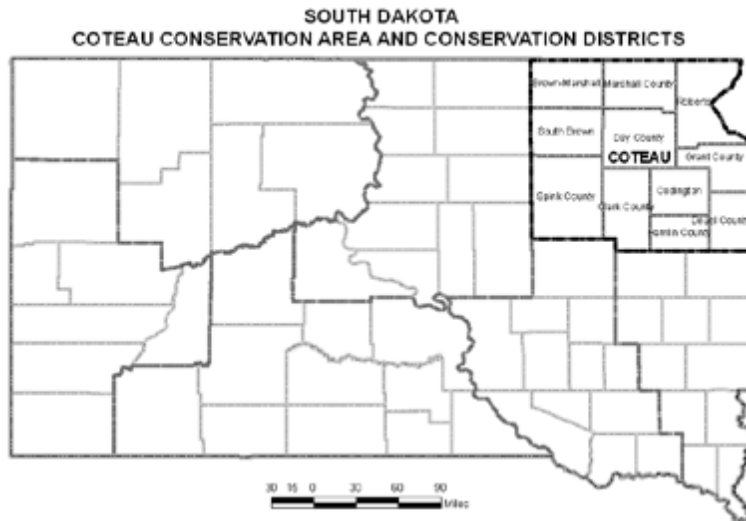


# 2021 Contour Lines



[Coteau Area](#)  
[Director Jean Fagerland](#)  
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## **BROWN-MARSHALL CONSERVATION DISTRICT** **Judy Skoglund, District Manager**

BMCD saw a few changes again in 2021! In November, I returned as the Temporary District Manager. BMCD and SBCD are in the process of a merger of the two Districts into just one Brown County CD. Our proposals will be considered by the Conservation Commission and then if approved will be on the General Election Ballot in November of 2022. As of now, I am hanging around to help BMCD with this process/transition. Treeplanting this spring was on target and nice to not have to work around so much rain up here. Although as the season progressed, we could have used a shower or too! Thanks to the diligent watering by most of our producers though, our trees did very well considering the heat!! We planted 27 acres of trees, along with fabric and tube installation on many species. Our season went very smoothly thanks to a good crew! My crew consisted of 3 new employees who caught on quickly and kept things running smoothly in the field. So smoothly, that they even helped out a couple of neighboring Districts! Handplant sales were up, with very little excess inventory to clear out on clean up day! There were 12 producers who received a funding reimbursement from James River Water Development District for costs incurred. We are so lucky to be able to have this available for them!

We participate in a Multi-District Grant that offers cost share for Treeplanting, Renovations, Water supply options, etc. We had 4 individuals apply for funding for dugout cleanouts this summer.

Rental acres for our John Deere drill were up a little this spring, and has been out a couple of times this fall.

Some of our educational activities include: Northern Prairie Water Festival, (cancelled this year) Arbor Day Essay Contest, the SBCD local Speech Contest, Area Speech Contest, and Marshall County Eco Ed Day. Also helped out at the South Brown booth at the Brown County Fair located in Aberdeen. We also have a bi-annual Newsletter that is co-published with SBCD.

After a hot, dry summer, Mother Nature has blessed us with abundant moisture now! Hoping this helped the trees as they went into dormancy, and opened up the options for plantings next spring!

## **CLARK COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Lisa Paulson, District Manager**

2021 proved to be an interesting year here at Clark County, or should I state an interesting year for me. Mike Meester took a position with NRCS but remains in the Clark office, so we were without a field technician. After a few interviews we decided to hire an individual, who decided that it was not the job for him. This happened just before tree season started, so we pulled our bootstraps up and I went to work in the field with the help of my supervisor, Darin Lewis. We started planting trees along with Grayson Florey a return college employee. Grayson turned out to be super help, acting as foremen of the crew of 5 high school students.

Tree planting started on May 10<sup>th</sup> and was complete on May 19<sup>th</sup> on 18 sites for a total of 23.57 acres. The tree crew also hand-planted 609 trees on 5 sites. Our crew installed 53,239 feet of fabric on 14 sites. Our crew members were great workers, alternating every position learning how to do every job both tree planting and fabric installation. Each of us learned to appreciate each other's positions and worked well together.

Reed McGraw, newly retired farmer, was hired to seed grass for the District, he has seeded 1052 acres both spring and fall seedings. He will continue to plant the dormant seedings. The district continues to sell seed as a dealer through Millborn seed.

New to the district this year we started a Tree Watering service. Because of the early hot temperatures, this proved to be a valuable service. We mounted a water tank on our 6x6 ranger, filled a 300-gallon water tank mounted on a trailer, loaded the ranger with tank and moved to each site. This kept Grayson hired throughout the summer. He watered consistently for 5 producers.

Clark County Conservation District continues to work with our local towns implementing our Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan. The town of Bradley started a project giving gift certificates purchased through the District and distributed them giving a free tree to each resident. This is a great way for this small community to replace those ash trees that will be infected by the Emerald Ash Borer that will have to be taken down.

The district continues to support our area 4-H program, Big Sioux Water Festival and Karst Memorial Scholarship, NESD Land and Range Judging Contest, Arbor Day essay and Poster Contest. Materials were printed and distributed to our area churches for Stewardship week, most of those used the liturgy in their message. Our Demonstration plot still exists outside our office.

Clark, Spink, Brown and Day counties hosted a workshop for "Opportunities for Saline Cropland" held 6 miles north of Groton on July 28<sup>th</sup>. Many producers took part in the classroom and field demonstration. The Districts were responsible for advertising, promoting in our newsletters, social media, and served lunch.

The Clark District continues to publish our County Newsletter and use social media through Facebook and our e-mail mailings to distribute the newsletter and publish tree sale ads.

This continues to be very successful.

So, after working for the district 3 years, I still feel like I am a new employee learning each year. 2021 was a interesting but good year for our District.

## **CODINGTON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Deanne Kunkel, District Manager**

Well, I made it through my first year as District Manager and am still standing!

Since, this was my first year on the job with no one else in the office I learned by jumping in and hoping I wouldn't sink. I feel that is went pretty darn good. I did miss a few things (like the Contour Lines Report 2020) and maybe were late on a few things but did the best I could and have a much better idea of what is expected of me. I will be much better prepared for next year.

We started planting on May 4th and finished on June 1<sup>st</sup> due to a rain delay. We did get all the CRP trees in by the NRCS deadline. We planted 30.27 acres of trees. The tree crew consisted of my tractor driver (a retired farmer), a tree planter (good friend of mine), and a walker. We did have a mom and son team help when it worked for their schedule. The only seasoned person was the tree walker. Everyone else was "green" but we worked well together and made it through.

We started fabric on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and finished June 23<sup>rd</sup>, applying 10.78 miles of fabric for 20 producers. The fabric crew consisted of two kids from last year and help from Hamlin Counties fabric crew when they were not working for Peggy. We sold 4601 in hand plants and perennial stock; sold and installed 158 tree tubes and stakes and figured out how to do the end of season sale which went well also.

After the tree season ended, I was able to convince my tree planter to join me in the office. This has been a great help. Delores Peterson works part-time and helps me out with lots of projects.

We did go out and do our survival check and we were a bit disappointed. We were quite surprised about the complacency of some of our producers in caring for their tree sites. We did a good job planting the trees and they looked good when we left but, when we came back to count, we were very disappointed at the lack of weed maintenance there was.

Our drill operators Brian and Dave planted 97.35 acres of CRP, and 133.1 acres of non-CRP seed this spring with the Great Plains Drill. We also have a JD no-till drill that was rented for 453 acres.

We had a table during AG Day sponsored by Runnings in February. We got to meet people and get the tree order form handed out.

I have been participating in the Upper Big Sioux Watershed District monthly meetings. I attended my first Coteau Area meeting in Sisseton and then attended my first SDACDE conference and was so happy to meet many helpful District Managers from around the state. I also attended the SDACD convention which was a great learning experience as well.

We were planning on attending the Big Sioux Water Festival, but it was cancelled due to COVID. We are planning on attending the Legislative Dinner and the Coteau Area District this fall.

## **DAY COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Josh Wagner, District Manager**

*No Report*

## **DEUEL COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Carrie Wetz, District Manager**

*No Report*

## **GRANT COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Amy Sis , District Manager**

*No Report*

## **HAMLIN CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Peggy Loomis, District Manager**

We are continuing to work through another year with the Covid pandemic. The district office has moved from my house, to the NRCS office, and back to my house. Covid case numbers continued to climb this fall, and were high in our county. As a result, the number of employees allowed in the NRCS office fluctuated back down. The easiest answer for all involved, was for the District employee to move. Even though I am at an offsite location, I continue to plan tree sites, sell products and give technical assistance. The hope is that I am back in the office before years end.

