



Conservation Leader

April, 2016

Oliver Soil Conservation District
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www.OliverSCD.org

Supervisor's Column

By Dale Berg, District Supervisor

This time, I want to talk about managing our saline soils.

Due to the amount of rainfall we have had in the last few years, most farmers, if not all, have a problem with saline soil and it's been getting worse year by year. Trying to manage those saline areas is a big concern for farmers. Most crops do not grow in it. About the only thing that grows in saline soils is foxtail and a few weeds.

No-till or minimum tillage systems which use shallow tillage are recommended for seed bed preparation in saline soils. Deep tillage operations seem to increase salt concentrations. Getting the seed to germinate seems to be the biggest problem.

Here are a few crops that are more salt tolerant: barley is best; corn and wheat are next. Planting high use water crops, like corn or alfalfa, around saline areas may help keep your saline areas from increasing in size.

If you would like more information on saline soil management, contact JD or Val at the OSCD office in Center.

I want to thank all the people who came to Ladies Ag. Hope you enjoyed the speakers and the music from the high school kids.

Also thanks to the people who have hired the District for soil sampling, corn planting or are renting our grain drill.

I'm sure most farmers are busy with spring planting, so stay safe, good luck, and pray for rain!

Thanks to our office volunteer Valerie Bauman



Valerie has been volunteering here in the office since last November. You will hear her friendly voice answering the phone and see her smiling face when you come in. She has completed numerous tasks to help us "get the job done". Her primary work is to get all of our files organized so it is easier for us to find things. This is no easy task as our records go back many years. Valerie works about three days a week and has put in more than 450 hours! Thanks Valerie, for your assistance in getting conservation on the ground in Oliver County.

The Oliver Soil Conservation District is now online!
www.OliverSCD.org

Also find us on **Facebook** at Oliver Soil Conservation District.

We're just getting started, so check often for news. and updates.

Dates to Remember

- May 6 - OSCD Board Meeting, USDA Service Center, Center, 7 AM
- May 6 - Pre-ordered tree pickup day 9 AM-4PM OSCD Tree Shed, Center. This is **only** for hand plants which were pre-ordered.
- May 30 - Memorial Day, Office Closed

Think a Year Ahead of Time

By Justin Edwards, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist

Throughout the winter and into the spring I talk with a lot of landowners who want to create habitat for wildlife on their land for the upcoming season. Some common projects are food plots, grass seeding, and tree/shrub planting. All of these can benefit wildlife. However, if proper site preparation is not done ahead of time the risk of failure greatly increases.

If the project that you wish to do is going to go into an old grass/alfalfa field or old CRP field here are a few tips to give you the best chance of success.

1. No-till whenever possible. If land is tilled up, there can be a lot of noxious weeds that show up even if you have never seen them before.
2. Remove the existing vegetation (haying). Haying will remove the old grass providing easier access for chemicals such as round-up to reach growing vegetation.
3. Spray and kill the grass stand several times throughout the year. Spray once after haying when the grass greens up. Follow that up with a late summer-early fall spraying when the cool-season grasses are growing again.
4. Finally, spray one more time in the spring before planting. With some advanced planning and patience your project can succeed and provide excellent wildlife habitat.

What is Conservation Client Gateway?

The Conservation Client Gateway is a secure online web application that gives landowners and land managers, operating as individuals, the ability to track their payments, report completed practices, request conservation assistance, and electronically sign documents anytime, anywhere. Conservation Client Gateway provides users the flexibility to determine when they want to engage with NRCS online and when they prefer in-person conservation planning assistance.

Check it out at: www.nrcs.usda.gov/clientgateway.

Ladies Ag is a Community Event. Thanks for this support.

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Sandy Letzring Catering
(Great coleslaw!)

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*Special thanks to
CSHS music students and
Director Lacey Hanson for
providing dinner music.*

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