

Pierce County Soil Conservation District

Klein's Receive Pierce County SCD 2009 Conservation Achievement Award

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Derrick and Mary Klein, whose farm is located in Tuscarora Township, were selected as the 2009 Conservation Achievement Award winners by the Pierce County Soil Conservation District.

The Klein's were guests of the Pierce County SCD at the 71st Annual ND Association of Soil Conservation District Convention held in Bismarck in November, 2009. They along with winners from 51 other ND SCD's were recognized at a banquet held in their honor.

The Pierce County SCD held an awards banquet on November 30, 2009, honoring the Klein's. They were presented

an aerial photo of their farmstead from the SCD, and a plaque from the Merchants Bank and Bremer Bank, of Rugby.

The Pierce County Soil Conservation District ***Congratulates*** Derrick and Mary for their conservation accomplishments and their contribution



Klein Family
Derrick, Paxton, Jaxon, Camille and Mary

Fedje's Receive 2009 Tree Maintenance Award



If you drove by the Andy Fedje farm these past years, I am sure you would have noticed how neat and clean their tree rows around their farm were. You

probably even saw Jason or Chris out working in the rows.

Andy and Deanne Fedje, Jason and Chris, were presented a plaque by the Pierce County Soil Conservation District, for the 2009 Tree Maintenance Award, at the annual Pierce County Soil Conservation District Awards banquet held

November 30, 2009.

The Fedje's received the award for their excellent work in keeping their tree plantings clean and free of weeds, and replacing any dead trees.

Congratulations Fedje's, for a job well done and deserving!!

Supervisors & Staff Appreciate Patron Support

Thank You!! The Pierce County Soil Conservation District Supervisors and Staff and NRCS Staff would like to thank all patrons of the District for their many efforts in conservation work.

We would like to thank NRCS, FSA, ND Association of Conservation Districts, National Association of Conservation Districts, ND State Soil Conservation Committee, NDSU Extension Service,

ND Game & Fish Dept., US Fish & Wildlife Service, ND Forest Service, County Commissioners, area banks, businesses and organizations, local governments, our legislators at state and national levels, and all those involved in carrying out conservation practices and promoting the conservation efforts. We are very grateful for all you have done.

The District Supervisors would like to express their appreciation to all area businesses who have so generously donated toward our Women's Ag Night and other conservation programs. They would also like to

express their appreciation to Chuck and Jan Repnow of Strand Studio, for all the years they have generously donated their time and services to the SCD by taking and furnishing photos of our annual Award Winners.

A special thank you to Merchants Bank and Bremer Bank for helping sponsor our annual awards banquet by furnishing an Emcee for the banquet, and a plaque to our Conservation Achievement Award winners each year.



THANK YOU

"20th Year of Programming"

Natural Resource Conservation Education comes alive as Tom Gibson presents his interactive and lively programs for students all across the state of North Dakota. The TREES Program is in its 20th year of programming, with Tom sharing his talents, both as an educator and entertainer.

TREES Program

The Pierce County SCD sponsors these programs at the area schools. On February 2 Mr. Gibson presented two of his programs to the students at Wolford Public School.



Tree Plantings for 2010

NRCS specs require sufficient tillage to kill sod and maintain a weed free planting site.

You should have already started doing your preparations on your 2010 planting site by last fall, but, you will need to do some preparation again this spring before the tree planting can be done. We usually began tree planting the last week in April or first week in May.

Also, if you need tree replacements, or want handplants, and have not already ordered them, contact our office as soon as possible. The longer you wait the less selection you will have.



TREES!

2009 SCD Annual Report

First Quarter:

- Appointed Daniel B. Brossart and Curtis Roerick as SCD Supervisors for 1 year term.
- Developed the 2009 SCD Annual Work Plan
- Updated the SCD Long Range Plan
- Paid NACD and NDASCD annual dues
- Helped sponsor expenses for 2008-2009 Upper & Middle Sheyenne River Watershed Assessment Project
- Set up 2009 SCD Financial Budget
- Paid 2009 mileage assessments to Upper Dakota RC&D and Souris Basin Planning Council
- Sponsored the TREES Program at Ely Elementary School
- Booth at Pierce County Ag Show
- SCD Staff attended the Annual Tree Promotional Workshop in Bismarck

Second Quarter:

- Myers spoke at the Arbor Day Program at Towner and planned a memorial tree planting for Roy Laframboise at the Pioneer Village Museum in Rugby.
- Supported the Keep ND Clean Poster Contest
- Tanner Lind, Rugby Jr. High School, was a 3rd place State winner in the KNDC poster contest
- Myers spoke about trees to students & staff at the Rugby Headstart.
- Issued tree seedlings to all 4th grade students in area schools, and all winning KNDC poster participants in area schools
- Began tree moving and tree planting
- Began selling rain barrels and kits
- Selected Derrick and Mary Klein farm as the 2009 Achievement Award winner
- Applied Weed Barrier Fabric on new tree plantings

Third Quarter:

- Offered Rotary Mower Rental Services to producers
- Held the Annual Soil Stewardship Picnic
- Staff and Supervisors attended the SCD Annual Area III meeting held at Towner Nursery
- Held a Rain Barrel and Kit demo
- Assisted with the FFA State Land Judging in Rugby
- Repaired the roof on the SCD Quonset
- Sponsored an Eco Ed Camp at Balta Dam for approximately 50 7th grade students from Rugby Jr. High School

Fourth Quarter:

- Selected Dale and Deanne Fedje as the 2009 Tree Maintenance Award winners
- Russ Jordre, DC, transferred to the Dickinson NRCS office
- Hosted our 6th Annual Women's Ag Night event
- Helped sponsor the 2nd Annual North Central Grass & Livestock Day at Devils Lake
- Supervisors, Staff and Achievement Award winners attended the 2009 Annual NDASCD Convention at Bismarck
- Hosted the Pierce County SCD's Annual Conservation Awards Banquet
- Ed Bahm, District Conservationist, began work at the Rugby NRCS Field Office
- The Pierce County SCD held 12 monthly Board meetings in 2009

2009 Conservation Accomplishments

SCD

Planted 54,305 LF (21.4 acres) of Farmstead / Feedlot Windbreaks for 20 producers
Planted 40,980 LF (18.3 acres) of Field Windbreaks for 8 producers
Installed 76,055 LF of Synthetic Weed Barrier on 25 tree plantings
Planted approximately 11,208 trees and shrubs for Farmstead and Field Windbreaks
Sold approximately 5,373 hand plant trees
Transplanted (tree mover spade) 318 trees for 34 customers
Sold approximately 9 rain barrels and 12 rain spout kits

NRCS

9,493 New No-Till Acres
51,816 ft. of Fence
9,974 ft. of water pipeline
1 water tank
4 livestock water ponds
382 ac. Pasture and hay plantings
30,118 ac. Of conservation plans

Living Snow Fences

Definition—Living snow fences are trees, shrubs and/or native grasses planted at critical locations along traveled roads or around communities or farmsteads. These vegetative barriers trap and control blowing and drifting snow.

The earliest records of planting trees as a living snow fence were done along railways in North Dakota. The Great Northern Railroad planted trees along its right of way between Grand Forks and Williston in 1905. It was reported four years later that 96,000 trees and shrubs were planted and survival rate was better than 80 percent. By 1915, the Railway Company had planted over 500,000 trees and shrub seedlings.

Today, living snow fences provide for safer driving conditions on highways, county and township roads. They control blowing snow conditions, icing of the roadway, formation of finger and pillow drifts, and improve visibility.

A well-designed snow fence should also reduce the need for snow removal. Snow fence plantings will collect snow away from travel lanes and hold it where it is more manageable. Also, the reduced use of snow removal equipment means less equipment and labor costs.

The average lifetime of most wooden structural snow fences is approximately 5 to 10 years. There are also the annual maintenance costs, labor and materials, to repair fences if damaged over winter. It is estimated that tree and shrub plantings are approximately 10 times cheaper to install and maintain than slatted snow fences. The average lifetime of a living snow fence is 35 to 50 years with regular weed control, especially in the first several years of establishment. The living snow fence also has the advantage in height as well, reaching 15 to 50 feet depending on the tree species used.

Cost share is available through the Continuous CRP program, practice CP-17A. It has to meet cropping history to be eligible, and planted on cropland along any road or travel lane subject to blockage from snow drifting. There must be at least 1 to 5 rows planted, designed by NRCS specifications according to the Field Office Technical Guide.

The most windward row must be planted at least 200 feet from the center of the road. The snow catch area can also be part of the contract and planted to grass. The total contract width cannot exceed 300 feet. This acreage is also eligible for an annual rental payment for up to 15 years, based on county soil rental rates.

