

## Employee Vignette

**Featured Employee:** Jay Fuhrer

**Location:** Bismarck Field Office

**Employee Job Title:** District Conservationist

**Date:** March 2008



Jay's quote, "When you increase organic matter, good things happen," speaks wonders and the truth!

### Soil Health a Top Priority

Jay Fuhrer, District Conservationist, Bismarck, North Dakota, is the "Complete Package" for the true conservationist. With his 27 years experience in promoting our natural resources, he continues to build and develop the latest thoughts and ideas with soil health.

Jay has taken soil health to a new level and puts this science on a new path in order to promote conservation, such as the soil biota evaluation in soils. This advancement in soil health will aid in the advancement in both grazing land, pastureland, hayland, and cropland use planning, not to mention the economic value of adding organic matter, reducing inputs and greater yields. The Soil Quality (SQ) Team with NRCS in North Carolina is in constant communication with Jay learning from his soil health efforts here in North Dakota. This new relationship with the SQ Team over the past few years had led not only Burleigh County, not only North Dakota, but the U.S. This SQ Team has taken this information and incorporated into the National Employee Development Center program for promoting SQ within the U.S. with NRCS employees and partners. Course direction, curriculum and facts are stemming from much of the work in Burleigh County.

It doesn't stop there, Jay has been asked internationally to speak on soil health. He continues to be asked numerous times per year to speak to large audiences on his expertise on soil health. A recent national meeting in Florida with the Soil and Water Conservation Society a compliment was made to a North Dakota NRCS employee and knew of all the work in soil health arena Jay was involved in. A great example of what Jay is doing, the word is out and people are talking. Jay is never afraid to learn and study ideas to promote conservation in order to advance the science. Jay has displayed incredible leadership in this ever important and most often misunderstood soil health field.