



# CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

## Nominee winner - 2020 Farm/Ranch Soil Conservation Award

Jim Finley and his family are being formally acknowledged for their sacrifices & dedication towards conservation of our area's natural resources. The Hughes County Conservation district nominated Jim Finley as 1 of 5 area producers for the 2020 Farm/Ranch Soil Conservation Award.

Jim Finley takes conservation practices to heart whenever he does things on his land and always works to improve his soil conditions. Jim was previously awarded the Outstanding Farmer/Rancher Award back in 2013. When Jim plants crops on his farm, he uses environmentally friendly no-till crop production methods. Jim says he decided some years ago that he wanted to do whatever he could, to help ensure that his land would remain productive for many years to come. Jim has also previously been a dedicated board supervisor for the Hughes County Conservation District helping to ensure that all producers within the area had the resources and tools available to them that they required in order to

help them each protect their own Natural Resources.



*HCCD Board Member Lyle Stewart (Right side) is shown presenting Jim Finley (Left Side) the 2020 Farm/Ranch Conservation Award certificate in front of the signage that was installed by HCCD on Jim's property.*

## Nominee winner - 2020 Farm/Ranch Soil Conservation Award

Don Korkow is being formally acknowledged for his sacrifices & dedication towards conservation of our area's natural resources. The Hughes County Conservation district nominated Don Korkow as 1 of 5 area producers for the 2020 Farm/Ranch Soil Conservation Award.

Don Korkow is a leader regarding tactics used to establish and retain the natural resources found throughout his property. Don has utilized the conservation district to help create many huge tree belts over the years in order to help accomplish his conservation goals. Don spends hours each day watering, spraying, mowing, applying Preen pre-emergent, pulling weeds, and staking trees so that they will grow straighter or in plain words "babying" his tree groves. Don is usually the first district customer to order trees in the spring and fall each year. Don



*HCCD Board Member Darrell Metzinger (Right side) is shown presenting Don Korkow (Left Side) the 2020 Farm/Ranch Conservation Award certificate in front of the signage that was installed by HCCD on Don's property.*

## PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

### Hughes County Board of Supervisors

Terry Ness, Chair  
 Lyle Stewart, Vice Chair  
 Brent Pries, Secretary-Treasurer  
 Jesse Foster, Supervisor  
 Darrell Metzinger, Supervisor

### Stanley County Board of Supervisors

Mitch Norman, Chair  
 Carson Carlisle, Vice Chair  
 Don Sandal, Secretary-Treasurer  
 Rick Hall, Supervisor  
 AJ Stoesser, Supervisor

### 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

has also utilized the districts no-till drills to assist him in establishing several native grass plantings on his property also, which he has made precise calculated decisions on in order to ensure that those plantings thrive and are successes for the wildlife.



TIM HUGHES  
 OWNER  
 605-280-7276

## BOTTOM LINE WELDING

ON & OFF SITE WELDING SERVICE

Phone: 605-223-2063      1304 N. WALDRON  
 Fax: 605-223-3181      FORT PIERRE, SD 57532



Find us on Facebook!

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



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



Melissa Schultz  
 Rod Hornig  
 Larry Coyle  
 Shannon Coyle

1709 North Lincoln Avenue, Suite 101, Pierre, SD 57501  
 p: 605.224.8888      f: 605.945.0735  
 producers@midconetwork.com



JEFF JOHNSON  
 DAM BUILDING & REPAIR

605-224-6255      PIERRE, SD      605-222-1122

Locally Owned - Unbeatable Service!

# DON'S

Stop At Don's Sinclair for:

- Full Service Gas @ no Extra \$
- Touchless Car Wash
- 20-Minute Quick Lube
- Snacks & Convenience Items
- Farm Fuel Delivery

Sinclair Inc.



401 W. Sioux • Pierre, SD 57501  
**605-224-2901**  
 "Proud to be your Sinclair dealer for over 60 years"

The Service and Commitment You Need. All Under One Roof.

Fischer, Rounds and Associates is your full-service agency for personal and commercial insurance coverage as well as residential, commercial and agricultural real estate sales.

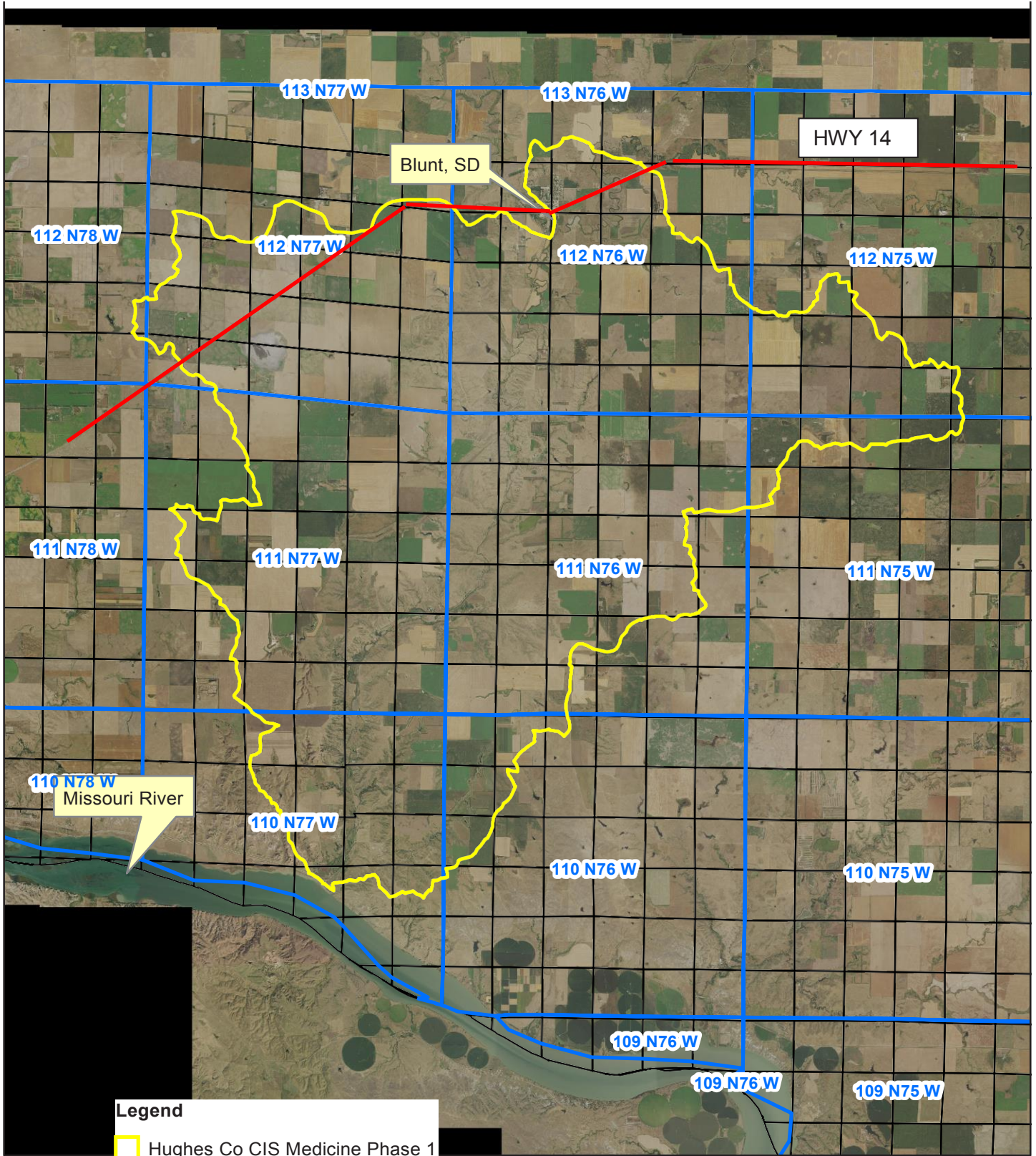
125 East Dakota  
 Pierre, SD 57501  
 605-224-9223