Our crew planted 34 acres of trees, and applied 11 miles of fabric. This years' tree and fabric crew consisted of two tractor drivers, one field man, two Technical School Students, and five high school students. (This was the first year of eleven that I did not work in the field). I increased wages and hired every person who applied, with the idea that some will come back next spring. Some only worked twice a week, but all seemed happy with the schedule. We sold \$29,000 in hand plants and perennial pots. Tree tube sales were up this year.

To date: our two land rollers were rented by thirty one producers to cover 8,700 acres. We have two John Deere No Till Drills that were rented for 1,100 acres to plant alfalfa, grasses, cover crops, and beans. The Great Plains drill was used to plant grasses and various crops on 360 acres for 16 producers. We just listed one of our JD No Till Drills for sale, realizing that we don't utilize three drills as much as we would like to. As the warm weather continues (Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>), we will continue to rent the drills for dormant seedings. All equipment is stored in buildings throughout the winter.

The grazing management projects have increased due to the drought conditions this year. We sold 45,700 feet of pasture pipe, which is a record high for us. Many times the pipe was backordered due to the delayed shipments off the west coast.

We continue to mow approximately 14 acres, four times a season and have utilized our rototiller this year. It is a great asset for site prep.

Our district continues to be involved in the Arbor Day Essay contest in three of our area schools. We are typically involved in the Big Sioux Water Festival and the SDWF Conservation Camp, however, those were both cancelled due to the pandemic. Our district offers two scholarships to high school students continuing their education into a conservation or agricultural field. We are hosts of the Coteau Area Legislative Supper each fall, along with the ten other Coteau Area Districts. Looking for avenues of outreach is always a topic of discussion. Along with participation at the State Fair, we will be hosting booths at the Watertown Crop Expo in January, the Soil Health Coalition Seminar, and the Watertown Winter Farm show in February.

The 2021 Contribution Agreement with NRCS to aid in CSP and CRP work; along with the agreement between NRCS and the SDACDE has kept us busy with administrative work and are great additions to our annual income. We currently have a Tree Planting grant, which is to expire on 6/30/2021; and we are applying for another this fall. Hamlin District administers the SDACDE and NRCS Contribution Agreement, the SDACDE Outreach Grant, and will administer the Hamlin and Codington Tree/Water Project grant.

Our Coteau area districts continue to hold training sessions to help each other keep up with the office duties; reports and responsibilities. We share our office procedures and learn new options along with way.

Our district newsletter is sent out twice yearly. The district has a website and is continually active on a Facebook page.

As the winter season is fast approaching, tree sites are being planned and field visits are on the calendar!

## **MARSHALL CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Jean Fagerland, District Manager**

2021 ---the year of trying to find "normal"! Marshall County planted 63 acres of trees and shrubs. Our fabric crew laid 120,056 ft. of fabric! We were pleased with the survival checks this fall even though we have been so extremely dry. The District sold 45,628 hand-plants consisting of several fruit trees, which brings in income over \$45,000 for our district. Every year our hand-plant sales have been increasing so we are trying to find the best way to meet our community's requests. Cost-share opportunities used by our producers are CRP, EQIP, JRWDD and the multi-county Tree & Renovation Project grant. Several producers are planning on tree plantings next year, mainly due to CRP being offered again for cost share. We are grateful to James River Water Development District who has also contributed funding for additional cost share to producers for tree plantings in Marshall County. We were again given the opportunity to help with several products for CRP, CTA, EQIP, and CSP through our Cooperative Agreement with NRCS. These agreements have been a positive financial benefit for our District. Especially with NRCS staff being limited in the offices due to COVID restrictions, the District has been able to assist producers with their program questions, signatures, maps, and conservation plans.

Our Great Plains grass drill is rented by the producer, with the district providing a technician to set it and oversee drill care. It has been used to seed approximately 554 acres with app. 85 acres planned for dormant seeding.

Marshall County is the facilitator of a Multi-Purpose/Multi-County Commission Grant. It is for dugout cleanouts, solar water systems, pipeline, tanks, tree renovations, tree plantings & soil health promotions. South-Brown, Brown-Marshall and Day county participate with us in this two-year grant. This grant will expire the end of December, and the list for producers that need help with their livestock pasture water is extensive! So, we will be writing another grant for the coming year.

The District's educational and promotional activities include helping with the Northern Prairie Water Festival for 4th grades and the Arbor Day presentations for 3rd graders in our counties' schools. The water festival was canceled due to COVID, but we still could be in the schools for Arbor Day. We had an Arbor Day presentation in each classroom and then went out in their communities to plant a tall tree for their class. The students were each given a small Freeman Maple to bring home to plant. Our Eco Ed day at Fort Sisseton was held for 62 junior high students from Marshall County. Sessions on Forestry, Water Quality, Wetlands, Rangeland, and Soils were presented all around the Fort. Reaching the next generation with soil health and the need to keep our natural resources healthy is so vital for our state's conservation! At noon, the rainfall simulator was presented by NRCS for the students and area producers. The Arbor Day Essays for 5th and 6th graders in our county brought in 37 essays! For the first time in years, our county did not have a speech contestant. The District helps with the Land and Range Judging Contest for area High School students in the fall. We develop two newsletters a year, which we distribute to over 900 owners and producers by mail or email. The District also helps to sponsor 4-H awards,

SDSU's Ag Day, Legislative Banquet and the Karst Memorial Scholarship funds. COVID interrupted our perennial presentation from Big Sioux Nursery, as the Britton Expo was cancelled. We are hoping to have it next year.

Facebook continues to be a tool to reach the public with soil health awareness and updates on the District's projects. The district as well as the North East Glacial Lakes project has websites available. They are: <http://marshallcd.org> and <http://neglwatersheds.org>. The Northeast Glacial Lakes Project in Day, Marshall, Deuel, Grant, and Roberts counties continue to work with producers throughout the watersheds to cost share riparian plantings, filter strips, CRP seeding, pasture renovations, and several other projects. With several new district managers in our area, the Coteau area organized a tour of each county's tree shed, drills, equipment, and working facilities. It was a wonderful teaching and learning experience for old and new!

Assisting producers and promoting conservation in a stressed agricultural time will be the on-going challenge for 2022. Looking for ways the Conservation Districts will be able to help our family farms and rural communities will be our focus.

## **ROBERTS CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

### **Kristin Pester (District Manager)**

We were so thankful we scheduled an early pickup with Big Sioux Nursery, and were therefore able to plant as early as May 4<sup>th</sup> and finished with fabric on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Our small crew of 3 made it work, thanks to one drill operator jumping in to drive tractor, and my husband being recruited. Our NRCS team also jumped in on a large CRP planting and help staple fabric on another tree site. Overall, we planted 7.1 acres of trees and 14,320 ft of fabric. Besides trees and fabric, we also well tree tubes, fabric staples, and fabric by the ft or roll. Our tree survival checks this fall have been promising so far, considering how dry our spring and summer were. Handplant sales were up considerably from 2020. This year we sold \$37,946.61 in handplants. The use of Facebook really helped us push tree sales. We had to be creative due to another year of COVID.

Fall seeding was cut short by wet, dreary weather. Roughly a third or 384.79 acres were planted and 293 acres were planted in the spring, and we sold almost 800 acres of seed alone in 2021.

We are forever thankful for our NRCS Cooperative Agreement, DU Agreement, and our SDACD Agreement. Without these financial funds, our District would not be as strong as we are. These agreements keep us interactive with our landowners and continue to get our name out there for additional business. We are proud to partner with DU to provide technical assistance for soil health sampling for baseline on-site date of soil health projects and practices with the Upper Minnesota River Basin as a priority.

Our District participated in as many outreach and educational events as we could. We listened in on several windbreak trainings, held Arbor Day presentations for 4<sup>th</sup> graders in our county schools and promoted and submitted Arbor Day Essay's. We had several consulting projects around Sisseton. We consulted with the Kiwanis Club regarding Emerald Ash Borer and worked with them to organize a tree inventory of the city. The Sisseton Arts Council reached out for our expertise for the new sculpture park. We designed and planted native grasses and flowers around 1 completed sculpture, as well as both roundabouts in Sisseton, and a patch at the Nicollet Tower. Once the second sculpture is completed, we will plant around it with natives as well. We were also tasked to seed native pollinators on the grounds at Nicollet Tower. Hopefully this planting will really take

off in a year or two. We are now working with the City and other entities on a new walkway in the Cedar Park region of Sisseton. More information to come later.

