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GlascocK's Produce Selected as 2011 West Virginia Farmer of the Year



Each year districts across the state select farmers who stand out in their community because of their dedication to conserving our natural water and soil resources. In May, GlascocK's Produce of Morgan County, WV was selected as the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District Farmer of the year. GlascocK's Produce is owned and operated by Mark and Laura GlascocK and their two children Rachel and Zach. They are located in Berkeley Springs, WV, where many soil conservation and water quality practices have been implemented over 56 years. When the GlascocK's were selected, little did they know that 5 months later they would be selected as the 2011 West Virginia Conservation Farmer of the Year. The farm fortunate enough to hold the title of Conservation Farm of the Year also receives a check in the amount of \$1000.00, an award plaque as well as 200 hours or 4 months use of a new John Deere Tractor courtesy of Middletown Tractor Sales of Fairmont, WV.

Mark and Laura were the first vendors in the Berkeley Springs Farmers Market and have been active ever since. They have been in business for 20 years. Currently there are 84.2 acres in production with 50 acres in vegetables and the remaining in fruit.

Mark's grandfather, Gary GlascocK, Sr., owned and operated a dairy farm in Berkeley Springs. GlascocK's Produce is the last commercial orchard in Morgan County. Mark's grandparents started GlascocK Orchards 3 generations ago in Morgan County with the first apple and peach trees planted in 1955.



Meet our Conservation Specialist



Hello! My name is Regina Lucas, but, you can call me Suzy. I'm proud to announce that I have joined the WV Conservation Agency as a Conservation Specialist in the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District (EPCD).

I have lived in the backwoods of High View, WV, in Hampshire County since age 2.

I studied Athletic Training for a year at Alderson Broaddus College. Near the end of my second semester there, I decided that I wanted to transition to a field that would give me a better sense of purpose. That's when I decided to transfer to West Virginia University and major in Environmental Protection, with a concentration in soil and water conservation, for which I received my Bachelors of Science in Agriculture this past May.

For the majority of my undergraduate career at WVU, I was a student worker in the WVU Soil Chemistry Lab, where I was able to expand my knowledge and appreciation of soils. I was lucky to intern with WV Department of Environmental Protection, under the Potomac Basin Coordinator starting in the summer of 2010 and ending in the summer of 2011. During this internship, I was able to develop a deeper familiarity of the Eastern Panhandle region, the watershed approach to conservation, and ongoing efforts in the area to protect our watersheds.

My internship experience, along with my existing fondness of the area and interest in soil and water conservation gave me great excitement over the Conservation Specialist position here. This is exactly the kind of career that I hoped to be in, and I can't express how lucky I feel to have attained it.

As a Conservation Specialist, my concentration will be in the Section 319 Nonpoint Source Program. I will be assisting with implementation, water quality monitoring, milestones, and grant reporting for the 319 grants already in place in Morgan, Berkeley, and Jefferson Counties. I will be heavily involved in the future writing of watershed based plans and 319 Incremental Grant Proposals for watersheds in the EPCD. I hope to assist landowners and watershed groups in any other ways I can, in order to promote the use of conservation practices and become a friendly and familiar face to the residents of the area.

If you have any questions, or if you are interested in participating in the effort to keep our rivers and streams healthy, please contact me by phone, (304) 263-4376 or email, rlucas@wvca.us

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Conservation Farmer of the Year Continued...

Mark is the son of Mark Stephen Glascock who owns Quail Hollow Farm. Glascock's Produce leases land from Quail Hollow Farm to grow their fruits and vegetables. Mark was a natural born farmer, coming from a long family tree of agriculturists; he was taught farming at an early age. Laura is a native of Morgan County. Her family all worked in the tomato factories and passed along the love of gardening and farming. Her grandmother taught her how to grow corn and tomatoes and how to can, pickle and harvest the trees. Laura attended James Rumsey Vocational Center in 1996-1997 for horticulture and their first greenhouse was purchased the following year.

Their daughter, Rachel, assists in creating scrumptious jams, jellies and butters and is Glascock's Produce Greenhouse Manager. Rachel handles her own farmers market in northern Virginia and she plans to attend chef school this fall. Their son, Zach, attends Syracuse University and joins them in the summer to work in the fields. Mark and Laura hope to pass on the importance of growing homegrown fruits and vegetables to their children and grandchildren like their grandparents did for them.

