



United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Spring 2012  
Quarterly Newsletter

# CONSERVATION COMMUNICATOR

**CURRENT  
DEVELOPMENTS...**

**NEW Name...  
NEW Look!**

## **INSIDE...**

150th Anniversary

Nutrient Balancer Program

Employees on the Move!

**and MUCH MORE!**

**Helping People Help The Land.**

*USDA-NRCS is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*



# INSIDE...

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Mary Podoll, State Conservationist

## From the State Conservationist...

### Conservation is a “dirty” word...

There is nothing like getting your hands dirty. Last week while I was planting trees, one granddaughter was eating grass and another was digging for worms. I commented about how many worms I was finding compared to last year; when – out of the mouth of babes– came “if you really want worms, look under the horse’s p\_\_p”.

There are 2 characteristics that will make a conservationist successful:

1. Observation
2. Discernment

Of course, having a passion for natural resources helps, too! We all have the ability to observe using all of our senses; discernment comes from a variety of areas, including experience, knowledge, and practice.

I have observed changes taking place in the landscape throughout North Dakota. Windbreaks are now piles of debris in fields, more soil exposed through increased tillage, more tiling (without conserving facilitating practices) taking place... AND, we have record participation in conservation programs; on-going discussions with agriculture groups,

discussions with environmental groups – This is a great time to be with USDA-NRCS! We have always tried to bridge the gap between production and sustainability. It’s as important today as it was when Hugh Hammond Bennett was Chief.

If the locally led conservation process hasn’t been as exciting or successful as you would like – now is the time to start working with your Soil Conservation District partners to re-invigorate.

Questions to ask:

1. What does sustainability mean to you?
2. Where did you get your stewardship values?
3. How much are you willing to invest in sustainability?
4. In the list of resource concerns, which ones impact my community?
5. Can you identify leaders in conservation in your counties?

With the renewed focus on soil health, the ability to target dollars for local issues, and the ability to leverage dollars for specific initiatives - such as the sage grouse- we can leave a lasting legacy for conservation.

Get your hands dirty this week!

*Mary*





## USDA Celebrates 150th Anniversary

Aside from a couple species of tortoise, there are few things that are known to sustain for 150 years. The U.S. Department of Agriculture is proud to be among this exclusive club as it prepares to celebrate its 150th anniversary.

Coined “the people’s department” by President Abraham Lincoln, the USDA was established to help America’s farmers and ranchers cultivate the land, advance research

and technology, and ensure a safe and abundant food supply.

Since its inaugural year, the USDA has branched out to become a leader in advancing the needs of America’s farmers and ranchers, promoting agricultural trade and production, ensuring food safety, protecting natural resources, fostering rural communities, and working to end hunger in the United States and abroad.

“It would be tough to argue that another department or agency has as profound an effect on our daily lives as the USDA,” stated NRCS State Conservationist Mary Podoll. “USDA is truly a grassroots department that works directly with producers, communities, and organizations to deliver high quality services and programs that enhance the very fabric of our great country.”

## A big shout out to NRCS ND!

*Submitted by: Diane Krzmarzick, Garrison FO*

National Volunteer Week (April 15-21) was celebrated with a bang. We awarded 19 individuals, 2 groups, and all staff utilizing the program with Earth Team items. So far this fiscal year, ND has 2080 volunteer hours recorded. Keep up the good work and help us promote this great program. Consider signing up a volunteer today to help achieve your goals.



*Marshall Larson from the Anne Carlsen Center for Children volunteering for the Jamestown AO during National Volunteer Week.*

# Nutrient Balancer Program

*Submitted by: Corie Lund, Selfridge FO and Debbie Vollmuth, SCD Manager, Cedar Soil Conservation District*

The Cedar Soil Conservation District decided in 2010 to add the Nutrient Balancer (NUTBal) program to their list of services. NUTBal is a program where ranchers can use livestock fecal samples to better understand the quality of their pastures during different seasons and make management decisions based on their results. The process is simple: take the sample, send the sample to GAN Lab in Texas, receive the results through email, input herd information, weather information and results into the software and out pops a report showing if the

nutritional requirements of the herd are being met.