FischerRounds | FischerRounds  
 REAL ESTATE

Pierre • Mitchell • Sioux Falls • Watertown • Rapid City

# Medicine Creek Conservation Project



- Legend**
- Hughes Co CIS Medicine Phase 1
  - Townships
  - Sections

Prepared with assistance from USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service



## Medicine Creek Conservation Project

### Medicine Creek Conservation Implementation Project (Phase 1)

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Hughes County Conservation District (HCCD) have secured targeted Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds to treat conservation resource concerns in the lower Medicine Creek Watershed.

This is part of an overall plan for the entire Medicine Creek watershed to keep grassland productive and reduce the risk of conversion to cropland. As well as improve cropland by promoting perennials in rotation and integrating livestock to take soil health "to the next level".

The Lower Medicine Creek watershed is a mixture of cropland and grassland. Approximately 27.5% of the land is grasslands and 72.5% is cropland. This area was chosen as a priority area because of the significant grassland presence and the opportunities that brings to further soil health practices on cropland as well as the opportunity to address a large grassland complex and improve multiple resource concerns including water quality of Medicine Creek. A focal area within 1 mile of Medicine Creek will be established within the project area to gain additional water quality benefits.

Most cropland operations within the targeted area utilize many conservation minded farming techniques including No-Till and a diverse crop rotation. Typical organic levels are still higher in native grasslands than cropped systems even with good farming practices, this shows there are still improvements that can be made. Additional improvements could be made by incorporating perennial species and livestock into cropping systems.

Rangeland is often thought to have healthy soils because it is in grassland. Management that reduces the plant community and health of the grassland plants of the site typically reduces health of the soils on the site as well. By improving plant communities, generally all other resource concerns including Plant Productivity, Soil Health, Habitat for Wildlife and Invertebrates, and Production will improve as well. Improving livestock water and its distribution as well as managing pasture size will allow producers to implement grazing systems to improve the plant community as well as other resource concerns.

Offsite watering sources as well as improved grazing systems will decrease livestock use of Medicine Creek which is a direct tributary to the Missouri River. The Missouri River is a critical drinking water source and recreation waterbody. Livestock use of Medicine Creek is a potential source of Water Quality Degradation from the

physical movement of soil by livestock entering and using the Creek to drink as well as degraded vegetation on the banks in those areas. Windbreaks to provide livestock shelter away from Medicine Creek and its tributaries will also improve water quality concerns.

Eligible Core and Supporting practices for this initiative include:

#### Core Practices:

- 528 Prescribed Grazing
- 382 Fence (exclusion)
- 512 Forage and Biomass Planting
- 327 Conservation Cover

- 550 Range Seeding

- 340 Cover Crop

- 393 Filter strip

#### Supporting practices:

- 516 Pipeline

- 614 Tank

- 382 Fence (grazing management)

- 380 Windbreak

- 484 Mulching (tree fabric)

- 490 Tree Site Preparation

Funds for this program are part of the larger EQIP program in South Dakota. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis, all applications received by the batching date are processed for that years funding. The batching date for EQIP is typically in the fall or winter. EQIP is a competitive program with eligibility requirements and restrictions. More general information on the EQIP program can be found at: [https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/sd/programs/financial/eqip/?cid=nrcs141p2\\_036520](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/sd/programs/financial/eqip/?cid=nrcs141p2_036520) . For more information contact the NRCS Pierre Field Office at 605-224-8870 x3.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender



## FSA Calendar



**November 11-Office Closed in observance of Veterans Day**

**November 16-Acreage reporting deadline for fall-seeded crops for 2021 program eligibility.**

**November 26-Office Closed in observance of Thanksgiving**

**December 7-Deadline to return County Committee elections ballots to USDA Service Centers**

**December 11-CFAP 2.0 Signup Ends**

### FALL ACREAGE REPORTING

The deadline to report fall seeded crops is November 16. Fall seeded crops, such as Winter Wheat, Rye and Triticale must be reported by November 16th or they will be considered late filed and a fee will be assessed.

### CORONAVIRUS FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 2

Signup for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP 2) began on Sept. 21, 2020 and will continue through Dec. 11, 2020. CFAP 2 provides eligible producers with direct financial assistance due to market disruptions and associated costs because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

CFAP 2 is a separate program from the first round of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, now referred to as CFAP 1. Farmers and ranchers who participated in CFAP 1 will not be automatically enrolled and must complete a new application for CFAP 2.