Mark and Laura stay busy running the farm and staying abreast of new ideas and varieties. They participate in 5 different markets: Berkeley Springs, WV and in Reston, Burke, Ashburne and Leesburg, Va. They sell their produce and vegetables fresh from the field within 48 hrs of being picked with no packaging. They also sell value added products such as jams, jellies, salsa and many other items. These items are processed at Gourmet Foods in Romney, WV.



It is a long and tedious process to compete in the WV State Conservation Farmer of the Year awards program. Recipient's must go through three farm tours; one each on the district, area, and state level. The Eastern Panhandle Conservation District (EPCD) Board of Supervisors selected Glascock's Produce to represent the district in the Area Tour which was held in July.

In July, the Glascock's were selected as the Area representative and then began preparing for the last tour. The panel of judges for the state tour, held on August 31st, included the West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture; Gus R. Douglas and head representatives from other state agencies.

Glascock's Produce was announced as the 2011 West Virginia Conservation Farm of the Year at the WVCA Annual Partnership Conference in October held in Charleston, WV. Mark and Laura Glascock and their daughter Rachel attended the conference and awards banquet where they graciously accepted the award. "I extend my congratulations to the Glascock's for earning this honor," said Commissioner of Agriculture Gus R. Douglass. "One of the great pleasures of my job each year is the opportunity to visit the outstanding family farms found across West Virginia. It is always difficult to choose the best conservation farm, but I think we have a very worthy winner in Glascock Produce."

The Eastern Panhandle Conservation District is very proud of the Glascock's and has truly enjoyed spending time with them and their family. Congratulations to Glascock's Produce!

WVDA seeking best management practice information

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) is asking farmers to help it document existing best management practices (BMPs) on farms throughout the Eastern Panhandle – both BMPs that were undertaken through cost-share conservation programs in past years, and especially BMPs that were implemented solely by the farmer that have never been documented by government agencies.

The information will be used to create aggregate, county-level data that will be used to ensure farmers' conservation work is accurately represented in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model (CBWM), which is being used by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to calculate further nutrient and sediment runoff reductions from agriculture. The data will also be used to correct assumptions made in the CBWM, such as the amount of degraded pasture in the eight counties of West Virginia in the bay watershed.

The program is completely voluntary and requires only a phone call to schedule a farm visit by a WVDA nutrient management specialist, who will record the BMPs. Farmers in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed wishing to participate should contact Sam Spencer Nutrient Management Specialist/Tracking and Reporting Specialist at 304-229-5828.

Plant 9 on Route 9 Initiative

Saint Basil once said, “A tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love.” This quote embodies the goal of the **Plant 9 on Route 9 Initiative (9 on9)**. 9 on 9 is an Eastern Panhandle Conservation District project in cooperation with the West Virginia Division of Forestry (WVDOF) and West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) which will ultimately bring together community members who have an interest in planting trees along the Route 9 Recreational Bike Trail.



November 12th marked the beginning of the **Plant 9 on Route 9 Initiative**. The foundation and focus of Plant 9 on Route 9, is to work cooperatively with WVDOF and WVDOH to increase the use of the Route 9 Recreational Trail by providing shade by planting trees in multiples of 9 through small, manageable volunteer geared tree plantings. The district hopes to involve both youth and adult organizations located in Berkeley and Jefferson Counties. After the success of the first 9 on 9 planting, it is our goal to grow the initiative into an educational program where we will incorporate educational workshops and encourage stewardship of the trees being planted along the Bike Trail.

On November 12th, 2011 close to 50 volunteers from various organizations took a step outside to enjoy the beautiful weather and get their hands a little dirty while making the environment we live in-a little healthier. The first tree planting of the day began at 9 am and was at the start of the bike trail located across from Continental Brick in Martinsburg. Nine, large bald and burlap trees or differing species were planting with the help of Berkeley County citizens and members of the Eastern Panhandle Trail Blazers.