The District charges \$75 if one of the employees collects the sample and \$50 if the producer brings in the sample. Usually the producer brings in the sample. That has been working quite well except for a few producers who think “more is better.” It is not unusual to see Debbie Vollmuth, District Clerk, in the back of the office hitting gallon size bags of frozen manure with hammers to break off smaller samples!

District employees were trained on how to collect samples and proper storage. Jody Forman trained the staff on using the NUTBal program and generating reports. Corie Lund, the District Conservationist, has been helpful in reviewing results with producers. The only issue that has come up with this service is

that occasionally GAN Lab is a little slow getting the results back to the District.

Most of the samples that are brought in are from producers who have CSP contracts. This service is especially handy for them. The District invited Jeff Printz to the 2010 Annual Banquet to talk about the NUTBal system, and his talk peaked interest from other producers around the county. “I like it because it takes the guesswork out of knowing if your cows are getting enough nutrition from what they are eating,” says Jeremy Maher, Cedar Soil Conservation District’s Vice Chair. The NUTBal service offered by Cedar SCD has been widely used and, of course, all of the producers and office personnel have their jokes to share about “manure.”

# Cultural Transformation: What is it?

*Submitted by: Tanner Blair, Bismarck SO*

How many of you are familiar with the term cultural transformation? You may have heard it in passing or read it in an email, but do you know what it means? Well, in its most simple form, cultural transformation is a process of creating a workplace where all employees and customers are treated with dignity and respect and provided the opportunity for success.

To help promote the concept of cultural transformation, North Dakota NRCS has established a Cultural Transformation Team. Made up of 6 employees, the ND Cultural Transformation Team holds regularly scheduled teleconferences to discuss the main themes of cultural transformation—leadership, employee development, talent management, recruitment and retention, and customer focus and community outreach—and devise ways to incorporate these themes into the culture of our agency.

The goal of cultural transformation is to develop a workforce that is diverse, inclusive, and high performing. Of course no one team will be able to accomplish such a feat on its own. Therefore, all NRCS employees are encouraged to get involved in the process—read up on cultural transformation, take part in activities, and contribute your own thoughts and ideas on how to make ND NRCS the best agency in the federal government and best workplace in America.

# Agronomic Concerns Interpretations

Submitted by: Wade Bott, Bismarck SO

The North Dakota soils staff has developed 13 new interpretations that are being delivered with the latest version of the updated soil survey data. The interpretation criteria are based on the information that is presented in the "Potential Cropland Limitations and Hazards" table in the older soil surveys. The new interpretations that are being made available on the Soil Data Mart and in Web Soil Survey are surface salinity, surface crusting, tilth and/or compaction, available water capacity, rooting depth, sodicity, subsurface salinity, natural fertility, pesticide and nutrient leaching, pesticide and nutrient runoff, water erosion, wind erosion, and physical limitations. There is a significant amount of added value for our customers in that the interpretation results can be viewed spatially, as well as in a table format, helping producers visualize where the potential limitations and hazards are on their land. The new data are already available for Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) 56 and portions of MLRAs 55A and 55B. A brochure is being developed for distribution from field offices to promote awareness and help generate conversation with producers.

The new agronomic concerns interpretations can be found on the Web Soil Survey by:

The screenshot shows the 'Web Soil Survey' interface. At the top, there are navigation links: 'Contact Us', 'Download Soils Data', 'Archived Soil Surveys', and 'Soil Survey Stat'. Below these are three tabs: 'Area of Interest (AOI)', 'Soil Map', and 'Soil Data Explorer'. The 'Soil Data Explorer' tab is active, and a dropdown menu shows 'View Soil Information By Use: All Uses'. Below this are two sub-tabs: 'Intro to Soils' and 'Suitabilities and Limitations for Use', with the latter being selected. On the left, there is a 'Search' section and a table titled 'Suitabilities and Limitations Ratings'. The table has columns for category, name, and actions (help icon and expand/collapse icons). The 'Land Management' category is expanded, showing a list of 13 agronomic concerns, each with a rating of '(ND)'. On the right, there is a 'Soil Map' section with a legend and a map showing a field with various soil types and labels like 'County Road 43' and 'Egeland'.

