

Fall Newsletter

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- 2013 Century Farms
- Agricultural and Education awards
- NRCS
- AgEP

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2013 Century Farms Honored

Three farms from Harrison County were honored at our annual agriculture and education awards banquet. Those that were honored include; Nelson Blake, The Randolph family, and The Romine Family. Each of these farms have been in the family for over a century. To qualify as a century farm the same family must have maintained ownership for a minimum of 100 consecutive years. The farm must consist of at least 10 acres of the original land holdings, and the farm must gross at least \$1,000.00 annually from farm products. Also, a family member must live on the farm or be an integral part of the day to day operation of the farm enterprise. This truly is a won-

derful award and one that is cherished, because it is honoring farm land that we still have. Your farm could be the next to qualify and be recognized for your hard work, please stop in or call the district with questions if you feel that your farm is a Century Farm..



WV State Conservation Farmer Contest

Since 1954, this contest has identified farms and farm families in West Virginia who believe in and practice soil and water conservation. The 14 conservation districts in West Virginia have supported the conservation farm award program by sponsoring it for the last 59 years. Board members from our district visit each of the farms selected from the counties in May of each year.

While there, they are evaluated and judged by the district supervisors. In doing so, they look at the acres of the farm in the conservation plan, the complexity, the variety of problems identified and the number and type of conservation practices that have been applied to the land. The supervisors determine which farm best represents the goals and objectives of the program.

The farm chosen then represents the district in the area wide contest. This year we had 3 farms recognized for outstanding conservation efforts. Ed Garrett and Son Farm in Lewis county, David Hill farm in Harrison county, and Dwight and Tina Moore farm in Doddridge County.

Education Awards



This year at the banquet we had 5 students whose posters won at the state level, and would progress to go on to the national level. These students are from each of the four counties within the district; Lewis, Gilmer, Doddridge, and Harrison County. Pictured here to the left is Miss Emma Post from St. Patrick's elementary school in Weston, WV. Other students that joined her in winning the poster contest at the state level was Miss Janeeva Jenkins

from Gilmer County High school, Miss Kayla Willis from Lewis County High school, Miss Kaylene Snyder from Glenville Elementary school, and Miss Faith Heater from Jane Lew Elementary school. Also in appreciation was Mr. James Carr; Agricultural Education Teacher from Liberty High school who was our Conservation Education Teacher of the year applicant. Mr. Carr has also won the state award for being Conservation Education Teacher of

the year. He is pictured on the lower right. Mr. Carr has been involved with the district for many years and has served as a wonderful mentor, educator, and advocate for Conservation Education.



STAFFING

In the last few weeks NRCS has undergone a few staffing changes in the West Fork Conservation District. Andy Sentz has taken another position with NRCS and Jeff Griffith is now the District Conservationist for the four counties that make up the West Fork Conservation District. Many of you have worked with Andy in the past through farm bill programs and conservation technical assistance. Now Jeff will be assuming all of those responsibilities for the West Fork Conservation District. Although this change has reduced the amount of personnel available, Jeff and his staff will continue to provide service and support to the cooperators of the West Fork Conservation District.

USDA PROGRAM INFORMATION

Forest landowners and operators in the West Fork Conservation District have an opportunity for government assistance to manage private woodland. The 2008 Farm Bill has increased the emphasis on providing both technical and financial assistance to landowners/operators on forest related issues. Several practices may be available through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to solve resources concerns attributed to forest land and to help increase the quality and productivity of woodland. Practices may include: Grapevine Removal, cull tree removal area wide thinning, invasive species removal, access control/fencing, and tree/shrub establishment.

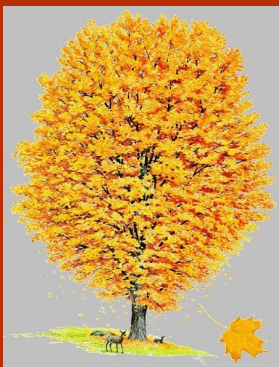
The EQIP program is available to eligible producers who want to improve the quality and productivity of their woodland. Applicants will be required to show proof of control of the land they sign up under the EQIP program by either deed or lease or other approved documentation. For all programs, the applicant must have control of the land for the life of the proposed contract. Applications for EQIP are accepted on a continuous basis. Persons interested in managing their woodland or would like additional information are encouraged to contact the local NRCS field office.

