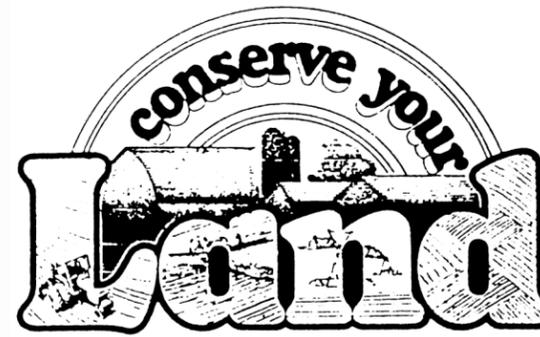


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Beadle

Conservation District

Volume 56

Spring 2020

Issue I

ANNOUNCING BEADLE CD'S URBAN AGRICULTURE SITE

*REDUCING THE LOCAL FOOD DESSERT

* EMPOWERING LOCAL FARMERS

*PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES



DIVERSITY FARM
BEADLE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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 Guy Cameron Project Coordinator

USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service

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 Scott Groepper.....Wetland Specialist
 Brenda Cano Soil Conservationist
 Lindsey BoomsmaNRCS Ultima
 Pheasants Forever
 Cortlynn Jung.....CWD Easement Specialist

Monthly District Board Meetings:
 2nd Thursday of every month. Call for time

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Beadle Conservation District wants to assure you that the safety and health of our constituents, producers, employees, and community continue to be our top priority. We are fully committed to providing you continued services, while also preventing the spread of COVID-19. We encourage you to practice social distancing and call us to schedule an appointment prior to visiting our office. We'll keep you updated as events continue to evolve.

You can reach Robin at 605-936-8384
 Or through email: beadlecd1@gmail.com

**NEW EMPLOYEE—
 GUY CAMERON**

Guy will be the Project Coordinator Diversity Farm. He has been working with local food production in California, Texas and Oregon for 20 + years. He will be a great asset to the district and our new venture—Diversity Farm.



ROBIN A LANNY D TONY

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EXCAVATION ** TRUCKING ** GRADING & DOZING
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 SITE PREPARATION ** DEMOLITION ** TRENCHING
 HORIZONTAL BORING ** SNOW REMOVAL
 PORTABLE TOILETS

Job Openings

The District is currently looking for seasonal employees for the upcoming planting season. These positions include:

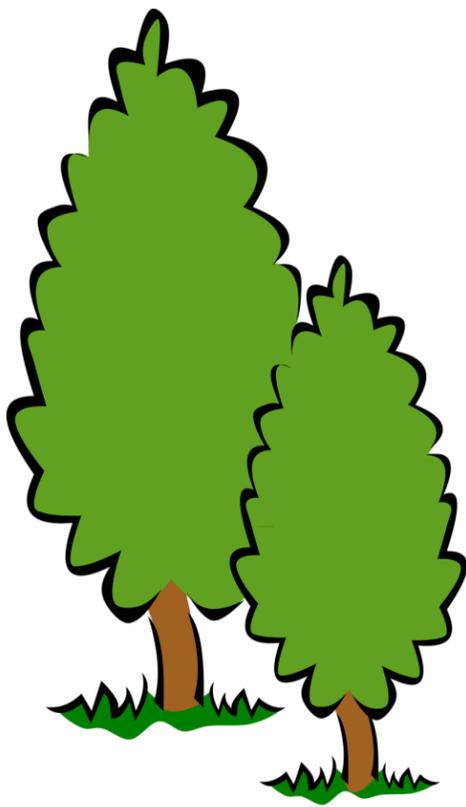
- Tree/Fabric Supervisor Seeding Operator
- Tree/Fabric Crew (3)

For full job descriptions and application, please visit our website: beadleconservationdistrict.com or call Robin at (605) 936-8384 for more information

Deadline for applications is April 17, 2020 at 4pm

BE A VOICE FOR CONSERVATION

The Board of Supervisors is expanding and would like anyone interested in being apart of our conservation efforts to think about joining the board as an advisor. All board members receive \$40 per meeting plus mileage.



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For questions or assistance, please give us a call

446 Custer NE Ph 353-0200
 Huron, SD 57350 Fax 353-0200

e-mail: bcweed@santel.net

Message from NRCS District Conservationist, Jamison Winter:

Due to the current COVID-19 Pandemic, our offices are closed to the public admittance, but remain open for business with staff on site. We are able to work on all of our programs and technical assistance. We will be conducting this business via email, phone and other electronic avenues or telework. We will continue to try and serve our customers in a timely manner. Despite the public office closures, we still need to be looking ahead to the upcoming growing season. With the extremely wet and abnormal year we had last year, and the potential for another trying growing season to come, it is a good time to be looking ahead to what options you may have for the new crop season. With crop rotations out of sequence, fallowed ground, saturated ground and many more issues, NRCS is available to discuss options in crop rotations, cover crops and practices that may help to alleviate some of the issues that are being faced. NRCS can offer technical support and information and in some instance financial assistance through our available programs. Beginning with the new year, it would be a great time to visit with the local field office and look at options on your operation, specifically cover crop and forage options. We would also like to encourage producers to stick with their no-till or minimum till strategies to avoid loss of years of soil development and structure. Depending on the options we can potentially develop an application for our CSP program. We can also discuss CRP or easement options on unproductive ground with water and salinity problems. Both the CSP and CRP programs are available for applications at this time. We can take these applications electronically.

