

TAB 2

PARTNERS & PURPOSE

- North Dakota Conservation District Employee Association
 - Association of Soil Conservation Districts
 - Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - Farm Service Agency
- Resource Conservation & Development Association
 - State Soil Conservation Committee
 - NDSU Extension Service
 - ND Department of Health
 - ND Forest Service



Partners

Agencies and Organizations Assisting the Districts

North Dakota Conservation District Employees Association (NDCDEA)

The NDCDEA is an association of the employees within the North Dakota Soil Conservation District. The organization's primary goal is to provide employees with education and training within their occupations. The SCD employees are a very diverse group consisting of District Managers, Clerks, Tree Technicians, Watershed Coordinators, and Education Coordinators.

Our Purpose:

- To promote professionalism among Soil Conservation District employees to better enable them to carry out the duties of their position and to provide assistance for coordinating the efforts of the SCD Supervisors, Districts, NDASCD, NDSU-SCC and USDA Agencies in achieving their conservation goals.
- A means of communication for employees to effectively exchange information and ideas resulting in better coordination and effectiveness of district programs on a local, state, regional, and national level; to provide opportunity and tools necessary for developing and maintaining an adequate education program.
- To strengthen communications and working relationships with the SCD Supervisors, instill pride, and encourage dedicated service to employers.
- To strengthen communications and working relationships with the Natural Resources Conservation Service.
- To encourage a uniform system of record keeping, filing and other office procedures for providing networking assistance to present and to new employees.
- To promote the development of SCD Employees Handbook (similar to the SCD Supervisors Handbook.)
- To encourage each District office to develop job descriptions for employees so as to encourage excellence in fulfillment of duties of employees in their job capacities.
- To promote the establishment of a "Career Ladder" to be used as a guideline by SCD supervisors in hiring District Personnel.
- To hold an Annual Employees Association Meeting at the NDASCD Convention; to request educational seminars for employee development; to encourage SCD personnel involvement in local, state, regional, and national conservation activities and meetings.
- To develop and maintain a district directory that includes district staff and supervisors, and NRCS personnel.
- To develop and maintain an association website to be used to keep membership informed of current events. The website is also intended to be a tool for new employees to learn about districts throughout the state. The web address is: www.nd.ncdea.org. You may become a member by filling out the membership brochure on the NDCDEA website.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) working through a cooperative working agreement with local soil conservation districts, is the agency responsible for conservation of natural resources on private land. NRCS provides technical assistance to landowners using voluntary programs.
- NRCS works in North Dakota through 56 soil conservation districts. Districts cover 100 percent of North Dakota. USDA has a unique partnership with conservation districts. All 56 conservation districts in North Dakota have working mutual agreements with USDA and the State of North Dakota. They provide grassroots input to USDA through the NRCS. Local conservation district boards are comprised of three to five supervisors. Conservation districts are organized statewide, often following county boundaries. They are generally collocated with NRCS in USDA service centers.
- While the district supervisors do not have direct supervision over the NRCS staff, they assist in setting priorities for its work through their work or strategic plan. District boards of supervisors should meet at least annually with the NRCS staff to analyze the workload and to review the work of the preceding year.
- The NRCS also provides such facilities as its employees may require for the efficient performance of their work. In order to best utilize the service of the technical staff, the boards of supervisors and SCD staff assist by arranging for news stories and handling the operation and maintenance of district-owned equipment. They may perform numerous other duties which would otherwise take considerable time of NRCS staff.

North Dakota NRCS State Office

Natural Resources Conservation Service
220 East Rosser Avenue
Federal Building, Room 270
Bismarck, ND 58501

Phone: (701) 530-2000
Fax: (701) 530-2109

North Dakota NRCS Area II Office Jamestown

Natural Resources Conservation Service
208 2nd Ave SW
PO Box 2096
Jamestown, ND 58402-2096

North Dakota NRCS Area I Office Devils Lake

Natural Resources Conservation Service
503 Hwy 2 West, Suite 1
Devils Lake, ND 58301-2900

Phone: (701) 662-7967 Ext 5
Fax: (701) 662-6074

Phone: (701) 252-1460
Fax: (701) 252-9068

North Dakota NRCS Area III Office

Dickinson

Natural Resources Conservation Service

135 Sims, Suite 210

Dickinson, ND 58601

Phone: (701) 225-5113

Fax: (701) 225-0346

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

- Through the current cost-share program shares with land users the cost of applying certain soil and water conservation measures. FSA county committee accepts applications for cost sharing and issue payments after conservation practices have been satisfactorily applied. The FSA Farm Loan Team provides long term financing.
- Maintaining a positive working relationship is key in providing effective customer service to our producers.
- With agencies co-located, it is important to develop local work group priorities on the same level.