The estimated cost to plant a 3-row 1/2 mile long windbreak is as follows:

Total footage of 7920 feet.

Tree planting cost—\$1980

Weed barrier fabric for weed control—\$3722

Total estimated cost—\$5702

Cost share received from Continuous CRP—\$4561

Total estimated cost to producer to plant this living snow fence is \$1140. Additional incentives may apply.



For more information, contact your local NRCS office.

Rugby Field Office New DC

Hello, I am Ed Bahm the new District Conservationist for NRCS in Rugby. I started the job here in early December. In the past I have worked in the Selfridge, Fessenden, and Bowershills offices. I am originally from the Almont-New Salem area. I know what you're thinking, that is where that cowboy poet Rodney Nelson is now living. I grew up around Rodney's kids. My folks still live on the ranch south of interstate on the Heart River. I am still referred to as the

hired man, but I never seem to get a pay check. No complaints, I can come to work here in Rugby during the week for a vacation. Well...my vacation time here will be coming to an end. I have accepted a position with NRCS



in McIntosh SD and will be leaving towards the end of April. This position will allow me to be 45 minutes from my folk's place. I plan to have a vested interest in the home place now that I will be so close to home. Yep, no more vacation time for me. Since I will still be on vacation here in Rugby for a while longer I encourage anybody to stop by and say hi.



Surface Mining Activities Must Be Reported

The North Dakota State Soil Conservation Committee was designated by the Legislature to administer the Surface Mining Reports Law (Chapter 38-16, North Dakota Century Code), which requires any person conducting surface mining operations for minerals other than coal, to comply with the reporting requirements of Chap-

ter 38-16.

The law also requires any person(s) conducting a gravel or sand surface mining operation, who, within one calendar year, removes 10,000 cubic yards or more of earthen material or products, including overburden, or affects one-half acre or more in combined mining operations, to enter into

a written agreement with the landowner to reclaim the affected land.

If you have any questions regarding the Surface Mining Reports Law, contact your local Pierce County Soil Conservation District or North Dakota State Soil Conservation Committee, 2718 Gateway Ave., Suite 104, Bismarck, ND 58503; Phone

**Chapter 38-16
North Dakota Century Code**

District Services Available

Tree Planting

\$21.00 per 100 linear feet
\$100.00 minimum charge

Handplants

Bare root stock \$1.00 per tree
Container stock \$1.00 per tree
Larger trees priced higher

The Pierce County SCD Board of Supervisors meets the first Monday of each month at the USDA Service Center. All meetings are open to the public.

Fabric Weed Barrier

\$47.00 per 100 linear feet
\$250.00 minimum charge

Tree Moving

\$35.00 per tree
\$3.50 per loaded mile

Rotary Mower Service

\$3.50 per acre
\$50.00 minimum charge

Tree Tube Protectors and Tree Mats are available upon request

Contact the Pierce County Soil Conservation District at 776-2207 ext.3

Pierce County Soil Conservation District
126 2nd Ave. SW, Suite 104
Rugby, ND 58368

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Permit #35
Rugby, ND
58368

Or Current Resident

Staff

Bev Blekeberg - District Clerk

Randy Myers - District Technician

Ed Bahm - District Conservationist

Elizabeth Blessum - Soil Conservationist

Holly Pritschet - Soil Conservation Technician

Another winter has hopefully come and gone, and we are all planning our spring activities and pursuits for the coming growing season.

Trees should be a part of your plans, whether it would be hand plants, field shelterbelts or farmstead or feed lot windbreaks. They add beauty to the landscape, hold snow and block wind, provide wildlife habitat and are good for the environment.

Tree plantings have been down in recent years. A lot of our trees are getting old and need to be replaced. Your local Soil Conservation District is here to assist you with your needs. There is a rotary mower avail-

Supervisors Comments

By Curt Roerick

able for brush cutting, CRP clipping or other vegetative growth. Also, there is a tree spade available for moving trees, and early spring is a

good time to consider moving larger trees.

Also, we are curious if there would be any interest in an **ATV with a sprayer** for spot spraying leafy spurge or other weeds, or if there are any other services

that **you** would like to see us offer. Feel free to contact the SCD office or any of the SCD Supervisors.



District Supervisors: (left to right) Jim Teigen, Jason Marchus, Deb Hauser, Daniel Brossart, Curt Roerick