was also a recipient of the Bayer, Grow Your Community Grant. It's women like her who make an impact to those around them.

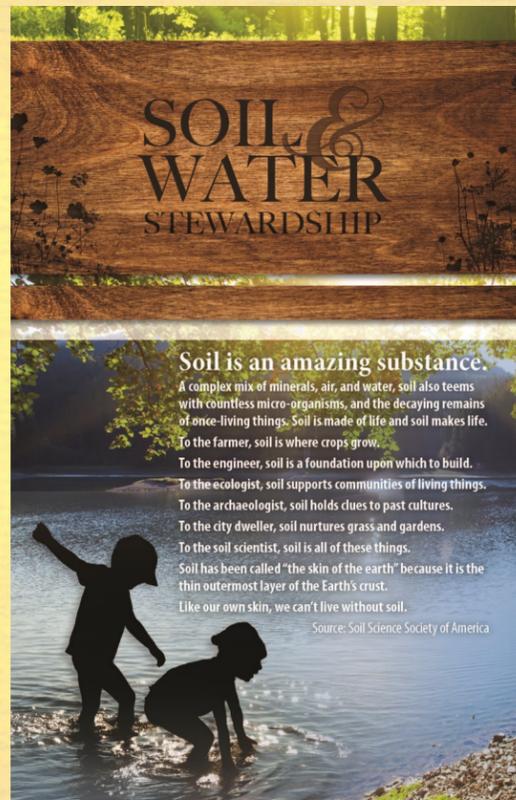
*"How can I use what I've learned, what I want to learn, and what I love to help make this place a better place to live?"*

Many local businesses helped again and this event is largely due to their continued support, along with the women who attend. Munich

FFA students and advisors also pitch in with serving of the meal and clean up. **Thank you** to all of you who participated. Our community is blessed to have great women like you working to keep our rural areas growing and thriving. Check out the pictures on FB or our webpage.



final  
 thoughts...



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Ag in the Classroom this quarter has been a lot of fun! We had peanuts from Georgia in January, Corn in February, and Apples in March! The students learned all the parts of a peanut and corn plant and how they grow. The Georgia Peanut Commission donated stickers, sample peanut packs, and class mascot dolls. After talking about peanuts and jelly, and a previous lesson on wheat and bread, they all got to make PB&J sandwiches. A copy of the book PB&J Hooray was read and donated to each school. We covered the 4 kinds of corn that is grown in the corn belt, what their characteristics are, and what makes them different from each other. They made corn plants with the seeds and also had a popcorn snack and watched a video Carie had made for *On Your Table* that showed corn plants in the field and how they grow. In March, all the schools were able to experience Tom Gibson and the TREES program. They learned about pollution, the environment, and even a few teachers got involved and turned into otters. It's a great hands-on program that gets everyone laughing. Munich got an additional lesson on "The Apple Orchard Riddle". Did you know a properly pollinated apple has 10 seeds and forms a star when you cut it open? A taste testing was done with 4 varieties of apples based on taste, texture, and color. The clear, surprising winner was Granny Smith. The faces were amusing!



## Soil Stewardship

### Dig Deeper

Soil is arguably one of the Earth's most critical natural resources. It is a substance that few people understand and most take for granted. Soil makes up the outer layer of the earth's surface, it nourishes the plants we eat, the animals and the thriving underground kingdom of bacteria, fungi, protozoa, earthworms and other microbes that are critical to the planet's food web.

Soil is the foundation of the world's supply; but exactly how much soil do we have? Look at the entire earth—75% of the earth is covered with water in our oceans, lakes, rivers and streams. The remaining 25% represents land. More than half of that land is desert, polar or mountainous regions where it is too hot, too cold or too high to be productive. That leaves us with 12.5%, which includes land

that is limited by terrain, fertility or too much rainfall. Because some of this land is too rocky, steep, shallow or wet to sustain food production, we are left with a very small fragment of the land area—about 10%—which represents the soil upon which the entire world depends for its food supply. And this small amount competes with a variety of other soil uses including housing, cities, schools, hospitals, shopping centers, landfills and more. Soil is a precious natural resource.

