

LaMoure County SCD  
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# THE LANDSAVER



LAMOURE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Fall/Winter 2018

Volume 28, Number 2

**Board Members:**  
Christof Just, Chairman  
Aaron Stroh, Supervisor  
Boyd Ballmann, Supervisor  
Lynn Haro, Supervisor  
Ann Moch, Supervisor  
Office Phone: 701-883-5344  
Office Location: 211 South Main St., LaMoure

**District Staff:**  
Susan Muske, District Manager  
Robert Flath, District Technician  
**NRCS Staff:**  
Kelsey Naze, Acting District Conservationist  
Shelby Larson, Soil Conservationist

*District programs are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.*  
*District board meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month, 8 p.m., LCSCD office. Meetings are open to the public.*

## Going Away

It's been close to 15 years since I first became the DC here and LaMoure county and it seems like yesterday. I've accepted the District Conservationist position in Jamestown and will be starting up there in October. I would like to thank the farmers and ranchers in LaMoure county for the great years and to keep up the good work with their conservation goals. I will still be living in the area so if you see me stop and say hi.

Thanks again,  
Darin Hirschhorn



**Tree order form enclosed!**  
Place your order this fall to ensure availability!



*Congratulations*  
**Mike & Shari Wendel**

2018 LaMoure County Achievement Winners!  
See their full story in the spring newsletter

## 22st Annual Eco Ed Camp held for county 6th graders



Eco Ed camp was held on September 5th this year for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade class of the LaMoure County schools which included a total of 57 students from Edgeley, Kulm, LaMoure, and Marion schools. Sponsored by the LaMoure County Soil Conservation District, the goal of this camp is to provide hands-on-learning about ecology - the study of living things and their environment. This year's camp was held again at the LaMoure County Memorial Park. The camp included 5 outdoor classroom sessions of Water Quality, Rangelands, Woodlands, Soils, and Wetlands. In addition there was an entomology presentation from Don Carey, "the Bug Guy" from NDSU and a presentation from Jim Gerholdt and his "Remarkable Reptiles."

The students were tested at the end of the day with the highest scores receiving a prize and the highest school average receiving a trophy, which went to the Kulm school this year.



## Keep ND Clean Poster Contest marks its 50th year! Keeping ND Clean through litter prevention and education

2018 marked the 50th year of the Keep North Dakota Clean Poster contest. In 1968, KNDC Inc. was formed to ensure a continuous statewide program of education for the beautification of the state and proper disposal of litter. Each year, over 10,000 students from across the state participate.

This year students from LaMoure, Edgeley and Kulm schools in LaMoure County participated. Nicholas Meisch was chosen as the third place state winner in his grade last spring.

All students who participated received a

Scotch pine seedling. Top entrants from each grade also received a Colorado Blue Spruce seedling tree and Nicholas Meisch received a gift certificate as well.



Nicholas Meisch  
Lamoure Public School  
Grade: Fifth, Place: Third  
Ms. Kara Knudsen

The KNDC contest is sponsored by a variety of partnering agencies and organizations who believe that education is the key to any successful program. And to be truly effective, the program needs to begin early which is the basis for this poster contest.

To view all state poster winners, visit:

[keep-nd-clean.org](http://keep-nd-clean.org).

## Wildflower Seed Available

With the increased interest in wildflowers, we have decided to make it easy and affordable to start a patch of your own. The LaMoure SCD now offers premixed bags of wildflower seeds available for purchase at nearly wholesale price. The mix contains 13 different wildflowers and 2 short grasses. The types of wildflowers chosen were picked based on affordability, ease of establishment, flower color, and season of bloom. The grasses were included to help keep weeds down and to aid in the overall look of a wildflower meadow.

We will be selling the mix in 1 lb bags which is enough to plant a 1/4 acre patch, or an area 100 ft x 100 ft. Each bag of the wildflower mix will cost about \$35, depending on what our cost comes in at. There will be a limited supply available. You can contact us now to pre-order a bag or just call us in the spring to see if there are any left.

If you are interested in pre-ordering or would like more info:

- \*Call: 701 883-5344 ext. 3
- \*Email: [Susan.Muske@nd.nacdn.net](mailto:Susan.Muske@nd.nacdn.net)
- \*Text: Susan at 701 320-8724.

More info and pictures can be found on our website.

