



CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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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

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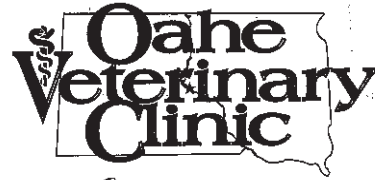
District Personnel

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.



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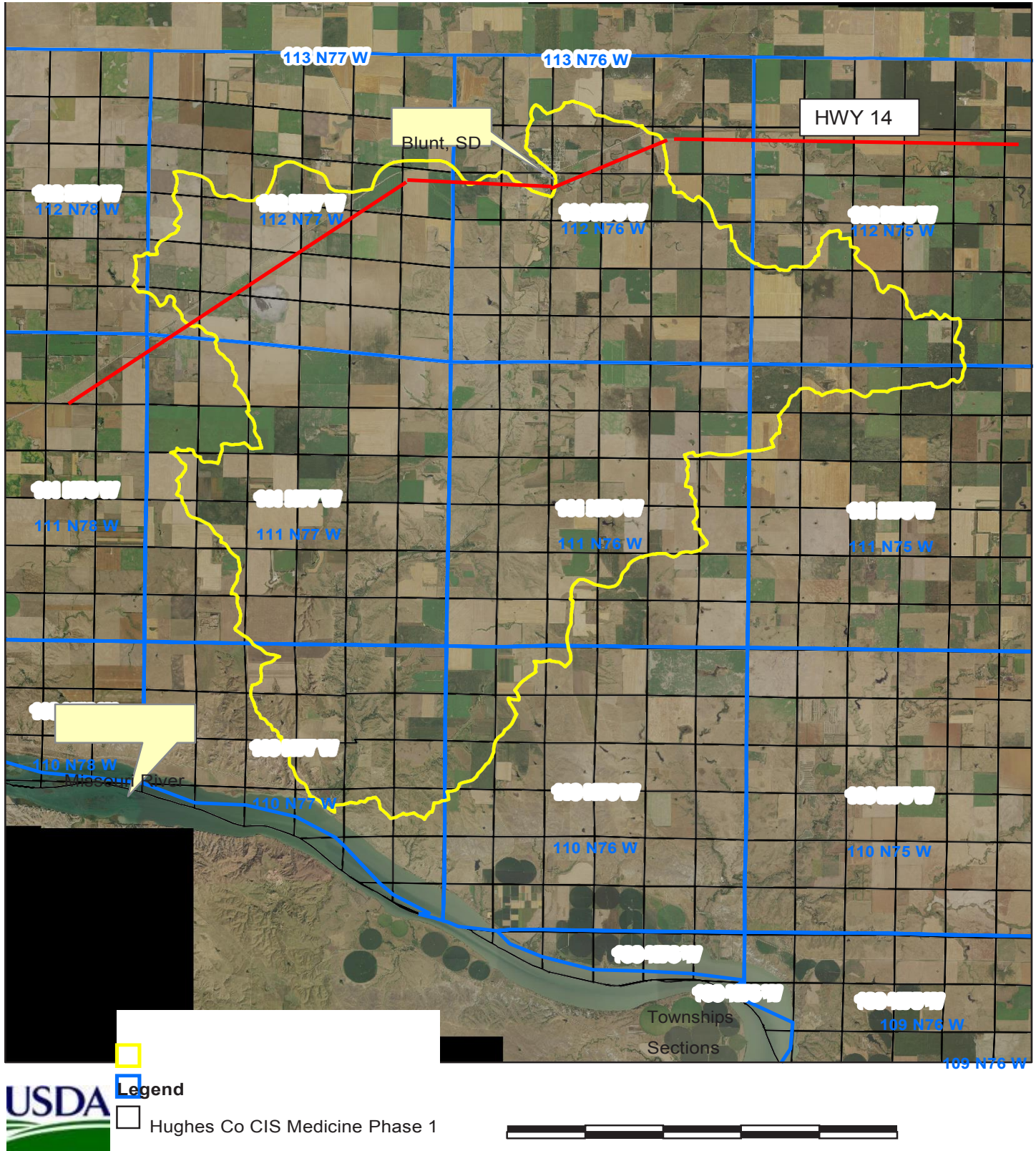
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Funds for this program are part of the larger EQIP program in South Dakota. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis, all applications received by the batching date are processed for that years funding. The batching date for EQIP is typically 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 . For more information contact the NRCS Pierre Field Office at 605-224-8870 x3.

