

March 2011

Spring Edition

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Pierce County Soil Conservation District

2011

TOM AND LORIE SIEG FAMILY RECEIVES 2010 PIERCE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Tom and Lorie Sieg, whose farm is located in White Township, about 3 miles East of Anamoose, ND, have been selected as the 2010 Conservation Achievement Award winners for Pierce County.

Tom and Lorie have a 950 acre farm operation where they apply 864 acres to a reduced tillage system that consists of 3 crop types and that also includes Precision Guided Nutrient and Pest Management techniques. They also apply many acres of Upland and Wetland Habitat to Wildlife Management.

The Sieg's currently have 40,100 feet of Field Windbreaks and 4 acres of Farmstead Wind-

break. In 2008 they were chosen the Pierce County SCD's Tree Maintenance Award winners because of their clean trees, ongoing tree maintenance and tree plantings. Take notice of their tree rows as you drive by their farmstead.

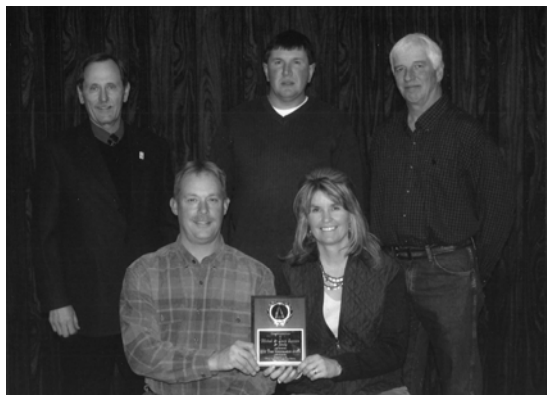
The Sieg's were guests of the Pierce County SCD at the 72nd Annual North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts convention held in Bismarck in November 2010. At that time they were honored, along with the other ND Conservation District winners, at an awards banquet, and also received a colored 16" x 20" aerial photo of their farmstead. The Pierce County SCD honored the



Sieg's at an awards banquet in November.

The Pierce County Soil Conservation District commends Tom and Lorie, and their children, Danielle, Kellie and Kristina, for their outstanding conservation efforts and achievements and their contribution to the conservation effort!!

MICHAEL AND LAURA SWANSON RECEIVE 2010 TREE MAINTENANCE AWARD



Michael and Laura Swanson were presented a plaque by the Pierce County Soil Conservation District as the 2010 Tree Maintenance Award winners, at the annual Pierce County SCD Awards banquet held November 29, 2010.

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

Congratulations to the Swanson family for a job well done and deserving!!

Supervisors & Staff Appreciate Patron

Thank You!! The Pierce County Soil Conservation District Supervisors and Staff, and the 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 the Emcee for the banquet and a plaque for our Conservation Achievement Award winners each year.

Supervisor's Comments

By Jim Teigen

Your local Soil Conservation district works closely with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to assist land owners and operators in improving and protecting the soil and water resources of Pierce County. That assistance may be in the form of advice, tree plantings and fabric installation, rotary mower rental, rain barrels for back yard use, tree transplanting with the tree spade, and sale of handplant seedlings and products to protect young trees from deer and other pest depredation.

While tree plantings as single-row shelterbelts in fields have diminished over the years, there are still many reasons to consider adding trees to one's operation. One obvious reason is to replace and improve farmstead shelters. Many trees have reached the end of the species' productive life and now is a good time to establish new trees to replace those which have already died, or are about to die out of a farmyard grove. Warning signs that trees are no longer healthy include increased branch breakage following strong winds and reduced vigor of branches and leaves on trees that are still growing.

Virus X has become quite prominent among the state's chokecherry trees, and is evident when chokecherry trees turn an orange-red color in July. This often results in death of the chokecherry trees, and since those trees usually grow in close proximity, an entire row or grove will likely die.

While emerald ash borer has not been found west of St. Paul, MN, this insect has killed millions of trees in the eastern US. The most important way of stopping its spread is to stop the movement of firewood from one area to another, and that also slows the spread of diseases that affect some pine trees and black walnut.

One of the best ways to maintain a farmstead grove is to plant a few rows of several varieties of trees, so the possibility of losing the whole shelter is diminished. A diversity of species will help keep the trees around a farmstead healthier and will make an attractive shelter. Your local SCD and NRCS office can advise on which species to plant and the availability of cost-sharing programs to help defray costs.

