

Stark and Billings
**SOIL
CONSERVATION**
District

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Non-profit
Organization
Permit #12
Dickinson, ND

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Return Service Requested

“Assisting Residents of Stark and Billings Counties”

2016 Annual Report

Assistance is available without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.



Central Stark and Western Soil Conservation Districts have been operating as individual districts and working together jointly with equipment and staff. After the primary vote in June, the two Districts consolidated into the Stark and Billings Soil Conservation District, ending the Central Stark and Western Soil Conservation Districts. The supervisors were honored at the local annual banquet for their dedicated services to these two Districts. For Central Stark SCD, Julie Hoff had 14 years, Dean Baar had 2 years and not picture Jay Krank had 2 years. For the Western SCD, Ron Decker had 12 years, Art Ridl had 10 years, Ron Obritsch had 8 years, Robert Wock had 6 years and Roger Kylv had 2 years.

Robert Wock, Roger Kylv, Dean Baar, Ron Decker, Ron Obritsch will continue as the board members for the newly formed Stark and Billings Soil Conservation District. Julie Hoff will serve as an advisory member.



Twogood Turns 30!

Bonnie Twogood started working for the Soil Conservation Districts in 1986. Bonnie received a certificate for 30 years of service at the State Convention in November.

Congratulations Bonnie!

**Central Stark Soil Conservation District
2016 Overall Achievement Winner**



Biel Farms Est. 1905

Matt and Laura Biel have been awarded the 2016 Central Stark SCD Achievement Award. The Biel's family farm is located SE of Dickinson. Their passion for farming and conservation is shown by the many conservation practices they have implemented. The Biel's have implemented a cropping system consisting of No-till, a diverse conservation crop rotation, enhanced nutrient management with the use of nitrification inhibitors and split nitrogen



Matt, Laura, Drew and Mattilyn



application, advanced pest management and the use of cover crops to improve soil health.

They have also installed pipelines and tanks and cross fencing to develop a rotational grazing system, and have planted farmstead windbreaks.



***Western Soil Conservation District
2016 Overall Achievement Winner***



Lester & Rhonda Dvorak & Family

Lester and Rhonda Dvorak from SW Dickinson have been awarded the 2016 Achievement Award by the Western Soil Conservation District. The Dvorak's were selected for this award for implementing many changes to improve the environment and natural resources as well as their farming and ranching operation. This includes the installation of an Ag Waste Management System; adopting of improved cropland management practices such as No-till, a diverse crop rotation, enhanced nutrient management with the use



Lester, Rhonda, David, Derek, Daniel

of nitrification inhibitors and plant tissue testing, pest management and the uses of cover crops to improve soil health. Grazing lands have been improved with the addition of a pipeline and tank in addition to utilizing the Nutbal nutritional monitoring system. The Dvorak's have also planted farmstead and feedlot windbreaks.



YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS



TREES



“Pete Bogg” and the Amazing Water Machine—shares some ways that we all can practice conserving water.



“Make a Splash” Water Festival



The Districts participated in the “Make a Splash” Water Festival held in September.

The 5th grade students were shown the ground water model and the infiltration rate of water by **Kaylee Stein** from the Dunn Co. SCD. **Bob Klein & Bonnie Twogood** demonstrated the surface water model and what happens after a rain storm.



SOILS TUNNEL

The Office staff presents the Soils Tunnel at the “Kids Day At The Farm” in April.



Kids can view the world below the ground. With the aid of a flashlight, children can crawl through the tunnel and encounter numerous soil related images on the walls.

20th Annual Diversity, Direction & Dollars



The **DDD Workshop** was held on January 5, 2016. Over 100 Producers attended the annual Diversity, Direction and Dollars. Speakers included John Nowatki, Naem Kalwar, John Phipps, Andrew Friskop and Frayne Olson.

North Dakota Statewide Windbreak Renovation Initiative

Many planted shelterbelts and farmstead windbreaks in North Dakota have deteriorated due to age or disease and are no longer functional. Through the North Dakota Statewide Windbreak Renovation Initiative, the North Dakota Forest Service (NDFS) will offer technical and financial assistance to private landowners to restore, protect and enhance this deteriorating resource. NDFS and partners will assess windbreak condition and provide a written plan for renovating the windbreak to restore functionality. Through a grant from the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund, this initiative will provide cost-share to landowners to implement their written windbreak renovation plan.

Interested landowners will complete the Windbreak Renovation Questionnaire located on the NDFS website. This questionnaire also serves as the pre-application. Pre-applications will be accepted on a continuous basis. Periodic deadlines, or cut-off dates, will be used to group applicants into pools. NDFS will review the information provided on the landowner questionnaire to determine if the project is eligible to participate. If the project is eligible a forester or technician will work with the landowner to develop a Windbreak Renovation Plan. There is no cost for this service and no obligation for the landowner to implement the plan.

The web address is:

<https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/ndfs/programs-and-services/windbreak-renovation>

Next Deadline- Pool 4- April 30, 2017*



2016 TREE PROGRAM

Our weed barrier crew applied **359,605** feet of black fabric in Stark, Billings and Dunn Counties. The Crew included Ethan Keller, Elliot Wiens, Matt Michaud, Jacob Pardee, Cody Bedlion and Bob Klein.



In the photo below the crew was able to apply 45,034 feet in one day.



Have you been planting trees long?

Over 249,181 linear feet of trees were machine planted in Stark and Billings Counties in 2016.



Lester & Rhonda Dvorak & Family
OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Western SCD



Matt & Laura Biel & Family
OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Central Stark SCD



Dustin & Christina Richard
Range Management Award
Western SCD

**AWARD
WINNERS!**

View pictures on NEW website:
starkandbillingscd.com



Loren & Lois Myran
HOMESTEAD AWARD
Central Stark SCD



Jim & Janel Braun
Tree Award
Western SCD



Quentin & Carol Kitzan
Wildlife Enhancement Award
Central Stark SCD



Neal & Bonnie Messer
Wildlife Enhancement Award
Central Stark SCD