2025 Fall Newsletter

SCD Supervisors

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Penny Nester
Bowman County

Lily Mcfadden
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Bowman-Slope SCD Update

The Bowman-Slope Soil Conservation District has been working on finishing up their summer work, preparing for the winter, and getting trees ordered for next fall.

Through the summer, the Bowman-Slope SCD has been continuing to take water samples on Bowman-Haley Reservoir and it's tributaries. The Bowman-Haley is still under a Warning, and caution should be taken when using the lake for recreational purposes. The Bowman-Slope SCD, along with the NDSU and NRCS hosted The Graze Craze in Amidon. The event was a success, and we look forward to hosting it again next year! They have also been working on the Nature Trail at the Amidon School. If you are looking for a place to take the kids to hangout, and still be educational, take them to the old Amidon School! At the end of September, the Bowman-Slope SCD hosted the Conservation Daze for the 6th graders of Bowman and Scranton. If you went to either Bowman County Fair or the Slope County Fair, you would have seen the Bowman-Slope SCD table set up with the other vendors.

The Bowman-Slope SCD has currently been working on a few cost-share applications for the Grazing Resiliency Program. If that is something that you are interested in, you are welcome to stop in and work out a plan to help you get some cost-share. The Bowman-Slope SCD is still renting out their no-till drill, so if you need to rent it this fall, contact us to get on the schedule! We also recently purchased Light Harrow, so if you are interested in renting the light harrow, reach out to get on the schedule for that as well.

During the summer, we worked on getting applications put together for the Outdoor Heritage Fund, a cost-share application for tree plantings. Currently we are in the process of taking tree orders for handplants for next year and working on counting the dead trees from this year's plantings. If you are interested in receiving handplants, fill out the order form attached and send it back to us!

Through the summer, the Bowman-Slope SCD has also attended a few different trainings and other meetings across the state. They also participated in a More than Dirt podcast with Hannah Nordby, the Area V NDSU Program Coordinator, to talk about their 319 Watershed Projects. It is available for everyone to listen to!

Coming up, the Bowman-Slope SCD will be hosting a Succession Planning workshop with Jolene Brown, from Iowa. This should be a fun event filled with an abundant amount of information for everyone. It is never too early to start preparing for the future!

Upcoming Deadlines and Events

October 3rd- Succession Planning Workshop-SCD
November 1st- Tree Orders Due-SCD
November 15th- NAP Due for Winter Wheat- FSA
November 15th- Acreage Reporting due for Winter Crops- FSA
December 31st- Payment for Trees Due

Are You Interested in Planting Trees?

There may still be an opportunity to make a plan yet this fall to plant in the spring of 2026, or we can put a plan together for 2027. There may be cost-share available for 2027! Stop in and talk to you for more details at the Tree Shed!

SCD Services

No-Till Drill Rental
Light Harrow Rental
Tree Planting Services
Tree Grow Tubes
Weed Barrier Fabric
Plantskydd
Livestock Drinking Water Testing

Contact the Bowman-Slope SCD on questions of any of the listed services that we can provide to you!

SCD Contact

Phone: 701-523-8733
Website: bowmanslopescd.com

NEW SERVICE AVAILABLE

Light Harrow

$200 deposit, paid upfront
$50 for half a day, paid upfront
$100 for a full day and every day after
$150 for every day if used out of county

Use: a form of secondary tillage used for shallow tasks such as smoothing a seedbed or breaking up manure piles in pastures. It minimizes soil disturbance compared to a plow

All About Trees

What you should be doing to care for your trees right now?

- Rake and Mulch Leaves
- Prune Young Trees for future development and structure
- Install deer and rodent protection
- Remove tree watering bags
- Amend mulch as needed
- Avoid salt damage with ice melting products
- Count dead trees to get a count for replacements

How to Identify Palmer Amaranth

Palmer amaranth	Waterhemp	Redroot pigweed
No hair	No hair	Very short, dense hairs
Petioles longer than leaf	Petioles shorter than leaf	Petioles shorter than leaf
Separate male and female plants	Separate male and female plants	Male and female parts on same plant
Spiny bracts on female plants	No spiny bracts	No spiny bracts
Female head prickly, male head soft	Female and male head soft	Heads are soft
Leaves diamond or oval-shaped	Leaves long, narrow, shiny	Leaves round to oval-shaped