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Farm Service Agency - Conservation Reserve Program

CED RAMBLINGS

Due to COVID-19 we have all had to change how we conduct business. We have mailed and emailed more forms than we ever have before. If you have unopened mail or email from us, please take the time to read them and fill out the enclosed or attached forms. Please return the forms as soon as possible to avoid any program payment delays.

CRP MANAGED HAYING

CRP haying or grazing can begin August 2nd, 2020. If you are interested in haying your CRP this year, you need to sign up first. With the new farm bill, we had a few changes to the managed haying/grazing provisions. Most contracts can be hayed every third year or grazed every other year. Haying is never authorized before August 2nd, even if emergency released. Please contact the office to discuss what the options would be on your contract.

NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

Producers must report a Notice of Loss within 15 calendar days of the natural disaster occurrence.

If you plan to use a crop differently than intended; please notify the office so those acres can be appraised for APH purposes. Do not do anything until a loss adjustor has been out to complete an appraisal.

Please turn in your 2020 production once you have finished harvesting.

CORONAVIRUS FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CFAP)

Agricultural producers can now apply for USDA's Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), which provides direct payments to offset impacts from the coronavirus pandemic. The application and a payment calculator are now available online at www.farmers.gov/cfap and USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) staff members are available via phone, fax and online tools to help producers complete applications. The deadline for the CFAP program is August 28, 2020.

Livestock payments will be broken into two different categories

- Livestock owned as of 1/15/2020 and sold between 1/15/2020 and 4/15/2020.
- Highest inventory of livestock owned between 4/16/2020 and 5/14/2020.

Crop payments: (must have ownership and the 2019

production is subject to price risk)

Eligible Commodities: soybeans, corn (including silage), millet (includes hay), oats (includes hay), sorghum (includes hay), sunflowers, durum wheat, hard red spring wheat and wool.

CFAP payments will be based on 2019 grain production and was not sold as of January 15, 2020.

Information needed for the application:

2019 Total production – include only your share of the bushels, and

2019 Production not priced or sold as of January 15, 2020

MICROLOAN

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is offering farm ownership microloans, creating a new financing avenue for farmers to buy and improve property. These microloans are especially helpful to beginning or underserved farmers, U.S. veterans looking for a career in farming, and those who have small and mid-sized farming operations.

The microloan program has been hugely successful, providing more than 16,800 low-interest loans, totaling over \$373 million to producers across the country. Microloans have helped farmers and ranchers with operating costs, such as feed, fertilizer, tools, fencing, equipment, and living expenses since 2013. Seventy percent of loans have gone to new farmers.

Now, microloans will be available to also help with farm land and building purchases, and soil and water conservation improvements. FSA designed the expanded program to simplify the application process, expand eligibility requirements and expedite smaller real estate loans to help farmers strengthen their operations. Microloans provide up to \$50,000 to qualified producers and can be issued to the applicant directly from the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA).

To learn more about the FSA microloan program visit www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans, or contact your local FSA office.