Suitabilities and Limitations Ratings		
Open All Close All ?		
Building Site Development	?	⌵
Construction Materials	?	⌵
Disaster Recovery Planning	?	⌵
Land Classifications	?	⌵
<b>Land Management</b>	?	⌵
Agronomic Concerns, Available Water Capacity (ND)		
Agronomic Concerns, Natural Fertility (ND)		
Agronomic Concerns, Pesticide and Nutrient Leaching (ND)		
Agronomic Concerns, Pesticide and Nutrient Runoff (ND)		
Agronomic Concerns, Physical Limitations (ND)		
Agronomic Concerns, Rooting Depth (ND)		
Agronomic Concerns, Sodicity (ND)		
Agronomic Concerns, Subsurface Salinity (ND)		
Agronomic Concerns, Surface Crusting (ND)		
Agronomic Concerns, Surface Salinity (ND)		
Agronomic Concerns, Tilth and-or Compaction (ND)		
Agronomic Concerns, Water Erosion (ND)		
Agronomic Concerns, Wind Erosion (ND)		
Military Operations	?	⌵
Recreational Development	?	⌵
Sanitary Facilities	?	⌵
Vegetative Productivity	?	⌵
Water Management	?	⌵

- Defining your Area of Interest (AOI), and then
- From the "Soil Data Explorer" tab, click the "Suitabilities and Limitations for Use" tab, and then
- Click on "Land Management";
- Click on the interpretation of choice,
- Click on "Detailed Description" (Optional), and
- Click on "View Rating".

# Subsurface Water Management Interpretations

Submitted by: Wade Bott, Bismarck SO

The North Dakota soils staff in cooperation with North Dakota State University, and NDSU Extension Service has developed 3 new interpretations that are being delivered with the latest version of the updated soil survey data. The interpretations identify potential soil limitations for tile drainage. The new interpretations that are being made available on the Soil Data Mart and in Web Soil Survey are for installation, performance, and outflow quality

of subsurface water management systems. The interpretation results can be viewed spatially, as well as in a table format, helping producers visualize where the potential limitations are on their land. The new data are already available for Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) 56 and portions of MLRAs 55A and 55B. Posters are being developed for each area office to create awareness of the new interpretations. The new subsurface water

management interpretations can be found on the Web Soil Survey by:

- Defining your Area of Interest (AOI), and then
- From the "Soil Data Explorer" tab, click the "Suitabilities and Limitations for Use" tab, and then
- Click on "Water Management";
- Click on the interpretation of choice,
- Click on "Detailed Description" (Optional), and
- Click on "View Rating".

The screenshot shows the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Web Soil Survey interface. The top navigation bar includes 'Contact Us', 'Download Soils Data', 'Archived Soil Surveys', and 'Soil Survey Status'. Below this, there are tabs for 'Area of Interest (AOI)', 'Soil Map', and 'Soil Data Explorer'. The 'Soil Data Explorer' tab is active, showing a dropdown menu for 'View Soil Information By Use' set to 'All Uses'. Below this, there are four main sections: 'Intro to Soils', 'Suitabilities and Limitations for Use' (which is highlighted in red), 'Soil Properties and Qualities', and 'Ecological Assessments'. The 'Suitabilities and Limitations for Use' section contains a 'Search' box and a list of 'Suitabilities and Limitations Ratings'. The list includes categories like 'Building Site Development', 'Construction Materials', 'Disaster Recovery Planning', 'Land Classifications', 'Land Management', 'Military Operations', 'Recreational Development', 'Sanitary Facilities', and 'Vegetative Productivity'. Under the 'Water Management' category, there are four items: 'Embankments, Dikes, and Levees', 'Excavated Ponds (Aquifer-Fed)', 'Pond Reservoir Areas', and 'Subsurface Water Management, Installation (ND)', 'Subsurface Water Management, Outflow Quality (ND)', and 'Subsurface Water Management, Performance (ND)'. To the right of the list is a 'Soil Map' panel with a legend and a map showing the location of Devils Lake, Lakewood Park, and Tokio.