Find us on the web at [LaMoureSCD.org](http://LaMoureSCD.org)

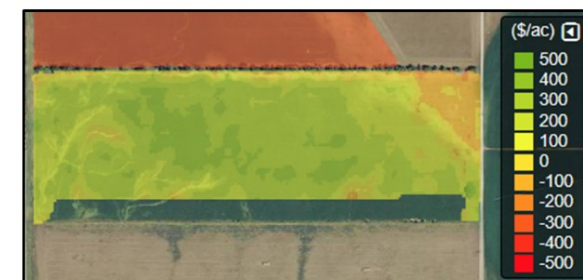


## Precision Ag with Pheasants Forever



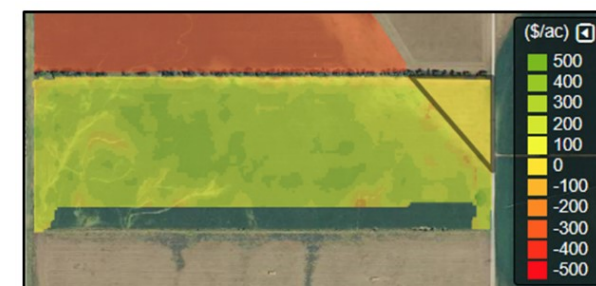
Over the last year, Pheasants Forever has been working with producers in Southeast North Dakota to help identify acres with low to negative profitability and develop alternatives that are practical and profitable for their operation. Using Profit Zone Manager as a farm management tool, Pheasants Forever can analyze planting, application, and harvest data alongside input budgets to identify what acres are profitable, and what acres are not getting the best return on investment. This financial analysis of the farm operation can help put dollars and cents to the land management decisions that have been implemented, while also opening the opportunity to evaluate profitability of alternative practices on negative revenue acres.

In the last year, six operations within the southeast have applied 680.5 acres of Best Management Practices (BMPs) on low producing acres. Across all fields with BMPs applied, input costs decreased by an average of \$5,405.89, profitability increased by an average of \$1,915.37, and ROI increased by an average of 5%. Below is an example from a field in LaMoure county where this producer implemented forage production on 2.6 acres.



Before: 2016 Yellow Peas

Average Yield: 62.6 bushels/acre  
Profit: \$147.98/acre  
ROI: 58.2%



After: 2018 + Forage Production

Average Yield: 65.1 bushels/acre  
Profit: \$153.50/acre  
ROI: 64.6%

By changing the land management of low producing acres within a field to more profitable practices, this can swing field profitability, return on investment, and average yield for the producer and farm operation. Turning red acres green has not only shown to be a financially beneficial decision for producers, but also biologically beneficial for the soil health, the water quality, and the wildlife that may utilize those acres.



PROFIT ZONE  
MANAGER

This program is currently available in LaMoure, Dickey, Ransom and Sargent counties.

Thanks to our great partnership with the North Dakota Game & Fish Department and your local Soil Conservation District, farmers that go through this program

have access to 75% cost-share on selected conservation practices and/or 10-year contracts with incentive payments. These funds are limited, so availability is on a first come, first serve basis. The one-year software subscription through our program is offered at a discounted price of \$399. Whether or not you have precision technology, we can help analyze your acres for profitability.



Average Yield: + 2.5 bu/ac  
Profit: + \$5.52/ac  
ROI: + 6.4%

If you are interested in learning more or have questions about habitat or precision with Pheasants Forever, contact your local Precision Ag & Conservation Specialist, Melissa Shockman at [mshockman@pheasantsforever.org](mailto:mshockman@pheasantsforever.org) or 701.709.0963.



What do you picture in your mind when you hear algal bloom -- more specifically 'Harmful Algal Bloom'? It is safe to say you do not picture roses and daisies.

### Harmful Algal Blooms

Typically, a HAB is an overgrowth of cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) in surface water. Cyanobacteria are microscopic organisms found in all types of water. They are often called 'blue-green algae' because they live in water and use sunlight to create food (photosynthesis). Cyanobacteria are actually important to freshwater ecosystems because they make oxygen as a by-product of photosynthesis, and they are a food source for other organisms.

