

Which Conserves Soil And Water?

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY BRENDA K. JOHNSON



Above

Gardeners missed what over 400 regional high school students saw at the soil erosion demonstration at Missouri River Watershed Festival this spring. Jeff Hemenway, soil health specialist for Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Huron, showed how some practices benefit soil and conserve water. Hemenway, assisted by Yankton NRCS soil conservationist Mark Brannen and others, set up tray width soil plugs that were three inches deep in containers.

Right

First tray (left) sample came from a pasture; middle tray soil plug came from a reduced tillage field with field stubble. Third tray sample was taken from a conventional tillage field. Soil from the three sites was clay loam. Hemenway showed the jars beneath the trays to catch immediate run in the front jar or seep in water behind. Gardeners might liken the left sample to a garden plot with a cover crop between seasons. Middle sample might be likened to a garden plot that had initial tilling and fewer tillings in later years. Third sample might be likened to a garden plot tilled one or more times a season.



Right

According to the rain gauge, 1 1/2 inches of water was applied to the trays with a rotating wand as rainfall simulator. Pasture sample jars had least soil runoff. Color of water is lighter than other jars and more water that seeped through the soil. Hemenway explained that healthy soil is not homogeneous. Healthy soil contains fungi, bacteria, and other soil organisms, organic matter, soil particles held together in clumps, and air spaces for oxygen and water. Healthy soil appears like the soil where earthworms are found in abundance.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

To see a video soil erosion demonstration, web search "Rainfall Simulator NRCS South Dakota." See a tabletop demonstration by Jeff Hemenway and a range demonstration by Stan Boltz. "Garden Soil: It's Not Just Dirt" is an article by Dr. Rhoda Burrows at South Dakota Extension website: www.igrow.org To find soil survey data for your location, go to <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Above

To show how the water penetrated the soil, Hemenway flipped over the reduced tillage tray on the left and the conventional tillage tray on the right. Soil runoff jars were placed by the inverted samples. More of the simulated rain seeped into the reduced tillage sample and less soil and water (and nutrients) ran off. Soil was not wet on bottom of the conventional soil tray but soil and water were collected in the runoff jar. It appears that frequent tilling does not let more water soak in. Gardening practices may conserve natural resources of soil and water one garden at a time.

MEETINGS

TOASTMASTERS CLUB 1294

The Yankton Toastmasters Club 1294 met at the Fry'n Pan Restaurant at 7:30 a.m. July 11 2015. The meeting was called to order by Roy Wilcox, Club President. The Prayer was given by Harry Voelzke, who also led the group in the Pledge to the American flag.

Roy Wilcox as the Toastmaster of the meeting introduced Teresa Rentsch as Master Evaluator, who in turn introduced her evaluation team: Jack Dahlseid, Grammarian with the word for the day, "pretentious," Ah Counter Steve Hamilton, Speech Evaluator Lee Felder and Timer & Vote Counter Jana Lane.

Toastmaster Wilcox introduced assigned speaker John Swensen who spoke from the CTM Manual project number 3 on get to the point. John's 5-7 minute speech was titled "Think About it."

Table Topics was led by Vernon Arens with the following participants: Harry Voelzke, Steve Hamilton, Jana Lane, Roy Wilcox, Teresa Rentsch and Jack Dahlseid.

Master Evaluator Teresa Rentsch called on Lee Felder to give the speech evaluation of John Swensen's speech, Jack Dahlseid for the Grammarian report and Steve Hamilton for the Ah Counter report. All participants were timed by Jana Lane, who advised that all speeches and evaluations were within time. Teresa Rentsch then gave her evaluation of her evaluation team and the meeting in general.

Meeting winners were Steve Hamilton, Table Topics, Lee Felder, Speech Evaluator and John Swensen, Speaker.

Wilcox transitioned his Toastmaster assignment to President of Yankton Toastmasters Club 1294 and held the business meeting of the morning session. Jana Lane, VP Membership gave a presentation and had a hand out for all club members on ideas for building membership.

Guests are welcome. The meeting begins at 7:30 a.m. and concludes at 8:40 a.m. at the Fry'n Pan Restaurant on Saturday morning. For information, call 660-2485 or 665-7140.

LILLEHAMMER LODGE NO. 1-633 SONS OF NORWAY

Lillehammer Lodge #1-633 of the Yankton area met July 18, 2015, at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Yankton. The meeting was opened by President, Carol Brodersen leading the group in the national anthems of the United States and Norway and also the flag Pledge of Allegiance of the United States of America. Music Director, Phyllis Neilsen led the group in singing "See Norway's Flowery Vale."

The minutes of the January meeting were read by Secretary Diane Reese and approved.

The financial record by Clarice Holm, Treasurer, was given and approved.

Visitors Cheryl Holm and Clay Brodersen were welcomed.

Secretary Diane Reese will bring envelopes to have the stamps clipped for Tubfrim. June Munkvold brought 4 pounds of stamps to be sent. Some smaller amounts have also been received and need to be weighed and labeled. Pres. Carol will deliver them to Sioux Falls.

A sympathy card was signed by the members to be sent to Mary Quissel & family to let her know that we are also missing Dennis, who has been serving as the Zone 6 director.

Members that are now in Care Facilities were reported by family members and friends.

Several suggestions were given for local items of interest for future meetings.

The birthday list for Feb. and March was read and the Birthday song sung to them..

Marlys List led the members in the Norwegian table prayer, and the members enjoyed a generous pot-luck lunch.

The next meeting will be Sept. 16 at 2 p.m. with a potluck lunch.

INTERCHANGE

Interchange met on Monday, July 20, at noon at Minerva's. The meeting was called to order by President Ann Clough and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members gave the following announcements:

Julie Amsberry, Yankton Area Arts Director, reported on the success of this past weekend's Meridian Dinner en Blanc fundraiser, the Mighty Mo Photo exhibit currently on display at the GAR Hall, and the upcoming concert in the park on Tuesday, July 21 sponsored by YAA.

Gwen Steckler, a nurse with the SD Department of Health-Corrections Minimum Security Men's Unit, was today's hostess. Her guest speaker was Sandi Isburg who gave a program about local caregiving support groups. Sandi, a retired pediatrics nurse, spoke of the growing need for support for caregivers who care for family members who can no longer care for themselves due to aging or chronic conditions. Sandi became passionate about this issue as a result of her work through parish nursing that is active in our local churches. She noted that there are three support groups in the area. One group is for caregivers of individuals with dementia, another is a Parkinson's support group, and the third is the Caregiver Support Group where Sandi volunteers her time. Her group provides open discussion for caregivers as well as provides speakers to talk about the many concerns facing caregivers. Sandi discussed some of the needs of the caregiver including big issues such as anxiety and sleep deprivation. She also discussed the limitations of services to support caregivers. She closed her program with noting the importance of having people write down their wishes in the event they someday are in need of caregiving themselves, and the importance of having a Power of Attorney in place.

The next meeting of Interchange will be held Monday, July 27, 2015 at noon at Minerva's with Jamie Schaefer as hostess. Her program will be about the River City Domestic Violence Center.

* The remaining meetings will be published in Saturday's paper.

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