# North Dakota Welcomes...

## Cassie Setter

*Soil Conservationist, Ellendale FO*



Cassie Setter recently joined NRCS in November 2011 as a soil conservationist in Ellendale, ND. She is from Moorhead, MN and received a B.S. degree in Conservation Biology from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities in 2008. Prior to attending graduate school, Cassie worked with the Student Conservation Association doing habitat restoration in the Mojave Desert and then became

a field technician for Cass County Weed Control in West Fargo, ND. Subsequently, she attended North Dakota State University and received a M.S. degree in Natural Resources Management in 2011. For her graduate student research she evaluated the effect of flea beetles on native grass establishment and the change in soil seedbank composition following leafy spurge control in the Little Missouri National Grasslands. Additionally, she assessed various herbicides for smooth brome and quackgrass control in a switchgrass establishment to be used for biofuel production.

Cassie currently lives in Oakes with her fiancé Ryan Lagodinski and 3 year old daughter, Addison. She's really looking forward to her wedding this summer and is busy planning all the details. She enjoys travelling, spending time outdoors and visiting with family and friends.

## Nikki Darrington

*Soil Conservationist, Watford City FO*



Hello! My name is Nikki Darrington. I joined the Watford City NRCS Field Office in January as a Soil Conservationist. I was a Thompson from the Arnegard area and graduated from Watford City High School, so I'm so lucky to be back in my stomping ground! I graduated from Dickinson State University where I studied Natural Resource Management. I was part of the SCEP program, where I worked in Cando and Bismarck. After graduation I was placed permanently in Stanley as a soil conservationist.

I married Patrick Darrington, a farmer from Iowa. I moved to Iowa where I worked in FSA for three years. We also farmed, raised black angus, and had a soil sampling business. We have two daughters, Gracyn and Gavyn, that make us laugh every day. We enjoy camping, playing games, and being outdoors. We moved back to Arnegard in August of 2011 as we wanted to live closer to my family and raise our children here. We are building a house this summer, so we are very excited! I look forward to getting reacquainted with the agency that I once was part of and seeing all of you again!

## Ian Kenney

*Soil Scientist, Jamestown AO*



Ian Kenney started working as a Soil Scientist on the wetland team at the Jamestown office on April 23, 2012. Ian is from Dixon, Illinois (hometown of Ronald Reagan), and obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Geography from Northern Illinois University in 2009 and a Master's Degree in Agronomy from Kansas State University in 2011. His Master's thesis focused on the impacts of removing corn residue from agricultural fields on soil properties, soil erosion, and crop yield.

## Levi Binstock

Soil Conservationist, Selfridge FO



I am the new Soil Conservationist in the Selfridge field office. I started here in late February. I am originally from Strasburg, North Dakota and I have a bachelor's degree in Rangeland Management from North Dakota State University. I have previously worked with private consulting companies conducting wildlife, botany, and soil surveys along with wetland delineations. I also worked in the Mandan field office for the Soil Conservation District for two years. I currently live in Bismarck with my wife and we enjoy camping, fishing, and playing hockey.

## Jon "Scott" Davis

Civil Engineer, Bismarck SO

Jon started working for NRCS on April 9, 2012. He is originally from Elk Point, South Dakota. Jon graduated from the University of New Mexico with a BS degree in Civil Engineering. Prior to NRCS, Jon has worked for the City of Albuquerque, NM, several A & E consulting firms, the construction industry, and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Jon enjoys golf; however, the bulk of his spare time is spent chasing his daughters all across the state as they partake in their extra-curricular activities.



