

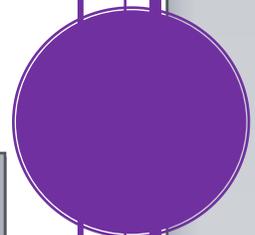
ROBERTS CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT

2016

The Roberts Conservation District serves to encourage the preservation of our natural resources by providing educational, technical and financial resources to the landowners, residents, and visitors we serve.

Jodi Hook- Roberts Conservation District Manager

1/18/2017



**ROBERTS CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**



*Leon Palmer-Vice Chairman
Bob Osborne-Supervisor
Calvin Thompson-Chairman
Cody Hanson-Treasurer
Tim Gleason-Asst. Supervisor
Duane Schneider-Supervisor
Not pictured:
Ben Hanson & Lee Solberg*

Supervisors

Conservation district supervisors are elected by the people to represent their interest in natural resources conservation. Supervisors are leaders, using their own operations to set a good conservation example to others and demonstrate conservation practices.

In September, the RCD was well-represented by three supervisors at the annual state conservation convention in Deadwood, SD. Supervisors Duane Schneider, Bob Osborne, and Calvin Thompson attended insightful area level meetings as well as other meetings that focused on conservation.

Educating the Public

RCD provided material on federal, state, and local programs as well as for grants and/or cost share programs, youth camp contests, and scholarship opportunities. Youth and adult information was provided through conservation-sponsored newsletters, handouts, news releases, district information, and conservation-sponsored booths.

We continue to recognize local conservation efforts by awarding the Soil Conservation Award. The Roberts Conservation District is proud to announce Lon Medbery/ Medbery Farms as the winners of the 2016 Soil Conservation Award.



RCD publishes a quarterly conservation letter. Mailed to 1,095 people and emailed to 1,067 addresses in order to address our county's diversity the newsletter strives to contain a variety of information relating to farming, ranching, timber, and small landowner issues with conservation of all types.

Roberts CD also sponsored a cover crop tour at Dan Nigg's.



Youth Activities

In April, the RCD promoted the Arbor Day essay contest in the Roberts County school districts. The Resource Conservation speech contest was also promoted. That same month, RCD employees visited Roberts County schools and presented each fourth grade student a Black Hills Spruce seedling. Jon Livermore and Jodi Hook provided information to the students and demonstrated how to plant the seedlings. The Board offered sponsorship for youth wishing to attend the annual Range Youth camp and the Wildlife Federation camp at Camp Bob Marshall but there were no applicants. In addition to the above activities, RCD provided backpacks to participants in the Step Outside Program and to the 2501 program during which Tom Martin presented information on the watersheds, water quality, and aquifers on the Lake Travers Reservation.

The Roberts Conservation District Supervisors also donated \$1,000.00 to the 4H building fund.



Step Outside program

District Scholarship Winners

\$500 scholarships were awarded to three lucky 2016 graduating seniors who were entering post-secondary school to pursue their studies in an agriculture/conservation field. The recipients were John Meland, Kailee Rinas, and Shannon Meyer.



John Meland



Kailee Rinas



Shannon Meyer

District Services Provided

In 2016 tractors were leased, two for custom seeding CRP/WRP and other crops and the third one was used to plant trees and install fabric.

Our demand for custom seeding of WRP, CRP, cover crops and other small grains has remained steady. We have two Truax drills, two JD no-till drills, and one Billion drill. Roberts Conservation has completed 3181.6 acres of grass seedings.

