

# Pierce County Soil Conservation District

Newsletter

January 2021

## New Soil Conservation District Employee

Hi, my name is Andrew Oksendahl. I was born and raised in Rugby, ND and am the new District Technician for the Pierce County Soil Conservation District. I have a farming and conservation background. I grew up near Rugby farming and ranching with my dad and grandpa and spend the majority of my free time hunting and fishing.

After obtaining an Associates of Science degree in Wildlife Management at Dakota College at Bottineau, I transferred to Valley City State University where I continued my education and graduated with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science. I will be running the tree planting crew in Pierce county and will be providing customers with services the district has to offer. As many landowners will see their new planting as wind protection for their farmstead or field, I know those plantings will also serve as a wildlife and habitat improvement for the future.



### FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

- February 9th
- March 9th
- April 13th
- May 11th

Meetings are at 8:30 a.m. and are held in the USDA conference room

### District Staff

Andrew Oksendahl  
-District Technician -  
126 2nd Ave. SW Ste. 104  
701-776-2207 Ext. 3

### SCD Board

#### Supervisors

James Teigen  
Joey Fritel  
Dan B Brossart  
Deb Hauser  
Dallas Hager

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**2021 Tree hand plant order forms are still available!**

# New faces in the NRCS Office

## Farm Bill Specialist



My name is Ethan Marburger and I'm the Farm Bill Specialist for Pierce and McHenry County. I began working for the North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Since then it's been a privilege to work with producers across these two counties.

Before defecting to North Dakota,

I was raised along the Mississippi River in the hill country of North Eastern Iowa. Living in Iowa I was fortunate to attend the best school in the Missouri Valley Conference, the University of Northern Iowa. There I studied Biology with an emphasis in Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Diversity. It was at UNI where I was able to participate in a summer research project that evaluated the success of the Conservation Reserve Program's CP42 Pollinator Habitat, helping me to prepare for my future position as a Farm Bill Specialist.

As a nature enthusiast, I have a love for the great outdoors. In my spare time I enjoy hiking, canoeing, wildlife watching, biking, hunting, and fishing. While in North Dakota, it's my goal to visit all the state parks and see the beauty that this state has to offer.

# New faces in the NRCS Office

## Rangeland Management Specialist

Greetings! My name is Yolanda Schmidt. I joined the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) on July 20, 2020 as the Rangeland Management Specialist serving Pierce and McHenry Counties. I am based out of the Rugby Service Center.

Originally from the Towner area, I grew up on a dairy turned beef operation. I attended North Dakota State University (NDSU) where I received my B.S. in Animal Science in 2002. After graduation, I spent six years in the dairy industry working as a dairy herdsman in North Dakota and South Dakota. While in South Dakota I also spent three years teaching animal science and dairy classes at Lake Area Technical Institute in Watertown, SD before moving back to North Dakota in 2013 to serve as the NDSU Extension Pierce County Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent. Prior to joining the NRCS, I spent 8 years as the NDSU Extension Pierce County ANR Agent. Working for the NRCS has been a lifelong goal and I am especially excited to continue working with area agriculture producers in my new role with the NRCS.



I live southeast of Towner where I enjoy spending time in my yard with my Golden Retriever, Bentley, and cat, Max. I am currently pursuing a master's degree in Extension Education with an emphasis in Horticulture and expect to graduate in the Fall of 2021.

When I am not studying, I enjoy gardening, yardwork, taking scenic drives, reading, putting together puzzles and playing board games with friends and family.



This article is published every so often in the newsletter. It will remain in the newsletter each quarter, it is  
**THAT IMPORTANT TO MANAGE YOUR TREE FABRIC**

# TREE FABRIC MANAGEMENT

## WEED BARRIER IS AN AID..... NOT A CURE ALL

Weed Barrier is an excellent option to aid in the control of weeds around new tree plantings for a successful growth. It saves time and money and if you are considering a new tree planting, I highly suggest considering having it installed.