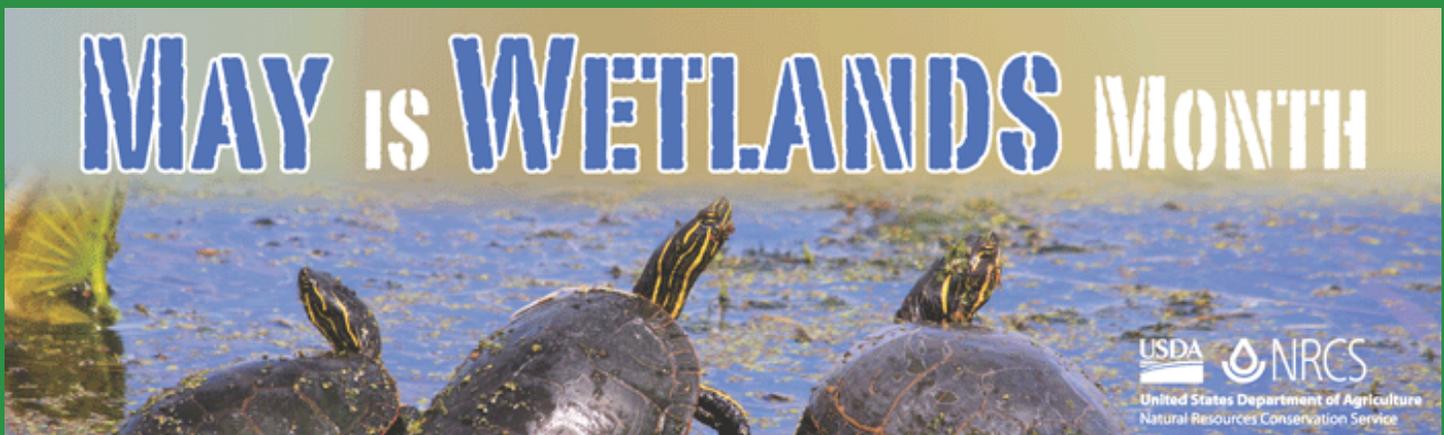
## Keith Donaldson

Soil Conservationist, Ellendale FO

Keith started with NRCS in November 2011 as the new Soil Conservationist at the Ellendale field office. Prior to NRCS, Keith worked for USDA/APHIS/WS since 2005. Keith holds a M.S. in Biology from Central Missouri State University and a B.S. in Wildlife Conservation & Energy from Northwest Missouri State University.

Keith and his wife Sarah are originally from west central Missouri. They have two children, a 4 year old daughter, Ryley and a 2 year old son, Josiah.

Keith enjoys trapping, hunting, and gardening.



# Matt Nelson

Soil Conservationist, Ellendale FO



Hello! My name is Matt Nelson, from Drayton, ND. Growing up, I have always had a strong interest in conservation and the outdoors which was spent with my dad on our land on the Red River. As long as I can remember, hunting, fishing, and planting trees to enhance wildlife habitat has always been an interest and passion of mine. Thinking seriously about my career after high school, I enrolled in the Forestry/Wildlife program at Vermilion Community College in Ely, MN in the fall of 2004. While attending college, I worked as a Wildland Fire Technician with the US Forest Service Seaplane Base and the Minnesota DNR Initial Attack Fire Crew. After graduation in May 2007, I served as a seasonal at Valley City Wetland Management District working as a Biological Science Technician (wildlife) with the US Fish and Wildlife. Then later that fall, I served a year working on restoration projects as a Pest Control Technician at the Big Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex in Hilo, Hawaii. Wanting to get back home on the Great Plains, I worked for the soil conservation district as a Watershed Technician in Jamestown and as a District Technician/Watershed Coordinator in Park River. I am very excited in working with the producers in the area and to be part of the NRCS team at the Devils Lake Field office, serving as the Soil Conservation Technician.

*“Don’t be afraid to give your best to what seemingly are small jobs. Every time you conquer one it makes you that much stronger. If you do the little jobs well, the big ones will tend to take care of themselves.” ~ Dale Carnegie*

# Jesse Mastrian

Soil Conservation Technician,  
Minnewaukan FO



I’d like to start by saying how excited I am to be working in Benson County. My name is Jesse Mastrian and I am a native of Minnesota. I am the new Soil Conservation Technician with NRCS, based out of the Minnewaukan field office.

