

Urban Agriculture



“There is a quiet revolution stirring in our food system. It is not happening so much on the distant farms that still provide us with the majority of our food; it is happening in cities, neighborhoods, and towns. It has evolved out of the basic need that every person has to know their food, and to have some sense of control over its safety and security. It is a revolution that is providing poor people with an important safety net where they can grow some nourishment and income for themselves and their families. And it is providing an oasis for the human spirit where urban people can gather, preserve something of their culture through native seeds and foods, and teach their children about food and the earth. The revolution is taking place in small gardens, under railroad tracks and power lines, on rooftops, at farmers’ markets, and in the most unlikely of places. It is a movement that has the potential to address a multitude of issues: economic, environmental, personal health, and cultural.”

Michael Ableman



NORTH DAKOTA FY2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

THE NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

Provides agriculture producers and private landowners with locally led assistance to help them implement voluntary conservation practices that protect our State’s natural resources while maintaining production and economic opportunities.

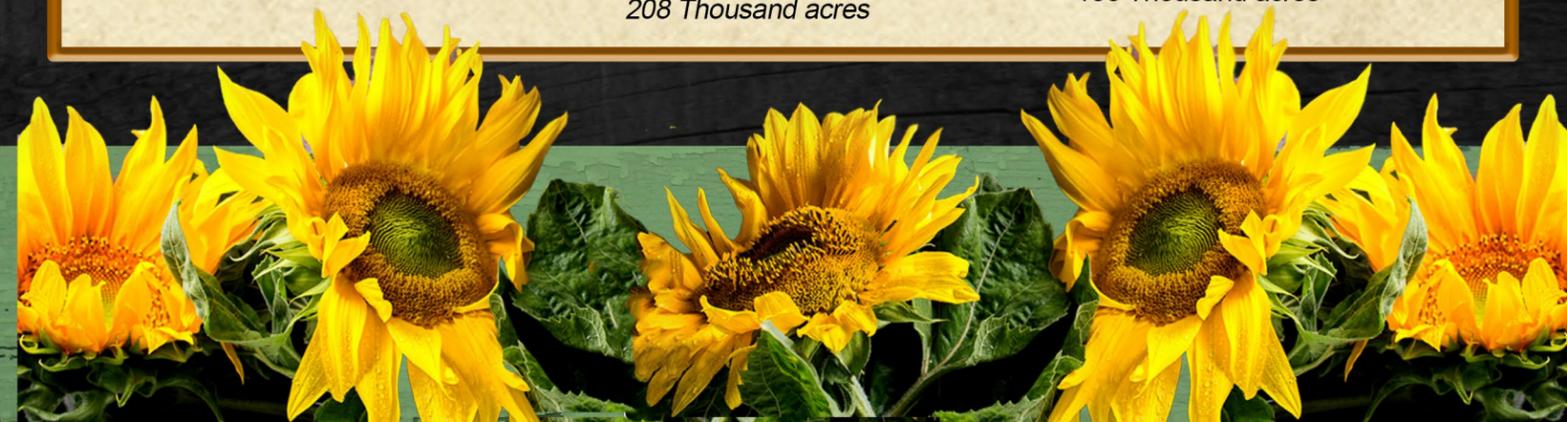
In Fiscal year 2017, North Dakota NRCS planned or applied 165 unique conservation practices and resource enhancements to treat a series of resource concerns ranging from wind erosion to soil health. These practices and enhancements will treat over 1.7 million acres of cropland, rangeland, and pastureland. NRCS programs and technical assistance was provided to over 2,800 producers in the State.

TOP 10 CONSERVATION PRACTICES

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| 1. Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishments
1.4 Million feet | 4. Conservation Crop Rotation
535 Thousand feet | 8. Windbreaks/Shelterbelts Renovations
199 Thousand feet |
| 2. Fence (Facilitates prescribed grazing)
1.2 Million feet | 5. Residue And Tillage Management, No-Till
210 Thousand acres | 9. Residue And Tillage Management, Reduced-Till
168 Thousand acres |
| 3. Livestock Pipelines (Facilitates prescribed grazing)
793 Thousand feet | 6. Nutrient Management
209 Thousand acres | 10. Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
153 Thousand acres |
| | 7. Prescribed Grazing
208 Thousand acres | |

Helping People Help The Land

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



Financial Assistance

Conservation Planning

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

EQIP provides financial assistance to agricultural producers in order to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced water, reduce soil erosion and sedimentation or improved or created wildlife habitat.

\$17 million

382 thousand acres

694 contracts

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

The CSP Program helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resources concerns. Participants earn CSP payments for conservation performance - the higher the performance, the higher the payment.

\$4.9 million

534 thousand acres

285 contracts

Renewals:

\$8.9 million

664 thousand acres

328 contracts

Conservation Planning First is North Dakota's top priority. A National effort to improve the quality of conservation planning being delivered by NRCS and partner conservation planners is currently underway. This effort includes establishment of a National conservation planner database. The database is to be used by national headquarters and State offices to aid in determining staff resources available to perform conservation planning, determine training needs, and assist in policy development. North Dakota currently has 175 individuals certified as conservation planners at various levels.

CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE UPDATE

North Dakota NRCS has increased wetland compliance assistance by hiring and training additional staff to provide technically accurate and consistent determinations. This strategy has reduced requests greater than 60 days old to only 213 statewide. Considering that the agency has completed 311 requests October 2016-Sept 2017, the trend for expedient certified wetland determinations will continue to improve.

North Dakota agricultural producers have found that mitigation has been a favorable opportunity for wetland management. In fiscal year 2017, over 25 mitigation plans have been developed. NRCS has secured the consulting services to provide additional "boots on the ground" for mitigation planning and implementation. In addition, financial assistance has been awarded to Dakota Wetland Partners to jumpstart a Mitigation Bank specifically designed for ND producers.

EASEMENTS

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits. Under the Agricultural Land Easements component, NRCS helps Indian tribes, state and local governments and non-governmental organizations protect working agricultural lands and limit non-agricultural uses of the land. Under the Wetlands Reserve Easements component, NRCS helps to restore, protect and enhance enrolled wetlands.

Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)

\$5 million

4 thousand acres

22 Easements

WATERBANK

Preserve and improve major wetlands as habitat for migratory waterfowl and other wildlife, conserve surface waters, reduce runoff and soil, and wind erosion, contribute to flood control, and improve water quality.

\$3.9 million

10 thousand acres

89 contracts

SOIL HEALTH

North Dakota NRCS participated in over 50 Soil Health events in FY17, sharing the soil health message with more than 5,000 people in the state.

WIND EROSION



1930's



Recent Event



Field Cover