The largest project we participated in this year (and the tail end of 2020) was becoming the primary lead for the Northeast South Dakota Glacial Lakes Project which is a Regional Conservation Partnership Program Team (RCPP). We were awarded a little more than \$2.4 mill to be used within a 5-year plan. Our goal includes maintaining healthy watersheds by lowering waterbodies from nutrient, sediment, and fecal coliform bacteria entering those waterbodies. The RCPP is a multi-county project with Roberts, Marshall, Day, and Grant County Conservation District, for a total of 8 organizations. Cost-share is available to landowners and producers within the watershed for implementing water quality conservation practices. A batching date will be decided the beginning of 2022.

Summer of 2021 allowed us to participate in a parade in Sisseton. We decorated our work truck as well as one of our tractors from Farmers Implement & Irrigation. Thanks to our tech Carrie Ewalt's in-laws for driving, and my sister and daughter for throwing out candy! Carrie and I ran/walked along and handed out ice cold popsicles. A 5<sup>th</sup> grade Sisseton Middle School teacher (might add that she's my sister) asked us to give presentations to her 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Sica Hollow. We helped the kids sponge paint leave with fall colors and taught them the differences between conifers and deciduous trees, and why the leaves change color. What a fun event! Hopefully we can do it again next year. This gives us back-to-back exposure with these kids from Arbor Day as 4<sup>th</sup> graders to education outside the classroom as 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

As with the last several years, we have submitted a nominee for the Soil Health Award with the Dept of Ag. This year's winner is Todd Whempner, and we hope to present his award yet this year, weather permitting. A new award for us was the Izaak Walton League of America or the Wildlife Habitat Award. We nominated family farmers Isaac Sando & Family and his father Rick Sando & Family. We were proud they were selected for the 2021 Award. The District helped with the Land and Range Judging Contest for area High School students this fall. Promotion continues provided by our website at <https://www.sdconservation.org/robertscd>, as well as our FB page <https://www.facebook.com/robertsconservationdistrict>, and our County newsletter, as well as every door direct tree sale forms.

This was the first year I was able to attend Leadership. It was great way to meet fellow District staff. Our local area was able to attend 10 district shops/buildings to tour their facilities and equipment. What a great experience and takeaway! I'm so thankful for our Coteau District Managers for their patience, leadership, and willingness to help.

## **SOUTH BROWN CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Lindsey Simon, District Manager**

2021 has been an extremely busy year for us with a significant increase in machine tree plant acres, and lack of help. The hot, dry weather sure was hard on the trees and crew, but things look pretty good this fall.

Spring planting season started the last week of April with all trees planted on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Fabric started immediately after and was not completed until June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Machine plant acres for this spring were 55.6 acres on 25 sites. Fabric was installed on 23 sites for a total of 121,492 feet installed, and tree tubes were installed on 13 sites for a total of 2,003 tubes. We also hand planted trees for two customers, one had excellent care all summer and trees look great, the other was into an old shelterbelt with little to no care, and the new trees didn't survive. This work was completed with just a tractor driver, me, and occasionally our

technician. Once fabric installation was ready, we did gain two high school kids that did a tremendous job of stepping in and helping us finish the year!

Hand plant tree sales were very strong again this year, with 148 pre orders and another 50 plus walk in orders during the spring and our tree sale. Hand plant tree sales came in at \$50,057.00 for the year. Staple sales were strong with \$2,508.95 sold this year, and \$89,377.44 in fabric sold for either machine plant acres or individual rolls. We are seeing more and more request for our fabric rolls and staples to be used in gardens and landscaping projects. We also sold fabric rings to go around yard trees for a total of \$597.82 sold. We have also seen a major increase in demand for our 5' tall tree protector systems, to help with the deer and other wild animals. We sold \$27,705.61 in tree protectors so far this year. Our only concern with these tree protectors, is the faster grown hardwood trees rubbing on the tubes and breaking off during these strong wind days. May need to find another supplier to prevent this from happening in the future.

Spring planting of CRP, Alfalfa, and other grasses started early this year, due to the mild winter and dry field conditions. 614.5 acres of CRP, Alfalfa, Cover Crops, and custom grass seed mixes have been planted so far this year. Significantly down for us, and we contribute this to the lack of moisture and issues with getting CRP contracts finalized at FSA. Seed sales were also down significantly for us at \$35,321.27 sold. Dormant seeding requests are starting to stack up, with just over 1000 acres on the books, biggest issue is getting their CRP contracts finalized at FSA before planting starts on November 1<sup>st</sup>. July and August was spent clipping/mowing WRP easements and newly planted CRP fields. Approximately 500 acres was clipping this summer, with one more fall clipping to complete. Our no till JD rental drill has also been slow this year, with only 293 acres seeded by producers. The drought prevented producers from planting grasses this summer. Most recently the drill has been used to plant Rye after soybean harvest!

We continue our work with NRCS on the contribution agreement. We assist them with CSP Payments, CRP Status Reviews, WRP Monitoring, CRP File Management, and any other items that need to be completed. This a great supplement to our yearly income and provides an excellent way to keep our partnership growing with NRCS.

The conservation district has continued our outreach activities as best as we can with the continued Covid 19 precautions. Sponsorship of the annual Norther East SD Pheasants Forever Banquet in May; North East SD Land and Range Judging Contest in Webster; and the Resource Conservation Speech Contest. South Brown hosted a local contest with three participants, and the area contest had 4 participants. Everyone did an outstanding job and we always enjoy listening to the speeches.

We continue to administer the Robert Knichrehm scholarship for area high school seniors that are going into a field of study that is related to agriculture or conservation. This year we only had one applicant, and we awarded her with \$500.00 for the 2021-2022 school year. We will continue to promote the scholarship and hope to have better interest this year!

The 24<sup>th</sup> annual Northern Prairie Water Festival had to be postponed again this year, due to the inability of most presenters to travel to Aberdeen. We will hope to get something scheduled in April or May, to keep this wonderful program for area 4<sup>th</sup> graders going. For the 4<sup>th</sup> year now, we had our booth set up at the Brown County Fair. Hot weather and continued concerns of Covid 19 made for lower numbers of people stopping to visit but was still a great event to help share our accomplishments in preserving conservation in Brown County.

South Brown also partnered with Day, Marshall, Spink, and Clark counties to help sponsor a Saline and Sodic soils workshop at the end of August. An excellent turnout of producers in the area, and everyone enjoyed the delicious meal that was served.

Our partnership with Day and Marshall County for a conservation commission grant for tree renovations, tree plantings, and dugout cleanouts is in its last year. The dugout cleanout was very popular this year due to the severe drought across the county.

Our partnership with our local Game Fish and Parks office is still very strong. This year we planted a 3-acre tree belt for them on a nature conservatory and have plans for another one in 2022. They have always been a great resource for us, and we will continue to work together with them as much as possible.

District staff attended SDACDE Coteau Area Meeting in Millbank this summer, and the SDACD Convention in Spearfish. The remaining of the summer meetings were held while we were still in the field.

Hope this finds everyone having a successful and profitable year!

## **SPINK CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Ivy Pazour, District Manager**

After 2020, we were more than happy to welcome in a new year. With COVID running strong this winter we did not have our annual Winter Soil Health workshop, but hopefully we can be back on for 2022! With not having that we eased our way into the busy season of tree planting and grass drilling. We started planting shortly after receiving our trees. Our starting crew did not work out and we only got a few good days in before we were in search of a tractor driver and tree planter. After that we waited till college got out and got a tractor driver but had to wait till high school to get out to fill the rest of the crew. After that the planting went smoothly and quick with no rain days. The tree planters started fabric after planting and got the work done quickly, still no rain. We ended up with 52.6 acres of trees this year. Once again, we didn't have our annual tree sale, because we were short on inventory at the end of the season. Big trees from Bailey's and potted spruce seem to draw more and more people to us every year. Besides trees we also sell tree tubes, shrub tubes, watering bags, Plantskydd, fertilizer packets, fabric staples, tree rings, and fabric by the foot or roll. I am on the hunt for a tree staking system to offer too.