Many more commodities are eligible for CFAP 2 than CFAP 1. Please visit the following website to find all of the eligible commodities: <https://www.farmers.gov/cfap>

### CALL CENTER

A call center is available for producers who would like additional one-on-one support with the CFAP 2 application process. Please call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance. The call center can provide service to non-English speaking customers. Customers will select 1 for English and 2 to speak with a Spanish speaking employee. For other languages, customers select 1 and indicate their language to the call center staff.

### 2021 ARC/PLC SIGNUP HAS BEGUN

Agricultural producers can now make elections and enroll in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for the 2021 crop year. The signup period opened Tuesday, Oct. 13.

Most farms were enrolled in one program or the other for 2019 and 2020. For years 2021 through 2023 you can change your election choices annually if you wish. If you would like to stay in the same program as your current 2020 election or want to change your elections, please call the office and we will run the contracts for your signatures.

## CHOKECHERRY JAM • Ready in 45 Minutes • Yields 7 half pints

### INGREDIENTS

- 3 1/2 cups prepared fruit  
buy about 3 lb fully ripe chokecherries
- 1 cup water
- 1/2 cup fresh lemon juice
- 1 box powdered pectin
- 1/4 teaspoon butter (optional) or 1/4  
teaspoon margarine (optional)
- 6 cups sugar, measured into separate bowl

### Directions

Bring boiling-water canner, half full with water, to simmer. Wash jars and screw bands in hot soapy water; rinse with warm water. Pour boiling water over flat lids in saucepan off the heat. Let stand in hot water until ready to use. Drain well before filling. Crush chokecherries thoroughly, one layer at a time. Place chokecherries and water in medium saucepan. Bring to boil. Reduce heat to low; cover

and simmer 20 minutes or until tender. Press through a sieve. Measure exactly 3 1/2 cups pulp into 6 or 8 qt saucepot. Stir in lemon juice.

Stir pectin into prepared pulp in saucepot. Add butter to reduce foaming, if desired. Bring mixture to full rolling boil (a boil that doesn't stop bubbling when stirred) on high heat, stirring constantly. Stir in sugar. Return to full rolling boil and boil exactly 4 minutes, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Skim off any foam with metal spoon.

Ladle immediately into prepared jars, filling to within 1/8" of tops. Wipe jar rims and threads. Cover with 2 piece lids. Screw bands tightly. Place jars on elevated rack in canner. Lower rack into canner. (Water must cover jars by 1-2". Add boiling water, if necessary.) Cover; bring water to gentle boil. Process 10 minutes. Remove jars and place upright on towel to cool completely. After jars cool, check seals by pressing middle of lid with finger. (If lid springs back, lid is not sealed and refrigeration is necessary.)

# Round Bale Storage Conservation

South Dakota has been one of the top producing forage states in the nation for many years. One of the most common methods of hay packaging and storage is large round bales stored outdoors. However, proper storage of a high quality product is vital to maintaining value and often overlooked. Quality losses that typically occur during storage are frequently a result of water that has entered the bale, which becomes entrapped and unable to evaporate, resulting in spoilage.

Round bales have characteristics that help limit storage losses. The round shape allows for a dense, well-made bale in which the outer thatch will help to shed precipitation, minimizing water penetration and spoilage loss. The water shedding capability of the forage leaf blade is also important to note. Grass has a broad, flat leaf and makes excellent thatch. Alfalfa has much smaller leaf area that does not form as nice of thatch as grass leaves. Most modern balers are capable of making bales that can conserve value if good storage practices are followed.

A 2019 bale stacking demonstration by SDSU Extension was undertaken to demonstrate some of the common bale stacking methods, and the positive and negative attributes about each.

## Methods

On February 1, 2019, 44 net wrapped alfalfa round bales weighing an average of 1,479 lb. were delivered to the Southeast Research Farm near Beresford, SD. All bales came from the same lot; each were weighed and stacked outdoors on a slightly sloped, well-drained area. Seven bale stacks were formed and are detailed in Figures A-F. Each stack was core sampled at the time of initial stacking for nutrient analysis. Bales were left untouched for the remainder of the winter and most of the summer until stacks were core sampled, moisture probed with a Delmhorst moisture sensor (sampling 50 locations per bale, 8 inches deep from both flat faces of the bale), and weighed again on July 25th. The 2019 cropping season was unseasonably wet, with about 20 in. of rain falling at the Southeast Research Farm from Feb. 1-July 31 ([climate.sdstate.edu](http://climate.sdstate.edu)); however, just 0.06 inches of rain fell the week before the bales were sampled.

## Results and Conclusions

- The 'control' bales in Figure A (stored indoors on a dirt floor) picked up some moisture via wicking, but were otherwise dry and similar to their initial storage weight (Table 1). The majority of the indoor bales (98%) tested at less than 20% moisture. However, bales stored indoors can still be subject to loss, and should be carefully monitored and stored in a managed environment in order to conserve their value.
- Figure B depicts bales stored outdoors with no other bales directly in contact, similar to rowed bales with a large gap between rows and between bales within rows.

Table 1. 2019 Bale Stacking Demonstration- Bale Weight. Beresford, SD

Pile <sup>1</sup>	Initial Weight (Avg.)	Final Weight (Avg.)	Weight Loss (Avg.)
	1-Feb	25-Jul	
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
A	1474	1368	106
B	1438	1332	106
C	1492	1364	128
D	1480	1315	165
E	1476	1327	148
F	1437	1356	82

<sup>1</sup>See 'Figure' descriptions below which, match pile labels.

With no restricting air movement, drying occurred within bales and only approximately 15% of the sampled area was greater than 22% moisture.