The second tree planting took place in an open field across from T.A. Lowry Elementary located in Jefferson County, WV. Volunteers from Jefferson County Cub Scout Pack 83, Jefferson FFA, Shepherdstown Pedal and Paddle, Izaak Walton League, Jefferson County Commissioner; Lyn Widmeyer, West Virginia Department of Agriculture, and vested community members. At this site, volunteers planted 18 large bald and burlap trees and 9 container trees.



The Eastern Panhandle Conservation District would like to thank Berkeley County Solid Waste Authority for donating the mulch and Continental Brick for donating the topsoil for the Martinsburg planting as well as Kubic Construction for donating the topsoil and Lyle C. Tabb and Sons Composting for donating the mulch for the Jefferson County planting.

Anyone volunteer group interested in being involved in the 9 on 9 Initiative should contact Kate Hendershot, Education Outreach Specialist with the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District at 304.263.4376 ext. 4 or via email at khendershot@wvca.us.

Soil To Spoon

The 2012 National Association of Conservation Districts Poster Contest Theme is, **Soil to Spoon**. The intention of the theme is to educate kindergarten through twelfth grade students on the subject of, “Where does your food come from?” We are a growing society which relies heavily on supermarkets to provide us with a means to secure our food. With this poster contest theme, it is the goal of the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District to spread knowledge about the agriculture industry and the source of all of the food we consume. The *root* of all of the food we consume is the *soil*.



With this theme our Education Outreach Specialist, Kate Hendershot has already begun visiting schools and teaching lessons on the earth beneath our feet and the journey our food endeavors to make it to our spoons. Widmeyer Elementary and Step-Ahead preschool have participated in EPCD’s *Painting with Soil* activity in which students discover the different colors of soil and use them to create paint. It is an interactive lesson which encourages students to think outside of the box and allows them to use their imagination.

The contest is separated into categories by grade, they are as follows: K-1; 2-3; 4-6; 7-9; 10-12. The contest is open to public, private or home schools. Posters will be judged on the following criteria: 50% Conservation message: Poster uses correct theme, 30% Visual effectiveness, 10 % Originality 10%, Universal appeal, and artwork completed on poster is that of participant (unless noted on entry form).

If you or your classroom is interested in participating in the 2012 NACD Poster Contest you can find more information on the West Virginia Conservation Agency website, www.wvca.us and click the education link on the left. Furthermore, if you would like EPCD to visit your classroom and demonstrate a soil to spoon lesson please call Kate Hendershot at 304.263.4376 or she can be reached via email at khendershot@wvca.us. We hope that you will take the step toward educating youth about the food we eat.

West Virginia NRCS Programs

Financial Assistance Programs Open for Enrollment

Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)
Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP)
Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative (CBWI)
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
Conservation Security Program (CSP)
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)
Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQUIP)
Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program (FRPP)
Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)
Health Forest Reserve Program (HFRP)
Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)
Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)

For More Information Contact NRCS

Berkeley and Morgan Counties-304-263-7559

Jefferson County-304-725-3471

****Reminder: Producers with existing NRCS contracts will be receiving letters in the mail regarding scheduled practices which must be completed within the fiscal year or possibly earlier. Please look for your letter in the mail.***

Supervisor Positions Announcement

There are two supervisor positions open for election in Berkeley County and one each open for election in Jefferson and Morgan Counties in 2012. The supervisors elected will serve on the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District for a term of four years. If you wish to run for one of the two positions please see the qualifications listed below.

Qualifications for county supervisors are listed below.

- Own a minimum of 3 acres within the county he or she is running for office.
- Reside in the county where he or she is running for office.
- Be an active cooperater within the conservation district and at least 5 years of land management experience.
- Have a strong working interest in the conservation of natural resources.

Duties of a conservation district supervisor include but are not limited to:

- Attend 12 regularly scheduled Board meetings per year.
- Work with local workgroups.
- Represent the District at local public meetings regarding conservation of natural resources.

Conservation District Supervisors serve on local boards that develop and implement programs to protect and conserve soil, water, woodland, wildlife, and other renewable natural resources, including backyard conservation in urban areas. It is important that we elect strong and dedicated people to serve and protect our natural resources. To file for election contact your county voter registration office to be added to May’s Primary Election Ballot. Filing opens January 9th and closes on January 28th.



