

# West Mclean SCD Newsletter

Winter/Spring 2021

## Tree of the Quarter - Caragana of Siberian Peashrub

Caragana is a Siberian native that is able to withstand drought, alkaline soils, and is long lived. Due to Caragana being in the legume family it fixes nitrogen making it an excellent addition into any windbreak plan. It also has many wildlife uses such as nesting home for several species of songbird and a food source for hummingbirds. As the seed pods ripen they crack, scattering their seeds making it a food source for game birds and small mammals. Reportedly Siberian peasants during World War II facing grain shortages carried their chickens through the winter by feeding them these seeds. Caragana can be incorporated into machine plantings as well as purchased as hand plants from the West Mclean SCD.

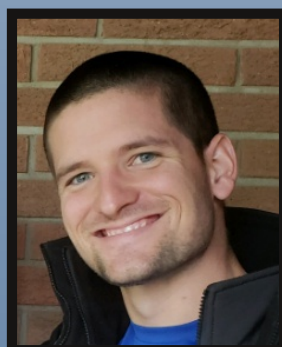


### A New Face In the Office

Hi my name is Dan Gackle, I am the new District Manager/ Technician for the West Mclean SCD. I am a Garrison native who has lived in northern Minnesota for the past 6 years. During that time I worked for a utility contracting company that involved many hours on the road and long days outside but also gave me some flexibility to get a GIS degree and experiment with raising sheep, pigs, and chickens on our small hobby farm. Prior to moving to Minnesota I worked on a number of conservation focused farms on the west coast ranging from vegetable CSAs, fruit orchards and a dairy farm. I met my wife on the dairy farm prior to moving to Minnesota. We recently had our first kid so in our downtime we are busy watching her grow like a weed. Feel free to reach out for anything conservation related. I'm excited to learn and grow with your farm.

### Ground Preparation

Reminder to all who have tree plantings in 2021, please think about ground preparation and make time this early spring to get ready. Clumpy dirt or shallow tilled ground is not good ground prep. Good ground prep is soft dirt worked up 6-8 inches deep. For a guide on ground preparation go onto our website and look under Resources, or contact the office and we will get one to you.



### SCD Supervisors

Jay Hansen - Chairman  
Jeff Meyers - Vice Chairman  
Richard White Bear  
Mark Retterath  
Ed Hauf

### Upcoming Meeting Dates

February 11th 10:00am  
March 11th 10:00am  
April 8th 10:00am

Meetings are held at the USDA Service Center and are open to the public. Dates and times are subject to change. If you wish to attend meetings and need assistance please call and make arrangements.

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### Windbreak Fun Fact

Windbreaks can protect up to 10 times their height. This means the height of a 70 foot Ponderosa Pine tree row can protect up to 700 feet

## 2020 Annual Report

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All Board Members and Corey Attended Watershed Leadership Academy Level 2 training in Ward County.

Tom Gibson presented to Max and Garrison grades K-6th on his T.R.E.E.S Programs.

West McLean SCD had booth at Garrison's FFA Ag Show.

Annual Recognition Banquet held at Golf Course.

SCD Board held 9 Board Meetings.

Sheryl and Corey attended Annual Tree Promotional Meetings in Bismarck.

Worked with Fort Berthold Tribal Liaison.

54.1 Acres of grass seeded.

61,222 Linear feet trees planted.

62,756 Linear feet of fabric installed.

Held annual Tree Sale at tree shed.

Joint Meeting with West McLean SCD and South McLean SCD postponed till next year due to COVID.

Donald and Edith Bauman chosen as 2020 Achievement winners.

Corey was part of the Lewis and Clark Envirothon Committee.

Corey was voted in as North Dakota Conservation District Employee Association Board of Directors Vice President.

West McLean's Eco Ed Day postponed to later date due to COVID.

Annual Convention postponed but held Virtual meeting for board members.

Corey Attended Sakakawea Chapter of Pheasants Forever Monthly meetings.

Signed a work agreement with NRCS.

Reported monthly in D.A.R.T.

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## CRP Sign Up Season

The open sign up period for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General Signup is now open until February 12th. Farmers and Ranchers who enroll in CRP receive a yearly rental payment for establishing long term resource conserving plant species such as approved grasses or trees. These plants help to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat on marginally productive agricultural lands. These improvements also help to enhance hunting, fishing, recreation, tourism, and other economic benefits across rural America

### General Signup

CRP general signup will be held annually. The competitive general signup will now include increased opportunities for enrollment of wildlife habitat through the State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) initiative.

There will be a secondary sign up period for the Conservation Reserve Program Grasslands program running from March 15th to April 23rd. Participants retain the right to conduct common grazing practices, produce hay, mow or harvest for seed production (subject to certain restrictions during the nesting season of bird species that are significant. To qualify for this program the land must currently be planted with a grass cover.

If you think either of these programs would work for your farm feel free to give the office a call to get your application started.

## Wind Erosion in North Dakota

Wind erosion of topsoil resources weighs heavily on the minds of farmers. Topsoil is a non-renewable resource that contains organic matter and fertility that has been built naturally over thousands of years. It is the highest quality material of the entire soil profile, and it is in the best interest of everyone to protect topsoil from erosion.

Estimates of how much soil is lost in our region to wind erosion are, on average, 5 ton/ac/year. This may not seem like much, but over time, this can lead to significant losses of a minimum of 1 inch of topsoil in 20 years. North Dakota State University conducted a study evaluating topsoil depth recorded in the 1960s comparing it to topsoil depths recorded in 2014 from the exact same locations. In Walsh County, a total of 19 inches of topsoil was lost during the nearly 50 year time period.