- Rowing bales that are pushed tightly together (Figure C) resulted in storage losses due to water movement between the flat faces of the bales. With no air movement or sunlight on the wet surfaces, about 66% of the sampling area of these bales was greater than 22% moisture. This may entice producers to leave more space between bales; however, snowfall can pack in these spaces and may cause similar issues, especially after late spring snowfalls when thawing occurs soon afterwards. Note that moisture is lower on the west side of the sampled bales because of increased temperatures that occur in the afternoon from sunlight.
- When little to no space is left between rows of bales (Figure D), water tends to run down into the "gutter" formed between the touching bales. Figure D depicts how moisture can be quite high where bales touch between rows. Note that sunlight was not able to reach the bottom quarter of these bales and therefore, more than 20% of the sampled area of the bale on the right was greater than 30% moisture; this raises the chance for spoilage in that area. This moisture trapping scenario is why it is strongly suggested to leave 3 to 4 feet of space between rows of bales.
- "Mushroom stacking" (Figure E) has been observed in South Dakota, as it creates a smaller storage area and is often used as a wind break. Unless bales are covered and the bottom bales are placed on a well-drained, porous surface, this stacking orientation tends to lead to very poorly conserved hay in the bottom bales. In Figure E, the top bale was open to airflow on all sides, and was quite dry throughout, with about 90% of the bale being less than 22% moisture. However, the moisture shed from the top bale drained down into the bottom bale, resulting in a different story for the bottom bale. With the bottom bale placed on end, water could easily flow between layers of thatch.

In this case, over 45% of the bale was greater than 35% moisture, causing extensive spoilage and visible mold growth. When these bales were removed from storage they exhibited extensive spoilage and would likely have been subject to considerable rejection by foraging animals. Storing bales placed on end utilizing the “mushroom stacking” method outdoors contradicts all storage advantages of making round bales.

- Pyramid stacking bales is another common storage practice across the Midwest. Figure F shows that although pyramid stacking is space efficient, it also results in significant water infiltration in many of the bales. When stacked in this manner, water tends to shed from the upper bales and flow to the bales below; since lower bales have limited air movement and exposure to the sun, water that drains into them cannot easily evaporate. Over 35% of the sampled area was greater than 30% moisture in the two bottom bales on the east side of the pyramid. The bottom bales also squatted, creating more contact with the soil underneath, resulting in more moisture wicking. In any stacking scenario, lower bales tend to lose integrity due to spoilage.

#### Best Management Practices

The best bale conservation always comes from protecting bales from the elements – storing under a tarp or inside a building. Wrapping bales in plastic or breathable film (B-wrap) will also help conserve value; however, bales stored outdoors and uncovered can still be well-conserved if these simple practices are followed:

- Take care not to place bales where they will be shaded. This practice allows the sun to naturally dry bales after they have been exposed to rain or snow.
- Place bales in rows that are oriented north to south with about 3 to 4 feet between the rows.
  - These practices help sunlight dry bales after precipitation. There are pros and cons to how the bale rows are made. Butting bales tightly together (face to face) helps keep rain and snow away from the bale face and takes less storage space. On the other hand, rowing the bales with a gap of 12 to 18 in. between faces allows the bale face to dry if they become wet. There is no consensus for a standard recommendation on the distance between bale faces within rows.
- Bales should be on a slight, south facing slope to help water drain away. Placing bales on a well drained soil or surface like a rock pad helps to drain water and reduce wicking.
- Net wrapping bales helps to promote a good leaf hatch and thus shed water well and hold shape integrity better than sisal twine wrapped bales.
- If bales must be stacked outdoors in a manner that reduces storage space, the best practice is to cover the pile.

Dry matter loss of hay is generally a function of moisture, temperature, and time. Table 2 depicts commonly

accepted storage losses based upon various research trials. As one can see, there is great variability in losses depending upon storage methods which can adversely affect final hay value. To further evaluate the storage cost of round bales on your operation see the University of Wisconsin’s “Comparing Round Bale Storage Costs” spreadsheet at <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/forage/files/2014/01/BaleStorage5-7-04.xls>. For a full report on this bale demonstration project, see the 2019 Southeast Research Farm annual report in print or online at [https://openprairie.sdstate.edu/agexperimentsta\\_rsp/280/](https://openprairie.sdstate.edu/agexperimentsta_rsp/280/).

Table 2. Average Effect of Hay Storage Method on Storage Losses

Storage	Range of Dry Matter Loss (%)
Under Roof	2 - 10
Plastic wrap, on ground	4 - 7
Bale Sleeve, on ground	4 - 8
Covered, rock pad or elevated	2 - 17
Uncovered, rock pad or elevated	3 - 46
Uncovered, on ground, net wrap	6 - 25
Covered, on ground	4 - 46
Uncovered, on ground	5 - 61

<https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/forage/big-bale-storage-losses-how-different-options-stack-up/>

#### Moisture Maps<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Moisture maps created by Dr. Kevin Shinnors, University of Wisconsin. The areas shaded light-blue to dark-blue indicate regions of higher moisture where spoilage will be likely. Light-green regions represent moisture levels where spoilage may occur if the moisture cannot soon leave the bale by evaporation. Yellow or red regions represent areas where spoilage is not likely to occur. These images represent a “snapshot” of moisture at one instant in time. Bale moisture will change with time as storage and weather conditions change – either allowing moisture to leave the bale by evaporation or subjecting the bale to additional precipitation.

Acknowledgement Thank you to all staff and technicians with SDSU Extension, the Southeast South Dakota Research Farm and University of Wisconsin-Madison who helped make this project possible



**Curt Merriman  
Printing, Inc**  
Printing • Design • Copies  
Pierre, SD • 1-877-731-9300

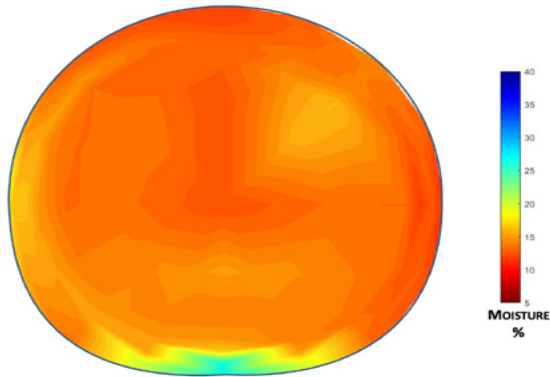


Figure A. Spatial moisture distribution at 8 inch depth from the vertical faces of a round alfalfa bale stored under roof in an open front hay shed. Note the wicking of moisture in the bottom portion of the bale.