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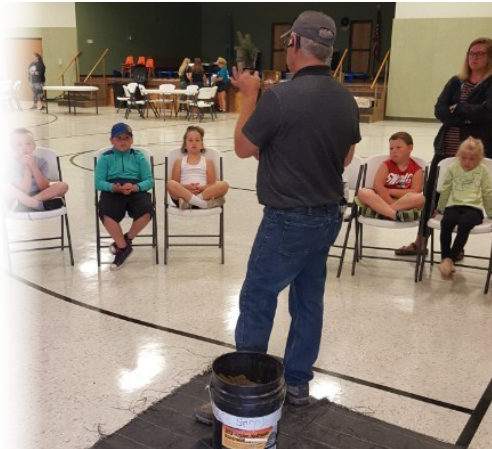
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Gold Program

Doug Boes (HCCD Manager), Triniti Sowards (HCCD Secretary) and Maria Cota (HCCD Employee) all of whom work for the Hughes Co. Conservation District used an opportunity to talk to three different groups of children at the Stanley County Gold Program on June 18th, 2020. HCCD talked to the children about why conservation and natural resources is particularly important for the world as well as our little portion of it. HCCD showed the children

the do's and don'ts on how to plant trees. Like the correct depth that you should plant a tree (to the knot which is just a little above the top root). The reason that fabric is installed, and its purpose for the trees. HCCD also let the children practice planting trees. Each child and teacher received a bareroot conservation grade South Dakota State Tree (Black Hills Spruce) to plant on their own.



Doug Boes is showing how far you should plant your tree & what each part of the tree is called.



One of the kids is checking out his new tree. (Teachers helped each child measure the height of their tree and then wrote the height of their tree onto their bags.)



The kids are learning how deep to dig the hole to plant a tree.



Boes is showing the kids how determine the Correct depth for planting the trees.



Boes is asking questions and answering some of the kid's questions.

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Samples received-site visits from Dr. John Ball

What is wrong with these cottonwoods?

The holes and stippling in the leaves are due to feeding by the cottonwood leaf beetle.

This is a common insect West River and I have seen trees completely defoliated by them. The adults are about 5/16-inch long with yellow wing covers that have several long black stripes. The larvae are black and have a couple of white spots on the side. They begin feeding by only on the underside of the leaves but eventually holes are created, and leaves can become skeletonized (the leaf blade missing except for the major veins).



What is wrong with this lilac?

The discoloration of the leaves and blackening ends are typical symptoms of bacterial blight of lilac (*Pseudomonas syringae*). Infection begins as brown spots that enlarge and blacken. The terminal tips of shoots also blacken as seen in the picture. The best control is to prune out the diseased tips to a foot below the symptoms during dry weather.



What is wrong with these trees? Can you test for herbicide?

I get many requests each month from people wanting trees tested for herbicide. Usually they do not know who might have done it or what it might be, but they just want it tested and they send a box of leaves.



Herbicide drift is an issue in communities surrounding by ag land (though we have enough problem with homeowners spraying weed-killer in town). Some herbicides are easily carried by even the slightest breeze and can move considerable distances.

But no one has a CSI lab where a sample can be dropped in and, within 45-minutes (minus commercial), determine the herbicide, whether it will kill the tree,

and who did it. It can sometimes take a bit to figure out what to test, there are few standards to correlate residue to extent of injury, and it can be near impossible to determine who did it if the tree owner does not know. Knowing who might be responsible for the drift is critical to finding what was used, at what rate and when.

If South Dakotan want to file a pesticide complaint, they can do so at:

<https://www.state.sd.us/eforms/secure/eforms/E2093V1-PesticideComplaint.pdf>

This form is electronical sent to the South Dakota Department of Agriculture Division of Agricultural Services, Office of Agronomy Services and they will follow up.

The testing done for samples and calls to the Update sometimes do require herbicide analysis as part of the diagnosis process. A good example is this line of spruce adjacent to a bean field. Every spruce in the row was presenting the same symptoms - wilting and curling shoot tips. The hackberry in the second row had cupped and curled foliage. These are common symptoms of herbicide drift though not only agent that can cause them, so testing can be important to determine the cause.

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Blue-Green Algae and Livestock - Adele Harty

SDSU Extension Cow/Calf Field Specialist

Additional Authors: Robin Salverson

With the expanding drought conditions across Western South Dakota, there are increased concerns about livestock water quality. One water quality concern stems from the algae blooms on stock dams. The predominant question is whether the algae presents health concerns for livestock. Depending on the type of algae, it can be a concern. With warmer temperatures, the conditions are right for blue-green algae blooms.