Palmer amaranth plants. (B. Jenks, NDSU)

Palmer amaranth (right), waterhemp (left). (G. Endres, NDSU)

Female Palmer amaranth with spiny bracts. (B. Jenks, NDSU)

Palmer amaranth petioles are longer than the leaf blade. (B. Jenks, NDSU)

Waterhemp has long, narrow leaves. (T. Peters, NDSU)

For the latest information, visit

www.ag.ndsu.edu/palmeramaranth

How to Identify Palmer Amaranth

Palmer amaranth (left) has no hair, Redroot pigweed (right) has short, dense hair.
(C. Sprague, Michigan State)

Palmer amaranth. (B. Jenks, NDSU)

Palmer amaranth female seed head (top) and male (bottom). Female is prickly, male is soft.
(B. Jenks, NDSU)

Palmer with long terminal seed head.
(Nick Nelson/Agweek)

Waterhemp female seed head on left, male head on right.
(T. Peters, NDSU)

Redroot pigweed seed head.
(B. Jenks, NDSU)

www.ndsu.edu/Extension

319 Watershed Project
Bowman-Haley Reservoir

As many of you already know, the Bowman-Slope Soil Conservation District has been taking water samples from Bowman-Haley Reservoir and it's three major tributaries which are North Fork Grand River, Alkali Creek, and Spring Creek. The samples that are taken are used to test for nutrients, dissolved solids, E. Coli, and organic carbon. There was also a buoy out on Bowman-Haley that was used to measure real-time data of the temperature and dissolved oxygen within the lake. There was a sensor one meter below the surface and then placed every meter down until it reached one meter above the bottom of the lake. This samples are being used to help track data and monitor the Harmful Algal Bloom that is present on Bowman-Haley Reservoir.

The Harmful Algal Bloom is caused by an excess of nutrients that are in the lake. The specific nutrient that is abundant is phosphorous. When there is an excess of nutrients in the lake then eutrophication occurs. Eutrophication is the process of enrichment of reservoirs with nutrients needed to maintain primary production. It causes objectional growth of aquatic algae to the extent that it threatens public health or welfare. The eutrophication that is present in the Bowman-Haley Reservoir is the result of nutrient runoff from agriculture practices in the watershed.

The Bowman-Slope SCD has been working with the United States Geological Survey and the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality to monitor the Harmful Algae Bloom. The objective of this project is to collect data and develop and calibrate a two-dimensional, hydrodynamic and water-quality model for Bowman-Haley Reservoir to evaluate conditions controlling the occurrence of algal blooms, specifically toxin-causing cyanobacteria. The model will simulate hydrodynamics and nutrient-algal dynamics including cyanotoxins to evaluate the conditions that lead to excessive algal growth. Model results will be used to evaluate the conditions and variables that lead to the potential occurrence of the toxins. The calibrated model also will be used to evaluate scenarios to develop strategies for mitigating toxin-producing algae.

In addition to using the data to create the model with the United States Geological Survey and North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, the Bowman-Slope SCD also used the data to fill out a grant proposal with the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality. This grant proposal is requesting funds from the 319 fund pool. The 319 dollars come from federal funding as part of the Clean Water Act. We are still waiting to hear the outcome of this grant proposal, but should hear about it soon. If we are given the grant, it will be used to help farmers and ranchers in the Bowman-Haley Watershed put in "Best Management Practices" to help decrease the amount of non-point source pollution run-off. Best Management Practices are any practice that can be installed to help improve water quality and reduce runoff. Non-point source pollution are pollutants that are carried off by runoff from a broad areas such as farmland, urban landscapes, or construction sites instead of a single, identifiable source like a pipe.

The goal of participating in both of these projects is to reduce the Harmful Algae Bloom that is present. This will hopefully restore the Bowman-Haley Reservoir to a safe place for community members to spend time in. We are hoping to restore the body of water back to its recreational purpose. It is important to keep in mind that this will not be a quick and easy fix. We will start by monitoring, improving farming and ranching practices in the area, as well as urban practices to reduce the amount of nutrients being deposited into the Bowman-Haley Reservoir. Through more monitoring and learning from the Harmful Algae Bloom, we may be able to start to learn more about it and uncover more ways to improve the body of water.

"We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."

— Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac, 1949

Bowman Slope
Soil Conservation District

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