

# North Dakota Soil Conservation Districts

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Red River Basin  
Commission

January 23, 2008

# North Dakota Soil Conservation District History

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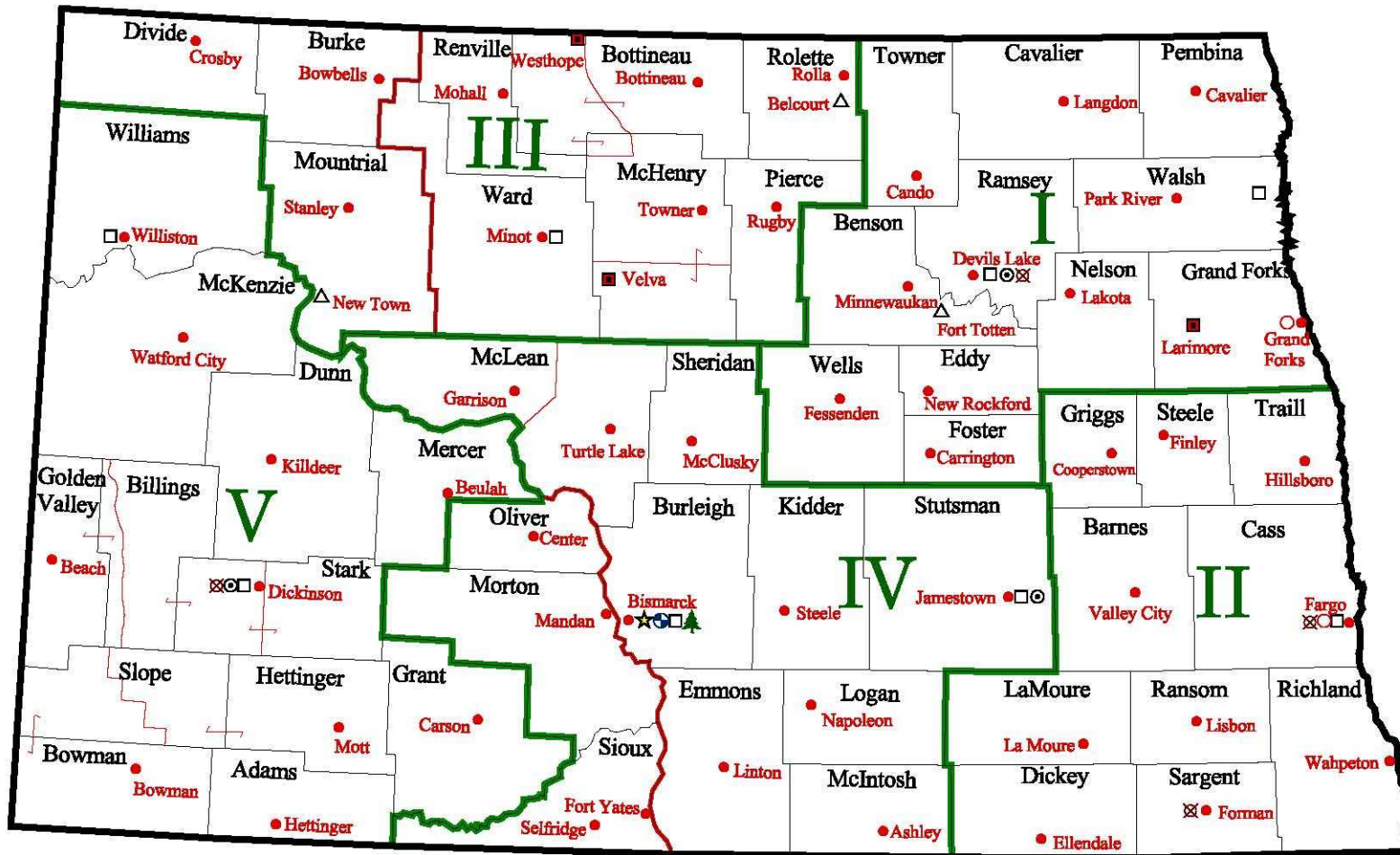
- North Dakota adopted the Soil Conservation District Law on March 3, 1937.
- North Dakotas first Soil Conservation District was organized in the fall of 1937

# North Dakota Soil Conservation District

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- ❑ North Dakota has 55 Soil Conservation Districts
- ❑ North Dakota Soil Conservation District Law (NDCC) 4-22

# SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT AREAS IN NORTH DAKOTA



- |                              |                  |                 |
|------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| — County Line                | ★ State Office   | ▲ Tribal Office |
| — Soil Conservation District | ⊙ Area Office    | ⊕ MLRA          |
| — NRCS Area Boundary         | □ RC&D           | ⊗ Soil Survey   |
| ● NRCS/SCD                   | ○ Project Office | ■ SCD           |

## SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS AREA I

- North Central (Benson)
- Cavalier
- Eddy
- Foster
- Grand Forks
- Nelson
- Pembina
- Ramsey
- Towner
- Walsh Co Three Rivers
- Wells

## AREA II

- Barnes
- Cass
- James River (Dickey)
- Griggs
- LaMoure
- Ransom
- Richland
- Wild Rice (Sargent)
- Steele
- Trall

## AREA III

- Mouse River (Bottineau)
- Turtle Mountain (Bottineau)
- Burke
- Divide
- North McHenry
- South McHenry
- Mountrail
- Pierce
- Renville
- Rolette
- Ward

## AREA IV

- Burleigh
- Emmons
- Kidder
- Logan
- McIntosh
- South McLean
- West McLean
- Morton
- Oliver
- Sheridan
- Cedar (Sioux)
- Stutsman

## AREA V

- Adams
- Bowman-Slope
- Dunn
- Golden Valley
- Grant
- Slope-Hettinger
- McKenzie
- Mercer
- Central Stark
- Western Stark
- Williams

## TRIBAL

- Standing Rock Tribal (Sioux)



# Soil Conservation District Law

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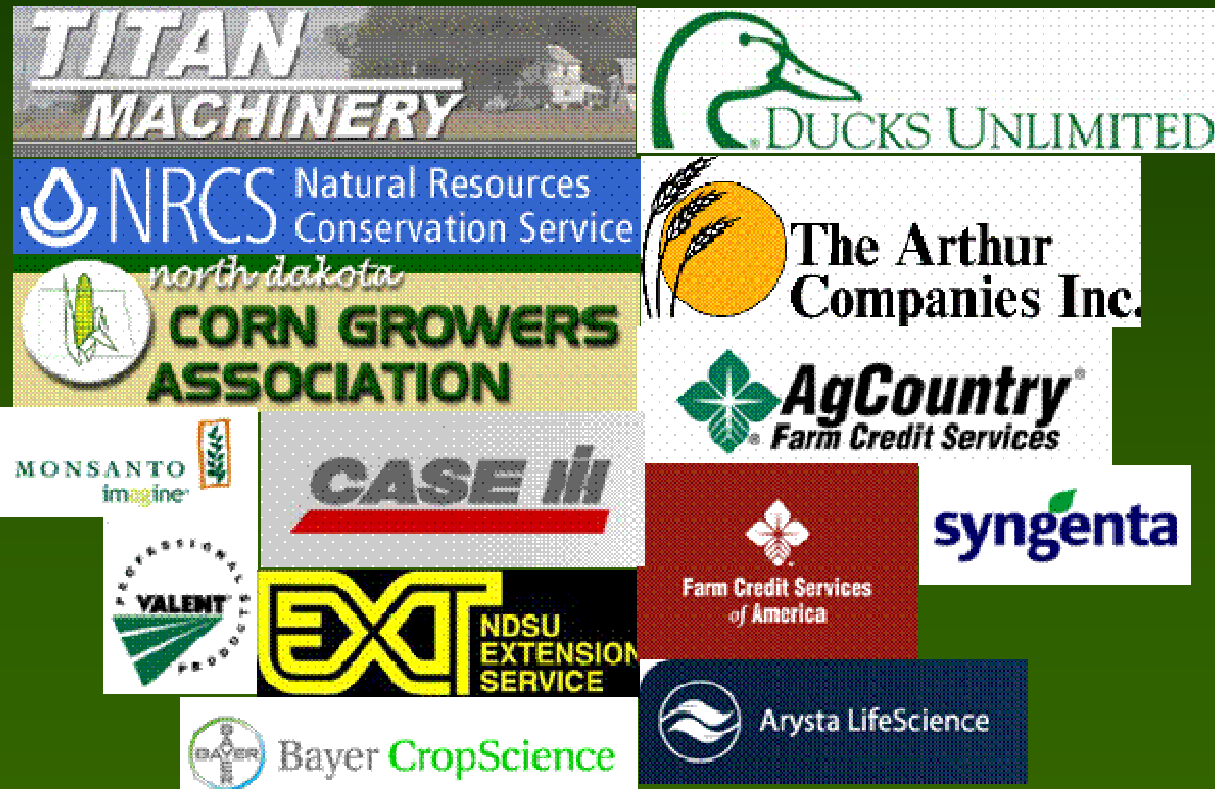
4-22-26. Powers and duties of districts and supervisors.