Topsoil is the most productive soil layer, and the layer that is the first lost due to soil erosion. Erosion occurs naturally because of wind, water and ice acting on any exposed rock or soil surface. Human activities are responsible for 60-80% of all erosion. A single rainstorm can wash away centuries-old accumulations of soil from damaged, neglected or badly managed ground. In many places, soils are eroding

faster than they can be rebuilt. Though a renewable resource in theory, soil forms slowly. For all practical purposes, the soil we lose to erosion will never be replaced in our lifetime. It can take up to 500 years to form 1 inch of topsoil. Since the Dust Bowl of the 1930s, the protection of soil from erosion and degradation has greatly increased through the formation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and several state and federal agencies. These conservation groups assist landowners and the general public through education and technical assistance aimed at the proper management of soil. Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District to see how you can become more involved in conservation activities in your local community. To find your local district, visit [www.nacdnet.org/general-resources/conservation-district-directory/](http://www.nacdnet.org/general-resources/conservation-district-directory/)

April 28-May 5



I have been fortunate to work with so many great people and agencies in the span of 9 years. After a month of contemplating options and opportunities that I was presented with, I have chosen to take a new, exciting path outside of the SCD. Everyone I met taught me something, and whether it was positive or negative, it still made an impact. Ag education and outreach will still be a top priority to me. It's so important to share with those around us the awesome stuff farmers and ranchers do. Feel free to contact me anytime!

If you didn't attend Ladies Ag, you missed out. Make your last your best, right? It's been an honor to be able to plan the event for the women in the community. Always continue to be a



mentor to the next generation of young, rural, up and coming women.

They truly need our support, no matter who we are or what we do. We have a story to tell and teachable moments everyday. Build people up every chance! Women on the Farm workshop is also coming up May 4th in DL. I will be there and encourage you to attend and ask lots of questions. The day with Extension and Dakota Precision Ag is a laid back, fun, learning environment. The guys at High Plains do a pretty good job too explaining equipment and parts. The postcard is attached to the email.

Going into spring I know there will be some of those days...but remember you control how you respond to it, even if you can't control the situation. I know I've punched a combine side panel and kicked a few cultivator tires, but it didn't really help. Get some more coffee, stay positive, and make each day great. No matter what life throws at you, there's always a bigger plan ahead! Have a Blessed Easter!



### Soil is an amazing substance.

A complex mix of minerals, air, and water, soil also teems with countless micro-organisms, and the decaying remains of once-living things. Soil is made of life and soil makes life. To the farmer, soil is where crops grow. To the engineer, soil is a foundation upon which to build. To the ecologist soil supports communities of living things. To the archaeologist, soil holds clues to past cultures. To the city dweller, soil nurtures grass and gardens. To the soil scientist, soil is all of these things. Soil has been called "the skin of the earth" because it is the thin outermost layer of the Earth's crust. Like our own skin, we can't live without soil.

Source: Soil Science Society of America



For additional education material visit, <http://www.nacdnet.org/general-resources/stewardship-and-education-materials/2019-life-in-the-soil-dig-deeper/> <http://www.soils4teachers.org>

To find more about your local soils, locate your local conservation district <http://www.nacdnet.org/general-resources/conservation-district-directory/>

### >>> Newsletter Sponsors 2019

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| ∅ NoDak Ins.               | ∅ Michael Farbo-CPA      | <b>Thank You!!!</b>        |

### USDA Offers Conservation Assistance to Landowners to Protect Wetlands, Agricultural Lands & Grasslands

BISMARCK, April 1, 2019 - USDA's NRCS plans to invest \$450 million this year through the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) to help private landowners, tribes, land trusts and other groups wanting to restore and protect critical wetlands and protect agricultural lands and grasslands.

ACEP provides assistance to landowners and eligible entities helping conserve, restore and protect wetlands and productive agricultural lands and grasslands. NRCS accepts ACEP applications year-round, but applications are ranked and funded by enrollment period. The next cut-off is April 19, 2019.

"Seventy-five percent of the nation's wetlands are situated on private and tribal lands," Mary Podoll said. "Wetlands provide many benefits storing floodwaters, cleaning and recharging groundwater, sequestering carbon, trapping sediment and filter pollutants for clean water, as well as many benefits to wildlife."

Wetland conservation easements are either permanent, for 30 years or the maximum extent allowed by state law. Tribal landowners have the added option of enrolling in 30-year non-easement restoration contracts. Eligible lands include:

- ∨ Farmed or converted wetlands that can successfully be restored;
- ∨ Croplands or grasslands subject to flooding; and
- ∨ Riparian areas that link protected wetland areas.

Visit your local USDA Service Provider for more information or to see release in full.