About Blue-Green Algae

Blue-green algae does not look like traditional green algae, which typically forms in a mat on the surface of the water. Rather it can appear like small grains of green sand at the water surface. There are different types of blue-green algae that have varying appearances. Some may resemble spilled paint around the edge of the stock dam, some will give the entire water source a pea-green appearance, while others will have a teal green appearance. Different species of blue-green algae contain various toxins, which can poison livestock, resulting in rapid death.

Blue-green algae will bloom when weather is hot and winds are calm. As the algae begin to die, gas is produced in the cells causing the colonies to float to the water surface. The wind blows the algae blooms to the shorelines resulting in their concentration and easy access to livestock. Identification of blue-green algae blooms in water can be difficult because the blooms appear and disappear rapidly.

Livestock Toxicity

Blue-green algae blooms can contain neurotoxins (nervous system damage) or hepatotoxins (liver damage), depending on the type that is present. If water containing blue-green algae is consumed by livestock, death will typically occur within 24 hours or less following ingestion. Cattle, sheep, horses and small animals are all susceptible to these toxins (and humans!). Due to the rapid advancement to death, the observation of clinical signs including tremors, paralysis, respiratory

failure, and diarrhea are not often seen. The most frequent indicator of toxicity from blue-green algae is to find a dead animal close to the contaminated water. If the animal survives initial poisoning,

photosensitization (sunburn) will be noticeable, however the animal will likely die later due to liver failure. There is not a standard treatment for blue-green algae toxicity due to the rapid progression to death.


Sampling and Testing

If you suspect that you have lost livestock to blue-green algae toxicity, work with your veterinarian to collect the appropriate samples to confirm or deny the blue-green algae toxicity. A complete set of tissues (liver, brain, stomach contents) and a water sample are needed for diagnosis. The water sample should be taken from areas within the stock dam where the algae is concentrated. This video from Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory describes what blue-green algae can look like on the dam and how to collect water samples. The samples can be submitted to the Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory for analysis. This lab can test for the presence of blue-green algae along with specific toxins.

Management Considerations

The only sure way to prevent blue-green algae poisoning is to remove animals from contaminated water. Move them to a pasture with a water source free of blue-green algae. If this is not possible, control access to the dam, especially in areas downwind, which is where the concentration occurs. Pump water from below the surface in the middle of the stock dam to a holding tank so that the scum on the top can be avoided.

If you suspect a blue-green algae bloom in your stock dam, the first priority is to move the livestock to a clean water source and then send samples of the water to a lab for analysis.



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2020 Soil Health School, Mitchell, SD

Newsletter Templates



Registration Open For 2020 Soil Health School

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The 2020 South Dakota Soil Health Coalition (SDSHC) Soil Health School will be held in Mitchell, S.D., on the Stehly Farm and at the Highland Conference Center (2000 Highland Way). Registration is now open for the School which is scheduled for August 31-September 2.

Attendees will have an opportunity to learn firsthand what practices have worked on the Stehly Farm as well as neighboring producers the Edinger's. Several test plots provide Soil Health School participants with firsthand, field-based opportunities to learn from soil health experts about nutrient management, grazing cover crops, manure application and cover crop practices. The test plots were established by SDSHC and South Dakota State University (SDSU) on the Stehly Farm and, Chet and Charlie Edinger's farm.

"Our first motivation is always profit," Gene Stehly says. "We are running a business. If you look at the result of the journey, we started 40 years ago, we have soil that is much healthier in every way. We can raise more bushels with less inputs."

Class size is limited, register today.

For a complete agenda and to register for the 2020 SDSHC Soil Health School, visit www.sdsoilhealthcoalition.org and click on the Events tab. Or contact Cindy Zenk, SDSHC Coordinator at 605-280-4190 or sdsoilhealth@gmail.com.