- conduct surveys, investigations and **research**... (SCD Area IV Research Farm – ARS Mandan, Wild Rice SCD)
- conduct demonstrational projects within the district...on state or other **lands**... (direct seeding, tree planting, windbreak renovation, waste management, grazing, well sealing)

# Wild Rice SCD Conservation Cropping Systems Project



# Wild Rice SCD Conservation Cropping Systems Project



# Wild Rice SCD Conservation Cropping Systems Project

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# Wild Rice SCD Field Tour

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# Wild Rice SCD Strip Till

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# Wild Rice SCD

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# Wild Rice SCD

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# AREA IV SCDs

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**NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS  
RESEARCH LABORATORY**  
Highway 6 South, Mandan, ND

# AREA IV SCDs

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Dr. Mark Liebig focuses on the soils on the Area 4 SCD Cooperative Research Farm

# AREA IV SCDs



Drs. Don Tanaka and Joel Ransom (NDSU) focus on incorporating corn into a sustainable crop sequence.

# Soil Conservation District Law

## 4-22-26

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- carry out preventive and control measures within the district... (SCD services)
- acquire property...
- make available on such terms machinery or equipment...seeds, seedlings and other material or equipment... (SCD services)

# SCD Tree Planting

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# SCD Tree Planting

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# SCD Weed Barrier



# SCD Weed Barrier



# SCD Grass Planting

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# Pasture Tandem Aerator

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# Pipeline Plow

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# Soil Conservation District Law

## 4-22-26

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- **cooperate or enter into agreements**...(Mutual Agreement USDA-State-SCD, Cooperative Working Agreement NRCS-SCD-SSCC, Memorandum of Understanding NDFS-SCD-SSCC)
- **accept donations, gifts, money, service and materials...**

# Soil Conservation District Law

## 4-22-26

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- ...borrow funds and pledge funds...
- expend money for conservation education, promotion and recognition...
- levy a tax...

# Summer Grazing Tour



# Winter Grazing Seminar

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# SCD Eco-Ed Program

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# SCD Youth Conservation Program



# SCD Organization Structure

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**Soil Conservation Districts are  
a Governmental Subdivision of  
the State of North Dakota**

# SCD Organization Structure

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## SCD Supervisors (Elected)

- Any land occupier living in the district and is a qualified elector is eligible to run for the office of a SCD Supervisor
- 3 Elected Supervisors (General Election)
- 6 year terms

# SCD Organization Structure

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## SCD Supervisors (Appointed)

- Any SCD, upon resolution of the three elected supervisors, may appoint two additional supervisors
- Serve for a term of one year

Total of 275 Supervisors

165 Elected & 110 Appointed Officials

# Purpose of Soil Conservation Districts

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Take Available Technician, Financial and Educational Resources Whatever Their Sources, and Focus or Coordinate Them so They Meet the Needs of the Local Land User for the Conservation of Soil, Water and Related Resources

# Soil Conservation District Funding Sources and Assistance

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- Mill Levy (\$1.3 million annually)
- County Commission (\$100,000 annually)
- State (\$360,000 annually)
- Federal NRCS (office space, phone, utilities, vehicles...)
- SCD Services (\$1.5 million annually)

# Soil Conservation District Funding Sources

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- **Grants** (\$1-1.5 million annually, NPS 319 Water Quality Program, RC&D)
- **Donation** (Supervisor, Staff & Volunteer time)
- **Water Resource District** (Funding for 319 Water Quality)
- **Newsletter Sponsors** (Local Business, organizations and clubs)
- **Charitable Gaming Funds**

# Soil Conservation District Annual Budget

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- Range \$50,000 to \$500,000
- Typical SCD annual budget will run between \$75,000 to \$100,000

# A Charge for Soil Conservation Districts in North Dakota

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“Conservation must spring from people on the land and to a large extent be advanced by them as individuals, with the help of government.”