Harrison\Doddridge Counties:
(304) 624-9232 ext 3

Gilmer County: (304) 462-7171
ext 3

Lewis County: (304) 269-8431
ext 3

HEALPING
PEOPLE HELP
THE LAND



Ag. Enhancement Program

The Agricultural Enhancement Program is well under way! Cooperators have been applying lime and fertilizer. Those who have fence and water contracts have been busy installing projects. Here is a review of how the program is set up as a reminder.

You must be a cooperator to be a part of the program. The West Fork Conservation District has these forms for farmers to fill out. Please do not confuse the letter stating that you have been approved as a cooperator for the letter approving you for a practice. They are two different letters.

Cooperators can sign up a maximum of 50 acres per lime application. Please be sure to attach soil test results as well as an aerial map along with your application. It cannot be reviewed for approval unless we have all paperwork. If the application is approved they will have one year from the date of approval to spread their lime. Once they have spread their lime invoices are to be turned into the West Fork Conservation District office. These invoices must show how

many tons of lime was purchased (weigh tickets) as well as how much it cost to have the lime delivered (hauling). The program does not pay for the cost of spreading the lime. Once receipts are turned in a verification form must be signed so that we can process the payment. Cooperators can sign up for additional acreage once their first application is complete. Lime is a continuous sign up and approvals will be made based on the availability of funds.

Fertilizer has a maximum of 20 acres per application. We also need soil test results and an aerial map for this sign up as well. Soil test results must show a pH of 5.5 or higher and call for a minimum of 80 pounds of P2O5 per acre. If the application is approved the cooperator has until May 30, 2014 to spread their fertilizer. Once the fertilizer is spread invoices must be turned into the West Fork Conservation District and a verification form signed for processing. Like the lime program, cooperators can sign up for additional acreage once their first application is complete.

Fertilizer is a continuous sign up and approvals will be made based on the availability of funds.

Fence and Water applications have been approved for this year. We are looking forward to next year so that cooperators can once again sign up for these practices. Those that have been approved for these practices this year have until May 30, 2014 to have their practice installed. Once the practice is complete a field visit must be made for verification. The cooperator can turn in their invoices before/at the time of/ or after this visit is made. A verification form must be signed and will be brought along on the field visit. These practices are limited to one sign up per year and based on the availability of funds.

If you have any questions or need technical assistance please call the West Fork Conservation District at 304-627-2160.

“Lime and Fertilizer are continuous applications.”



Celebrating Women *In Agriculture*

The West Fork Conservation District along with Tygarts Valley Conservation District, and Farm Credit have teamed up to offer this spec-

tacular event specifically for women in agriculture to come and celebrate what they do!! There will be various

vendors, foods, and activities related to Agriculture and the interests of women in agriculture. There will also be door prizes and so much more! Please check your newspaper or call the WFCD for more information regarding this event!! We are currently accepting vendors for this event. If you have a locally grown business that you feel would pertain to women in agriculture, and would like to be a vendor please let us know!



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*To provide for and promote the protection and
conservation of
West Virginia soil, land, water and related resources
for the health, safety and general welfare
of the state's citizens.*

Looking Ahead— Programs Coming Up in 2014

Education Programs:

Senior Scholarship deadline— March
3rd, 2014

Speech and Poster Contest— March
14th, 21st, and 28th, 2014

Envirothon Training— April 9th, 2014

WV Envirothon— April 24th and 25th,
2014

2014 Photo Contest— Deadline is June
1st, 2014

Schedule of Events:

Monthly Board Meeting— December 3rd,
2013

Monthly Board Meeting— January 7th, 2014

Celebration of Women in Ag Day— April
3rd, 2014



Extension Dinner Meetings-

January 15th, 2014

February 12th, 2014

March 12th, 2014

***Please call if you have
questions about any of
these events!!***