Goal of Project:

To seed non-productive, small acres in fields with deep rooted, high water use crops that will draw up excess nutrients and increase soil fertility and health. It would encourage use of cover crops over more acres needing cover throughout the growing season to decrease weeds and salinity. This would help increase diversity in the soil in the crop land bringing production back to some degree for the landowner.

Work Accomplished:

A total of 27.25 Acres were seeded in 2018. Rain was abundant early in the season which left for many areas still wet into summer. When it became dry, seeding was completed in late August and there was not much for precipitation after that. Positive comments were made by landowners about the project and more joined on after we started on their own with no cost share attached.

Project Results:

The project is being terminated early due to employee turnover and no full time in-house staff to complete the seedings and paperwork needed. The project had a good base of support and encouragement will be made to those who participated to continue on their own to see the results and share with others.

Value to North Dakota:

Any time we can improve working lands by increasing soil health and production of crops or grasses, we improve the environment and the ecosystem in which it’s located. Encouraging landowners to try something small is key to eventually making larger changes based on what worked or didn’t work in each scenario. Our soil and water resources impact agriculture, wildlife, communities, and large scale watersheds so it’s important to realize a value to ND is also a value to other states as well.