### The Harmful in HABs

Under certain environmental conditions, cyanobacteria can multiply quickly and form a bloom. Some species of cyanobacteria produce cyanotoxins that are released when the cells die and rupture. The toxins can cause harm to people, wildlife, livestock, pets and aquatic life. Almost every year in North Dakota, a few cases of pet and livestock deaths occur due to drinking water with HABs. Additional effects of HABs include blocking sunlight needed for other aquatic organisms, raising treatment costs for public water supply systems and industries, and depleting dissolved oxygen as the algae dies off, resulting in fish kills.

Specific human health effects are:

- Allergic-like reactions
- Skin rashes
- Eye irritation
- Gastroenteritis
- Respiratory irritation
- Neurological effects

### What Causes HABs?

- Excess nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen)
  - From fertilizers in fields and yards, livestock and pet wastes, and septic systems
- Warm water temperatures
- Slow-moving water
- Sunlight



Warning signs posted at Homme Dam in 2015. (Photo courtesy Mike Ell)

### What Can You Do?

Everyone plays a part in feeding the algae, from how you fertilize your lawn to the timing of fertilizing a 160-acre field, to whether or not you pick up your pet's waste, to the proper management of livestock waste.

Tips to reduce nutrients from entering runoff to our surface waters:

- Sample the soil in your yard before you fertilize.
  - Leave your grass clippings on the lawn—they give nitrogen back to the lawn.
- If you do need to fertilize, use only the recommended amount of product, and keep it off sidewalks and other hard surfaces.
- Use field soil samples to calculate a nutrient budget for your crops.
  - Complete a comprehensive nutrient management plan for your farm.
  - Sample manure before applying it to the soil to ensure it is applied at the correct agronomic rate
- By limiting the nutrient sources in a watershed, we all can help prevent the growth of algae in our lakes.

### For More Information

To learn more about HABs and nutrient reduction, contact the ND Dept. of Health Watershed Management Program. Additional articles can be found at [LaMoureSCD.org](http://LaMoureSCD.org).



### Wildflower Meadow



Who doesn't love flowers? Everyone needs some color in their lives, right? The little meadow we have growing by the office is not weeds in our lawn, it is a diverse mix of wildflowers, blue gramma grass, and side-oats gramma grass. We have planted this meadow to show how easily anyone can plant little bits of habitat to be enjoyed by all. The species of insects that pollinate our crops and gardens will be thrilled for more habitat and we will appreciate the aesthetic value. The variety has such diversity that there will be something actively growing and blooming at all times during the growing season. This particular assortment of species is available for purchase pre-mixed from the Conservation District in quantities fit for a quarter acre (100' x 100') area. Please drive by and give it a look, then stop in and talk to us about all the ways it is beneficial.

### No-Till Garden

Gardening season for this year is pretty much a wrap, but before we switch our thoughts to shoveling snow I wanted to bring awareness to the No-Till garden that SCD/NRCS has been experimenting with for the last three years. Did you know it was possible to grow your veggies/fruit without having to run a tiller and pick weeds all summer? North Dakota Soil and Water Conservation Society published a basic No-Till garden 'recipe' that we used. The listed materials are to construct a 4'x4' area. Over the last three years the office's little spot has produced a bounty. There was very minimal weeding to be done, and it fared well through dry times as there was enough cover present to keep the soil moist a little longer. moisture present longer. It was not drought tolerant by any means, but any little savings in moisture helps. Also, the veggies stayed nice and clean because the cover present eliminated splashing soil up during watering. This recipe could be doubled or tripled to be implemented on how ever large of a scale you need to meet your gardening pleasures. Please come check it out and visit with us. We'd love to share the not-so-secret recipe and promote a little soil health along the way.



### Rain Barrel



If you ever calculated the amount of rainfall that runs off the roof of a building, you would be astonished. Why let this water simply run-off into the storm-water system and drain to the river when you could harvest it and use it. Our office has a food-grade, 50-gallon barrel that was converted into a rain catchment system to utilize what is just a small portion of the buildings water runoff. This has allowed us plenty of water to supply our office projects. Bonus – the more water that doesn't run off the roof, across the payment, and into the storm-water system means the less pollution that was picked up and carried into our water resources allowing higher water quality. On a large-scale or many small-scales put together this technique could have real positive impacts on our resources water quality. Time to get a rain barrel of your very own to perhaps use for that No-Till garden or your new wildflower meadow.

You can find more information on our website at [LaMoureSCD.org](http://LaMoureSCD.org).