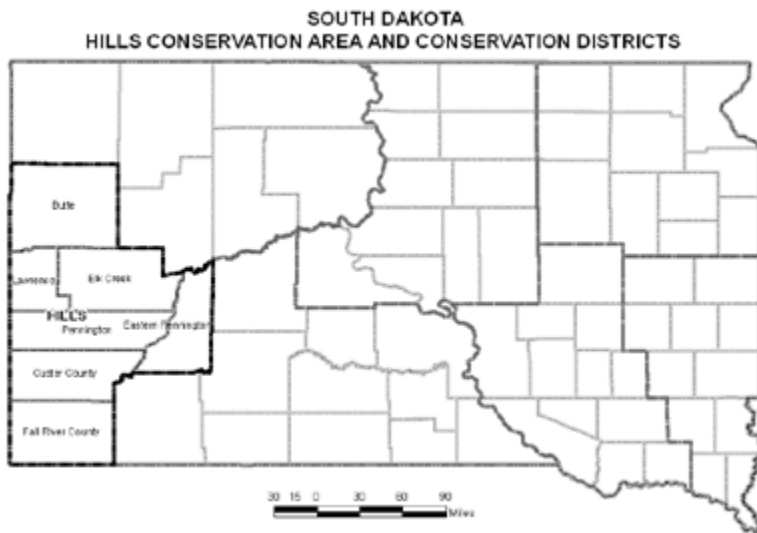
Dennis was able to keep busy planting 1000 acres over spring and summer this year with his drill. With no rain this spring and summer we were able to get all our CRPs covered in short amount of time. Shortly after CRP planting Dennis was able to try out his newest project, an updated 6 row John Deere planter that he pretty much built from the frame up over the winter. He planted a few food plot sites for customers and on the Regenerative Ag Plot that he has going. We hope to do more food plot sites next spring and summer.

The Regenerative Ag plot had a lot of fun things in it this year including, 60" and 30" corn with cover crops, beans planted into rye, Lablab, a three sisters plot (sweet corn, green beans, and squash), Sunhemp, and Italian Rye grass. The drought did hurt some of the plots while others did quite well. We also had a small tour of the plot in September. We are doing a tour every year if anyone is ever interested in seeing it.

In other District news, we had the state Arbor Day Essay winner in our county this spring again. We were able to go to his school in Doland and do an Arbor Day presentation with Nathan Kafer as well as last years Essay winner's school in Hitchcock. We handed out over 180 seedlings out between the two schools. We were also able to have a Bus Tour up to Menoken Farms, North Dakota, and to Doug Sieck's farm in Selby, SD this year. It is well attended with a good group of engaging people. Besides those events we helped with the East River Rangeland and Soil Days, a Saline Workshop in Groton, a Pasture walk in Spink County, and the State Fair Booth. It seemed we had a lot going on this summer with events here and there. One highlight of the year was doing District tours in our area. When we have meetings together, we always talk about our equipment and it was interesting to see

what other districts are talking about and working with. In three days, we made it to 10 out of 11 district shops in our area. Each district's employees would show the group around their shop and show their equipment. I think all of us walked away with new ideas to help our own districts.

Going into fall we don't have much planned besides dormant seeding and trying to find a third district employee. We still plan on promoting the Karst Memorial Scholarship, Arbor Day Essay, Speech contest this winter and do what we can with outreach with newsletters, Facebook, as well as planning a Soil Health Workshop in February.



**Hills Area**  
**Director Malissa Niles**  
**Butte, Custer, East Pennington,**  
**Elk Creek, Fall River, Lawrence,**  
**Pennington**

## **BUTTE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

### **YVETTE KIRKMAN, DISTRICT MANAGER**

2021...I haven't decided if it has drug on or flown by, most days I am not even sure what I am doing! I took on the district manager job for Lawrence CD, adding to the hats I already wear in Butte! It was initially for the last half of 2020 but here I am almost through another year already, but I think we are doing fine, and I hope I am meeting customer needs. The Belle Fourche office is under construction and let's just say, what a nightmare, I moved to the Spearfish office until the dust settles. I am super fortunate to have that option, I don't do well with telework, I am pretty sure I would be distracted by laundry and dishes and the urge to sit on my deck in nicer weather.

This year has not been without challenges, we had only 2 machine plantings this year and it took all of about 6 hours to get them done. I hired out the fabric for the first time in my 16 years, I played the "I am too old for this" card and it felt good! Our drills didn't get much of a workout this year either due to the droughty conditions. As I write this we just got about a foot of nice wet snow, so I am hoping this will be the start of continued moisture instead of the predicted dry winter.

Hills Area has gone through some changes in employees, Mike Baldwin is the new District Manager in Custer, he balances his time between district work and his work with the Weed & Pest. He attended SDACD Convention in Spearfish, and I am sure was overloaded with information. Lesa Stephens is still managing East Pennington and Cindy Stanton-LeBlanc was hired in Elk Creek about 3 days before convention took place, I hope it wasn't too overwhelming for her, it's a lot to take in. THANKS goes out to my fellow area employees for all the help setting up for the awards banquet and keeping 50/50 going while we took turns attending sessions, Cindy Zenk for taking a shift for us and Bonnie Schmidt from Northwest Area for coming early to help decorate and set up. SD-SRM did a great job with the meal and we were happy they were able to step in and assist. I very much appreciate all of you. Congrats! to Lindsay Mader on her Employee of the Year Award, she tackles a lot of projects and gets things done and has been a much-needed asset in Pennington. Gary Hendrickson, CET in the Belle Fourche FSO won the Professional Service Award, he is a great co-worker and is willing to help any district with a design or guidance on project, very well-deserved. Congrats! to Cindy Zenk on her award as well, she may have left us, but she didn't leave conservation!

We were able to have our Arbor Day presentation this past spring with Belle Fourche Middle School. We also attended the 100th Anniversary of the Butte/Lawrence County Fair and had a booth. We are still holding meetings at an alternate location and I am ready for that to be over and get back to some office normalcy, because I always forget something that I would normally run to my desk and grab!

Butte CD is still an active member in the Belle Fourche River Watershed Partnership, check us out at [www.bellefourchewatershed.org](http://www.bellefourchewatershed.org). SD Envirothon has been on hold the past year while we restructure and get set up as a 501c3, we have completed the daunting task of filing with the IRS and are now ready to proceed with hiring a coordinator. We welcome any support districts can give to promote this program in your districts.

I looked back at last years submission and I swore then to keep this short, but I think I get windier the longer I am here! We are exploring different options for Leadership 2022, please if you have some input contact Tami Moore, Josh Wagner, any one of the area directors or I, we are open to ideas.

## **CUSTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Mike Baldwin, District Manager**

2021 was busy, as it was my first year as the district manager for Custer CD. The district hosted two landowner workshops this year. The first was held in Fairburn for area producers. Participants were provided information about an upcoming grant opportunity and were asked for input on issues/needs that could be addressed if cost-share funds became available. The second workshop was held in the Elk Mountain area. Custer CD partnered with the South Dakota Family Forests Association to offer technical assistance and inform landowners about cost-share funding available to help protect their home and property from fires. Federal, state, and local agency representatives provided information to participants, and a mechanized thinning demonstration was presented.

Custer CD was awarded a grant through the NRCS Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) to fund rangeland and riparian improvement projects in eastern Custer County. Cost-share dollars will be available to landowners beginning in 2022. Additionally, our first CIS grant that was awarded to Custer CD in 2020, "Resilient Forest Landscapes", now has active contracts. This grant will provide funding for thinning, brush management, and fire breaks on private property and reduce risk of wildfire to structures and property.

Work was completed on the SD Commission thinning grant we received in 2020. These funds were used as cost-share for private landowners to improve forest health and reduce fire danger. An additional thinning grant was received from the Commission in 2021. This grant will fund approximately 80 acres of thinning and fuels treatment.

Custer CD was awarded a grant from the Black Hills Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) for an estimated 60 acres of thinning/fuels treatment on the Black Hills National Forest near private lands. The primary focus is on fuel reduction/pre-commercial thinning of sapling-sized pines on the Black Hills National Forest.

We promoted Arbor Day with area schools. 100 trees were given out to 1st graders within the county and two trees were planted on school grounds at Custer Elementary. We were unable to get participation in the poster and essay contests; however, our contestant in the Resource Conservation Speech Contest placed 3rd in the State Finals.