### HOWEVER THE FABRIC MUST BE REMOVED/CUT BACK AS THE TREE GROWS

It is recommend inspecting your fabric once a year after snowmelt and before tree growth. Every 5 years you should create relief cuts with a box cutter on two or four sides of the tree trunk as needed. Care should be taken so as not to damage the tree. If the tree becomes girdled by the fabric (or other tree roots) and doesn't have room to grow the tree will suffer limited growth and may die altogether. A tree that becomes stressed due to girdling can grow around the fabric edge. This creates instability/weakness in the trunk and can result in premature death from winds and imbalanced weight.

As were are out and around the country side we have been trying to keep our eyes out for these tree plantings and stopping in to mention this, please spread the word! Call the Pierce County SCD if you have any questions regarding this.

**If you have had trees planted with fabric five or more years ago and haven't taken a look, it may be a good time to check them this year and cut slits as needed.**



# TREE OF THE QUARTER

## Scotch Pine

**Related Species:** Ponderosa Pine, Jack Pine, Swiss Mountain Pine.

**Urban/Recreational:** Scotch pine has grown with popularity in North Dakota because of its fast growing rate of 1-3 feet a year and it's ability to grow at that rate is just what landowners are looking for in their windbreak protection. It is used in many shelterbelt and farmstead tree planting establishments.

**Crown Height:** 25 to 50 feet

**Crown Width:** 20 to 35 feet

**Description :** A medium to large tree. Pyramidal when young, becoming more rounded and open with age. Orange-brown peeling bark.

**Wildlife:** Provides nesting sites and wintering cover.

**Distribution:** Scotch Pine is the worlds most widespread conifer being found in Europe, Asia, Canada and the United States.





# Scotch Pine continued....

## (*Pinus sylvestris*)

### General Description

A medium to large tree, typically pyramidal when young, becoming more rounded and open with age.

Orange- brown peeling bark. Bark is relished by porcupines, which can cause extensive damage.

The largest tree in North Dakota is 46 feet tall with a canopy spread of 34½ feet.

### Leaves and Buds

Bud Arrangement - Buds are in whorls. Bud Color - Brown and resin coated.

Bud Size - Oblong-ovate, 1 / 4 to 1 / 2 inch long, and pointed.

Leaf Type and Shape - Two needles per fascicle, usually twisted.

Leaf Margins - Edges are minutely toothed. Leaf Surface - Semi-rough.

Leaf Length - Needles 1½ to 3½ inches long, and persist for 3 years.

Leaf Width - Narrow needles. Leaf Color - Medium green.



### Flowers and Fruits

Flower Type - Monoecious, separate male and female strobili that develop into cones.

Flower Color - Female strobili are purple; male strobili are reddish-tan.

Fruit Type - Cone with diamond-shaped scales, 1½ to 2½ inches long, two winged seeds per cone scale.

Fruit Color - Dull gray-brown cones, brownish-gray seeds.

### Form

Growth Habit - Pyramidal when young, branches thin and form becomes flat to round-topped with age.

Texture - Medium-coarse, summer and winter. Crown Height - 25 to 50 feet.

Crown Width - 20 to 35 feet.

Bark Color - Flaky, peeling, orange-brown in upper two- thirds of mature tree. Thick, grayish or reddish, fissured at base of tree.

Root System - Shallow rooted, but forms a tap root on dry sites.

### Environmental Requirements

### Soils

Soil Texture - Prefers moist, well-drained soils, but will tolerate drier sites.

Soil pH - 5.0 to 7.5.

Windbreak Suitability Group - 1, 3, 4, 5, 6D, 6G.

## Cold Hardiness

USDA Zone 3.

## Water

Does not tolerate flooding. Not very drought resistant, but requires a well-drained site.

## Light

Full sun.

## Uses

## Conservation/Windbreaks

Medium to tall evergreen for farmstead or field windbreaks.

## Wildlife

Provides nesting sites and winter cover.

## Agroforestry Products

Wood - Not used for dimension lumber. Extensively planted for Christmas trees.

Food - *Pinus* species are a source of pyrone, a sugar substitute.

Medicinal - *Pinus* species are used to treat bronchitis, skin diseases, wounds, and as a source of pinosylvinean, an antibiotic.

## Urban/Recreational

Ornamental landscape tree for homes and public grounds. Orange, peeling bark provides visual accents.

## Cultivated Varieties

Russian and Northern European seed sources are hardiest.