I come from a small town called Littlefork, which is 20 miles south of International Falls. I grew up in the north woods of MN; before I could walk I was hunting, fishing and trapping with my dad. I love to hunt and fish; whitetails, black bear, and ruffed grouse are abundant where I come from and I love to hunt them.

My educational background includes a Diploma in Forest Technology from Northwest Tech College in Bemidji, MN. From there I moved to Crookston, MN where I received a BS in Natural Resource Management and Soil and Water

Resources. During my college years I interned with the Forestry and Fish & Wildlife sections of the MN Department of Natural Resources.

I have worked for many state and federal agencies, including the USGS, NRCS and MN DNR. Before moving to Minnewaukan, I worked as a Soil Conservation Aide for NRCS in Morris, MN. I worked on many farm programs, including CRP, WRP, EQIP, CREP and CSP. The reason I got into conservation was to preserve what little natural habitat we have left. My dad is a state forester, so I grew up with the knowledge of trees and with my educational background, I will help landowners in North Dakota establish windbreaks and shelterbelts to help improve their land.

I moved to Minnewaukan in February 2010 and started working with the North Central SCD. In October 2011, I started with NRCS in the same field office. I chose the area because I was familiar with it; I worked in this area in 2008 for the USGS. I was doing gas emission sampling of the many wetlands in the area for the Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center in Jamestown ND. I am looking forward to working with landowners in the area and helping them with anything they may need.



## May is National Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month

### Congressional Bills Establish Celebration

In June 1977, Representatives Frank Horton of New York and Norman Y. Mineta of California introduced a House resolution that called upon the president to proclaim the first ten days of May as Asian/Pacific Heritage Week. The following month, senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga introduced a similar bill in the Senate. Both were passed.

On October 5, 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed a joint resolution designating the annual celebration.

### APA Becomes Monthlong Celebration

In May 1990, the holiday was expanded further when President George H. W. Bush designated

May to be Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is celebrated with community festivals, government-sponsored activities, and educational activities for students. This year's theme is "Leadership to Meet the Challenge of a Changing World."

### 17.3 million

The estimated number of U.S. residents of Asian descent, according to the 2010 Census. This group comprised 5.6 percent of the total population. This count includes those who said they were both Asian alone (14.7 million) and Asian in combination with one or more additional races (2.6 million).

## 78 Years Ago This Week!



By: Mark Tercek

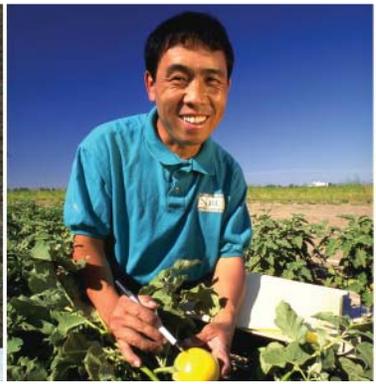
This Wednesday, May 9, will mark the anniversary of one of the worst man-made disasters ever to hit the United States.

On that date in 1934, massive clouds of dust and top soil blew from Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas and other Great Plains states all the way to cities as far as New York, Atlanta and Washington, DC. In Chicago, 12 million pounds of soil was dumped on the city.

It marked the peak of the American Dust Bowl, a nine-year period that destroyed farmlands, blackened skies and left millions homeless.

The Dust Bowl resulted from years of unsustainable agriculture that eroded soils and destroyed native grasslands that held the earth in place. The region had been plowed from 1914 and 1920 to meet demand for wheat generated by World War I. When droughts hit, topsoil dried up and blew away.