## **EAST PENNINGTON CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Lesa Stephens, District Manager**

There is much that does not change with the districts. East Pennington Conservation District continues to offer the Bio Control Grant, rental of the Drills, tree moving, tilling and tree sales with planting. We strive to keep the connection with the school by offering the poster contest, the essay contest, the speech contest and trees for the elementary students. The newsletter is put out quarterly and slowly gains more people on the mailing list. We will have our annual banquet in November for award winners. Awards are given for Farmstead, Shelterbelt, Backyard Conservation and Natural Resource Awareness. We planted about 14 acres of shelterbelts this year with 2500 trees. Tree sales were average but survival rates were low. The best survival were the ones that had water systems added. The drill was used for 1467 acres. Its been another unusual year in the world.

## **ELK CREEK COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Cindy Stanton-LeBlanc, District Manager**

*No Report.*

## **FALL RIVER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Malissa Niles, District Manager**

*No Report.*

## **LAWRENCE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Yvette Kirkman**

I made it through the 6 months covering the Lawrence Conservation District office and have now almost completed another full year already! It took a little bit to get into the groove of managing two offices, especially when both newsletters come out at the same time and all the reports are due at the same time, but I got it handled.

Lawrence CD had no machine plantings for 2021, the one scheduled had to be rescheduled to 2022 due to no site prep by the deadline. Hand plant sales were up a little, I was worried about the dry conditions having an impact on sales. Tree season was another juggling act, bagging orders for two districts in a timely manner was grueling, but I didn't have any hiccups, and nobody yelled at me, whew! I will be trying a few more organizational tricks for the upcoming season as far as labeling pots for individual orders and a better system for the apples trees, those things are like tackling a bear in a confined space! Looking forward to 2022, the orders have started to come in, fabric has been ordered and there may be one machine planting in the works.

I had no Arbor Day Essays this year, I am guessing with all the distance learning, adding something extra was just too much. I did have a speech participant, Callister Grimsley of Spearfish. We didn't have much for extracurricular activities still in 2021, so many restrictions on attendance and places available to meet, maybe 2022 will bring more activities. We were able to attend the 100th Anniversary of the Butte/Lawrence County Fair and present the Conservation Citizenship Award to Foothills Ranch Inc. It was a great

opportunity to meet and interview producers in Lawrence County, and shine some light on their efforts, I would say they were practicing conservation long before it was the cool thing to do.

Hills Area hosted the SDACD Annual Convention in Spearfish. I hope everyone that was able to attend enjoyed themselves and were able to come early or stay longer to travel the canyon for fall colors or visit some of the downtown eating and shopping venues. I want to thank my area employees and supervisors for all the help setting up and serving the meal on Sunday and an extra thanks to Bonnie Schmidt from Harding CD for coming early to help set up! It is a lot of work to put on a convention and not just for the hosts, but Angela has a multi-page to-do list to keep things running smoothly.

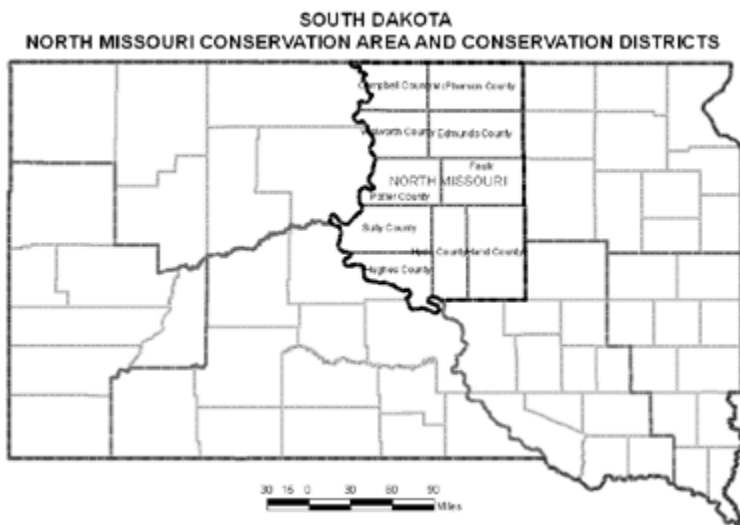
We were able to secure a Thinning for Forest Health Grant for this year, my first time dealing with forestry issues and we were awarded a CIS for forestry as well, so I look forward to working with more Lawrence County producers one on one.

I will continue to manage the Lawrence Conservation District until they decide they are sick of me. I do not know what the plan is beyond 2022! Take Care!

## **PENNINGTON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Lindsay Mader, District Manager**

*No Report.*



North  
Missouri Area  
Director Tonja Jessen

Campbell, Edmonds, Faulk, Hand,  
Hughes, Hyde, McPherson, Potter,  
Sully, Walworth

**CAMPBELL COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
Casey Eisemann, District Manager

*No Report.*

**EDMUNDS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
Meshele Townsend, District Manager

*No Report.*

**FAULK CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
Kristine Meyer, District Manager

*No Report*

**HAND COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
Tammy Hoffman, District Manager

*No Report.*

**HUGHES COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
Douglas Boes, District Manager

The Hughes County Conservation District has completed another tree planting season with a total of **384,129** feet planted along with a total of **401,417** feet of fabric installed. HCCD also provided a Hand planting service that consisted of us helping producers hand plant approximately **16,758** trees. We continued to also sell approximately **\$40,350.26.** worth

of conservation grade bare-root trees, tall fruit trees, large bare root trees, grasses and perennials.

Our district's complete No-Till drill service, consisting of our two 15' John Deere 1590 drills and a 15' Great Plains drill pulled by our two Cat Challenger tractors and operated by our personal were used for a total of **1,572** acres in order to help producers where and when necessary. Our districts pasture sprayer along with our Kubota UTV sprayer were used to help burn down or control weeds on approximately **178** acres. Our districts 7' land pride mower with sprayer attachment was operated by our personal for a total of **13** hours to help our producers maintain weed free tree groves along with the clipping of several pollinator plots in order to help our producers maintain contract responsibility.

Our district also supplied producers with a 4' Kasco drill rental program, along with supplying producers with rentals on two handheld tree augers, and two fabric cutting bully tools. Our district also made available to producers thru rental agreements a 1000-gallon water tank trailer in order to help producers' water new or existing tree groves. Our district continued to provide a rototilling service to area producers.

Our district also sold containers of Plantskydde animal repellent to area producers in order to help producers keep damaging critters off their trees. Our district also designed and built a 4' fabric machine that is available to producers through a rental agreement, and this fabric machine was used by producers. Our district also sold **3,348** tree tubes and ties to producers along with **\$12,820** of 6'x750' and 4'x300' fabric, along with **45** boxes of staples. HCCD also began its role as a seed supplier to help producers find their perfect match for each project, with this role the district can reach out to 4 or 5 different companies and request bids, delivery dates, and other specifics that increase profitability chances for each producer along with the district. The district is also accepting credit card payments for all its services. Which was proven to be a great asset during tree season this year. The District was very proud to pick two students this spring and award them with a \$1000 scholarship.

All four newsletters have been sent out for this year. The district continues to offer ads to area businesses to help defray the cost of our newsletters and continues to reach out to more Agricultural related businesses each year. We maintain a Facebook Page and Website where we advertise our services, news releases, and dates for certain functions.

We are now busy working on tree and seeding plans for the 2022 planting season and have several growers that we are working with so far. Our district was awarded a \$15,000 grand ending in 2023. This grant allows us to continue with our efforts to help support our producers that wish to protect our natural resources. These along with others wanting to create a tree plan on their own or with the assistance of programs such as woody Habitat, CRP and Equip will help to ensure that we have a good number of tree planting and fabric installation acres to accomplish next season, along with our increasing acres numbers of grass drilling, along with many rototilling, mowing, and spraying projects on the books for the spring of 2022.

## **HYDE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Tonja Jessen, District Manager**

*No Report.*

## **MCPHERSON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Karen Yost, District Manager**

*No Report.*

**POTTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**Kimberly Schweiss, District Manager**

*No Report.*

**SULLY COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**Sarah Severson, District Manager**

*No Report.*

**WALWORTH COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**Linda Thorstenson, District Manager**

*No Report.*



## NorthWest Area

Director Bonnie Schmidt

Corson, Dewey, Harding, Perkins, Tri-County, Ziebach,

### **CORSON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Annie Walker, District Manager**

2021 started out dry but producers were still optimistic and our drill stayed busy with spring wheat, alfalfa and grass, and cover crop seedings. It is out for fall seeding projects currently.

