



CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1717 North Lincoln Avenue - Suite 103 • Phone (605) 224-1694, ext. 3
Pierre, SD 57501-3109 • Fax (605) 224-6689

Due to the Corona-virus Hughes County Conservation District is temporarily using Hughes.stanleycds@gmail.com as our email address. Check out the Hughes County Conservation District facebook page and website at Hughesconservation.org.

Policy to picking up Tree Orders

Due to the Coronavirus (COVIS-19) Hughes Co. Conservation District wants to keep the customer/employees safe. So, to do that the Hughes Co. Conservation is going to be following the following guidelines.

HCCD will call all customers to schedule a time to pick up their trees. If the customer is unable to make that appointment or if they are running behind to pick up their trees at the scheduled time, please call HCCD at (605) 280-6715 to let us know so we can reschedule a time or move things around. Each person will be allowed only one rescheduled pickup time.

Customers can prepay for their trees to make the pickup faster, and safer for the customers. A receipt will be given when the trees are picked up. If prepaid a crew

member will be available to deliver trees directly to your vehicle without any contact liability to yourselves, you can stay inside your vehicle.

If customers would like to purchase extra trees, they will need to let the person scheduling the pickup time know what they are looking for. If HCCD has any extra trees of the kind that the customer is looking for they will be added to the order and added to the payment.

We ask that unless it is vitally important, all customers should remain in their vehicles. Only one customer at a time will be allowed into the building. We ask that you stay 6 feet away from other individuals during this time.

All employees will be wearing gloves, masks always, and hand sanitizer will be available.

Hughes County Conservation District Board presented \$1000.00 scholarship certificate to this year's scholarship.

Hughes County Conservation District like to congratulate Michael Merriman on the scholarship. Hughes County Conservation District feels honored to be able to assist Michael in furthering his education and watch Michael create a successful career assisting South Dakotans on conserving their natural resources.

Michael plans on attending Lake Area Technical Institute in Watertown for a degree in Agri-Business. He has always taken interest in agriculture and growing up around it has really made him want

to pursue a career in the field. He wants to help people be as productive as possible and help feed the world. After graduation he plans on moving back to Pierre, SD and work in an agriculture related field.



**Michael Merriman,
son of Judy and
Paul Merriman.**

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

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NRCS Personnel

Dillon Blaha, Resource Unit Conservationist
April Boltjes, Soil Conservationist
Kerry Kelly, Soil Conservationist
Christy Jons, Soil Conservation Technician

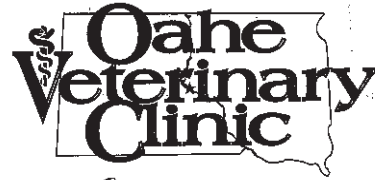
District Personnel

Doug Boes, Hughes County District Manager
Trinita Sowards, HCCD Administrative Secretary
Mary Beth Fravel, SCCD Office Manager
Matt Stoesser, SCCD Field Manager

Here at Hughes County Conservation District we have temporarily moved out of our offices within the USDA Farm services center and have relocated our office at our warehouse located at 1830 N Table St. in Pierre. Our email address has changed also due to this move temporarily to Hughes. stanleycds@gmail.com please use this email for the time being to contact either Doug Or Trinita.

You may also reach us on our Phones Doug (605)280-3021 or Trinita (605)280-6715. Also, we have rolled out our new website, check it out at Hughesconservation.org

Thank You and be Safe.



Find us on Facebook!

Dr. Jim Wolf
Dr. Jeff Ehrenfried
Dr. Heather Osnes
Dr. Amanda Speccaels



605-223-2562
603 West Hwy 14 & 34
Fort Pierre, SD 57532



Producers CHOICE

Melissa Schultz
Rod Hornig
Larry Coyle
Shannon Coyle

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Farm Service Agency - Conservation Reserve Program

USDA SERVICE CENTERS OPEN FOR BUSINESS BY PHONE APPOINTMENT ONLY

U.S. Department of Agriculture Service Centers are encouraging visitors to take precautionary measures to help prevent the spread of coronavirus. The Hughes-Stanley USDA Service Center will continue to be open for business by phone appointment only and field work will continue with appropriate social distancing. While our program delivery staff will continue to come into the office, they will be working with our producers by phone, and using online tools whenever possible. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rural Development, or any other Service Center agency are required to call to schedule a phone appointment.