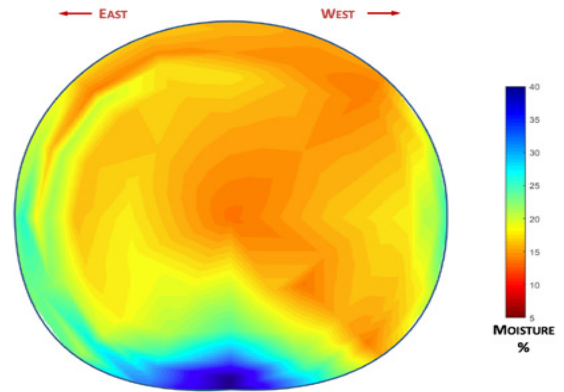


Figure B. Spatial moisture distribution at 8 inch depth from the vertical face of a round alfalfa bale set outdoors with no other bales around it. Note slight moisture wicking from the soil.

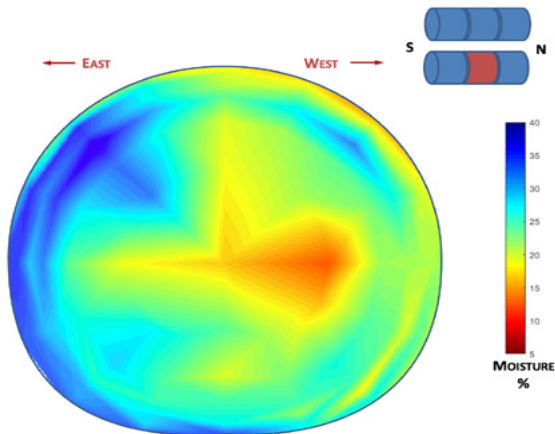


Figure C. Spatial moisture distribution of round alfalfa bales stored outdoors in a row running north to south with bales butted tightly together; approximately 3 feet was left between parallel rows. Note how limited air movement and sunlight on the bales in the middle of the row affect moisture 8 inches from the vertical faces of the bale. The probed bale is indicated in red.

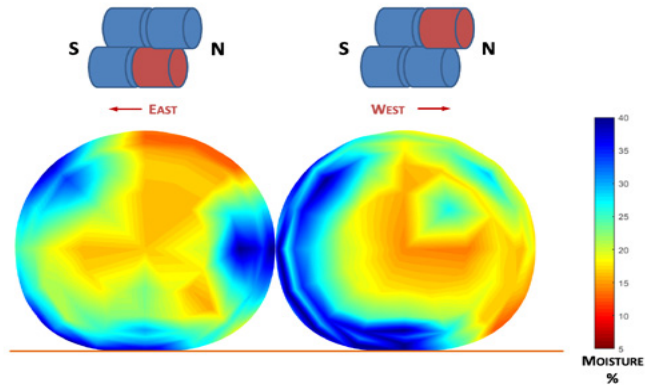


Figure D. Spatial moisture distribution at 8 inch depth from the vertical faces of round alfalfa bales stored outdoors in a row running north to south with bales butted tightly together and no space between the rows. Note how water penetrated into the "gutter" formed by the touching bales resulting in very high moisture where the bales touched. Bales probed are indicated in red.

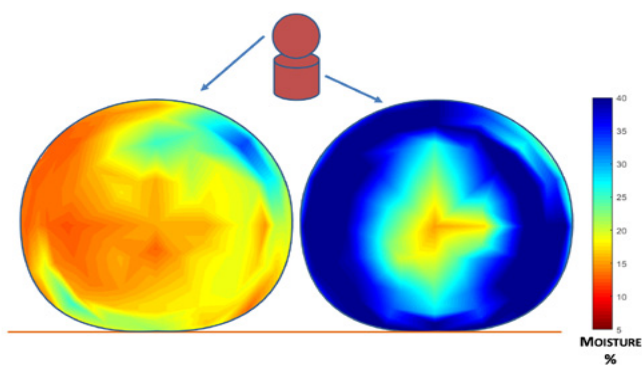


Figure E. Spatial moisture distribution at 8 inch depth from the vertical faces of round alfalfa bales stored outdoors with bottom bale (right) stacked on end and the top bale (left) stacked on top in its normal orientation. About 3 feet was left between stacks. Note that water shed from the top bale drained down to the bottom bale where water easily flowed between its layers. Bales probed are indicated by arrows.

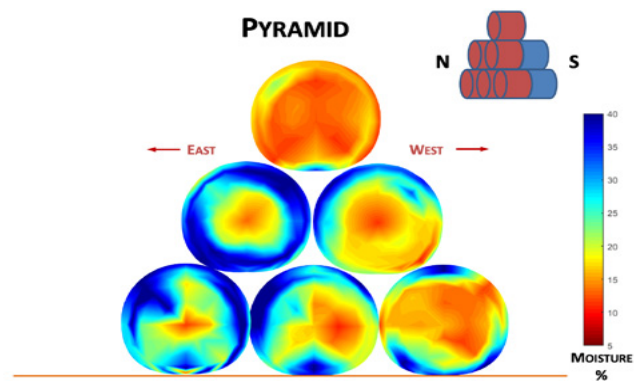


Figure F. Spatial moisture distribution at 8 inch depth from the vertical faces of round alfalfa bales stored outdoors in a pyramid shape. Note that water shed from the upper bales flows down to the bales below. Limited air movement and sun exposure makes it difficult for this water to be removed by evaporation. 11 bales were placed in a pyramid (6 on bottom, 4 on second layer, 1 on top) facing north/south outdoors. All bales butted together tight. All bales on the south side of the pile were probed (indicated in red).

### Acknowledgement

Thank you to all staff and technicians with SDSU Extension, the Southeast South Dakota Research Farm and University of Wisconsin-Madison who helped make this project possible.



## Soil health practices build soil & the bottom line - Lura Roti

In times like these, it's what cattle and crop producers don't spend that makes the biggest difference to their bottom line.