John Hetzel, a long-time board member, agreed to stay on the board for one more year. We brought on a new advisor, Colton Nehl, who will hopefully take John's spot once he retires from the board. Colton ranches in the Watuaga area with his family.

This spring we planted 33 acres of trees for 11 different producers. All but 1 of my tree crew members were return workers from past years and I am so proud of the work we did, completing all projects in 2 weeks. Most producers followed directly behind the planter with a water truck.

I had placed a very optimistically large potted tree order from both Big Sioux and Wolcyn Tree Farms and by the time April came around I ended up cancelling about 200 of them. Surprisingly enough, the drought did not hamper people's hand plant orders and I was thankful to have yet again sold a new record of potted trees, perennials, and bare-root hand plants. With the pandemic making many of our elderly customers nervous about travelling, I branched out and purchased potting soil, mulch, and a few annual flowers like geraniums and petunias. It's something I will definitely try again next year.

As always, we celebrated Arbor Day with 2<sup>nd</sup> graders at McIntosh Elementary School. We gave a short presentation explaining what Arbor Day is, handed out a tree to each student, and planted a tree with the McIntosh 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class. I was thrilled to have yet another McIntosh student place in the state Arbor Day Poster Contest. I helped conduct mock interviews with the high school sophomore English class and critiqued their resumes. Although they were mock interviews, some of the kids were actually serious about obtaining a spot on my tree crew. It was a great way to put our name out there with those kids.

The biggest accomplishment of 2021 was updating our facilities. Our previous "tree shed" was built in the 1950's as a gas station. It was purchased by the District in the late 60's and had a small 12x12 beer cooler for storing bare root trees. We started demo the first week of September and as of the time of this writing are awaiting construction of our new pole

building any day. It will have a small office, a large cooler, and more cold storage for our equipment.

We continue to sponsor the Arbor Day Foundation, our local 4H chapter and the Corson County Fair.

## **DEWEY COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Jamie Weidemer, District Manager**

*No Report.*

## **HARDING COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Bonnie Schmidt, District Manager**

The Harding County Conservation District had a pretty good year this year. Our plantings were up from last year. It sure had gotten very dry since we had finished planting and fabric installation. The producers are really worried about the survival of their shelterbelts. They did not have a very good survival rate. If anyone has any ideas to get them to water I am open for suggestions.

Our local conservation tour is promising to be an interesting time. We had given it to the first female producer. Becky Holsti is not married and runs her parents ranch by herself. Afterwards, we will have a banquet to present a picture of their ranch to the producer.

We are still very involved in the Arbor Day essay and Poster contests. We are going to try having a haunted soil tunnel using the tree cooler this year. Fingers crossed.

This year the Conservation District still sells cover crop seed. It is a very beneficial arrangement for the producer and for the district. We have also started soil sampling for the producers.

I worked the booth for one day at the Central States Fair this year. Attendance was up and there was more interaction.

I really enjoyed seeing everyone that made it to Convention. Those that did not make it you were missed.

## **PERKINS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Shauna Kopren, District Manager**

2021 has been a busy year for the Perkins County Conservation District. We were able to machine plant 12.8 acres on 9 different farms with 3887 shrubs and trees planted during the spring of 2022. We did have a very successful year selling handplants, grass seed, fabric squares, Plantskydd and perennial flowers which we are planning on selling more of.

Our drill continues to be a sought-after commodity again this year and was able to be used by many different producers around our county! The drill is rented out to the producers for \$11.00 per acre and \$50.00 per day. A little over 1,212 acres were planted by our drill this spring. We will be trying to advertise the drill more in the upcoming year by sending out more newsletters and by advertising around the county. This year we also offered a quarter mile of fencing equipment for rotational grazing for \$25.00/month. This is a great opportunity for producers to experiment with cross fencing practices.

Tiffany Martin, the Northwest Area Natural Resource Specialist has also been busy this year! There were 12 producers involved in the Northwest Area Tree Planting Grant with

nearly 70,000 feet planted over five counties. Beginning in January 2021, Tiffany and myself started working on Conservation Nation, a podcast showcasing boots on the ground conservation and so far, have released four episodes. On the podcast, we interview professionals in the world of conservation in South Dakota. Tiffany has published a few articles in the local paper as well and helped with outreach in the area.

Like many of the Conservation Districts this year, Covid-19 has been hard on many of the events and activities that we had planned in the community however at the beginning of the year, Perkins County Conservation District made a set of achievements that we wanted to accomplish with District Outreach being first. Our specific goals were to increase our social media presence, engage with students in the county, increase partner engagement and educate individuals on conservation within Perkins County.

The Perkins County Conservation District held a Tree Contest via social media to try to engage adults on our Facebook page and get more followers. After the Divide and Windy Fire, we hosted a community meeting to help gather groups together that could help landowners who were affected. For the Lemmon Farm and Home Show, the District teamed up with Adams County Soil and Conservation District to have a booth together which showcased what the Districts do. We were also able to team up with the Growing Resiliency group on projects and surveys they are putting together which was a great collaboration. This year was also the first time that the Perkins County Conservation District partnered with SD GF&P to implement a Watercraft Inspection Station at Shadehill Reservoir. The inspectors were looking for aquatic invasive species like quagga and zebra mussels being transported in watercrafts. We were able to hire four seasonal staff that were stationed at the entrance to Shadehill and were trained to look for these invasive species. This provided a great outreach and education opportunity for the surrounding area.

## **TRI - COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Amy Schuelke, District Manager**

*No Report*

## **ZIEBACH COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Mazee Pauley, District Manager**

*No Report.*



## **HAAKON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Katie Schultz, District Manager**

In March 2021 a new manager for HCCD was hired, tree season went well with 4 plantings totaling 22 acres. We had a new tree cooler and a new tree planting crew. Luckily the same fabric installation crew stayed on. Haakon County 5<sup>th</sup> graders participated in the Arbor Day poster contest with one local student winning 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the state level. We are trying to reach out to the school this fall to get in to the classrooms and teach the students about trees and conservation.

## **JACKSON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Paula Holley, District Manager**

*No Report*

## **JONES COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Valerie Feddersen, District Manager**

*No Report.*

## **TODD/MELLETT COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

**Laurie Chauncey, District Manager**

*No Report*

## **STANLEY COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Mary Beth Fravel, District Manager**

In 2021 we finally purchased a cooler for the trees! It is a used refer truck that we can park on site if we have a large planting.

Stanley County hosted the Prairie Area meeting in Fort Pierre and there was a large attendance from the federal partners as well as other districts.

The arbor day winner was Addyson Deal and we promoted it on Facebook.

Matt Stoesser and his crew planted 24.5 acres of trees for 4 producers and had grass plantings for 15 producers but not much mowing due to the dry conditions.

MaryBeth Fravel was able to attend the employee training held in June and Mitch Norman and Don Sandal attended the state convention held in September in Spearfish.

The financial audit was done by Yvette Kirkman from Butte County and the safety audit was completed by SDPAA.

**SOUTH DAKOTA  
SOUTH JAMES/MISSOURI CONSERVATION AREA AND CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**



**South James  
Missouri  
Director Wendy Mathers**

Aurora, Beadle, Bon Homme,  
Brule/Buffalo, Charles Mix, Davison,  
Douglas, Hanson, Hutchinson,  
Jerauld, Sanborn, Yankton

**AURORA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
Wendy Mathers, District Manager**

Aurora County planted about 38 acres of trees this year and about 7 acres for producers in Douglas County because they had no district manager at the time. We've drilled about 150 acres in our county and about 85 acres in Douglas County this spring with about 200 to do this fall. We have had a LOT of chemical carryover concerns this year and are delaying about 15 acres of trees that were planned for next spring and a couple hundred acres of dormant drilling this fall because of it. I think most of our chemical carryover is Authority on soybeans.

Covid is still causing things to be screwy here but I did want to mention a couple of ideas that new people might find helpful. I buy native flower seed in bulk and repackage it in coin envelopes and then have a label on it "compliments of the Aurora Conservation District" and give them to adults when I do parades or have a basket of them at public places/events. I have hats with our logo on them and t-shirts with a design of a guy holding a shovel in one hand and a tree in the other with "plant til you're planted" on it and then my county name on the sleeve. I give them to producers who plant trees and also use them as prizes for the kids who place in the essay contest.

Several of my tree crew have helped for a number of years and that certainly makes it so much better! You realize the value of those people! Like a lot of districts, we're raising prices/rates and I'm hoping to give my returning crew a decent raise.