North Dakota Farm Service Agency (FSA)

1025 28th St S

Fargo, ND 58103

Phone: (701) 239-5224

North Dakota Resource Conservation & Development Association (RC&D)

- The RC&D Program is a cooperative effort made possible through financial and technical assistance provided by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and volunteer leadership from eight North Dakota Resource Conservation and Development Councils in North Dakota. RC&D is a unique program that is led by local volunteer Councils that help people find ways to work together to plan and carry out activities that will make their areas a better place to live. The decision-making body, called the Council, determines the projects of priority for the RC&D area served.
- “MAKING THINGS HAPPEN” is also what the North Dakota Resource Conservation and Development Association is all about. The North Dakota RC&D Association membership is made up of representatives from each of the eight North Dakota RC&D Councils. These members meet twice a year to address and implement the priorities that are highlighted in the North Dakota RC&D Association Strategic Plan.

There are eight RC&D Councils throughout the state, with each council being unique. Sponsorship and activities are different in each RC&D area and here are some listed activities:

- No-till soil health meetings/tours
- Grazing workshops/tours
- Demonstration plots
- 7th Grade tours
- Ladies Ag
- Community development projects such as buildings, trails, park improvements
- Sponsorship for demonstration equipment

Dakota Prairies RC&D

916 E. Interstate Avenue, Suite 2
Bismarck, ND 58503

Phone: (701) 250-4222

Dakota West RC&D

135 Sims Suite 212
Dickinson ND 58601

Phone: (701) 225-8721

Fax: (701) 255-1784

Lake Agassiz RC&D

417 Main Ave
Fargo, ND 58103-1909

Phone: (701) 239-5373

Fax: (701) 235-6706

Northern Plains RC&D

706 8th Ave SE Suite #6
Devils Lake, ND 58301

Phone: (701) 662-7956, Ext. 6

Red River RC&D

Chase Bldg
516 Cooper Ave, Suite 101
Grafton, ND 58237

Phone: (701) 352-0127

Fax: (701) 352-3015

Sheyenne James RC&D

1301 Business Loop East
58401-5946

Phone: 252-2521 x126

Upper Dakota RC&D

925 20th Ave. SW, P.O. Box 2024
Minot, ND 58702-2024

Phone: (701) 839-8297

Fax: (701) 838-8955

Williston Basin RC&D

22 East Broadway, 2nd Floor
PO Box 697
Williston ND 58802-0697

Phone: (701) 774-1382

Fax: (701) 577-1363

North Dakota Association of Conservation District (NDASCD)

- The purpose of the North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts is to further the widespread application of sound and practical soil and water conservation practices in North Dakota.
- **MISSION:** The mission of the North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts is to disseminate information and promote cooperation between soil conservation districts; cooperate with state and federal agencies; promote the welfare of soil conservation districts; promote the conservation of soil and water resources; and assume active leadership in promoting conservation education in the state.
- **GOAL:** To provide quality membership services and nursery products to carry out the soil conservation program of the soil conservation districts of North Dakota.
 - **OBJECTIVES:**
 1. Carry out recommendations adopted at the annual meetings of the NDASCD.
 2. Disseminate information pertaining to programs of the NDASCD.
 3. Provide for information and educational exchanges for soil conservation district supervisors and employees.
 4. Produce and market quality trees and grass seed to anticipated demand.
 5. Provide for continued employee development and training.
- **Annual Area Meetings:** The NDASCD conducts five annual area meetings each year during the month of June to provide educational opportunities for supervisors; to elect directors to the NDASCD Board of Directors and members to the North Dakota State Soil Conservation Committee; to conduct Association business; and to formulate Association policy.
- **Annual Meeting:** The NDASCD Annual Meeting provides an opportunity for all elected and appointed soil conservation district supervisors to assemble in an educational setting and to conduct the business of the Association. The state convention and annual meeting is held each year in mid-November and is the time supervisors determine policy and direction of the Association.
- **Lincoln Oakes-Nurseries:** Lincoln-Oakes Nurseries are owned and operated by the North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts. The "Lincoln" unit is located at 3310 University Drive, South of Bismarck, North Dakota, and part of the former Fort Lincoln Military Post. The "Oakes" unit is located south of Oakes, North Dakota. The nurseries total 535 acres with the headquarters located at Bismarck, North Dakota. The nurseries produce over 60 species and cultivars of tree and shrub seedlings for soil conservation districts. All species are produced from known seed sources that are climatically suited to the region.