[Click here to read the full story.](#)



## Employees on the Move!

### NEW HIRES

**Nicole L. Darrington**, Soil Conservationist, GS-457-7, Watford City FO, January 1, 2012

**Ty W. Eisenbraun**, Soil Conservationist, GS-457-5, Killdeer FO, January 15, 2012

**Jeremija R. Arnold**, Miscellaneous Clerk, GS-303-1, Bismarck SO, January 17, 2012

**Levi J. Binstock**, Soil Conservationist, GS-457-7, Selfridge FO, February 26, 2012

**Phil J. Haaland**, Miscellaneous Clerk (Temporary Part-Time), GS-303-2, Devils Lake AO, March 25, 2012

**Catherine F. Wilhelmi**, Miscellaneous Clerk (Temporary Part-Time), GS-303-2, Devils Lake AO, March 25, 2012

**Jon Scott Davis**, Civil Engineer, GS-810-12, Bismarck SO, April 8, 2012

**Matthew J. Nelson**, Soil Conservation Technician, GS-458-7, Devils Lake FO, April 22, 2012

**Daniel E. Wigen**, Resource Conservationist (TERM), GS-401-7, Devils Lake AO, April 22, 2012

**Ian T. Kenney**, Soil Scientist (TERM), GS-470-9, Jamestown AO, April 22, 2012

### PROMOTIONS

**Marissa L. Krebs**, Student Trainee Soil Conservationist (SCEP), GS-499-4 to Soil Conservationist, GS-457-7, Killdeer FO, January 1, 2012

**Brandon A. Kottke**, Student Trainee Soil Conservationist (SCEP), GS-499-4 to Soil Conservationist, GS-457-7, Devils Lake FO, January 15, 2012

**Sean W. Johnson**, Soil Conservationist, GS-457-7 to GS-457-9, Fargo FO, January 15, 2012

**Tara L. Vaira**, Student Trainee Soil Conservationist (SCEP), GS-499-4 to Soil Conservationist, GS-457-7, Beach FO, January 15, 2012

**Tanya J. Koch**, Visual Information Specialist, GS-1084-9 to State Public Affairs Officer, GS-1035-11, Bismarck SO, January 29, 2012

**Rhonda M. Nelson**, Soil Conservationist, GS-457-7 to GS-457-9, Bismarck FO, April 8, 2012

**Linda K. Kassian**, Procurement Technician, GS-1106-7 to Secretary, GS-318-8, Bismarck SO, April 22, 2012

### REASSIGNMENTS

**Lena A. Bohm**, District Conservationist, GS-457-11, Cando FO to Bottineau FO, January 1, 2012

**Brian G. Gysbers**, Soil Conservationist, GS-457-9 to District Conservationist, GS-457-9, Rolla FO, January 1, 2012

**Thomas W. Campbell**, Construction Control Inspector, GS-809-10, Grand Forks FO to Cavalier FO, January 15, 2012

**Tyler C. Uran**, Soil Conservationist, GS-457-9, Mandan FO to Stanley FO, January 29, 2012

**Carol V. Peterson**, RC&D Coordinator, GS-401-12, Jamestown AO to Ecological Site Inventory Specialist, GS-401-12, Bismarck SO, February 12, 2012

**Jessica L. Beard**, Soil Salinity Specialist, GS-470-11, Hillsboro FO to Grand Forks FO, February 12, 2012

**Jill M. Helmuth**, Agricultural Engineer, GS-890-12, Bismarck SO to Watford City FO, February 12, 2012

**Joshua F. Elke**, Soil Conservationist, GS-457-5, Bottineau FO to Rolla FO, March 25, 2012

**Carol A. Weisinger**, Miscellaneous Clerk (Temporary), GS-303-3 to Miscellaneous Clerk (TERM), GS-303-3, Devils Lake AO, March 25, 2012



## RETURN TO DUTY

**Brenyn D. Hardy**, Student Trainee Soil Conservationist (SCEP), GS-499-4, Carson FO to Cavalier FO, January 15, 2012

**Abby N. Solberg**, Student Trainee Soil Conservationist (STEP), GS-499-4, Minot FO to Student Trainee Soil Conservationist (SCEP), GS-499-4, Dickinson FO, January 15, 2012

**Dennis R. DeVault**, Biological Science Aid (WAE), GS-404-3, Bismarck PMC, April 18, 2012

## TRANSFER IN

**Bruz K. Van Dusen**, Student Trainee Soil Conservationist (SCEP), GS-499-4, Mobridge, SD to Selfridge FO, February 26, 2012