Waterer Scotch Pine (*Pinus sylvestris* "Watereri") - Dense-growing, bluish-green selection. Handsome landscape plant.

## Related Species

Jack Pine (*Pinus banksiana*) Ponderosa Pine (*P. ponderosa*)

Swiss Mountain Pine (*P. uncinata*) - A tree form of Mugo Pine which merits landscape use in the Northern Plains.

## Pests

Common diseases include Cyclaneusma needle cast. Western gall rust and Lophodermium needle cast are locally common. Common insect pests include tip moth, sawfly, pine needle scale, and giant conifer aphid.

# News from Pheasants Forever

Hello! My name is Joey Rasco. I am the new Precision Ag & Conservation Specialist with Pheasants Forever based out of Minot, ND. I cover the northwest and north central areas of the State. I started with Pheasants Forever at the end of November and am excited to be here. I am originally from Missouri and hold a degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Management from the University of Missouri. Right out of college I worked for the Missouri Department of Conservation, but prior to accepting my role with Pheasants Forever had been working in agronomy sales for a little over 2.5 years.



My aim is to work alongside farmers utilizing current technology and provide you the tools to make management decisions based on profitability and return on investment. In other words, I can help identify those acres that are losing money and present you with a suite of options to help improve your return on investment, soil and water quality, and create wildlife habitat. “Turning Red Acres, Green.”, as we like to call it here at Pheasants Forever.

Something that I have become familiar with in my short time here in North Dakota is salt impacted soils. It is something many farmers struggle with across the State. Areas impacted by salinity are typically unprofitable, reduce the average yield of your field, and if left untreated can impact more acres in your operation. One way to help combat salt impacts and begin restoring your soil is through the use of perennial grasses and cover crops. Using salt tolerant species and keeping the soil surface covered will aid in removing excess water in the soil through transpiration (through the plant) instead of evaporation from the soil surface. To put it simply, in doing this, the concentration of salts in the rooting zone should recede, and at minimum stop these areas from spreading.



# News from Pheasants Forever

A program Pheasants Forever has available for this area that specifically targets saline soils is the North Central Soil Health & Habitat Program. It is a flexible, short term program that offers up to 60% cost share on cover crops and perennial grass mixes. If you are interested in decreasing inputs, rehabilitating salt impacted areas, reducing soil erosion, and creating wildlife habitat, this could be a great program for you!

The goal for us here at Pheasants Forever is to help farmers and landowners find the right program that fits their needs and their operation. By using precision data, calculating ROI, and being able to present several alternative scenarios, it allows the grower the confidence to make the best decision for their operation and have the numbers to back it up. I want to help you get the most out of every acre.

Planting season will be here before you know it and now is the time to put together a plan for 2021. If you are interested in learning more about the North Central Soil Health & Habitat Program or other options that Pheasants Forever can assist you with, I would be more than happy to chat. My contact information is listed below or you can reach out to your local NRCS office. One of my favorite quotes is “If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail –Benjamin Franklin”. Here’s to planning on a successful 2021!

Joey Rasco

Cell: (636) 295-1398

Email: [jrasco@pheasantsforever.org](mailto:jrasco@pheasantsforever.org)

Twitter: @Joey\_Rasco

<https://pheasantsforever.org/Conservation/Precision-Agriculture.aspx>



# ND PHEASANTS FOREVER

## North Central Soil Health & Habitat Program



### THE PROBLEM

Salt-impacted soils (excess levels of salts in the soil solution) are an increasing concern for North Dakota farmers, with an estimated 5.8 million acres affected in the state. The salts limit a crop's ability to take up water resulting in symptoms similar to drought-stress. This not only reduces yields, but in many cases, leaves barren areas in fields that are susceptible to soil erosion.

### THE PROGRAM

The North Central Soil Health and Habitat Program seeks to address salinity issues impacting soil health in Benson, Bottineau, Burke, McHenry, Mountrail, Pierce, Renville, Rolette, and Ward counties through cost-sharing seed for cover crop and grass mixes. Growing green in these areas allows water to move through a plant and transpire without raising salts to the surface, reducing inputs on those acres while lowering salt levels and providing wildlife habitat.