Farm Service Agency: (605) 224-8870 extension 2

Natural Resources Conservation Serv.: (605) 224-8870 ext. 3

Rural Development: (605) 224-8870 extension 4

Employees may also be contacted by email at the following email address:

Farm Service Agency:

Todd Fuoss – todd.fuoss@usda.gov
 Mindy Kirkpatrick – mindy.kirkpatrick@usda.gov
 Leanne Hoffman – leanne.hoffman@usda.gov
 Jolene Nelson – Jolene.nelson@usda.gov
 Jared Schumacher – jared.schumacher@usda.gov
 Chad Alexander – chad.alexander@usda.gov
 Brian Stewart – brian.stewart@usda.gov

Natural Resources Conservation Service:

Christy Jons – Christy.jons@usda.gov
 April Boltjes – april.boltjes@usda.gov
 Trevis Olson – trevis.olson@usda.gov

Rural Development:

sdpierre-rd@usda.gov

Online services are available to customers with an eAuth account, which provides access to the farmers.gov portal where producers can view USDA farm loan information and payments and view and track certain USDA program applications and payments. Online NRCS services are available to customers through the Conservation Client Gateway. Customers can track payments, report completed practices, request conservation assistance, and electronically sign documents. Customers who do not already have an eAuth account can enroll at farmers.gov/sign-in.

For the most current updates on available services and Service Center status visit farmers.gov/coronavirus.

USDA Launches New Conservation Pilot Program for Prairie Pothole Producers to Plant Cover Crops

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) today announced a new pilot program that enables farmers in Prairie Pothole states to receive payments for planting cover crops on their land for three to five years. The new Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Soil Health and Income Protection Program (SHIPP) pilot is available to producers in Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota. The signup for this pilot starts March 30, 2020 and ends August 21 or until the 50,000 acre cap is met.

Through SHIPP, producers have the option of three-, four- or five-year CRP contracts to establish cover crops on less productive cropland in exchange for payments. This pilot enables producers to plant cover crops that, among other benefits, will improve soil health and water quality while having the option to harvest, hay and graze during certain times of the year. Up to 50,000 acres can be enrolled.

Cover crops, whether used in a single crop rotation or over multiple years, can improve the productivity of soils and soil health on a farm for generations and increase the bottom line for the farmer. Soil health, or soil quality, by definition, is the capacity of soil to function as a vital living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals and humans.

The SHIPP pilot is the latest option in a full suite of opportunities available to producers through CRP and other conservation programs offered by USDA. Farmers and ranchers are encouraged to talk to their FSA county office soon about whether this pilot fits their operation or consider another longer-term option such as the CRP General signup that ends February 28 or CRP Continuous signup that is ongoing.

For more information, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/crp and contact your local office. To find your local USDA Service Center office, visit <https://www.farmers.gov/service-locator>.



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Compaction Reaction: Soil Compaction and Ruts following a Wet Harvest

Aaron L.M. Daigh

Assistant Professor of Soil Physics, ND State University

Search for more papers by this author: Anthony Bly

Soils Field Specialist, SD State University Extension

Abstract

In 2019, crop producers faced major difficulties during field operations in the North Central and upper Midwest regions due to excessive precipitation. Many areas had delayed planting in the spring followed by saturated soils and ponding at harvest. This article provides some brief notes and tips on what you can expect when operating in excessively wet conditions and recommendations for minimizing or remediating soil compaction. Earn 1 CEU in Soil & Water Management by reading the article and taking the quiz at www.certifiedcropadviser.org/education/classroom/classes/803.

In 2019, crop producers faced major difficulties during field operations in the North Central and upper Midwest regions due to excessive precipitation. Many areas had delayed planting in the spring followed by saturated soils and ponding at harvest. Fieldwork on these excessively wet soils damages soil structure, aggregation, and soil health by creating ruts, subsoil compaction, and smearing of topsoils. The damage sets up poor conditions for not only the following crop, but for the next several crops. The difficult choices producers must make, during critical times when field operations are important, will either minimize damage to soils or exacerbate them.

The following article provides some brief notes and tips on what you can expect when operating in excessively wet conditions and recommendations for minimizing or remediating soil compaction.



Combine ruts after soybean harvest. Source: Anthony Bly.

What to Expect When Operating on Excessively Wet Soils

The soil's shear strength decreases with wet conditions. This is due to soil particles being more able to slide past each other in the presence of water. High water contents limit the soil suction (i.e., a cohesive force that pulls particles together) and friction between soil particles.

Although severe soil compaction occurs when soils are saturated, the maximum degree of compaction actually occurs when the soil is just below the state of saturation (e.g., when 85% of pore spaces are filled with water). This is due to water being incompressible and not able to move out of the way fast enough during field traffic. A small amount of air space gives room for soil particles to move into while the soil strength is still quite close its weakest state. Field operations during such conditions will cause soils to fail, compact, and form ruts.

