

**A LITTLE BIT COUNTRY
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NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE
WILLIAMS COUNTY**

Farms Recognized for Conservation

This past week the Williams County Soil Conservation District held its annual banquet to give special recognition to farm operators who do an outstanding job of protecting land and water resources.

Receiving the 2010 Conservation Achievement Award was Donna Mae Dragseth. Donna Mae and her family have continued the commitment Mervin, Donna Mae's husband, made many years ago to conserve soil and water resources. The family has established a beautiful farmstead surrounded by many trees. With the help of sons, Mike and Kelly, the Dragseths use a diversity of crops and water management practices which prevent soil erosion and improve the general health of the land.

Doug and Karen Christopherson were recognized for their outstanding efforts to maintain tree plantings around their farm located near Epping. David Schmidt, District Conservationist, made a special effort to tell those in attendance that the trees around the Christopherson farm are impeccably free of weeds and have made vigorous growth due to drip irrigation.

Congratulations to the Dragseths and Christophersons for the recognition of their hand work in protecting our environment.

Tree Windbreak Renovation

All farmers and ranchers understand the importance of trees which provide critical protection for farmsteads, livestock and even crops. Many of the tree windbreaks established in the 50's and 60's are losing their effectiveness due to age, poor health and maybe some neglect. There is some help to landowners who desire to renovate such tree plantings. This help is through the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) of

USDA. There are many renovation techniques available to improve the function of a windbreak. If you have one of those older plantings, I suggest contacting the local NRCS 701-571-6729 (Ext. 3) for more information. Cost share may be available to help with expense of renovation and replanting.

Tree Plantings for 2011

It's not too early to begin planning your 2011 tree planting. In order to plant trees in the spring of 2011, you need to contact the Williams County Soil Conservation District as soon as possible. This office will guide you in getting the ground prepared and determining the variety of trees that will have the best chance of surviving. The district office can also help with possible cost share assistance.

The Soil Conservation District can also provide, at a small cost, seedling trees to landowners who desire to plant trees by hand. Orders for hand-plant trees should be made before March 15.