Another important use of trees is as a living snow fence along a road or highway. Winters like the last few have certainly shown the benefits of some well-placed tree rows, and cost-sharing programs are available for living snow fences, too. There are a number of designs that can be used to make those tree rows easier to farm around while protecting roadways from drifting snow. That will make winter travel safer and reduce the need and costs of removing snow from roadways.

The district will be planting many trees this spring, but it isn't too late to add some more projects to the list. There is still an adequate supply of seedlings available for order. Stop by the office and visit with the knowledgeable folks there.

Best wishes for the rest of the winter and a safe, productive spring.

2010 SCD Annual Report

First Quarter:

- Re-appointed Daniel B. Brossart and Curtis Roerick as SCD Supervisors for a 1 year term
- Developed the 2010 Pierce County SCD Annual Work Plan
- Developed the 2010 Pierce County SCD Budget
- Paid NACD, NDASCD, Upper Dakota Souris Basin Planning Council's 2010 annual dues
- Sponsored the TREES Program at Wolford School
- Brossart attended the Soil Health Workshop at Bismarck
- Teigen attended the NACD Annual Convention in Reno, Nevada
- SCD & NRCS Staff attended the Pierce County Ag Expo
- Published the SCD 2010 Spring Newsletter / 2009 Annual Report

Second Quarter:

- Blekeberg attended Quick Books training session in Bismarck
- Myers attended a training session in Devils Lake
- Myers attended the NDCDEA Tree Promotional meeting in Bismarck
- Myers attended the Carbon Credit Verifiers training in Bismarck
- Ed Bahm, NRCD District Conservationist, Rugby FO, transferred to NRCS McIntosh, SD
- Completed the spring machine tree planting
- Offered "tree moving" services using the tree spade
- Selected Tom & Lorie Sieg as the 2010 Pierce Co. Conservation Achievement Award winners
- Brad Jacobs began working at the Rugby NRCS FO as District Conservationist
- Staff and Supervisors attended the Area III SCD Annual Meeting at Crosby, ND
- Teigen was re-elected to serve as Director of Area III SCD

Third Quarter:

- Offered rotary mower rental services
- Completed laying fabric weed barrier on 2010 tree plantings
- Held the SCD Annual Soil Stewardship picnic
- Pierce County Zoning Board met with the SCD Supervisors
- Ordered T-shirts for Eco Ed Camp 7th grade students
- Issued a "Project Proposal" to Upper Dakota RC&D for financial assistance to help cover cost of sponsoring a Cover Crop and No-Till Self Guided Tour in 2011
- Applied for a 1% mill levy for coming year
- Local Work Group met to select resource criteria for EQIP participation
- Sponsored the 2010 Eco Ed Conservation Camp at the Balta Dam for approximately forty-five (45) 7th grade students from Rugby Jr. High School, and Wolford Jr. High School

Fourth Quarter:

- Selected Michael and Laura Swanson as our 2010 SCD Tree Maintenance Award Winners
- Elizabeth Blessum, NRCS Soil Con Tech, Rugby FO resigned
- Hosted the Pierce County SCD's "7th Annual Women's Ag Night" event
- SCD Supervisors, Staff and SCD Achievement Award winners attended the 2010 Annual NDASCD Convention and Awards Banquet at Bismarck.
- Hosted the Pierce County SCD's Annual Conservation Awards banquet
- Randy Myers, SCD Dist. Technician resigned from the Pierce County SCD
- Hired Jared Arlien as the new SCD District Technician
- Pierce County SCD held 12 monthly Board Meetings in 2010

Office Staff Changes

Hello everyone, my name is Jared Arlien and I am the new District Technician. I have taken the place of Randy Myers and am excited to work with all the producers and different people around the area. Before taking this job I worked in construction for a year and a half. Although I liked that job I knew I

wanted to get back to more of an agricultural related job. Before working in the construction field I was attending college in Bismarck at BSC. I received a degree in farm and ranch management. I grew up in Baldwin which is about ten miles north of Bismarck; I attended grade school and high school in Bismarck.

