



State Legislative District #9
Congressional District #5

Whitman Conservation District

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Board Chair: Cory Aeschliman

Other Accomplishments



Precision agriculture equipment installed on spray machine and tractor regulated the amount of herbicides and pesticides applied to fields.



Direct seeding winter wheat into field after 10-year-old Conservation Reserve Program grass stand was sprayed. Filter strip left to help with erosion control.



Regrowth of cover crop plants after grazing.

2016 Feature Accomplishment Variable rate fertilizer map project



Equipment being pulled across the stubble field collecting data for map building

RESOURCE CHALLENGE

The goal of this project was to acquire accurate soil data to determine management zones, soil sampling, and accurately apply the correct quantity of nutrients according to the yield potential of the land. When the correct amount of nutrients are applied the potential for leaching or run off is greatly reduced. The Whitman Conservation District got involved to assist the producer and to learn about how the variable rate fertilizer mapping system worked. This project will help improve water quality and soil health.

PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS

Utilizing an electrical conductivity machine to create variable rate fertilizer maps allows the producer to accurately apply the correct quantity of nutrients according to the yield potential of the land.

Three to five fertilizer zones were created and the fertilizer machine automatically changes nutrient rates applied as it travels across each zone throughout the field. Yields are increased because the land is not over fertilized or under fertilized. The total dollars spent on fertilizer are allocated to the greatest economic and agronomic potential of the land. The district contributed cost-share funds for this project to be implemented.



Close up of the equipment that collects the data

All photos by Nancy Hoobler

More work to do!

- Continue with cover crop/livestock project by writing management plans, collecting soil samples, and analyzing soil moisture, soil organic matter, and livestock weight gains when grazing fields are planted with a cover crop.
- Assist livestock producers to reach workable resolutions when addressing water quality issues and implementing water sampling and photo monitoring sites.
- Host shop talks in three watersheds in the district.