



Conservation Leader

Oliver Soil Conservation District

345 Center Ave S, Box 87, Center, ND 58530 Phone: 701-794-3215 Ext. 3

www.OliverSCD.org

July-August, 2016

Supervisor's Column

By Lonnie Henke, Supervisor

Greetings! It is already the middle of July and the hay season is in full swing and in some cases near completion. Many of our hay fields yielded less than they have in the past, especially the older stands of alfalfa and mixed grass.

This will be the second year that we harvested hay fields with a three way mix of alfalfa, sainfoin, and wheat grass that was designed by NRCS. This mixture yielded more than our alfalfa fields and was easier to bale because of the grass and sainfoin parts of the mixture. I would **encourage any producer who is interested in the benefits of a blended forage crop to visit with NRCS staff** about it. I am very pleased with the mixture and see many benefits over seeding alfalfa alone.

Our farm has a grazing plan designed by NRCS staff and we are seeing more benefits each year. We switched from a mid-May pasture turn out on native grassland to a June 1 turn out date. The increased production from turning cows out 15 days later was noticed almost immediately. This year, weather did not permit us to work calves until June 6 which led to a 6 day delay in turning cows out on native grassland. **We could see extra grass production with just 6 more days of delayed grazing.** If any producer is interested in increasing grazing production or designing a tame grass pasture for early season grazing, I again urge them to stop by the office and visit with NRCS staff about this.

I wish everyone a safe, profitable harvest.

Dates to Remember

July 28 - Area IV Research Farm's Friends & Neighbors Day, USDA-ARS, Mandan, 2-5:30 PM

Aug 5 - OSCD Board Meeting, USDA Service Center, Center, 7 AM

O-M-G Grassland Improvement Project

Soil Conservation Districts from Oliver, Morton, and Grant counties received a \$900,000 grant for the purpose of installing grassland improvement practices. Funding is available at a 60% rate to producers in those counties. Pasture cross-fencing, water developments, and grass plantings are an example of the practices that can receive cost-share. The funding was received in 2016 from the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF).

For more information check out our website at www.OliverSCD.org or contact our Office at 701-794-3215 ext 3



*Join Us For
our annual*

Friends & Neighbors Day

**Thursday, July 28
2:00—5:30 PM**

*Located at the USDA-ARS Northern Great
Plains Research Lab, Mandan.
(just south of the Heart River on Highway 6)*

Enjoy the park-like campus with presentations, exhibits and an all-afternoon barbecue. Field research tours available.

Learn about:

Science of soil

Integrated crop-livestock systems

Digital imaging to monitor crop growth

Drought simulator

Cover crops

Honeybees 101

How ag research is conducted

See the new USDA Climate Hub

***Here's your chance to talk directly
to scientists and ask questions.***

Personnel Changes

Hello. My name is Branden Bott and I am the Soil Conservationist in the Center Field Office. I am originally from Turtle Lake, ND where I graduated high school and was active in varsity sports, FFA, and music.

I'm a recent graduate of North Dakota State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Soil Science and a minor degree in Crop and Weed Sciences. I was actively involved on NDSU's Rodeo Team and College FFA chapter while attending school and kept myself busy working as a Soil Conservationist Trainee in the Cass County office and working as a night shift tow truck operator as well.

My previous employments have been as a Soil Biologist Assistant with the Northern Great Plains Research Lab in Mandan, CWMA Weed Management Intern with the Big Stone County SWCD in Ortonville, MN, and a Soil Conservationist Trainee with NRCS in Minot.

My hobbies and interests outside of work are hunting, fishing, and rodeo. I am excited to work with everyone in the county and hopefully you can learn as much from me as I learn from you while I am here. Please stop in and say hello or email me at: branden.bott@nd.usda.gov.



Brandon Bott NRCS Soil Conservationist and
Justin Edwards Farm Bill Specialist

Hello. For those of you that don't know me, I am Justin Edwards. I used to be the Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist, serving Morton, Mercer and Oliver Counties and based at the Mandan Field Office.

You may have heard on the news that there's been a restructuring of the Farm Bill Specialist positions. Now there's a consortium of farm, wildlife and conservation groups and agencies who put money into a pool to fund the Farm Bill Specialist

positions. The North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts administers the funding pool under a cooperative agreement with NRCS and is my new employer.

With the restructuring, I'm doing the same basic job in the same counties with a different title. My main office is now in Center and you can find me there most Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays unless I'm in the field.

My job is to work with producers to help them understand the Farm Bill Programs with an emphasis on creating and enhancing wildlife habitat. If you have interest in wildlife and/or wildlife habitat stop by the office or give me a call. I would love to talk to you. Or email me at: Justin.edwards@nd.usda.gov.

ALL USDA PROGRAMS AND SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, RELIGION, SEX, AGE, MARITAL STATUS OR HANDICAP.

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