Programs

Equipment Rental

NO TILL DRILLS

\$10.00 per acre

WEED WIPER

\$50.00 per day

POULTRY LITTER or LIME SPREADER

\$80.00 per day

CROP ROLLER CRIMPER

No charge

****There is a \$50.00 delivery fee for all equipment.**

Other Services

FORAGE TESTING

· 60/40% cost share

SOIL TESTING

· 50/50% cost share

Lime Incentive Program Criteria

EPCD will cost share up to 50% on bulk lime and delivery with a cap of \$30 per ton. Landowner is responsible for 100% of spreading cost. Please call the office to schedule an appointment to sign up for the program.

- Fields must be hay and/or pasture.
- Applications approved are up to 50 acres per year and with a pH of 6.5 and below.
- Landowner is required to use a WV AG Certified Lime Dealer.
- After signing the Contract, the landowner has 90 days to spread the lime, if the landowner is unable to spread due to weather or other complications.
- When lime is delivered, have the vendor fill out and sign the Lime Invoice with the cost of the lime and delivery.
- If the EPCD pays the landowner over \$600.00, **we will need the Social Security or Tax I.D number to complete a 1099 Tax form.**

District Happenings

Schedule of Events

Scholarship Applications Due to EPCD-March 5

Spring Envirothon Training-April 5

Tree Sale-April 13 and 14

WV Envirothon Contest-April 19 and 20

Earth Day-April 22

Arbor Day-April 27

Stewardship Week-April 28-May 5

Posters Due to EPCD-May 7

District Board Meetings:

January 18 at 7:00 pm

February 15 at 7:00 pm

March 21 at 7:00 pm

April 18 at 7:00 pm

The District will be closed for the following Holidays:

Presidents Day-February 20th

Primary Election-May 8

Memorial Day-May 28

Project CommuniTree

West Virginia Project CommuniTree (CTree) promotes urban tree planting and education on public land through volunteerism in the Potomac Headwaters of West Virginia (Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral, Morgan, & Pendleton counties). The program also focuses on enhancing and promoting awareness of watershed and riparian area needs such as storm water management, water quality issues, buffer zone planting, and soil erosion.

CTree and its partners invite groups and organizations to apply for CTree kits to organize, coordinate, and implement urban tree plantings through a competitive grant process. Twice annually groups can apply for CTree Kits for spring and fall plantings. CTree Kits include:

- Trees in a variety of species and stock sizes for Shade, Reforestation, etc.
- Tree tubes or cages to protect from deer; and
- Mulch to foster good root growth

Successful CTree applicants will receive technical assistance from CTree partners and the WV Division of Forestry. Any interested group that is dedicated to increasing urban canopy cover in the Potomac Basin is eligible to apply (with or without prior experience planting trees).

For more information and to download application package visit <http://www.cacaponinstitute.org/Forestry/CTree.htm> or contact the Urban Forestry Coordinator at thaid@cacaponinstitute.org.

Eastern Panhandle Conservation District
151 Aikens Center Suite 1
Martinsburg, WV 25404

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Permit #03

AGRICULTURE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

The West Virginia Conservation Agency and the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District are now taking applications for the Agriculture Enhancement Program. The purpose of the program is to increase farm productivity by conserving soil and making wise use of agricultural resources and improving water quality by offering technical and cost-share assistance as an incentive to implement best management practices.

The following practices are available for cost share.

Large Animal Mortality Composting: Farmer will be eligible up to \$1,000 worth of material to establish a composting pile.

Lime for Cropland-cost share is 50% not to exceed \$15 per ton for 50 acres. Current soil test needed.

Stream Protection (livestock exclusion)-included fencing, watering systems, stream crossing, and riparian buffers. This cost share will follow NRCS EQIP rates.

Maintenance for Stream Protection- \$1,000 reimbursement on any maintenance needed on Fencing, Watering Systems, Stream Crossing, Riparian Buffer along the stream.

Applications will be accepted for these practices from **February 1st through March 2nd, 2012.**

Cover Crops-cost share rates are as follows: \$50/ac. by October 5th
\$40/ac. by October 15th
\$30/ac. by October 25th

Applications for cover crops will be accepted from **February 1st through July 27th, 2012.**

Any landowner that is interested in participating in this program should contact the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District at 304-263-4376.