Register For 2020 Soil Health School To Be Held In Mitchell, SD

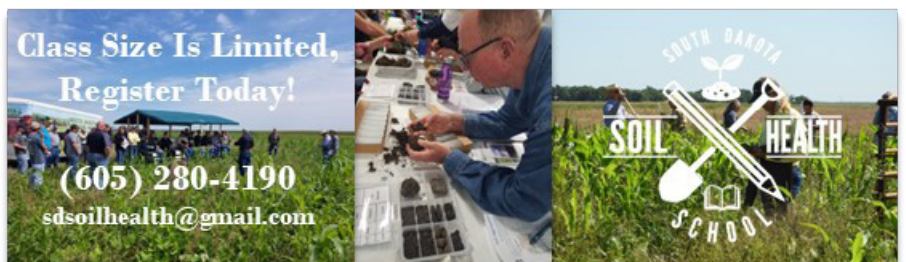
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Registration is now open for the School which is scheduled for August 31-September 2. "If you are seriously interested in soil health and all that goes into it, this is a very good place to be," explains Dennis Hoyle, founding SDSHC board member and Edmunds County farmer.

Held in a new location every two years, Hoyle explains the Soil Health School is designed to provide applicable, research-based, expert and land-owner-tested resources and information to producers through on-farm demonstrations and classroom sessions. "This is not soil health 101. We pack a lot into the school," says Hoyle, a third-generation farmer who has been implementing soil health practices on his farm since 1982. "We figure if you are going to invest the time, then we will provide as much information as possible."



Access Image [Here](#)



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Visit www.sdsoilhealthcoalition.org and click on the Events tab or contact Cindy Zenk, SDSHC Coordinator at 605-280-4190 for more information!



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40 years of soil health practices on display

Four decades ago, economics motivated brothers Craig and Gene Stehly to begin implementing soil health-focused farming practices on their Mitchell farm. "Our first motivation is always profit," Gene says. "We are running a business. If you look at the result of the journey, we started 40 years ago, we have soil that is much healthier in every way. We can raise more bushels with less inputs."

Wide-row corn & nutrient management test plots

Since their first organic matter test came back at 2 percent in the 1980s, the brothers' soil health efforts have resulted in rebuilding organic matter in most fields to between 4 and 5 percent. "It comes down to profitability. If you improve organic matter, you'll get higher yields and more water holding capacity," explains Craig. "Also, it's about the land as a legacy. If you want your land to remain productive, you need to build organic matter."

During the 2020 Soil Health School, attendees will have an opportunity to learn firsthand what practices have worked on the Stehly Farm as well as Edinger's. Several test plots provide Soil Health School participants with firsthand, field-based opportunities to learn from soil health experts about nutrient management, grazing cover crops, manure application and cover crop practices.

Wide-row corn: An 8-acre field has been planted to 44-inch corn rows and interseeded with a diverse cover crop mix when the corn was V4 stage. The cover crop mix is designed to help cycle the corn stalk residue after 2020 corn harvest. In 2021, corn will be planted into the cover crop residue.

Grazing cover crops: Several cover crop plots were planted into a 3-acre parcel of land on the Edinger Farm. Developed for the purpose of livestock grazing, the majority of the plot was planted to a diverse cover crop mix of cool and warm season grasses and broadleaves.

A real-time demonstration, this plot is designed to give participants the opportunity to apply classroom knowledge and monitor their results. Based on management goals, such as animal weight gain or wildlife habitat, attendees will determine the necessary paddock size, fence the area off and monitor the results throughout the Soil Health School.

Biomass benefits: Participants will see firsthand the amount of biomass produced by different cover crop mixes and scenarios as they tour four different cover crop plots. These plots provide insight into what mixes may work best depending on a producer's land and management goals - biomass for livestock grazing or soil cover to minimize weed pressure.

Herbicide impact: Several individual cover crop plots, featuring diverse plant species, were established by SDSU to provide producers with insight into how various herbicides impact specific cover crop species.