NDASCD

Lincoln-Oakes Nursery

3310 University Drive, PO Box 1601

Bismarck, ND 58502 Phone: 223-8518

North Dakota State Soil Conservation Committee

- The North Dakota State Soil Conservation Committee (SSCC) was created by the 1937 Legislative Assembly and is maintained as a state agency. The SSCC assists with administrative matters and provides program planning assistance to the soil conservation districts in the state.

The State of North Dakota is divided into five areas as follows:

[Area I](#) - Benson, Cavalier, Eddy, Foster, Grand Forks, Nelson, Pembina, Ramsey, Towner, Walsh and Wells Counties.

[Area II](#) - Barnes, Cass, Dickey, Griggs, LaMoure, Ransom, Richland, Sargent, Steele and Traill Counties.

[Area III](#) - Bottineau, Burke, Divide, McHenry, Mountrail, Pierce, Renville, Rolette and Ward Counties.

[Area IV](#) - Burleigh, Emmons, Kidder, Logan, McIntosh, McLean, Morton, Oliver, Sheridan, Sioux and Stutsman Counties.

[Area V](#) - Adams, Billings, Bowman, Dunn, Golden Valley, Grant, Hettinger, McKenzie, Mercer, Stark, Slope and Williams Counties.

- **Principal Duties and Powers:**

To secure the cooperation and assistance of state, federal, regional, interstate, and local, public, and private agencies with districts and to keep supervisors informed of related activities.

To review agreements, or forms of agreements, proposed to be entered into by districts with other districts or with state, federal, interstate, or other public or private organizations.

To recommend to the Extension Director biennial budgets necessary to finance the activities of the SSCC and districts; and to distribute moneys appropriated by the legislative assembly for grants to soil conservation districts.

To receive from other state and local agencies for review and comment suitable descriptions of their plans, programs, and activities affecting the conservation of natural resources for purposes of coordination with district conservation programs

To arrange for and participate in conferences necessary to avoid conflict among such plans and programs; to call attention to omissions; and to avoid duplication of effort.

- **The State Committee *must* keep a record of:**

- | District minutes.
- | District long-range programs and revisions.
- | District annual plans of operation.
- | District annual reports.
- | The financial audit of each District
- | District rules, regulations, contracts, agreements and other information, such as newsletters, and reports as may be necessary.

Why it is necessary to keep a record of this type for each Soil Conservation District at the State level:

Soil Conservation Districts are a governmental subdivision of State government operating under State Law ([Chapter 4-22](#)) of the North Dakota Century Code) and are subject to provisions of the State constitution and various rules and regulations which require a State entity for governmental subdivision to keep such records.

In order for the SSCC to carry out its general duties and powers spelled out in Section [4-22-06](#) of the District Law, it is necessary for the SSCC to keep such records and other information available at all times.

A complete record of Districts and their activities are necessary in statewide planning for development in the field of land and water resources, and land-use planning and economic development.

Records of each District provide information necessary for state appropriation requests and other legislative action.

Such records tell the story of Soil Conservation Districts, their accomplishments and short comings that are essential for Districts to meet the challenge of a changing world and keep the conservation of our natural resources under local control.

NDSSCC

Scott Hochhalter, State Soil Conservation Specialist
2718 Gateway Ave, Unit #104
Bismarck, ND 58503

Phone: 701-328-9718 (w) 701-220-3129 (cell)

NDSU Extension

- County extension offices serve as the local access point to the resources of NDSU and the cooperative extension system. County extension staff work with local groups to identifying educational needs and develop and implement programs to address those needs. The NDSU Extension Service works closely with soil conservation districts on addressing conservation issues. A close coordination between the district board of supervisors and extension agents in the area of natural resource education has always been encouraged. This coordination was enhanced by the 1997 North Dakota Legislature. It provides for the NDSU Extension Service to assist the NDSSCC in performing the Committee's duties, within the limits of legislative appropriation. This encourages an even closer working relationship between extension agents and soil conservation districts when addressing conservation issues.
- It is essential to have a good working relationship with your County Extension Office. Our offices share the same common goal in providing producer/youth education. It is important to involve them in your monthly board meeting and your county's Local Work Group (LWG) process. There is an extension office located in every county.
- The following are examples of partner activities:
 - Utilizing both staff agencies for tours and workshops
 - Youth education such as 7th grade tours, indoor classroom activities, range camp
 - Ladies ag nights
 - Publications and news articles