"Because prices are not very good right now, there isn't a lot a farmer or rancher can do to get more in the market, so they are looking to cut expenses," Dacotah Bank Agricultural Banker Trevor Samson explained.

Nick Jorgensen agrees. Implementing soil health practices are how the Ideal, SD, cattle and crop producer and his dad, Bryan, cut input costs across their operation.

"We are doing things that if we were not doing them, we would not be able to stay in business long term," Jorgensen said. "In times like this, practices that save you money allow you to make a little money instead of burn through equity."

Practice by practice, Jorgensen explains how by focusing on soil health, the family saves \$100 per acre and \$350 per head annually.

- No-till practices save the farm \$50 per acre on fuel and equipment costs.
- Grazing cattle on all crop and cover crop acres cuts feed and manure management costs by more than \$2 per day.
- A hoof on every acre also increases soil organic matter by 0.75% per year.
- Increased organic matter cuts fertilizer costs by \$50 per acre with no yield loss.
- Diverse six-plus crop and cover crop rotations reduce weed pressure, cutting herbicide costs.

These aren't guesstimates – Jorgensen is a numbers guy. Before returning to his family's farm in 2014, Jorgensen earned master's degrees in business administration and economics. In addition to saving hundreds of thousands in operational costs, Jorgensen explains the practices they implement on their family's more-than-a-century-old farm build the soil's organic matter, increase its water-holding capacity and create a landscape where wildlife thrive.

"At the same time we're cutting costs, we are making our ground better. And we're doing it on a large scale," Jorgensen said of the nearly 13,000 acres his family farms.

At 29, Jorgensen says he has never operated tillage equipment. Inspired by the native prairie system, his dad, Bryan, began implementing no-till and other soil health practices in the 1990s.

"If you ever get the opportunity to walk out into a field of full-season cover crops, it is beautiful. There are birds, bees, butterflies and no weeds – I wish I could show this to someone who is against commercial agriculture," Jorgensen said. "We are large commercial farmers who farm in a way that makes Mother Nature happy. You just go out there and you can feel it. As a logical guy, it's a silly thing to say, but it's the truth."

The father and son team share details of their soil health story in the Merit or Myth video series (<https://youtu.be/sPKSHXH2n2w>).

Farming and raising cattle in a way that builds soil health and works with nature is also a focus of Edmunds County farmer Dennis Hoyle. Raised by a conservation-minded dad, Hoyle says taking care of the soil has always been "front and center" on his farm. And yes, cutting costs also motivated his decision to no-till plant winter wheat in 1982.

"Money and moisture were my biggest drivers," said Hoyle, who has farmed exclusively no-till since 1986.

Although he has raised traditional crops, like corn and soybeans in the past, today Hoyle says his number one crop is organic matter. "Three-dollar corn has liberated me. I heard a market guru say that farmers can buy corn cheaper than they can raise it. So, I thought if this is the case, and if I am not going to make any money raising grain, I might as well do something beneficial for my land."

Today, a large percentage of his crop acres are planted to diverse mixes of full-season, high carbon cover crop, like sorghum, Sudangrass and sunflowers that his grassfed cattle graze and wild pheasants thrive in. The added benefit? Research on Hoyle's farm shows when he plants a high-carbon cover crop and his cattle graze it, in one season, soil organic matter increases by one quarter of a percent.

"I have always been an outdoor person. I enjoy nature as it is. I don't think I need to drain a wetland. I have been blessed by the efforts of my ancestors that I am able to work the land. I want to make a living off the land. And while I am making a living off it, I want to improve it and share it with other creatures," Hoyle said of farm acres which are home to deer, wild pheasants and more than 51 other species of birds.

Now, he is quick to clarify that although he values wildlife, he would prefer coyotes did not thrive on his land.

Not held to conventional expectations as to what his farm should look like, Hoyle has built a business model that largely cuts out the middleman. So even in today's depressed markets, he is able to maintain a positive balance sheet.

"I attribute any profits I make to what I don't spend." Hoyle explained that because of his soil health practices and his focus on growing organic matter, he is not spending on seed and is able to reduce chemical costs. He harvests his crop acres with his cattle instead of equipment. "When I sell an animal, I get about as much for that animal as a grain farmer would get for a semi-load of corn. I didn't have to spend money on seed or to combine that grain or spend to dry that grain."

Together with help from his adult children and their families, he directly markets a large percentage of his grassfed cattle through social media.

"I'm able to finish cattle without a feedlot. So, I don't need permits, and my neighbors aren't mad at me," he explained.

The family farm also includes a wild pheasant hunting camp. "Little pheasants have to have bugs and dew to survive. And when you have healthy soils, your beneficial insects outnumber the detrimental insects, so you don't have to use insecticide," Hoyle said. "Anything you do that helps wildlife also helps soil. Anything you do to help the soil, helps wildlife."

Learn more about Hoyle's soil health journey at <https://youtu.be/nCVzNuYOIDE>.

-South Dakota Soil Health Coalition

Committed to Agriculture



**FIRST DAKOTA**  
NATIONAL BANK

322 S Couteau Street | Pierre  
605-224-5817

Also with locations in Beresford, Chamberlain, Elk Point, Kimball, Mitchell, Oacoma, Parkston, Salem, Sioux Falls, Vermillion, Wagner and Yankton

FirstDakota.com Member FDIC



**American**  
BANK & TRUST

HOMETOWN PEOPLE

*Hometown Spirit!*

700 E. Sioux Ave. • Pierre, SD 57501  
AmericanBankTrust.net



**FIRST NATIONAL BANK**

PO Box 850 • Ft. Pierre, SD 57532  
**605-223-2521**

Your One Stop Ag Bank.  
Member FDIC. An Equal Housing Lender

**AGRICULTURE WORKS HERE.**

Farm Credit Services of America is built for today's agriculture. Along with specialized products and services that give you an edge, we have the financial strength and capacity to help you grow.