Experts discuss nutrient management and much more

Livestock manure is one of the quickest ways to build soil organic matter, explains John Lentz, Ag Nutrient Management Team Leader for Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). "Different from commercial fertilizer, livestock manure builds organic matter because it also contains carbon," Lentz says. During the 2020 Soil Health School, Lentz will share how producers can make the most of their livestock manure. He is one of several experts invited to lead interactive seminars during the classroom portion of the school. In addition to nutrient management, other topics to be covered include microbiology, machinery adaptations, soils, carbon, beneficial insects, cover crops and more.



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Stanley County Conservation District

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Contact Matt Stoesser 220-2854

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\$10 per acre plus \$200 site fee
chemical not included
- ▶ **Tree Fabric**
\$.70 per ft for application and fabric
site fee \$200 + minimum charge \$250
4' x 300 roll \$80 Staples \$.20 ea
6' x 750' roll \$220

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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

Chokecherry Apple Butter

<https://tastessence.com/chokecherry-recipes>

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups of chokecherry pulp
- 5 cups of sugar
- 4 cups of apple pulp
- 1/2 tsp almond extract
- Medium sieve



Preparation:

- Boil the fruits until thoroughly cooked and ready to be pulped. There is no need to add anything while boiling, just sufficient amount of water will do the job.
- Put both the fruits through the medium sieve to get the pulp.
- Now, put the mixture on the stove and heat to a boil. Keep stirring constantly to avoid scorching.

- After the first boil, add 5 cups of sugar and stir until sugar gets dissolved completely.
- When the mixture starts becoming thicker, add 1/2 teaspoon almond extract and give it a good mix.
- Put it in a sterilized jar, wipe the rims and seal the jar with a lid.
- Process it in hot water for just 8-10 minutes and let it cool down slowly.
- Your chokecherry apple butter is ready to serve. You can have 8 cups of chokecherry apple butter.

As a variation you can use any other fruit in combination with chokecherry, or just make only chokecherry butter the same way. An extra element in this recipe will be use of lemon juice. Juice of 1/2 a lemon should be added after adding sugar.

RENTAL / SERVICES



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

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

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

Country Apricot Tart

Active: 30 mins Total: 1 hr 40 mins Servings: 8

Ingredients

Crust

- 3/4 cup flour
- 1/3 cup cornmeal
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons butter or margarine, divided
- 4-5 tablespoons cold fat-free milk, divided



Filling

- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg or ground cinnamon
- 3 cups sliced, pitted apricots or 3 cups frozen, unsweetened peach slices, thawed (do not drain)
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 2 teaspoons fat-free milk

Directions

- Grease and lightly flour a large baking sheet; set aside.
- For the crust, stir together 3/4 cup flour, the cornmeal, 2 tablespoons sugar, the baking powder, and salt in a medium bowl. Cut in butter or margarine until the size of small peas. Sprinkle 1 tablespoon of the cold milk over the mixture; gently toss with a fork. Add 3 to 4 tablespoons more of the cold milk, 1 tablespoon at a time, until the dough is moistened (dough will be crumbly). Turn out onto a lightly floured surface and knead 7 to 8 times or just until the dough clings together. Form the dough into a ball and flatten onto the baking sheet. Roll into a 12-inch circle; set aside.
- For the filling, stir together 1/3 cup sugar, 3 tablespoons flour, and the nutmeg (or cinnamon) in a bowl. Stir in the apricots (or peaches) and lemon juice. Mound the filling in the center of the crust, leaving a 2-inch border. Fold the border up over the filling. Brush the top and sides of the crust with the 2 teaspoons milk.
- Bake in a 375 degrees F oven for about 40 minutes or until the crust is golden and the filling is bubbly. To prevent overbrowning, cover the edge of the crust with foil for the last 10 to 15 minutes of baking. Cool the tart for 30 minutes on the baking sheet on a wire rack before serving.

Hughes and Stanley Counties Conservation Districts
1717 North Lincoln Avenue, Suite 103
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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)**