NDSU Extension Service

NDSU Dept. 7000

315 Morrill Hall, P.O. Box 6050

Fargo, ND 58108-6050

Phone: (701) 231-8944

North Dakota State Department of Health

- The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDH) is the lead state water quality agency. **Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program** Section 319 of the 1987 Clean Water Act included the Nonpoint Source (NPS) pollution program. The NDDH is responsible for administration and implementation of the program. The Section 319 Funds available through the state's NPS program are primarily used for state and/or local projects which promote voluntary reduction or control of NPS pollution. The funding is available on a competitive grant application process and applications are due to the NDDH by September 1 of each year. Funding is on a 60:40 federal/local/state match basis, respectively.

- The NPS goals are to:
 1. Increase public awareness of NPS pollution
 2. Reduce/prevent the delivery of NPS pollutants to waters of the state
 3. Disseminate information on effective solutions to NPS pollution
- To meet these goals; the local sponsors utilize demonstrations and/or educational programs to increase public awareness on the types of NPS pollution in the state as well as the various methods available for NPS pollution control. In conjunction with the educational activities, many of the projects, particularly the watershed projects, also provide financial and technical assistance to promote the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMP) that control or prevent NPS pollution.
- State and local projects currently supported with Section 319 funding essentially include three different types of projects. These project types or categories are:
 1. Development phase projects
 2. Educational projects
 3. Watershed projects
- Although, most projects clearly fit into one of these categories, there are also several projects which include components from all three categories.
- The primary purposes of the **development phase projects** are to identify beneficial use impairments or threats and determine the extent to which those threats or impairments are due to NPS pollution. A majority of the scheduled work activities for these projects are related to water quality and land use data collection. Development phase projects are generally one to two years in length.
- **Educational projects**, as the name implies, are designed to disseminate information on various NPS pollution issues. These projects are one to five years in length and focus on a variety of local or statewide NPS pollution concerns. Educational tools typically used by the project sponsors include brochures, all media (TV, radio, newspapers, etc.), workshops, tours, exhibits, and demonstrations.
- The **watershed projects** are the most comprehensive projects currently implemented through the NPS pollution management program. These projects are typically the most long-term in nature and designed to address documented NPS pollution impacts within approved priority watersheds. The primary goals of a watershed project are to:
 - Reduce/prevent NPS pollution by promoting the voluntary application of Best Management Practices
 - Disseminate information on effective solutions to NPS pollution
 - Evaluate the projects progress and benefits

- Watershed projects are generally five to ten years in length, depending on the size of the watershed and extent of NPS pollution impacts. The NDDH may also be able to provide you with technical assistance on water quality issues.

ND Department of Health

Att: Division of Water Quality

918 East Divide Ave, 4th Floor

Bismarck, ND 58501

Phone: 701-328-5232

North Dakota Forest Service

- The North Dakota Forest Service is organized under the North Dakota Board of Higher Education, and has been part of the higher education system since 1907. The agency is administered by a state forester who reports to the president of North Dakota State University (NDSU) at Fargo, and supports the land grant mission in public service.
www.ndsu.edu
- The NDSU-North Dakota Forest Service is the primary provider and administrator for technical, financial and educational forestry assistance in the state. The mission of the North Dakota Forest Service (NDFS) is *to care for, protect and improve forest and related natural resources to enhance the quality of life for present and future generations.*

Information and Education

- The NDFS Information and Education (I&E) Program is responsible for administering a statewide program for the agency *to raise public awareness about natural resource values, help support informed decision-making, and foster individual responsibility in stewards of all ages regarding the wise use and conservation of our forest resources.*
- The goal of education is to make the best citizens possible. A good program provides life-long learning opportunities, which encourage a greater understanding and appreciation of our forestry and related natural resources. **Understanding our natural resources is too critical to our future to avoid acting now to increase awareness and understanding of the environment.** Through educational experiences and activities targeted to a great variety of age groups, education enables people to more easily comprehend
 - the intricate relationships within ecosystems,
 - the value of natural resources within our society, and
 - the importance of conservation and management.

- The public's perception of our forest resources is constantly changing. Changing demographics are accompanied by changing perceptions of the roles trees and forests play in society. An understanding of our dependence on the land-base and its resources for subsistence is no longer inherent in society. Incorporating forestry focused conservation education into youth and adult education efforts is a challenge that must be faced collectively.

ND FOREST SERVICE

916 East Interstate Avenue

Suite #4

Bismarck, ND 58503-1227

Telephone: (701) 228-5486