SEE FOR YOURSELF BY CALLING 605-224-1678

Farm Credit Services of America

# Hughes County Conservation District

## We are here to serve you!

Contact: HCCD Manager – Douglas Boes @ (605) 280-3021 or HCCD Secretary Triniti Sowards @ (605) 301-3401

[Douglas.Boes@sd.nacdn.net](mailto:Douglas.Boes@sd.nacdn.net)

[Triniti.Sowards@usda.gov](mailto:Triniti.Sowards@usda.gov)

### Tree Planting (Tractor/Planter/Operator)

Machine Tree Planting -  
**(\$.40/foot)** includes trees and planting  
 \*\$200 Minimum Charge

### Hand Plant Tree (Bare Roots)

\$2.25 per Bareroot Tree  
 \$45.00 per Bundle of 25  
 \$4.00 per Styro-plug 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**

### Grasses/Perennials/Flowers

\$4.00 per Plug  
 \$16.00 per 1 Gallon Pot

### 8' Rototilling

\$120.00 per hour w/a \$150.00 minimum charge.

43,560 Square Ft = Acre      16.5 Ft = Rod Row

### Grass Seeding – No-Till Drills

\*Minimum Charge = \$300\*

Drilling Prices Effective 1/1/2019	Hughes County Customers	Customers Outside of Hughes County
Site Fees =	\$250	\$250 + Additional \$50 per each Additional County Traveled Thru
Drill/Tractor/Oper	\$16/Acre	\$18/Acre
Drill Rental Only	\$12/Acre	\$14/Acre

### Tree Fabric

Machine Application -  
**(\$.90/foot)** includes fabric and application  
 \*\$200 Minimum Charge

4'x300' roll of fabric - \$80.00

6'x750' roll of fabric - \$215.00

4'x4' Squares - \$4.00

Staples - \$.20 each / 500 - \$100.00

5' Tubes - \$5.00

### Mowing/Spraying \*plus chemical charge\*

\$75.00/Hour

\$100 Minimum Charge

### Pick-up Mounted Sprayer

**\$50.00/Hour < 10 Acres** + Chemical & Surfactant charges

**\$10.00/Acre > 10 Acres** + Chemical & Surfactant charges

**\*\*Per Ounce** Chemical & Surfactant charges are

calculated at **markup %**

**\*\*\*\$100 Minimum Charge**

**HCCD reserves their rights to adjust prices w/out notice**

### 4' No-Till Drill / Water Wagon / Auger

	4 HR Rental	8 HR Rental	24 HR Rental
Kasco Drill/Trailer	\$140	\$185	\$200
Water Wagon	\$75/HR	\$250	\$300
4" / 6" Auger			\$30



# Stanley County Conservation District

PO Box 393  
Fort Pierre, SD 57532

email: [Stanleycountycd@gmail.com](mailto:Stanleycountycd@gmail.com)

Service prices are subject to change

**Mary Beth Fravel 220-1840**

**Matt Stoesser**

## MOWING

\$15 per acre + \$200 site fee  
Minimum charge \$250

## DRILLING

\$18 per acre + \$250 site fee  
Minimum charge \$250

## RENTALS

Mower \$300 per day  
\$200 to deliver  
Drill \$10 per acre  
\$200 to deliver

## MACHINE TREE PLANTING

20 cents/ft Plus cost of trees  
\$250 minimum

## MACHINE TREE FABRIC

70 cents/ft + 200 site fee  
\$250 minimum

## FABRIC

4'X 300' roll \$80  
6' X 500" roll \$145  
Staples \$100 per box

## HAND PLANT TREES

\$2.25 bare root  
\$45 per bundle of 25  
Special order trees  
see brochure



Prices may be subject to change

# LET US HELP YOU WITH ALL OF YOUR FOODPLOT NEEDS,



**FROM SPRAYING TO DRILLING AND FERTALIZING. WE CAN SUPPLY YOU WITH ANYTHING YOU MAY NEED FROM A 4' DRILL THAT YOU CAN RENT AND PULL WITH A UTV TO THE FULL FLEDGED TRACTOR/OPERATOR AND 15" NOTILL DRILLS GIVE US A CALL! 605-224-1694 Ext. 3**



**WE ALSO NOW HAVE AVAILABLE A 4' FABRIC LAYING MACHINE, THAT YOU CAN LEASE FOR \$50 PER DAY WHEN PURCHASING OUR 4" FABRIC.....**



**Proven the #1 most tested, #1 most effective, and #1 longest lasting animal repellents you can buy. Plantskydd offers superior plant protection against: Deer, Elk, Moose, Rabbit, Hares, Voles, Squirrels, Chipmunks, Mountain Beaver, Nutria, Opossum and other herbivores.**

*Plantskydd works by emitting an odor that animals associate with predator activity. Research has proven that odor-based repellents (Plantskydd) are more effective than other repellent systems; where the animal needs to taste treated plants before being repelled. Animals avoid plants before they bite—not after!*

*Its long-term effectiveness is attributable to the tenacity of its 100% natural, vegetable oil binder in sticking to plants — even under severe snow/rainfall conditions: up to 6 months over winter, 3-4 months in summer.*

### **Is Plantskydd safe to use?**

*Yes! Made in the U.S.A. Pronounced: plant-skid, it contains no synthetic additives, is non-toxic, and is not harmful to animals or the environment. Plantskydd is Swedish for 'plant-protection,' where it was first developed to protect its vast tree plantations from browsing by deer, rabbits and moose—while also adhering to its strict environmental laws. It is equally effective protecting ornamentals, shrubs, and food crops.*

### **Can I use Plantskydd on my vegetable garden?**

*Yes! Plantskydd is safe for use in protecting vegetables, legumes, fruit and other food crops from animal browse damage*

### **OMRI listed ORGANIC**

*Plantskydd—the first animal repellent OMRI Listed by the Organic Materials Review Institute as suitable for use in the production of organic food and is USDA approved for organic gardening.*

### **Why does Plantskydd work so well?**

*"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!*

### **Will Plantskydd® work in areas with heavy rainfall / snow?**

*Plantskydd repellents are long lasting, even in wet weather. Plantskydd will last up to 6 months on dormant plants overwinter, and 3-4 months during the active growing season.*