## PROGRAM DETAILS

- 60% cost-share on cover crop and grass mixes
- Customized seed mixes provided by Pheasants Forever staff
- Flexible short-term contracts
- Haying or grazing permitted outside of the primary nesting season (April 15-August 1)

## BENEFITS



Decrease Input  
Costs

Rehabilitate Salt-  
Impacted Areas



Reduce Soil  
Erosion

Create Wildlife  
Habitat



## PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions or interested in learning more about the North Central Soil Health and Habitat Program? Contact Joey Rasco with Pheasants Forever at [jrasco@pheasantsforever.org](mailto:jrasco@pheasantsforever.org) or (636) 295-1398







**Pierce County SCD**  
 126 2nd Ave. SW Ste. 104  
 Rugby, ND 58368  
 701-776-2207 ext. 3

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

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

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

[www.piercecountyscd.org](http://www.piercecountyscd.org)

**DEADLINE to order trees is January 5th, 2021**

Deciduous Trees	# of singles	# of bundles	Deciduous Trees	# of singles	# of bundles
Almond, Russian			Hackberry, Northern		
Apricot, Hardy			Hackberry, Northern 2-3'		
Apricot, Hardy 3+'			Hackberry, Prairie Harvest		
Ash, Green			Hawthorn		
Ash, Green 5-6'			Hazelnutt		
Ash, Mountain			Honeysuckle, Arnold's Red		
Aspen, Quaking			Honeysuckle, Freedom		
Boxelder			Honeysuckle, Tatarian		
Boxelder 2-3'			Forsythia, Meadowlark		
Buckeye, Ohio**			Indigo, False		
Buffaloberry			Juneberry		
Caragana			Lilac, Common		
Caragana 4-5'			Lilac, Common 3+'		
Cherry, Black			Lilac, Pekin		
Cherry, Nanking			Lilac, Japanese Tree		
Cherry, Nanking 3'			Lilac, Vilosa (late)		
Cherry, Pin			Lilac, Vilosa 2-3'		
Cherry, Pin 3+			Lilac, White		
Cherry, Sand			Linden, American**		
Cherry, Mongolian			Linden, Little Leaf**		
Chokecherry, Common			Maple, Amur		
Chokecherry, Common 2-3'			Maple, Freeman		
Chokecherry, Amur			Maple, Freeman 3+		
Chokecherry, Shubert			Maple, Red		
Chokecherry, Shubert 3-4'			Maple, Silver		
Chokeberry, Black			Maple, Silver 3-4'		
Cotoneaster, Pekin			Maple, Sugar		
Cottonwood, Siouxland			Nannyberry, Verbatum		
Cottonwood, Siouxland 3+'			Ninebark, Common		
Cottonwood, Native 4-5'			Oak, Bur		
Cottonwood, Native			Oak, Bur 5-6'		
Cottonwood, Silver			Oak, Red		
Cottonwood, Silver 3+'			Oak, Red 2-3'		
Crabapple, Dolgo			Oak, Red 3-4'		
Crabapple, Midwest			Oak, Swamp White		
Crabapple, Siberian			Olive, Russian		
Crabapple, red Splendor			Pear, McDermant		
Cranberry, Highbush			Pear, McDermant 2-3'		
Currant, Golden			Plum, American		
Currant, Black			Plum, American 2-3'		
Dogwood, Gray			Poplar, Prairie Sky		
Dogwood, Redosier			Poplar, Hybrid		
Dogwood, Silky			Poplar, Hybrid 5-6'		
Gooseberry			Rose, Hansen Hedge		
Hackberry, Oahe**			Rose, Woods		

\*\* Good alternative for Green Ash

Deciduous Trees	# of singles	# of bundles		Coniferous Trees	# of singles	# of bundles
Seaberry/Sea Buckthorn				Eastern Red Cedar		
Silverberry				Rocky Mountain Juniper		
Sumac, Smooth				Ponderosa Pine		
Sumac, Bighorn				Scotch Pine		
Walnut, Black				Black Hills Spruce		
Walnut, Black 3-4'				Black Hills Spruce 16-24"		
Willow, Golden				Colorado Blue Spruce		
Willow, Golden 3-4'				Colorado Blue Spruce 16-24		
Willow, Laurel Leaf				Container BHS		
Willow, Sandbar				Container CBS		
				Meyer Spruce		
				Siberian Larch		
				European Larch		
				Douglas Fir		
				Jack Pine		
				Lodgepole Pine		