## TRANSFER OUT

**Joseph J. Brennan**, Soil Data Quality Specialist, GS-470-12, Bismarck SO to St. Paul, MN, April 8, 2012

**Kristen M. Brennan**, Senior MLRA Soil Scientist, GS-470-11, Bismarck SSO to St. Paul, MN, April 22, 2012

## RETIREMENTS

**John M. Suchor**, Construction Control Inspector, GS-809-9, Grand Forks PO, January 31, 2012

## 2012 SUMMER STUDENTS

**Andrew W. Willyar**, Center FO

**Benjamin W. Grann**, Devils Lake FO

**Bruz K. Van Dusen**, Selfridge FO

**Casey Guetter**, Langdon FO

**Chandra M. Heglund**, Fessenden FO

**Danelle D. Hoff**, Jamestown FO

**Elizabeth Burdolski**, Bismarck SSO

**Jason H. Hanson**, Finley FO

**Jenna Gross**, Steele FO

**Jordaan Thompson**, Forman FO

**Joseph Budke**, Devils Lake SSO

**Kelsey S. Kaiser**, Cooperstown FO

**Kyle Horntvedt**, Fargo FO

**Lucas Schmiesing**, McClusky FO

**Maria Breker**, Fargo FO

**Matthew J. Fedje**, Fargo MLRA SSO

**Matthew Votaw**, Towner FO

**Melissa McCann**, Beulah FO

**Robert N. Guetter**, Bottineau FO

**Ryder Schwagler**, Rugby FO

**Fabian Carmona**, New Rockford FO

**Jashua Otero-Pichardo**, Mandan FO

**Kayla Archuleta**, LaMoure FO

**Joel Hernandez**, Wahpeton FO

**Cariel Arocho Meaux**, Bismarck FO





# Office Communicator...

## Did You Know?

Microsoft Office Communicator is more than just an instant messaging service to keep in touch with your acquaintances. It is a way for NRCS employees and staff to have conferences with one or more peers, share large files that may normally not work through e-mail, and even have quick audio and video meetings.

While not intended for large group teleconferences, it can work well for small meetings or communications needs that come up on the spur of the moment. Depending on the speed of your internet connection and components installed on your PC (microphone, speakers, and webcams) it can be an easy immediate solution and is essentially free, using capability you have available now.

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### Beyond the Basics...

To add additional people to the conversation, click on the Invite icon and choose additional contacts.



To show something from your computer to the members in the conversation choose the Share icon and choose to Share Desktop.



To add audio conversation, make sure your microphone and speakers are turned on and then choose the Call icon. The other members in the conversation will need to answer the incoming call from you in order to connect to the audio conversation.



You can make a video call, using your webcam if you have one, by choosing the Video call icon.





## Article Submissions

This newsletter has been designed to help keep employees informed about what's going on in North Dakota as well as with each other. We encourage you to submit an article. Let us know what's going on in your neck-of-the woods!

To submit an article please take note of the following information:

1. Keep articles brief and to the point (less than 1 page).
2. Always write articles using "plain language" as described in the recent plain language webinar training.
3. Do not put articles directly into an e-mail, create a word document and attach the properly named file to an e-mail.
4. Include any pictures as attachments; do not insert pictures into word or publisher files.
5. All pictures submitted must have a caption. You can provide the caption text at the bottom of your article.
6. Label your picture attachments with a name that would easily identify what article it belongs to. (No pictures called DSN0078.jpg)
7. Do not send any .pdf files

### **Conservation Communicator Schedule:**

**Articles Due by: .....Issue Date:**

Sept. 1, 2012 ..... Sept. 15, 2012

Dec. 1, 2012 ..... Dec. 15, 2012

March 1, 2013..... March 15, 2013

June 1, 2013 ..... June 15, 2013

Please submit articles to [tanya.koch@nd.usda.gov](mailto:tanya.koch@nd.usda.gov)



**United States Department of Agriculture**  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

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