Hugh Hammond Bennett, first Chief of SCS

# Soil Conservation Districts Provide Services

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- ❖ To Land Occupiers in their District
  - ✓ Land occupiers are primary customer base

# Soil Conservation Districts Services and Programs

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- Tree Planting
- Weed Barrier Application
- Tree Cultivation
- Weed Clipping
- Ultra Plow (shallow pipeline)
- No-Till Planting (small grain, grass, row crops)
- Water Quality Projects
- Adult & Youth Education
- Recognition Banquets

# Soil Conservation District Law

## N.D.C.C. 4-22

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- A general rule of law for government agencies and political subdivisions, including Soil Conservation Districts, is that they can only do what is authorized or necessarily implied in state law.

# Partnerships in Conservation

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- The NDSU Extension Agent assisted in the formation of Soil Conservation Districts in North Dakota. Educational Assistance is vital
- The NRCS technical & educational assistance is vital to SCDs

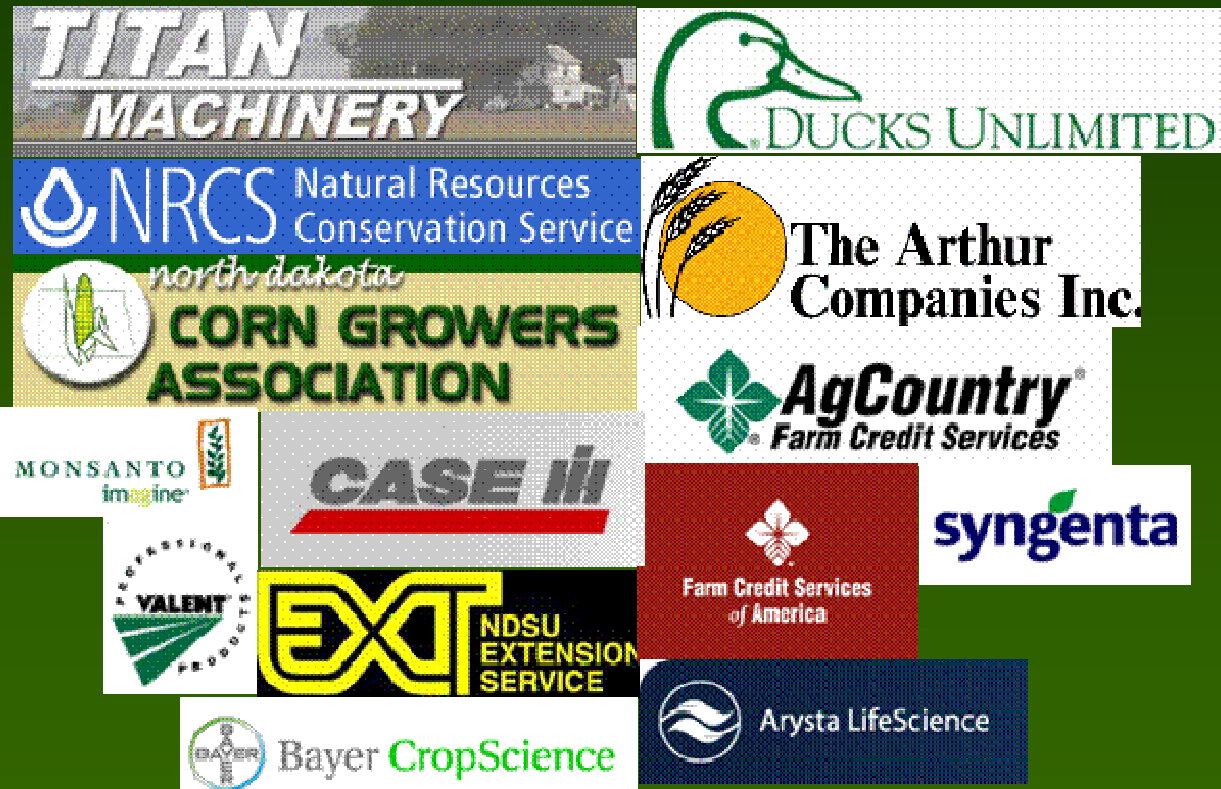
# Partnerships in Conservation

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- ❖ Partnerships are important to a successful conservation program
- ❖ Where strong partnership relations exist there is a productive meeting of local natural resource management needs (SCD, NRCS, Extension, ND Forest Service, Agronomy Centers, Equipment Dealers)



# Partners



# Questions

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