Throughout high school I maintained a job on a big ranch outside of Baldwin and was also very active in the FFA and high school rodeo. I have lots of family in the Rugby area and enjoy living near a smaller town. I thank the Pierce County Soil Conservation board members for giving me the chance to work as their District Tech.



2010 SCD Accomplishments

- Planted 32,960 LF (13.6 acres) of Farmstead / Feedlot Windbreaks for 17 Producers.
- Planted 11,520 LF (4.7 acres) of Field Windbreaks for 5 producers.
- Planted 6,140 LF (1.6 acres) of Wildlife tree plantings for 1 producer.
- Installed 57,097 LF of Synthetic Weed Barrier on 19 tree plantings.
- Planted approximately 6,514 trees and shrubs for Farmstead and Field Windbreaks and Wildlife Tree Plantings.
- Sold approximately 4,875 hand plant trees.
- Moved and transplanted (tree mover spade) 383 trees for 40 customers.
- Rotary Mower – approximately 794 acres cut by 14 customers.

2010 District Data

Conservation Plans	74
Prescribed Grazing	6,172.2 acres
Brush Management	54.3 acres
Water Tanks	5
Dugouts	0
Wells	1
Well Decommissioning	1
Livestock Pipeline	4,100 ft
Fencing	16,686 ft
Pasture and Hayland Planting	86.5 acres
Residue Management Mulch-till	6,972.7 acres
Residue Management No-till (329)	11,565.8 acres
Pest Management	6,170.5 acres
Nutrient Management	10,226.0 acres
Windbreak / Shelterbelts	50,620 LF
Weed Barrier Fabric installation	55,340 LF



Tree Machine Planting:

\$21.00 / 100 LF

Weed Barrier Fabric:

\$ 47.00 / 100 LF machine applic.

Handplant Trees:

Conservation Grade Trees: \$ 1.00 ea.
 Bundle of 25 (same species) \$20.00
 Larger Trees: higher

Apple Trees:

4' - 6' \$15.00 ea.

Tree Protectors:

2' - \$2.50 ea.
 4' - 5' - \$4.50 ea.

SCD Services Available:

Plantskydd Deer Repellent:

1 lb. Soluble Powder concentrate: \$24.95
 1 Qt. Pre-mixed Spray: \$21.95
 1 lb. Shaker: \$14.95
 1.32 gal. Pre-mix jug: \$54.95

Rain Barrels:

55 gal. barrel, Water Saver Kit, Spigot: \$50.00
 Water Saver Kit only: \$25.00
 (plus 7% sales tax)

Mower Rent:

20" Woods mower \$3.50/ac. \$50.00 minimum

Tree Moving:

\$45.00 / 1 tree plus \$3.50 / loaded mile
 \$40.00 / 2 - 10 trees " "
 \$35.00 / 11 or more " "



Annual 7th Grade Eco-Ed Camp Held

The annual "Eco-Ed Camp for the 7th grade students from Rugby Jr. High School and the 7th and 8th grade students from the Wolford Jr. High School, was held on September 21 at the Balta Dam picnic area. There were 45 students in attendance, along with 3 teachers, 5 presenters, 2 NRCS staff and 2 SCD staff.

The event was sponsored by the Pierce County SCD through a grant proposal from Barnes County 319 Project to bring a more in-depth, yet fun, learning experience to the students.

Even though it was a cloudy, cold and breezy day, we began at about 9:00 A.M. with a pre-test for all the students. After taking the test, students were divided into five groups for one-half hour sessions: **Prairie / Rangeland**, presented by Pierce County Extension Agent, Karl Lyle Erickson; **Soils**, presented by NRCS Soil Conservationist Amy Sand; **Woodlands**, presented by Towner Nursery Forester, Rod Wahl; **Wetlands**, presented by the J. Clark Salyer Refuge Biological Technician, Gary Eslinger; and **Watershed / Water Quality**, presented by Dakota College of Bottineau instructor, Larry Brooks.

After the students went through all five sessions, they were given the same test again, to see how much they learned during the day.

Lunch was served by the SCD and NRCS staff following the classes. Each student then received an Eco-Ed T-shirt donated by the Pierce County SCD. A fun day was had by all, even though it was a cool day. The Pierce County SCD would like to say **thanks** to all those who participated, especially those who took time out of their busy schedules to present these classes to the students. They all did an excellent job!