Reminders:

I would also like to take a second to offer a reminder to conservation program contract holders. Anyone with an active EQIP, RCPP, CRP, or CSP contract should be in contact with our office to review upcoming plans for the growing season to ensure those practices or enhancements can be installed and are completed to NRCS specification. This should be completed prior to beginning of planting to make sure Pest Management, Nutrient Management and Prescribed Grazing all start off on the right foot. If you are unsure of some of your documentation requirements, you should make an appointment to review your documentation and any shortcomings from previous years, to better prepare for the upcoming season. NRCS staff will be available to work with you on documentation and compliance for the upcoming year.

Thank you and best of luck in the upcoming planting season!



"Dirty" Food Plots

Dan DeBoer, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist

What is it?

A "dirty" food plot, refers to a corn or sorghum food plot that has a cover crop mix planted between the rows. Unlike other cover crops, this mix is planted at the same time as the cash crop. Because we are targeting food plots, competition is not a major concern.

What are the benefits?

It is no secret that cover crops are beneficial to soil health, erosion control, and moisture retention, but there are other potential benefits when applied in this fashion.

- ◆ Mechanical weed control

Cover crop mix establishes fast enough to out compete noxious weeds such as Canada thistle and sand burrs.

No chemicals are needed, saving time and money. (CC mix costs approximately \$18.00/acre)

- ◆ Increased grazing potential

This cover crop mix adds another grazing source for landowners grazing corn stocks

- ◆ Additional source of food for wildlife

Flowering species attract insects for pheasant chicks and other wildlife

Millet, radishes, flax, and crimson clover provide extra nutrition to existing food plot



- ◆ Row crops become habitat

"Dirty" food plots are no longer barren rows, but instead, have dense cover conducive for wild life protection.

- ◆ Very little yield change

Trials showed little production difference to standard food plot plantings in similar conditions.

During peak growing season for corn, CC mix stayed relatively dormant and growth took off after corn had reached maturity.

Application: This mix is as user friendly as it gets. Landowners simply need to broadcast CC mix on-to field the same day, or relatively soon after corn is planted (preferably while rainfall is predicted in the near future). All of the planted species will winterkill, requiring no extra work the following planting season.



A Note from the Board Chairman -

For the last several years we have labored over the decision of how best to utilize our four acre property on Lincoln Ave. I have written about this in the past and always been careful to speak of development in the future tense. When you drive past it this spring it will be apparent that we have moved past the someday soon stage and are now focused on implementation. A name has been attached to what you will see and that is Diversity farm. The BCD, with the assistance of the NRCS through a Conservation Collaboration Grant, is setting this up as a demonstration site to explore the viability of locally grown foods in the area in which we live and work.

We acknowledge that there are already producers in the area that are involved with this type of food production. Our intent is to demonstrate the economic viability of producing not just for local consumption but also for regional distribution. We will be developing the site for both greenhouse and open air production. The greenhouses will demonstrate whether it is possible to lengthen the growing season and be more than an in season source of produce. We will be starting our demonstration site out with two greenhouses and are hopeful of finding funding sources for more. The open air production will demonstrate the variety of food that can be grown seasonally for the market we serve.

The purpose of this site will be to allow producers and or any other interested parties to see not only what can be produced but the economic reality of this type of food production. Can it be a viable enterprise for someone looking for a way to diversify in a new way? We will commit to keeping an open set of books to allow anyone interested in exploring this as an enterprise to make a more informed decision as to whether it will work at all and more importantly whether it could work for their operation.

Agriculture is challenging and what has worked for generations may keep working for generations to come. It also may not, or may need to be altered, in order to meet the demands of a changing society. In a conversation I was part of not long ago I heard this statement: "If the trucks don't run; Huron doesn't eat." Inability to produce enough food locally to satisfy the local needs. That is the definition of a food desert. We will probably never reach a time when we are totally independent in that respect but getting closer is worth exploring. Diversity farm will be run to explore that possibility.

BCD Board Chairperson,

Craig Rearick



Cook's Corner

The SD Assn of Conservation Districts Employees Group (SDACDE) has put together a cook book and they are for sale in our office. The price is \$10 and there are over 600 recipes in the book. It would make a nice, inexpensive gift to have on hand when a need arises.

Salmon with Apricot Glaze

Ellen Reddick

1/4 c apricot preserves
2 T soy sauce

2 cloves garlic, minced
1-1/2 lb salmon fillet

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Combine preserves, soy sauce and garlic, stirring with a whisk. Place salmon on rack of broiler pan. Spread half of glaze over fish. Bake for 18 minutes or until fish flakes easily with a fork. Remove from oven and spread with remaining glaze. Broil fish for 3 minutes or until glaze is lightly browned.



Now is a good time to start thinking about cover crops. Our Interseeder is a great way to plant cover crops in between your corn rows. Cover Crops are also very beneficial to prevent plant acres. We are able to order a variety of cover crop mixes or help you create your own mix. Give Robin a call at (605) 936-8384 to see how we can be of service to you.

Benefits of Cover Crops:

- ◆ Reduce compaction
- ◆ Increase water infiltration
- ◆ Improve soil health
- ◆ Longer grazing
- ◆ Wildlife habitat



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