



Conservation Leader

Oliver Soil Conservation District

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www.OliverSCD.org

February, 2016

Supervisor's Column

By Lonnie Henke

This is the time of the year when our thoughts turn to farm operating plans, seed cleaning, fertilizer buying and delivery, income tax preparation, hauling grain, calving, and the many other numerous chores to prepare for the 2016 farming year. **Many producers took a short break from these chores to attend the OSCD producer workshop.**

The meeting was very informative and new information was presented on issues we have discussed in the past and also on issues that are not new but we have not discussed for some time partly because of weather patterns and strong markets. Space does not allow for a full report, but I would like to summarize each presenter's topic and one point of the many each shared with the group.

It has been a while since we discussed grassed waterways. The recent wet cycle, increased number of large rain events in short periods of time, and trend toward wider implement working widths has damaged many of our waterways. **Val Hartman, NRCS District Conservationist, presented information on both establishing and repairing waterways.** Val's slide of waterway erosion was an eye opener to what many producers are experiencing and having difficulty dealing with.

CRP signup has not been as popular in the past—probably due to high commodity prices. **Justin Edwards, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist presented information on CRP benefits and signup.** His slide showing percentage of average farm acreage that loses and makes money was particularly interesting to me.

The current wet cycle has also caused salinity problems in both cropland and rangeland. **Chris Augustin, NDSU Extension Soil Health Specialist presented information on dealing with these areas.** His slide on nutrient levels present in these areas along with manure management gave producers good management ideas to help put these areas back into production.

Past producer meetings did discuss topics on our rangeland and grazing systems, however two presenters **Ryan Foster, NRCS Area II**

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Congratulations Ryan



Ryan Foster has been promoted to NRCS Area II Resource Conservationist He'll now be assisting NRCS field offices from Wahpeton to Center with grazing plans, making presentations, and serving as a resource person for local NRCS and District personnel.

Ryan started working February 2014 in the Center Field Office as NRCS Soil Conservationist, providing technical assistance to producers in our District. His expertise on soil health resulted in Ryan serving on the NRCS Soil Health Cadre, working one on one with producers to help them better understand how to improve their soil health for long-term productivity.

Ryan is now working out of the Mandan Field Office, but we hope to see him back in Oliver County as needed.

The Oliver Soil Conservation District and NRCS staff wish Ryan well in his new position.

Dates to Remember

- Feb. 19 - Pollinator Effort Signup Due
- Feb. 26 - CRP General Signup Ends
- Mar. 1 - "Farming For The Bottom Line" workshop, BSC Energy Center, Bismarck
- Mar. 4 - OSCD Board Meeting, USDA Service Center, Center, Noon
- Mar. 31 - CSP deadline for new applications and expiring contracts
- May 1 - EQIP deadline for 2017 applications

“Farming For The Bottom Line”

Tuesday, March 1, 2016
9:30 AM Registration
Bismarck State College
National Energy Center of Excellence

Speakers:

“Will I Ever See Good Prices Again?”

Dr. Frayne Olson, NDSU Ag Economist

“Lessons from Area 4 SCD Cooperative Research Farm”

Dr. David Archer, ARS Ag Economist

“Characteristics of Profitable ND Farms”

Andy Swenson, NDSU Extension Economist

“Impact of Weather on ND 2016 Production”

Dr. Adnan Akyuz, ND Climatologist

“Delivering Knowledge From Improved Management”

Dr. Mark Liebig, ARS Research Soil Specialist

Dr. David Toledo, ARS Rangeland Management Specialist

“Rural Community and Family Resilience”

Dr. Gary Goreham, NDSU Rural Sociologist

“Farm Business Management Panel”

Moderated by Al Gustin

Panelists are: Roger Gussiaas, Carrington;
Cody Sand, Forbes; and Mark Jennings, Washburn

Register NO LATER THAN Feb. 22nd for this FREE seminar.

Register online: www.tinyurl.com/2016Farming or call:
Morton County Extension: 701-667-3340.

HELP WANTED

The Oliver Soil Conservation District is currently looking for a seasonal equipment operator and tree planters.

For more information please contact the Oliver SCD at 794-3215 ext 3

Supervisor's Column continued

Resource Conservationist and Kevin Sedivec NDSU Ext. Range Science Specialist presented new information on these topics. Ryan presented information on invasive species on our native rangeland. His slide **showing the root depth penetration of different native plants compared to one of the worst invasive species, Kentucky blue grass, showed the severity of the problem** and the need to get this weed under control.

Kevin's presentation on optimizing forage production through grazing systems informed producers **how to make more money using good grazing management**. His comparison of a human at a food bar in a restaurant and a cow having a choice of what to eat in a large pasture was extremely insightful in helping us understand the science of what a cows actually eats.

All information was extremely helpful and I urge you to contact the field office if you have any questions on these topics.

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J.D. Hanson

DISTRICT PERSONNEL

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