

# NORTHERN PANHANDLE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## FALL 2016 NEWSLETTER

1 Ball Park Drive McMechen, WV 26040 304-238-1231 npcdwv@gmail.com

### COST-SHARE PROGRAM APPLICATIONS ROUND ANNOUNCEMENT



**I**f you missed previous sign-up periods, don't worry. Agriculture Enhancement Program (AgEP) applications will be available October 17th through November 2nd.

AgEP is administered by the Northern Panhandle Conservation District with assistance from the West Virginia Conservation Agency. AgEP supports the agriculture community through a series of cost-share practices landowners can participate in to reduce soil erosion, provide alternative water for their livestock, and improve productivity of their lands.

AgEP applications will be available for the following practices: Fencing for grazing, stream protection and woodland exclusion; Water Systems, Lime; Invasive Species Control; Fertilizer; Forage and Frost Reseeding; Heavy-Use Protection; and Urban Agriculture.

For more information about the program and/or to obtain an application please contact the Northern Panhandle Conservation District office at (304) 238-1231.

### NPCD SUPERVISORS ASSIST FLOOD VICTIMS

**By James Caldwell, Supervisor Brooke County**

**N**PCD supervisors delivered relief supplies to victims of the late June flooding in downstate West Virginia. On Saturday July 2nd, after contacting supervisors in Elk, Capital, and Greenbrier districts to determine what was needed, one trailer load of items was delivered and distributed to victims in the Birch River area.

One July 5th another trailer load was delivered and distributed to both Charleston and Lewisburg.

All donations were greatly appreciated.



If you would prefer your copy of the Northern Panhandle Conservation District's newsletter in electronic format please contact the NPCD at npcdwv@gmail.com or access the link from the WVCA.US website.

## WV CENTURY FARM ENTRIES DUE APRIL 1st

Applications for West Virginia Century Farm Contest are due April 1, 2017.

The West Virginia Century Farm Program is designed to acknowledge those families who have been farming the same tract of land for at least 100 years. A family member must live on the farm or be an integral part of the day-to-day farm operations. The farm must consist of at least 10 acres of the original holdings and gross more than \$1,000 annually from farm products.

For more information or to request an application, contact Veronica Gibson at 304-238-1231.



FYI: Daily rental rates for NPCD Lime Spreaders has increased to \$50.

## HANDS-ON AG DAY 2016

Northern Panhandle Conservation District (NPCD) hosted another successful Hands on Ag Day. This educational event is not only the most important of NPCD's educational programs, but also the most successful as we educate adults as well as students.



Our September 2016 Hands on Ag day brought over 374 Marshall County 5th Grade students from 9 elementary schools, and over 150 parents, teachers, and volunteers to the Marshall County fairgrounds for a full day of hands-on learning.

Students were led in small groups by John Marshall High School Horticulture students through a series of eleven stations throughout the day.

Participating agencies included: NPCD, NRCS, FSA, WV Department of Agriculture, WV Conservation Agency, WVU Extension Service, Marshall County Fair, Farm Bureau, Marshall County Commission, John Marshall Future Farmers of America and Marshall County Schools.



Signup for NRCS Financial Assistance Programs ends on November 30, 2016 for first round eligibility.  
Stop in today and see Katie or Ed to sign up!





## FARM FIELD DAY AND DINNER

Stockpiled forage is not an acceptable entrée, but it is a good dinner topic for a room full of farmers. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in cooperation with the Northern Panhandle Conservation District co-hosted an agriculture educational dinner and farm field day to present information on stockpiled forages and soil health.

“Programs like this allow local farmers and landowners the opportunity to learn “hands-on” about different conservation practices and how to carry them out on their own land,” said

Katie Fitzsimmons, NRCS district conservationist of Marshall County, WV. “By partnering with local conservation districts and local land owners it not only gives us an opportunity to share resources but also helps make our communities healthier and stronger.”

The educational dinner was held on Friday, September 23, at the Limestone Community Building in Limestone, WV. Bob Hendershot, retired OH NRCS state grassland conservationist, spoke on winter feeding and stockpiling (storing) fescue forages. Information was provided on how to best use forage, who to contact, financial assistance for forage testing, and how to best understand the results.

The farm field day and pasture walk was held on Saturday, September 24, at Keith and Terri Hieronimus’ farm in Sherrard, WV. The field day featured topics on soil and animal health, while the pasture walk identified various grasses and weeds and how to best manage them. Tim Dilliplane, WV NRCS resource soil scientist, demonstrated the use of a portable rainfall simulator and its use as a tool in soil erosion research. Dilliplane also discussed soil properties and provided information to assist land users in determining the soils’ suitability or limitations for specified uses.

The WV NRCS and the WV Conservation Districts plan to co-host more of these educational dinners and field days to help our local farmers. For more information on agriculture programs in your area or to find a local NRCS field office, visit us online at <http://www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov/> or call the WV NRCS State Office at 304-284-7540.



## WV DIVISION OF FORESTRY NEWS

### Fall Forest Fire Season

Fall Forest Fire Season is in effect from October 1 to December 31, 2016. During this time no outdoor burning is permitted between the hours of 7:00 A.M and 5:00 P.M. A ten-foot wide safety strip cleared to bare mineral must surround each fire. Fires must be attended at all times.

### Tree Orders

Tree orders are currently being taken by the Clements State Tree Nursery. Seedlings may be ordered online at [www.wvforestry.com](http://www.wvforestry.com) or forms are available from the local WVDof Office at 304-238-1029 or 304-546-2275.



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### SERVICES

Emergency Watershed Protection  
Technical Assistance for Conservation Practices  
Conservation Education Programs and Contests  
Forage Sampling

### EQUIPMENT RENTAL

Aerator	\$35 per day
Lime Spreaders	\$50 per day
Sprayer	\$25 per day
Weed Wiper	\$35 per day
No-till Drill	\$50 minimum
	\$8/acre over 7

*Remember to thoroughly clean and grease the equipment before returning it to the District Office. Help us to keep the equipment in good shape for years to come.*

\*Programs and activities offered by the Northern Panhandle Conservation District are available to all persons without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, veteran status, political beliefs, sexual orientation, national origin, and marital or family status.

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