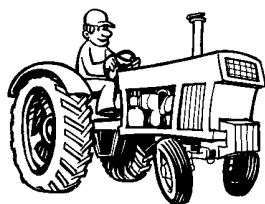


CROPPING SYSTEMS

Dale L. Siebert, Extension Agent



MANAGING WET AND SALT AFFECTED SOILS

Salt affected soils continue to be a problem in many areas of Richland County.

An educational meeting

was held in Colfax on March 10 to assist producers in managing this problem. Dr. David Hopkins, from the NDSU Soils Department, presented an overview of the extent of the problem; how the salt deposits are formed in the soil and some of the research that is being done at NDSU with corn varieties to find those varieties best suited for high salt concentration soils.

Dr. Bruce Seelig, Water Quality Specialist from the NDSU Extension Service, then talked about some of the remedial practices that can be done to deal with the problem. I followed up with a presentation on some of the practices currently being done, such as permanent CRP strips and tiling to alleviate the problem. The farmers in attendance said this was a very good program, that they learned that this was a far more complicated and complex problem than they realized.

TILING WORKSHOP

The second annual Tiling Workshop was held in Fairmount March 17. This workshop was planned with the assistance of Larry Luick, a local tiling contractor from Fairmount. Tiling continues to gain in popularity, especially in the Southeast corner of the county. Several years of

too much moisture, salt problems and high land values have made tiling attractive. Featured on the program this year were Hans Kandel, Extension Educator from Crookston, Minn. Kandel's talk focused on the economic considerations of tiling. Dr. Tom Scherer, Extension Agricultural Engineer from NDSU, gave a presentation on pumping outlet design. A panel of farmers and contractors was also on the program and they told of their experiences and answered questions about tiling. Forty-five people were in attendance at the workshop as we continue to see increased interest in this practice.

PESTICIDE CERTIFICATION

The 2005 Pesticide Certification season ended in March with the final two workshops in Wahpeton, March 1, and Hankinson on March 3. Over 200 private applicators were recertified in the general use category this season. Private Applicator certification is required to buy and apply restricted use by law. The NDSU Extension Service provides the training and certification programs.

CONFERENCES

During March I attended the Four State Cropping Systems Workshop held in Mandan, ND on March 22-23. This workshop brought Extension workers from Kansas, North and South Dakota and Nebraska together to discuss what each state is doing in Cropping Systems. It is always informative to know what your neighbors are doing and to gain programming ideas from them. On March 29-30, I attended the eastern North Dakota District Conference held in Grand Forks. Administrative issues, program updates and program planning were a part of this conference.

NUTRITION, FOOD SAFETY & HEALTH/4-H

Colleen M. Svingen
Extension Agent



GREEN DAY!

In March we hosted *Green Day* in the Extension Department! Harris Baily, County Auditor, started the *color day* ball rolling by hosting *Yellow Day* for the last two years. All county employees get to know and visit with other county employees. Thanks to Deb and Teri for all the planning and organizing!



WE'LL MISS TERI!

Unexpected news brought on another occasion for us to invite the other departments into our department. Teri's husband Greg, work transferred him to Devils Lake. We are already miss her humor and dimension she brought to our office. Thankfully she agreed to work Fridays until we have a replacement. We wish Teri and her growing family the very best in their new home at Devils Lake.



WALKING PROGRAM

Our walking program and our county employees' picture found its way to Ames, Iowa, when specialist Dr. Jane Edwards shared ND walking programs at a conference.

UPDATE

We were glad for the chance to give the commissioners a brief update in March. And, I am especially happy to learn that I will be updating my office furniture in the coming months. I have also appreciated that the commission has agreed to use a county car. This is great savings to our department, as well as a personal savings! It has allowed Public Health and I to share rides when we are working in the rural areas of the county and it makes it easier for us to invite 4-H leaders to travel with us to updates.

MPU TRAINING

NDSU Extension traditionally has two state-wide trainings per year. One conference in the spring and fall. This year it was decided that we would do a MPU (multi-county unit) spring training and area specialized training in lieu of the state-wide conference. We had our MPU training in Grand Forks in March and I will attend the specialized training in May at Bismarck. These conferences allow us the time to network with our peers and we are presented updates relevant to our work.



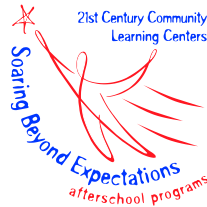
FNP

Pamela Leino-Mills,
Extension Agent

In March I conducted 29 classes, including the afterschool program, NDSCS, and CNS. I did a home visit with a couple near Hankinson and consulted with five families referred to me by Public Health and Social Services. The month has been busy, but very productive.

21st CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS

*Adrian Biewer, Extension Agent,
Project Director*



GOOD NEWS

March has not only brought nice weather but also good news for the afterschool program. We are eligible again this year to receive a continuation grant for the 2005-2006 school year. Our award will remain at \$215,000. Our fundraiser for Legos Robotics generated just over \$1000. We are going ahead with plans to place the program into all the sites in the fall. Pamida has given us \$500 for the Hometown Heroes Program for next year. We are looking forward to next fall already.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEK

The week of April 18 is our Appreciation Week for volunteers. We utilize volunteers in every site for a variety of activities. Without their efforts, our job would be much more difficult. I would like to extend a special thanks to the coaches on the basketball traveling teams at Hankinson and Fairmount. Jeff Stein and Kendall Church put in many hours to prepare the players for the tournaments. The parents much appreciate that someone will take time to accomplish this. The members of our Extension Advisory Committee have been a big help to us this past year. They have helped generate a plan to promote extension and to better meet the communities' needs.

CERTIFIED CHILDCARE

We are officially a certified childcare facility. The school offices have the certificates on display. In maintaining certification, our center has set the inservice and training dates as July 19 and 21. Our staff will be renewing CPR and education credits for the coming year.

Evaluation surveys have been delivered to the schools. Students, teachers, and parents complete surveys assessing program satisfaction and academic results for the past year. We are required to do this for North Dakota Department of Education as part of the terms of the 21st Century grant.

SUMMER PROGRAM

Our summer program has been downsized to only three events due to lack of funding. We will be holding the Walmart Fishing Derby on June 5 on Silver Lake near Rutland and Tewaukon Day on June 7 on the refuge. The Richland/Wilkin 4-H Activity Day in Wahpeton will be the third event in July.

March 2005

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