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Fields that endured substantial rutting during the fall harvest will have subsoil compaction. The depth of ruts is a poor indicator of how deep and wide the compacted zone spread through the ground. However, if ruts occurred, then there will be some level of serious compaction in the subsoil. Subsoil compaction damages the soil's ability to drain and limits how much of the old root zone will be proliferated by the next crop.

A 6-inch rut made from high axle loads and over inflated tires can cause twice as much underlying soil compaction as a 6-inch rut made from the same equipment with properly adjusted tire pressures. Deep compaction from ruts extends both vertically and horizontally under the tires. As soil compaction pushes deeper, the affected zone becomes wider.

Deep compaction will reduce crop yields 15%, on average, during the following two to three cropping seasons. Somewhat lower crop losses will be noticeable during and after the fourth crop year or until the compaction is remediated.



For producers who were able to harvest before the fall's wet conditions or after soils froze (i.e., fields that did not have ruts and wheel track compaction), and are looking to perform some level of tillage to manage crop residues, caution should be used to avoid tillage compaction and smearing by waiting for soils to dry. If it is too wet to plant, then it is also too wet to till. Tilling soil when it's too wet will result in soil smearing and crop yield reductions as well as lost time and extra costs from performing the tillage.

Filling in ruts when soils are still wet will cause further damage. This happens for two reasons. First, the traffic will cause additional deep compaction unless operators drive in the existing ruts. Secondly, the tillage implement used to fill the ruts will cause soil smearing both vertically along the discs/shanks and horizontally along the bottom edge of the tillage depth. These smeared zones destroy soil aggregation and cause very poor soil physical conditions, thus reducing beneficial drainage and adequate crop root growth. A smeared topsoil further adds insult to injury for soils with deep compaction.

The winter freeze will only help alleviate compaction in the top few inches. Freeze thaw cycles can break up some compaction; however, several dozens of these cycles are required. Soils in the North Central region typically experience only one or two cycles below a 6-inch depth

each winter. Additionally, soil moisture must be very high (>85% of all pores filled with water) before freezing will do anything to help alleviate compaction. If the soil dries prior to freezing, the effect of freezing and thawing on soil compaction alleviation is greatly reduced

The platy nature of the soil structure of these compacted soils is not ideal for water and air movement. Source: NDSU Soil Health.

Recommendations for Producers and Consultants

Wait for soils to dry before filling in ruts or performing tillage. Field operations on wet and rutted fields will further reduce next year's yields. This may result in considering alternative practices for next year's crop. That may include reducing or eliminating tillage passes, adjusting planters for high-residue no-till seed placement, or changing crop choices for next year.

Areas that received early snow cover that persisted throughout the winter will result in shallower soil frost depths compared with areas that were uncovered for a substantial period after freezing. This could result in some areas within fields that may still be prone to compaction and ruts during late winter and early spring harvest. The soil frost depths in many areas of the North Central and upper Midwest regions were only about 1 ft deep as of the end of January 2020. Frost depths will become shallower as they thin from the bottom side due to the warmer soil temperatures at deeper depths. Some producers who continued harvesting on snow covered fields in January and February were dealing with stuck combines in areas where the frost has already gone out.

The shallow frost depths will allow for fields to thaw and start draining earlier this spring as compared with many of the previous years when the region was mostly frozen to deeper depths. However, the amount and frequency of the spring rains may prevent soil drying and delay planting activities this year. Wet spring conditions, especially for fields that have crops over wintering, will likely result in considerable amounts of preventative plant acres for 2020. Getting preventative plant acres planted with cover crops will be of interest to many farmers throughout the entire North Central and Midwest region. Plant roots are very important in soil aggregate and structure formation that helps alleviate compaction.

Wait until dry soil conditions in the spring to fill in and level ruts. Use a tillage implement adjusted to a depth that is shallower than the ruts. Take two or more passes with an implement and just fill them in and level off to make the soil surface trafficable and for planters to obtain consistent seed placement. Deep ruts may need to have a shallow tillage pass followed by time for more drying before a deeper (but not deeper than the original rut) tillage pass can be done. Do not till or work up field areas that do not have ruts. Driving in the old ruts while filling and leveling will avoid additional deep compaction, if this is possible.

Let deep compaction naturally begin to be remediated by

soil drying and cracking next summer. Many soils naturally crack during the dry summer months. This cracking can help alleviate soil compaction several feet below the soil surface and is much more effective than freeze-thaw cycles or mechanical methods. The shrinking and swelling process of many clay soils is the most effective way to alleviate soil compaction.