**Contact us to get your Plantskydd today or if you have questions.  
605-224-1694 Ext. 3**



P.O. BOX 452 - 504 DEADWOOD  
FT. PIERRE, SD 57532



**Midwest Cooperatives**

**YOUR AGRI-BUSINESS  
HEADQUARTERS**

**Pierre**  
605-224-5935

**Blunt**  
605-962-6331

**Onida**  
605-258-2687

**Philip**  
605-859-2501

**Draper**  
605-669-2601

[jennifer.johnson2@chsinc.com](mailto:jennifer.johnson2@chsinc.com)

**Highmore**  
605-852-2267

**Kadoka**  
605-837-2235

# GRAHAM

YOUR TIRE STORE NEXT DOOR

- Computerized Alignments
- Batteries
- Belts and Hoses
- Shocks and Struts
- Tune-up
- Cooling and Brake Systems
- Lube, Oil Change, Filter
- Transmission Maintenance
- Air Conditioning



421 West Sioux Avenue • Pierre  
(605) 224-8643 1-800-529-0251

# BECK

MOTOR COMPANY



**NEW AND USED VEHICLE SALES • SERVICE  
PARTS • COLLISION • DETAIL SHOP**

**605-224-5912 / 888-232-5687**

**WWW.BECK-MOTORS.COM**

## RENTAL / SERVICES



**1000 Gal. water tank available to lease  
to our customers at a charge of \$75/  
Hr. with a \$150 Minimum charge.**



**6' Rototiller Service - We now  
offer rototilling to our customers  
at a charge of \$120/ Hr. with a \$240  
minimum charge.**



**4' Kasko No-Till Drill available  
to lease to our customers at  
Half-Day or Full-Day rates.**

**Contact:**

**Doug Boes 280-3021**  
[DOUGLAS.BOES@SD.NACNET.NET](mailto:DOUGLAS.BOES@SD.NACNET.NET)

**Triniti Sowards @ (605) 301-3401**  
[Triniti.Sowards@usda.gov](mailto:Triniti.Sowards@usda.gov)



## **HUGHES COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICTS TREE INITIATIVE GRANT OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE TO HUGHES COUNTY PRODUCERS.**

The Hughes County Conservation District has acquired and is working to contact producers with a cost share opportunity for any Hughes County producer that may be wanting to either renovate or install new windbreaks and livestock shelterbelts. H.C.C.D. Tree Initiative Grant Projects will help install these conservation practices within the boundaries of the Hughes County Conservation District. The primary beneficiaries of this project will not only include landowners and their neighbors, but all citizens of the conservation district.

The Hughes County Conservation District, over the past several years has been contacted by numerous producers within our county voicing their wishes to create or reestablish a windbreak consistent with NRS or GF&P standards and plans, but for whatever reason their proposal does not meet the qualifications and requirements for assistance from programs such as CRP, Equip, CSP, or the Woody Habitat Program. These producers have been unable to acquire the funds for the full scope of each of these projects on their own without some form of cost share assistance. Through the use of over \$35,000 in funds from Conservation Commission Grants our district would like to fill this void within our area and supply these producers with the technical expertise to plan and then implement these projects, along with supplying up to 50% of the total project costs utilizing these grant funds, and providing up to 25% of the total cost utilizing the district's resources, while relying on each producer to supply the remaining cost balance of the projects utilizing cash and in-kind amounts.

The Hughes County Conservation District staff will be "Point" on this project but will coordinate closely with all of the producers, NRCS, South Dakota Dept. of AG. and with our Resource Conservation & Forestry Service Forester. H.C.C.D. staff will assist each producer in the planning of their project, and the implementation of each project. The Hughes County Conservation District will provide technical assistance during the planning, designing, and construction of the shelterbelts and windbreaks along with being responsible for the implementation, follow-up, and administration of this grant. The district will assist landowners on the best

management practices when it comes to helping them through the process of picking a project site, deciding on the tree species to be planted, determining the correct spacing between trees/shrubs, maintenance, and putting the plan into effect. All of the plantings will be planned by the Hughes County Conservation District and approved by the Resource Conservation & Forestry Service Forester along with all plantings being located within the boundaries of the district.

The Hughes County Conservation District has an extensive history of aggressively supporting natural resource conservation efforts and protections within their county. The individual supervisors on the H.C.C.D. board are exceptionally well rehearsed in the natural resource needs within Hughes County and with which practices are appropriate to address those issues.

The success of this project will not only be measured by the number of shrubs and trees planted, the amount of fabric that is laid, the number of acres that are covered, or the number of producers that we were able to help in establishing a successful shelterbelt or windbreak. The district would also feel successful if this project would produce interest and questions from other individuals within the district, about the benefits of and cost share alternatives to future tree plantings such as these. The district will also feel the grant successful, if their staff continue with their outstanding record of accomplishing all the plantings in a timely manner resulting in happy producers and happy partners. The environmental benefits of these projects are unquantifiable but should be considered a success as well. The Hughes County Conservation District hopes and expects that future generations will consider this project a success and appreciate their efforts in conserving natural resources that they can then enjoy along with their families and children.

Thank You for your interest in reading this article, if you or someone that you know would like to discuss this opportunity further please give Doug a call at 605-280-3021 or send us an email at [Hughes.stanleycds@gmail.com](mailto:Hughes.stanleycds@gmail.com).

Hughes and Stanley Counties Conservation Districts  
1717 North Lincoln Avenue, Suite 103  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3109

Non Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Pierre, SD 57501  
Permit No. 35



**Hughes and Stanley County Conservation Districts will each be looking for dependable and reliable individuals to assist with the planting of trees and fabric applications this spring. Positions are available for tractor drivers, machine planters, fabric machine applicators and general laborers. Training is provided. Overtime and bonus' are available.**

**Applications are available at the Hughes County Conservation District office located at 1717 N Lincoln Ave, Suite 103, Pierre, SD. or at the Pierre area Career Center.**

---

**Please feel free to call the following numbers for the respective Districts.**

**Hughes County**

**605-301-3401 Triniti, (Office)  
605-280-3021 Doug, (Manager)**

**Stanley County**

**605-220-1840 Mary Beth, (Office)  
605-220-2854 Matt, (Manager)**