**BEADLE CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
Robin Viestenz, District Manager**

*No Report*

**BON HOMME CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
Peg Haenfler, District Manager**

Hello from Bon Homme Conservation District – Peg Haenfler Manager

2021 Spring for BHCD consisted of 28 acres of tree planting. All sites were planted. Our district still requires the operator to provide the tractor and driver to pull the tree planter. Grass Seeding – We provide a complete grass seeding service – we seed most of the acres with the Truax drill. This year we seeded approximately 60 acres (down in acres from what the district usually seeds).

Equipment Rental – We have a 2010 1590 No Till Drill, 12' Brillion drill, 2012 Truax drill, gopher machine.

Fabric – this season 25,300 feet of fabric was installed

Tree Clean & mow - The district weedbadgers and disks 11 acres – mows 16 acres of trees, plus mow weeds on CRP grass sites

We provide Haybusting and Krimping for waterways

School Activities – We promote Arbor Day and the Conservation Speech Contest – provide conservation activity books to all K-6 students in the county – gives trees to all 3rd grade students – promote Arbor Day essay writing – award prizes and money to winning essay writers – participate in the Czech Day parade

This is my last Contour Line article. I have retired from BHCD. It was a pleasure working with all of you!

Supervisors consist of Stan Schuch (Chairman), Stan Hieb (Vice Chairman), Jim Koenig (Treasurer), David Walloch (Supervisor) and Larry DeJong (supervisor)

## **BRULE-BUFFALO COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Tina DeHaai, District Manager**

*No Report*

## **CHARLES MIX CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Dawn Shulte, District Manager**

The spring was very eventful, was able to do a lot more drilling than last year. Had a very productive tree planting season with 74 acres of trees, which were CRP and Grant trees. Finishing up our Grant for brush management, so doing a lot of shredding and also getting ready to start our CIS Brush Management project. Still also doing our CRP mowing, cultivating, tree mowing, spraying and getting the drill to producers to rent.

## **DAVISON CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Deb Bartscher, Assistant District Manager**

This was a year of change for the Davison CD. Our District Manager of 20 years, Jim Lehi, retired at the end of 2020 so we had to start looking for a new manager before tree planting season started. With

Covid and everything, it was a challenge to even get any applicants. We finally were able to get 1 applicant, Matthew Hayes, who started with us in March. He has been such a huge asset to our district. He has been updating a few things and introducing some new ideas which has brought in some more funds for the district (which is always a good thing).

Tree plantings went well this year despite the dry conditions. The district planted 29 acres of trees plus hand planted some bigger trees on 15 sites. We sold \$31,500 in hand plants and perennial pots. Tree tube sales were up this year also. 69,376 feet of fabric was

installed on 13 sites. We were able to use funds from a conservation commission grant and JRWDD grant to help with tree plantings.

The district seeded 400 acres this past spring and have 600 acres of dormant seedings this fall. The district continues to be a seed dealer for Millborn Seeds.

Our district newsletter is sent out once a year and we are active on Facebook. We had 1 Speech Contestant this year and she went on to win 5<sup>th</sup> place at the State Speech Contest. 2022 is already looking like a busy year!

## **DOUGLAS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Judy Jackson, District Manager**

*No Report.*

## **HANSON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**\_\_\_\_\_ , District Manager**

*No Report*

## **HUTCHINSON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Bryan Kludt, District Manager**

This year we built a new cooler to hold our tree stock. We were able to plant about 21 acres of trees this spring, which were CRP and Grant trees. This year we caught up on our drilling jobs from last year and picked up a lot more acres. We are still looking to get in about 150 acres of drilling before the ground gets too hard.

## **Jerauld County Conservation District**

**Lisa Sall, District Manager**

District Services Completed:

Hand Plant Sales - \$5300.00

Machine Plantings - 11 acres

Tree Fabric - 31,000'

Grass Seeding - 500 acres

The district board traded in a 4240 John Deere Tractor for a 6120M John Deere Tractor.

The local Pheasants Forever Chapter contributed \$7500 toward the trade.

The Arbor Day Essay contest went on without our annual visit to the 5th grade classroom.

Black Hills spruce trees and awards were given to the students along with a short Q&A on the playground. We were not able to visit the classrooms yet, so we decided to have the 5th and 6th grade class come to the tree shed before the school year ended in May. The NRCS

District Conservationist and the district manager gave some soil demonstrations, talked about the tree planting equipment, and invited them all to sign up for a career in tree planting.

The end of May turned cold and wet, and two days of selling trees in the tree shed was miserable. But, we did manage to sell 1700 out of 1800 hand plants before we shut the cooler down on June 10th. The five tree sites were planted and covered with

fabric by June 8th. Two sites were cost-shared with GF&P, 2 sites were funded with the Commission Grant. Unfortunately, just as the trees were put in the ground, the weather turned hot and dry. Mowing jobs were minimal with just 4 producers needing one cutting all summer. June's covid-19 report allowed our office to have maximum of 2 people in the office, so I moved back to my regular station. Monthly meetings continued to be held off-site at the local café. In August the board voted on an honoree in Jerauld County for the SDACD Endowment Fund. The appointed selection committee also chose one Jerauld County producer to receive the South Dakota Soil Conservation Award. The annual Jerauld County Land & Range contest was co-sponsored by the Jerauld Conservation District and other partners in September. The contest was again held with strict covid-19 protocols in place. The district distributed a spring and fall newsletter to 890 recipients.

## **SANBORN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Amanda Waldner, District Manager**

The Sanborn County Conservation District hired a new District Manager, Amanda Waldner, in February 2021 after the position had been filled on a temporary basis by the District Treasurer for over a year. The District was able to substantially increase the number of producers assisted and number of acres planted over previous years. Through funding from James River Water Development, we were able to provide assistance to seven (7) producers with the installation of field windbreaks and protection for livestock and wildlife. The District, through partnership with other agencies, assisted 2 additional producers with the installation of field and wildlife shelterbelts. The District installed a total of 81,109 linear feet of fabric, 1,264.9 rod rows of shrubs, 3,650.64 rod rows of tall trees and 366 tree protectors in a total of 31.67 acres. The District provided drilling services for 10 producers in 2021 for an approximate total of 300 acres.

## **YANKTON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Sarah Ruml, District Manager**

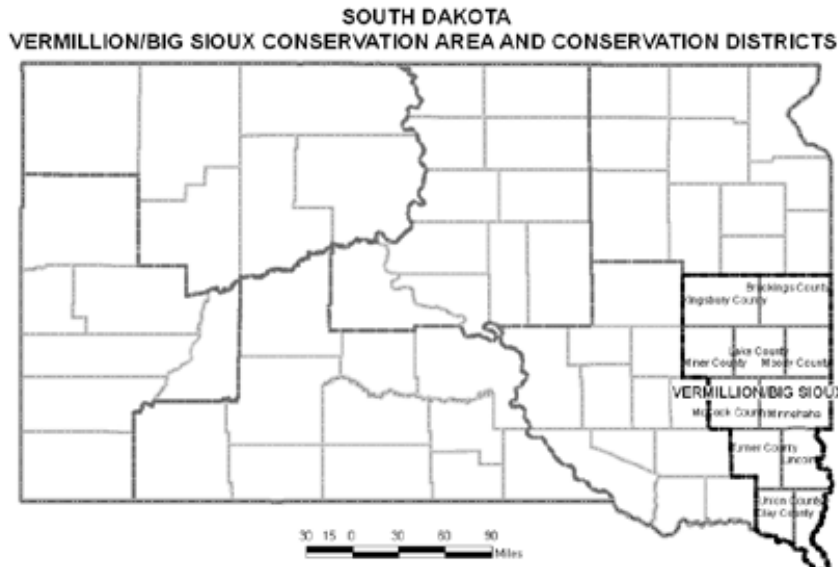
I began with Yankton County in January of this year. The past year has felt like a lot of learning and trying to catch up to where we should be as a district.

Yankton County was below average in many areas for 2021. We only had one new tree planting and one replanting. For 2022 we are hoping to complete at least 8 machine plantings and are currently in the process of doing initial and follow up property visits and preparing tree plans.

We have been working to repair our Weed Badger and to find a steady Weed Badger and grass drill operator. The Pheasants Forever grass drill was rented out a few times for use on 3 properties under 10 acres each.

Our newsletter is sent out quarterly to residents and businesses, with the next year's hand order form included in the fall newsletter. The district was not very active in the community in 2021 but hopes to be more so in 2022.