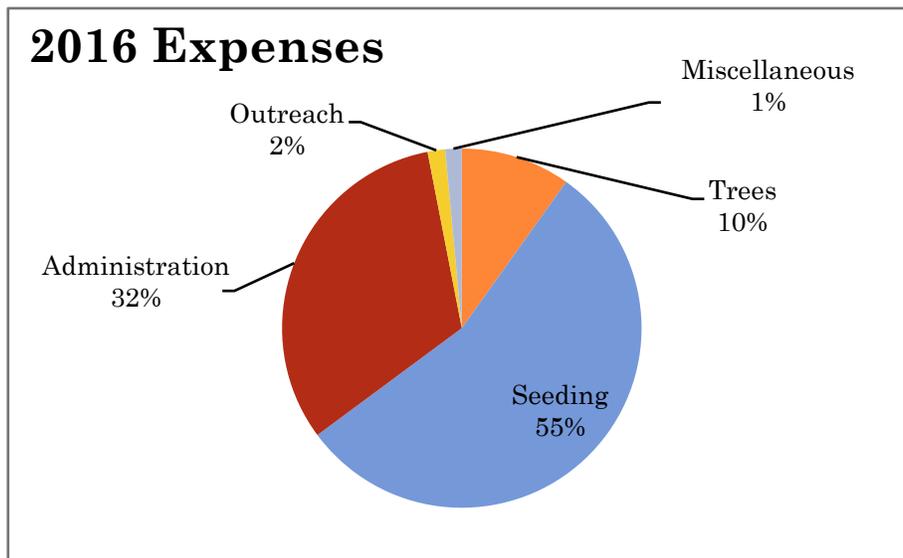
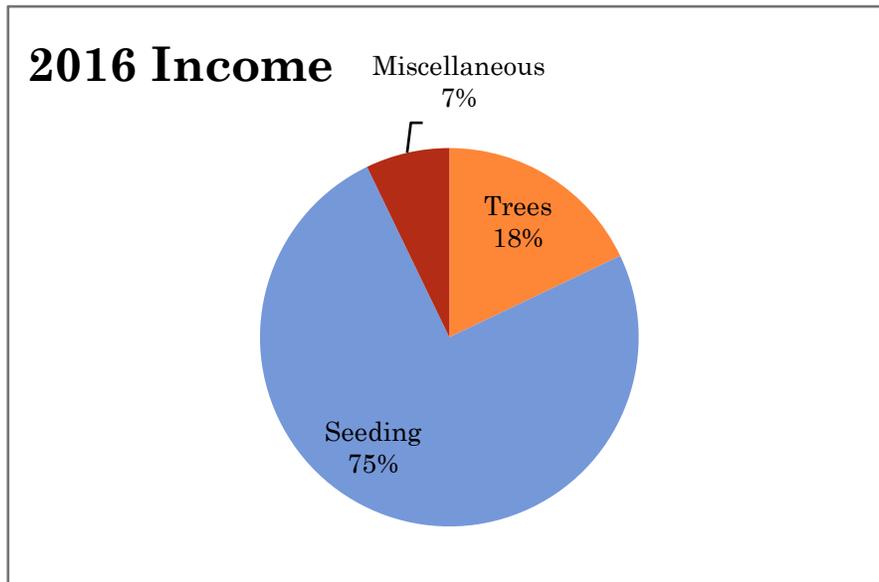


We planted 19.37 acres of trees on 26 farm sites.

We started planting season on April 18th. Our machine plants increased to 19.37 acres and 10,309 trees planted. 20,204 trees were ordered and \$35,827 in hand plants were sold. We installed 48,243 feet or 9.14 miles of fabric. The tree season closed on June 8th.

Financial Review

An outside party conducted a financial review in July, 2016 for the 2013-2015 calendar years. The 2016 financial review was set up to be completed in July, 2017. Here is a breakdown of the 2016 income and expenses:



Conservation Projects/Programs

Tree planting	26 producers	19.37 acres
Weed Barrier Fabric	48,243 ft	9.14 miles
CRP Contracts	144	4,811 acres
Assistance to Minorities	7 producers	
Conservation Stewardship Program -CSP	26 contracts	25,355 acres
EQIP-Upper Mississippi River Basin	8 producers	2561 acres
EQIP-Cert. Organic	1 producer	455 acres
EQIP-Glacial Lakes	3 producers	637 acres
EQIP-Prairie Pothole	1 producer	480 acres
Critical Area Planting	0.7 acres	
Fence	36,386.3 LF	
Forage and Biomass Planting	61.9 acres	
Heavy Use Area Protection	0.1 acres	
Herbaceous Weed Control	923.2 acres	
Livestock Pipeline	1,560 LF	
Nutrient Management	391.4 acres	
Pond	6 ea	
Prescribed Grazing	1967.9 acres	
Pumping Plant	1 ea	
Sprinkler System	230 acres	
Stream Crossing	5 ea	
Waste Storage Facility-Manure	1 ea	
Waste Transfer- Pump	1 ea	
Watering Facility-Tank	1 ea	
Wetland Reserve Easements	5 on 215 acres	

Our Focus Turns to 2017

Soil and water conservation districts are unique in that they focus on helping landowners use natural resources today in a way that assures they will be available to future generations of Roberts County.

We have a lot of activities that we plan to focus on for the coming year. We will sponsor/co-sponsor Roberts County education programs on conservation practices, educate the public, and advocate soil health and natural resource issues. We will also promote natural resource conservation for youth through Arbor Day essay and poster contests, as well as the Arbor Day tree planting program. Additionally, we will sponsor the Resource Conservation speech contest and sponsor youth to attend Range Camp, Rangeland Days, and Wildlife Federation camp.

We will also promote activities, projects, and education information through the Sisseton Winter Show, area newspapers, and other available venues. Where applicable, we will provide information and coordinate with local agencies and developers about conservation issues during development.