Source: NDSU Extension

According to an analysis of yield data collected in a national cover crop survey, farmers can expect a 3% increase in their corn yield and a 4.9% increase in soybeans after five consecutive years of cover crop use. In the drought year of 2012, farmers reported even greater yield increases when they used cover crops: 9.6% in corn and 11.6% in soybeans.

Cover crops were planted on 15.4 million acres in 2017, a 50% increase over five years.

Eight states more than doubled their cover crop acreage from 2012 to 2017.

The number of farms planting cover crops increased 15.2% from 2012 to 2017.

## 10 Benefits of Cover Crops

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1. Cover crops feed many types of soil organisms
2. Cover crops increase the number of earthworms
3. Cover crops build soil carbon and soil organic matter
4. Cover crops contribute to better management of soil nutrients
5. Cover crops help keep the soil covered
6. Cover crops improve the biodiversity in farm fields
7. Cover crops aerate the soil and help rain go into the soil
8. Cover crops reduce soil compaction and improve the structure and strength of the soil
9. Cover crops make it easier to integrate livestock with field crops
10. Cover crops greatly reduce soil erosion and loss

## Pheasant Forever Cost Share Program

- \* 4 Row minimum with at least one row of Rocky Mountain Juniper or Eastern Red Cedar
- \* 15 Row designs for maximum winter weather protection
- \* Fewer row designs will be considered if adjacent to existing wildlife protection such as cattails, shelterbelts, trees, farmsteads or other plantings.
- \* Recommended trees 15 feet or less in height to mitigate avian predation.
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- \* No tree rows more than 16 feet apart
- \* No assistance for cabin sites or other residential developments, including landscaping.
- \* No cost-share on projects involving breaking up native prairie and commercial or fee hunting operations
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- \* Landowner retains all rights to regulate access and hunting on project areas.
- Landowner retains all rights to regulate access and hunting on project areas.
- \* Chapter would appreciate being able to put up a Pheasants Forever habitat project sign.
- \* All project funding is subject to Sakakawea Pheasants Forever chapter approval.

Each 1 percent increase in soil organic matter helps soil hold 20,000 gallons more water per acre.

### Staff

#### NRCS

Corey Bitner  
Soil Conservationist Technician

Megan Schwarz  
Soil Conservationist

Kristine Wilkens  
Farm Bill Specialist

Steve Kassian  
NRCS CDU Supervisor

Dave Hendrickson  
District Conservationist

#### SCD

Dan Gackle  
District Manager/Technician

Sheryl Krueger  
District Clerk

## Newsletter Sponsors

**Puklich Chevrolet, BHG Inc., RTC, Garrison Vet Service,  
Agassiz Seed and Supply, Jaeger Insurance Agency,  
Max Farmers Elevator, CHS-Garrison,  
Farmers Union Oil Co., Garrison State Bank & Trust,  
S&J Hardware, Sakakawea Chapter of Pheasants Forever,  
NAPA of Garrison, TriGen Ag Partners**

If you would like to be a sponsor for our newsletter, contact the office for more information

Contact Us at  
(701) 463-2851 Ext. 3

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140 5th Ave SW  
Garrison, ND 58540

[Westmcleanscd@restel.com](mailto:Westmcleanscd@restel.com)

Visit us on the web at  
[www.westmcleanscd.com](http://www.westmcleanscd.com)

Give us a like on Facebook  
West McLean Soil Conservation  
District

**NDSU**

EXTENSION

Contact your local agent, Calla Edwards, for any questions you have about your Farm or Garden needs. Call the office at 462-8541 or email Calla at [calandria.jarboe@ndsu.edu](mailto:calandria.jarboe@ndsu.edu)



For information about getting habitat established for pheasants or other wildlife, or to see how you can support your local chapter, give us a call or visit [pheasantsforever.org](http://pheasantsforever.org)

West McLean Soil Conservation District  
140 5th Ave SW  
Garrison, ND 58540  
Phone: 701-463-2851  
E-mail: westmcleanscd@restel.com

### Online Handplant Order Form

_____ Almond, Russian	_____ Cottonwood, Siouxland	_____ Pine, Ponderosa
_____ Apricot, Hardy	_____ Crabapple, Midwest	_____ Pine, Scotch
_____ Arnold Hawthorn	_____ Crabapple, Siberian	_____ Plum, American
_____ Ash, Cardan Green	_____ Currant, Golden	_____ Poplar, Hybrid
_____ Ash, Green	_____ Dogwood, Redosier	_____ Poplar, Northwest
_____ Buffaloberry	_____ Hackberry, Oahe	_____ Poplar, Robusta
_____ Buffaloberry, Sakakawea	_____ Juneberry	_____ Rose, Hanson Hedge
_____ Caragana	_____ Juniper, Rocky Mountain	_____ Rose, Wood
_____ Cedar, Eastern	_____ Lilac, Common	_____ Sea Buckthorn
_____ Cherry, Black	_____ Lilac, Villosa	_____ Spruce, Black Hills
_____ Cherry, Nanking	_____ Maple, Amur	_____ Spruce, Colorado Blue
_____ Cherry, Sand	_____ Maple, Silver	_____ Sumac
_____ Chokecherry	_____ Oak, Bur	_____ Walnut, Black
_____ Cotoneaster	_____ Olive, Russian	_____ Willow, Golden

Total Handplants: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$2.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

7% Sales Tax = \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

Please check if you are a  
farmer/rancher and are tax exempt: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out form and mail or e-mail to SCD along with payment.

*Thank you!*

Get your Handplant orders in early.

Dead line to order trees is MARCH 31st, but tree availability goes down the longer you wait. It is recommended to get orders in as soon as possible to ensure we can get the trees you want. West McLean SCD Staff will call around April/May 2020 with notice of tree ready for pick up.