YCCD currently receives a JRWDD grant that provides cost share for hand plant and machine planting customers.



## Vermillion/Big Sioux Area Director John Parker

Brookings, Clay, Kingsbury, Lake,  
Lincoln, McCook, Minnehaha, Miner,  
Moody, Turner, Union

### **BROOKINGS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Joan Crooks, District Manager**

2021 District Services Completed:

Hand Plants, Tree Mats, Native/Perennial Plant Sales - \$93,365.11

Machine Plantings - 50.9 acres

Tree Fabric - 158,860 LF (30.1 miles)

Grass Seeding - (John Deere 1590 No-Till Drill & Great Plains Drill) - 2,632 acres

Grass Seed Sales - \$95,621.93

I am still working at the office at the District Building (tree shed). It definitely is convenient to be officed at the shop during the busy season. I will continue to work at our district building until the USDA building is fully open to customers.

Provided 470 trees to Larson Manufacturing for their annual Arbor Day Celebration.

The 29<sup>th</sup> annual Big Sioux Water Festival was held virtually this year and available for teachers to access April 15<sup>th</sup> through the end of the school year (2021). The event moved from the 4<sup>th</sup> grade level to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade level to align with the shift in science standards among the elementary grades in recent years. This was a perfect time to shift the grade level, as last year's event was cancelled due to COVID.

BCCD helped sponsor the annual Brookings County Ag Women's Day held June 8 in Brookings. This is a fun day with awesome motivational speakers, good conversation and, of course, great food/snacks!

August 31, 2021, BCCD hosted their annual Conservation Tour for the Brookings Co. Commissioners. Invites are extended to city councils, Farm Service Agency, State and Federal Legislators. We had 21 attend the tour. This year's tour showcased wildlife/visual screen project at Valero Renewables, Aurora, SD, multiple conservation practices at S. Bunkers, a gravel pit reclamation, and a stop at the 2019 Conservationist of the Year award winner's farm/tree plantings. The BCCD served a complimentary lunch, and all received a complimentary jar of honey from Adee Honey Farms. This has become an event the commissioners look forward to every year.

BCCD Land Judging School was held September 8 with 187 students attending from Deubrook, Deuel, Elkton, ORR, and Sioux Valley Schools.

The Brookings NRCS Field Office and the BCCD hosted a public meeting/meal to kick off the Oakwood Lakes Watershed CIS Project. The goal of the project is to improve water quality within the watershed. Financial assistance will be available for a number of conservation practices including Cover Crops, Filter Strips, Reduced Tillage, No-Till, Grassed Waterways, Livestock Pipeline, and many others.  
Have a great rest of the year!!

**CLAY COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**Misi Kayl, District Manager**

*No Report.*

**KINGBURY COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**Tanya Flegel, District Manager**

*No Report.*

**LAKE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**Michelle Goodale, District Manager**

*No Report*

**LINCOLN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**James Jacobsen, District Manager**

*No Report.*

**MCCOOK COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**Stephanie Albin, District Manager**

*No Report.*

**MINNEHAHA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**John Parker, District Manager**

*No Report.*

**MINER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**Tami Moore, District Manager**

2021 – Last year with dealt with COVID, this year we were fortunate to deal not only with COVID but also a drought serious enough to put us in the D3 category!

Tree Planting – Soil conditions were awesome this year, so tree planting was fun – until it didn't rain! A lot of watering went on in Miner County, which really helped on survival. The average survival went from 75% on some species to 85% on other species. We also dealt with some Dicamba drift. We planted 45.2 acres for 14 producers. The average acres since 1952 had been 100 acres, but these last 6 or 7 years have lowered the average to approximately 75 acres. Our tree crew ranges from 24 years of service to 4 years of service. We try to run our tree crew with 5 but found with only 45 acres of trees to plant we could do it with 4. The tractor and planter load on a trailer pulled by our 2018 Ford 4x4 ¾ ton pickup and a 1995 GMC Cube Van loaded with the trees pulling a trailer with a 2013 Polaris 4-wheeler and trailer. We love the cube van – we can stand up in the van. Our tree cooler is inside a quonset. We drive our van into the quonset, the trees go directly from the cooler into the van. Then at the site we dip the trees in the back of the van, move them to bags for each row, directly into the tree planter boxes. We try to minimize the amount of air exposed to the trees as much as possible. We drive or walk each row of trees immediately behind the tree planter to make sure each tree is being properly planted. Our tree planter is old, but it does such a good job we hate to change it. We sold over 8,360 hand plant trees and tree protectors to 123 members of the community. We are proud of our hand plant sales considering our population size.

Grass Seeding – We provide a complete grass seeding service – we seed with a 2017 Great Plains Grass Drill with No-till Attachment. In the past we have always had a lease tractor. This year, the lease tractor did not come and when it did it was already sold. We had to rely on a very nice farmer in Miner County (Tami's husband) to allow us to use one of his tractors. We also order the seed for most of our producers. We are very pleased with our drill operator – he is a young farm kid with a lot of knowledge on maintaining equipment. Thank goodness we only had 400 acres to seed this year – but of course those 400 acres were in all corners of the county.

Equipment Rent – We have a 2019 John Deere 1590 No-Till Drill. 38 producers rented the drill was for use on 1,904 acres. Producers seeded 614 acres of alfalfa, 575 acres of cover crop, 290 acres of winter wheat, along with soybeans, grass, oats, and food plots. We have a 2019 Rite-Way 46 and a 2018 Rite-Way 46' Land Roller available for rent. 23 producers used the Land Rollers on 7,135 acres. We have an Aluminum Enclosed Spray mounted on our 2007 Yamaha 4x4 400 4-Wheeler for spraying tree rows. We have a Grass/Fertilizer Spreader and a 4' Land Roller used for lawns and seeding in rows of trees. We have a 4' Dew Drop Native Grass Seeder that is provided with the 4-wheeler and driver, we charge by the hour.

School Activities – High School – We promote and provide prize money for the Conservation Speech Contest. We promote applications for the Karst Memorial Scholarship. The 6<sup>th</sup> graders participated in the Arbor Day Essay and Poem Contest. The winner of our local contest received 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the state contest. We had a Nature Field Day for 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders participated in the Arbor Day Essay and Poem Contest. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders also participated in the Arbor Day Poster Contest. The winner of our local contest was one of the winners of the state contest and will be featured in the 2022 Arbor Day Calendar. We celebrated Arbor Day with 5<sup>th</sup> grade, each student received a Black Hills Spruce. In 2<sup>nd</sup> grade we celebrate the importance of the water cycle, while make a 'water cycle bracelet'. We celebrate Earth Day with the 1<sup>st</sup> graders and have an Earth Day party and make Dirt Cups. The District gives out conservation awards at the Elementary Awards Day. We normally celebrate Arbor Day with the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> grade but that was canceled due to COVID issues.

The district participates in Soil & Water Stewardship Week and Miner County Parade of Trees. The Conservation District gave a presentation for the Miner County Weed Board.

The district has an Appreciation Banquet for the employees and board members. We help with delivering Meals on Wheels in the Howard area. Each year our district donates \$100 to the SDACD Endowment Fund. The district has 'conservation awards' for 4-Hers that have projects concerning conservation. Miner CD is working on involvement with the Emerald Ash Borer Management in our Miner County towns.

Miner Conservation District is involved in the following grants: Conservation Practices Grant (which includes tree plantings, cover crop plantings, and Shelterbelt Renovations), Pollinator & Rain Gardens, Urban Tree Replacement, and Public Awareness & Education. We also participate in the NRCS Cooperative Agreement.

District Manager, Tami Moore, is the President of the SDACD Employees Association, NOLO Coordinator for Vermillion/Big Sioux Area, representative for the Big Sioux Nursery, and Director Alternate for the Northern Plains Regional National Conservation District Employee Association. The Supervisors consist of Dale Shumaker (Chairman), Donald Threadgold (Vice Chairman, Representative for the Eastern SD Research Farm), Tim Clarke (Treasurer), Marvin Kizer (Supervisor), and Julie Calmus (Supervisor).

## **MOODY COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Harvey Schafer, District Manager**

*No Report*

## **TURNER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Charlie Groen, District Manager**

*No Report.*

## **UNION COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Misi Kayl, District Manager**

*No Report.*

**That completes the 2021 year in  
Conservation!**



**We've got what it takes to keep putting  
conservation on the ground!**