## ND Game & Fish Department Cost Share For Tree Plantings



The ND Game & Fish Dept has funding available for future tree plantings. This funding is intended for tree plantings that focus on providing wildlife habitat and may pay up to 100% of the costs involved. The tree plantings can be arranged in any shape. Plantings without straight edges or those that mimic natural habitat are preferred.

This cost share could help fund the tree planting, and fabric installation, establishing new grass between rows and adjacent to the tree planting, replacement trees (handplants) for the first three years, and potentially a per acre rental payment.

This program requires a PLOTS agreement for a minimum of 10 years. The landowner must agree to allow the ND Game and Fish Department to sign and publicize the access acres as open to walk-in hunting.

For more information, contact Renae Schultz at 701 253-6487 or check out our website at LaMoureSCD.org.

### Other Cost Share Options for Tree Planting:

- ✦ Forest Service Windbreak Renovation Initiative— 50% Funding for tree removal and replant
- ✦ Outdoor Heritage Fund—60% Funding available for tree planting projects at least \$3,000 or more.
- ✦ ND Game & Fish—See info above. Funding available up to 100%. Requires a PLOTS agreement.
- ✦ NRCS EQIP—Funding rates vary yearly, typically 60% or more.



### From the Desk of Sue...

We had another strong year for tree plantings. The district planted over 31 miles of trees in 55 different locations. However, it was a hit and miss year for survival. Some areas receiving timely rains had great success while other areas of the county struggled for enough moisture. Currently we are set up for a successful spring. That is me trying to be optimistic about all of this rain we have been having lately! As of now we are scheduled to plant 34 miles of trees in 33 locations this coming spring.

I also want to remind everyone who has had a tree planting in the past with fabric to check the fabric and make sure that it is not girdling the trees. The fabric will not deteriorate on its own. The hole will need to be cut larger as the tree grows or consider removing the fabric altogether.

# NDSU

## EXTENSION

LaMoure County

Julianne Racine, Extension Agent – Ag & Natural Resources  
701-883-6080

Your LaMoure County Extension office has some Fall programming planned and would like to welcome you to join us. Watch our Facebook page for announcements of other Fall & Winter events not yet scheduled.  
\$ denotes fee involved.

October 12, 2018

9-11AM

Frayne Olson & Bryon Parman,

NDSU Ag Economic Specialists

Discuss soybean storage, market outlook,  
& farm financial future

Centerfield Bar & Grill

Sponsored by Choice Financial, LaMoure, ND

November 6, 2018

9A-4:30PM

Pesticide Training

2019 Commercial Applicator snowbird session  
Courthouse

Register by October 31<sup>st</sup> at

<https://www.ndsu.edu/pesticide/trainings-1>

Max 15, \$

November 15, 2018

2-4PM

Joe Zeleznik, NDSU Forestry Specialist

Pruning / Forestry Workshop – Early Dormancy  
Sunset Park, Lamoure

Dress appropriately for being outside

December 18 & 19, 2018

Conservation Tillage Conference  
Fargo, ND

Register by calling 320-235-0726 ext.2006, \$

Watch for winter meetings on Palmer Amaranth & other timely topics

Like us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/LaMoureCountyExt/>

2019 Q1 Preview – Pesticide Training – Commercial & Private

Design Your Succession Plan

Pruning Workshop – Late Dormancy



## Plantskydd®

### REPELLENT

DEER • RABBITS • ELK

**How is Plantskydd different?**

Unlike other repellents that quickly lose their effectiveness after rainfall, Plantskydd is rain and snow resistant. It does not require constant re-application.

Plantskydd is the only repellent proven to last up to 6 months over-winter!

**Why does Plantskydd work so well?**

Plantskydd repels by emitting an odor browsing animals associate with predator activity. It stimulates a fear-based response that will have garden feeders looking for somewhere else to dine.

**How Often do I need to treat my plants and trees?**

Plantskydd lasts up to 4 months in spring/summer and up to 6 months over-winter. Plantskydd is rain-resistant and does not need to be re-applied after rainfall. For best protection, treat plants before browse begins in spring or fall.



NRCS has cost share available for High Tunnel Systems and Honey Bee Pollinator Habitat through EQIP. Batching period deadline for these applications is

**November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018.**

NRCS is always accepting applications to conserve and benefit your land's natural resources.