Attempts to mechanically alleviate deep soil compaction with ripping are unreliable with oftentimes poor or detrimental results to both the soil and the following crop. Globally, deep ripping only benefits crop yields approximately 25% of the time while more often having no (50%) or negative (25%) effects on the following crop yields. In rare instances when there are positive impacts on crops, it is because there was a distinct soil compaction layer where the shanks could extend under and the producer waited until soils were dry enough to minimize smearing. However, even these rare benefits of deep ripping, when done under optimal conditions, tend to be minimal if the subsequent crop receives adequate rain (i.e., no drought stress) and producers make sure to optimize their soil's fertility. Caution should always be given when deep ripping since producers cannot see the soil depths they are ripping and therefore cannot readily confirm if it is or is not smearing, compacting, and further breaking down soil structure.



Fieldwork on excessively wet soils damages soil structure, aggregation, and soil health by creating ruts, subsoil compaction, and smearing of topsoils. Source: Flickr/Nik Stanbridge.

Control traffic lanes that minimize the soil area impacted by wheel traffic. Minimize unneeded passes throughout the field season. Eliminating a tillage pass is a good option, especially if the tillage is done to help dry out wet soils. If it is too wet to plant, then it is too wet to till without causing smearing. Additionally, tractors pulling tillage implements on wet soils may be causing ruts and subsoil compaction immediately before the tillage. Spring tillage should be eliminated as a means to dry soils. Tillage can increase soil evaporation temporarily. However, tillage cannot adequately dry soil if there is a drainage issue on poorly drained soils that may need subsurface drainage.

If producers avoid operations on wet field conditions, and those wet conditions persist up to near the time of planting, then they will need to consider methods for seeding into high-crop-residue conditions. This is

a great opportunity for producers to get to know their planters better. A properly adjusted planter can handle high amounts of crop residue very well and can result in good crop stands. Make sure the planter row units function properly and down pressure is adjusted, set and check that row cleaners are clearing the rows well without creating valleys, and make sure disc openers are not dull and that the closing wheels are doing their job of getting good seed-to-soil contact. For the best results, these adjustments should be done when entering each new field.

If it is too wet to plant, then it is too wet to till without causing smearing. Tractors pulling tillage implements on wet soils may be causing ruts and subsoil compaction immediately



Photo by Tim Scrivener/Agriphoto.com.

before the tillage. Adjust tire pressures or use tracks to distribute more of the load over more soil surface area, and most importantly, be patient. Let fields dry as much as possible before entering for field operations. If tire pressures are set for driving on the roads, then they are automatically too high and overinflated for driving in the fields. Tire pressures for road conditions will be close to 45 psi. Proper inflation for field activities is typically about one-fourth to one-third of that for road conditions. Auto-inflation systems are available for some vehicles to conveniently adjust tire pressures in a timely manner. When using tracks, take caution to avoid slippage, which can cause smearing to topsoil.

Stay off excessively wet fields and give the soil adequate time to dry. This will be the best method to maintain crop yields for the following two or three years. Producers who were able to avoid making ruts and compaction this past fall should prioritize avoiding compaction this spring on wet grounds. This would mean eliminating tillage as a tool for residue management and learning how to properly adjust planters for high-residue seeding conditions. For producers who endured ruts and compaction this fall, focus on filling in the ruts to get a trafficable and flat seed bed, and then direct-seed into those fields. Any mechanical method to alleviate the soil compaction will only make the soil weaker and limit its ability to drain. Let the natural processes that form soil aggregation and structure take care of the soil compaction.

Each additional root system, cycle of wetting and drying, and freezing and thawing will help build soil aggregation and structure. Soil aggregation and structure is the only way to simultaneously develop a strong and firm soil that does not rut and maintains adequate drainage. Therefore, practicing patience will be key in remediating weak soils that have subsoil compaction.



