

Greetings to All,

I am Todd Streich, a farmer in Mount Rose, Hastings, Brander, Lewis and Renville Townships of Bottineau County. I am also a County Commissioner of Bottineau County, however, I am here today as a Farmer of the property not as a Commissioner of the County. The property I am referring to is East ½ section 30 in Hastings Township. The property is owned by The Fossom Foundation at NDSU. My brother and I started farming this land some time around the year 2000, which is approximately 13 years ago. There is about 290 tillable acres in this half section of land. In this section of land are various well sites and roads that go with them. There is salt damage that occurred when the wells were drilled on this property somewhere in the late 1950's or early 1960's. The salt damaged land amounts to approximately 25 acres, which is an estimation on my part and not an exact measurement. Due to the 25 damaged acres, the loss in yield is from 100 percent to 70 percent. I am pretty certain the damage in these areas grow larger each year because of leeching of salts from these locations.

I would like to put a number in dollars as to what the cost is to operate in these salt damaged acres. I have put together some rough numbers. Take the damaged 25 acres x \$100 to \$150 an acre in seed, fertilizer, fuel and chemical

costs each year, as we are in a continuous crop rotation. In most cases, we receive return of \$200 to \$400 an acre. So now the loss is \$300 to \$550 acre. This of course, depends on the crop you plant. Small grains are less expensive to grow so the return is less also. Oils and soybeans have a higher cost to plant which then yields a higher return. Getting back to the numbers, 25 damaged acres x \$300 which is the \$200 of lost income plus the \$100 of input costs which comes to \$7,500. Then the higher cost scenario. The 25 damaged acres x \$550 which is \$400 of lost income plus \$150 of input costs which comes to \$13,750. These are pretty big numbers. Now take the numbers times 13 years for a total of losses for the years we have farmed this land. They get even bigger. The low scenario is \$97,500 and the higher scenario comes to \$178,750. Now take 54 years which is approximately when the wells were drilled on this property times the low yearly estimate of losses which is \$7,500 comes to \$405,000 of total lost income from the 25 acres of salt damaged property.

I suppose you could say, "Well don't farm it then". Well, the reason we are farming this land is because it was offered to us was by the Foundation as they wanted the land to be farmed continuously to see if it would improve these

damaged areas. Has it helped, well maybe in a couple of areas, but not that I would notice in my pocket book.

There was a man from NDSU named, Lyle Prutney, who came out every year and took soil samples from the damaged area and tested and flushed the salt out of the sample of dirt and made the dirt productive again. He felt these areas could be fixed with drain tiles and water chambers to catch the drain water and pump it to a disposal site to get rid of the salt water. Eventually the salt would flush out and the land would be productive again. This would also be expensive. Lyle is now retired and the testing has stopped as this program ended when he retired.

This is my perspective on this issue and I don't know how the solution will be accomplished.

Thank you for your time. Does anyone have any questions?

Todd Streich

Attached is a map detailing the damaged areas.



Bottineau County, North Dakota

Hasting Township

1 inch = 1,194.731653 feet

