

NDASCD/LON

N.D. Association of Soil Conservation Districts/Lincoln-Oakes Nursery

CONSERVATION NEWS

To advance the interests of North Dakota Soil Conservation Districts



NDASCD DIRECTORS

Area I

*Albert Wood, Treasurer
Julius Wangler*

Area II

*Keith Bartholomay, Vice
President
Perry Bollum, Secretary*

Area III

*Roger Christenson
Jeff Aalund*

Area IV

*Cordell Bettenhausen
Rocky Bateman*

Area V

*Richard Knopp, Jr.
President
Kent Pedersen*

NDASCD
3310 University Drive
Bismarck, ND 58504

701-223-8518

Website: NDASCD.org

Lincoln-Oakes website:
lincolnoakes.com



CEO REPORT



It has been nice not lobbying this winter as times were very hard given the financial condition of our state lately. The price of crude oil seems to be slowly creeping upward; maybe the tax base will improve before we are in session 2019. Crop prices continue to be low and we are hopeful they rebound soon and our state returns to great economical condition.

The nursery staff is getting all the trees graded and preparing for the spring rush. Tree sales are up over last year and we are hopeful that trend continues. The staff is completing the cutting for the 2018 growing season. The lands around the nursery have never been so clean and taken care of since I began working here. Bill has done a great job of getting the nursery caught up on odds and ends jobs.

My staff of managers are doing a great job and they make me look good. I have known for a long time that the key to success is to hire folks smarter than myself, give them a framework of what I need, and then get out of their way and watch them work their magic. I have very pleased with our employees from all levels and departments. NDASCD is blessed to have such fine people working here.

We anticipate having a new irrigation system completed in 2018/2019, changing our intake point from the Larson's property to US Army Corp of Engineers land located down 12th ST. It will be very nice to have a dependable system capable of supplying the needs of the Lincoln Oakes Nursery, Plant Material Center, and Bismarck Parks and Recreation.

We are in the process of hiring two Farm Bill Specialists. One will be located out of Carrington serving Wells, Eddy, Foster, and Griggs counties. The other will be located in Hettinger serving Slope, Bowman, Adams, and Grant counties. We will be completing our third year of supplying Farm Bill Specialists to the NRCS this year.

Farm Bill Specialists

Luke Gilbert, Farm Bill Specialist Supervisor

The Farm Bill Specialist Program has now been operating for over two years. Through this partnership we have assisted countless producers with voluntary, incentive based conservation. If you are unaware of this program; the NDASCD entered into an agreement with the NRCS back in 2015 to employ Farm Bill Specialists across the state. Farm Bill Specialists work in NRCS offices and assist the producers and the NRCS with Farm Bill program outreach, implementation, and follow-up. Farm Bill Specialists are also knowledgeable in non-federal programs that are available to producers. The Farm Bill Specialists are the one-stop shop for producers that have questions in the various programs. Currently we cover 10 areas and service 36 counties.

Last year, the Farm Bill Specialists helped to put 220,216.4 acres of private land into conservation programs. This total was made up of 38,972.6 acres of CRP, 50,614.6 acres of EQIP, 126,793.2 acres of CSP, and 3,836 acres of Waterbank.

Continue on page 2

As these figures suggest, this program has led to more acres on the ground than the prior partnerships. We currently have the most well trained Farm Bill Specialists that North Dakota has ever had. This model is working extremely well. We are pleased to see how much benefit the land and the producers of North Dakota have received from of this partnership. We are excited to continue moving forward to assist in the NRCS's mission of helping people help the land.

Nursery News update March 2018

Tree Sales are about 950,000 as of February 16th. This is roughly 50,000 more than we had at this time last year. We are continuing to bring trees out of the cooler and are gradually grading to our current sales numbers.

This winter we are putting a little more money and effort into equipment repairs than we have in the past. Now that we have shown that the nursery can operate profitably, we don't need to be quite as conservative on repairs and can focus a little more on the appearance and creature comforts.



Some interesting tree sales statistics:

- Last year we offered 87 different species of trees, shrubs or vines for sale.
- Our top 5 Tree species sales account for 39% of our yearly sales.
- Our top 10 tree species account for 56% of our sales.
- Our top 20 tree species account for 79% of our sales.
- The remaining 67 species account for only 21% of our sales

Mark your calendar for 2018 Meetings/Events

Watershed Leadership Academy - March 6, Devils Lake contact bruce.schmidt@ndsu.edu for other events scheduled and more information.

NDASCD Board of Directors Meeting - March 12 at NDASCD Office

Tree Promotion Meeting - March 13-15 at Quality Inn, Bismarck

KNDC - 50 Years in 2018 - deadline for artwork is March 14, 2018

Area Meetings:

Area II - April 4 at the Finley Legion Hall in Finley, ND

Area III - not yet scheduled - hosted by Rolette County SCD

Area IV - July 10 at the Sitting Bull College in Fort Yates, ND

Area V - June 8 at the Buzzy Café in Beach, ND



Stewardship Week - April 29 - May 6, 2018. All materials are online to download.

Leopold Award Application due April 15, 2018

Deadline for Achievement Winner Information - May 14, 2018

NDASCD Board of Directors Meeting - June 25 at NDASCD office

NDASCD Convention - November 18-20, 2018 at the Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck ND

NACD NEWS

NACD Board Member Roger Christenson, Alternate NACD Board Member, Keith Bartholomay and President Richard Knopp, Jr. attended the 2018 NACD Convention in Nashville, TN along with Brian Johnston, CEO and Luke Gilbert, NDASCD Farm Bill Specialist Supervisor. NDASCD submitted two resolutions to NACD. This year the NDASCD donated a decorative cowhide leather framed mirror purchased at the NDCDEA Auction for the NACD auction. If you have any questions, contact your North Dakota NACD Board Member, Roger Christenson.