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Contact: H.C.C.D. **MANAGER** - Douglas Boes @ [Mobile # 605-280-3021](tel:605-280-3021) or H.C.C.D. **Secretary** Triniti Sowards @ [Office # 605-301-3401](tel:605-301-3401)
 (Douglas.Boes@SD.NACDNET.NET) (Triniti.Sowards@USDA.GOV)

Tree Planting (Tractor/Planter/Operator)

Machine Tree Planting - \$4.95 Rod/Row
 (\$.30/foot) includes trees and planting
 * \$200 Minimum Charge

Hand Plant Trees (Bare Roots)

\$2.25 per Bareroot tree
 \$45.00 per bundle of 25
 \$4.00 per styroplug tree
 \$18.00 per 1.5 gallon pot
 \$10.00 per Tall bareroot tree
 \$50.00+ per 5-7' Fruit tree bareroot
We will search out special items for you.
 * *Must be paid in full at time of pickup*



Tree Fabric

Machine Application - \$11.55 Rod/Row
 (\$.70/foot) includes fabric and application
 * \$200 Minimum Charge
 4' x300' roll of fabric - \$80.00
 6' x 750' roll of fabric - \$215.00
 4' x 4' Squares - \$4.00
 Staples - \$.20 each
 4' Tubes - \$4.00

Mowing / Spraying *plus chemical charge*

\$75.00/Hour
 \$100 Minimum Charge

PICKUP MOUNTED SPRAYING

\$50.00/Hr < 10 Acres + Chemical and Surfactant charges
 \$10.00/Acre > 10 Acres + Chemical and Surfactant charges
 **Per Ounce Chemical and Surfactant charges are calculated at markup %

***\$100 Minimum Charge

Grasses/Perennials/Flowers

\$4.00 per Plug
 \$16.00 per 1 gallon pot

Grass Seeding - No-Till Drills

MINIMUM CHARGE = \$300

DRILLING PRICES EFFECTIVE 1/1/2019	HUGHES COUNTY CUSTOMERS	CUSTOMERS OUTSIDE OF HUGHES COUNTY
		\$250.00 + ADDITIONAL \$50.00 PER EACH ADDITIONAL COUNTY TRAVELED THRU
SITE FEES =	\$250.00	
DRILL / TRACTOR / OPER.	\$16.00 / ACRE	\$18.00 / ACRE
DRILL RENTAL ONLY	\$ 12.00 / ACRE	\$ 14.00 / ACRE

ALL PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

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Stanley County Conservation District

Service prices are subject to change

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Contact Matt Stoesser 220-2854

- ▶ **Tree Planting tractor/planter/operator**
machine \$.20/ft plus cost of trees
\$250 minimum charge

- ▶ **Hand Plant trees**
\$2.25 per tree
\$45 per bundle of 25
\$4.00 styroplug tree
\$16 per #300 pot \$18 per #400 pot
Can special order many items see
brochure. All items must be paid when
ordered! No returns

- ▶ **Mowing**
Rental \$300 per day \$200 to deliver
SCCD mowing \$15 per acre \$200 site
fee + minimum charge \$250

- ▶ **Spraying by SCCD**
\$10 per acre plus \$200 site fee
chemical not included

- ▶ **Tree Fabric**
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6' x 750' roll \$220



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"Plantskydd repels by emitting an odor browsing animals associate with predator activity—stimulating a fear-based response that will have garden feeders looking for somewhere else to dine.

Research has proven odor based repellents are more effective than other repellent systems. Animals avoid plants before they bite—not after!*

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ELDERBERRY PIE

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Directions

Combine berries, sugar, flour, and lemon juice in a medium sauce pan. Heat mixture until it just starts to boil, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat and let cool for 15 minutes. Preheat oven to 425 degrees Fahrenheit. Spread bottom crust in a 9-inch pie pan. Spread berry mixture in pie shell. Sprinkle cinnamon on top. Dot butter on top. Put top crust on and seal edges. Poke several vent holes in top crust.

INGREDIENTS

4 cups elderberries
1 1/4 cups sugar
6 tablespoons flour
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
2 tablespoons butter
pastry for a double-crust 9-inch pie

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Contact:

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Triniti Sowards @ (605) 301-3401
Triniti.Sowards@usda.gov



INGREDIENTS

BERRY MIXTURE - DUMPLING MIXTURE

2 cups berries
3/4 cup flour, sifted
3/4 cup sugar
1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1 tablespoon flour
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1/2 teaspoon salt
3/4 cup water
1/4 cup sugar
1/4 cup lemon peel, grated
1/4 cup milk
1 egg

ELDERBERRY DUMPLINGS

READY IN: 40mins

SERVES: 6-8

UNITS: US

Directions

Combine all the berry mixture ingredients, heat them gently and keep them warm while you make the dumplings.

Make the dumplings: Add the other dry ingredients to the sifted and measured flour.

Mix the milk and the egg in a small bowl and stir them into the flour combination until the dough is just blended.

Now pour the hot berry mixture into a casserole and drop in small spoonfuls of the dumpling batter.

Bake the dish at 400°F for 25 to 30 minutes until the pastry balls are lightly browned.

Serve the dessert warm with cream or vanilla ice cream.