Other Items	Price	#Ordered	Amt. Due		Price	#Ordered	Amount Due
Staples - Singles	\$0.10			Single Trees	\$1.50		
Staples - Box of 500	\$45.00			Bundled Trees (25)	\$30.00		
Plantskydd, 1 lb shaker*	\$14.95			Tall Stock Trees	\$5.00		
Plantskydd, 1 qt. spray *	\$21.95			<div> <div> Taxable: Nontax: </div> <div> Subtotal: </div> <div> Sales tax 7%: (No tax on trees) </div> <div> Total Amount Due: </div> <div> 100% of Payment is due when trees are picked up </div> </div>			
Plantskydd, 1 lb. box*	\$29.95						
Plantskydd 3.5lb shaker*	\$26.70						
Plantskydd 8 lb shaker*	\$49.95						
Tree protector 4-5'	\$5.00						
Tree protector 2' (half)	\$2.50						
Fabric barrier by the foot	\$0.30						
Fabric Rolls (6'x500')	\$100.00						
Tree Mat 6'x6'/8 Staples	\$4.00			<div> For office use only </div> <div> Amount Paid </div> <div> Check# </div> <div> Date: </div>			
Tree Mat 3'x3'/5 Staples	\$3.00						
Water Saver Kit*	\$26.75						
Critter Ramps	\$65.00						
<div> <div>Signature</div> <div>Date</div> </div>							

**\* Only Items marked with an asterisk will be taxed**

# 2021 DISTRICT SERVICES AVAILABLE

(Prices subject to change)

**Tree planting**                      \$ 30.00 per 100 linear feet  
\$ 200.00 minimum charge  
(Conventional planter for tilled or no-till sites)

**Hand plants**      Bare Root stock              \$1.50 per tree (\$1.50/tree at tree sale)  
25 Count Bundle              \$30.00/per bundle/same species

**Fabric Weed Barrier**                      \$ 55.00 per 100 linear feet  
\$ 250.00 minimum charge  
\$ 100.00 per 6' roll  
*A six-foot wide strip of synthetic barrier applied after the trees are planted*  
\$0.30 per foot (6' wide)

**Tree Tube Protectors**                      \$ 5.00 each (4'-6' protector) (+ tax)  
\$ 2.50 each (2' protector) (+ tax)

**Tree Mats**                      (available upon request)                      \$ 4.00 ea. (6' x 6' / 8 staples)

**Tree Spade (moving trees)**      (Plus \$4.00 / loaded mile) \$ 55.00 each /move 1-5 tree  
\$ 50.00 each / 6-10 trees  
\$ 45.00 each / 11 or more

**Plantskydd Deer/Rodent Repellant**                      1 lb. Soluble Powder Concentrate \$29.95  
(+ TAX)      1 Qt Pre-mixed Spray              \$21.95  
1lb Shaker              \$14.95  
3.5 lb. Shaker              \$26.70  
8 lb. Shaker              \$49.95

Water saver kit                      \$26.75

**Fabric Staples**                      \$0.10/Staple or \$45.00/box of 500(+tax)

**Stock Tank Critter Ramp**                      \$65.00 each



# Plantskydd

## Animal repellent

**Plantskydd** is a repellent available to you from us to help protect your tree planting. Available as a granular, pre-mixed spray or concentrated powder form, Plantskydd can be applied on and around your tree plantings to deter animals such as deer, rabbits and mice before they start becoming a problem. Once applied, Plantskydd can last up to six months in the summer and 3 months in the winter. It is a good alternative to using fences and tree protectors. Plantskydd is listed on our hand plant order form and can be purchased at Rugby's NRSC/SCD office located in Hartley's Mall. 126 2nd Ave. SW Suite 104 or call 701-776-2207 ext. 3. Prices are listed on the previous page.

### Environment Friendly. 100% natural

- Non-toxic
- No synthetic additives
- Not harmful to humans
- Rainfast in 24 hours.

