



Western Conservation District



SERVING JACKSON, MASON & PUTNAM COUNTIES IN WV

Volume 1, Issue 1

March 2013

Record Attendance for Agriculture Workshop



Ag Workshop , Farm Museum

Thursday, March 14th we hosted our 23rd Annual Agriculture Workshop at the WV State Farm Museum.

This year's workshop was a huge success with a record registration near 140. The crowd packed in to the dining hall at the museum to hear speakers talk on current farming issues. The meeting began with a presentation on Toxicity & Exposure Reduction with Philip Smith,

Compliance Assistance Specialist from the WV Department of Agriculture. Scott Byars of Blue Barn Farms took a look at using small ruminants as a weed control measure integrated with cattle titled, "Cash for Weeds?" He was followed by Mike Wolpert, of Wolpert Farms and past District Supervisor speaking on "A Systems Approach to Improving Soil Health". The primary goals of the Farm to School Program were covered by Mason County Extension Agent, Rodney Wallbrown. Rodney encouraged local farmers to get involved with the Farm to School Program. John David Johnson, Agent in Jackson County spoke on his efforts with Krogers and other local

businesses. Tom Basden, Extension Specialist, talk included new tools to manage pasture, hay and crop land fertility using concepts that include grid soil sampling on pastures the use of GPS tractor guidance systems to improve application of lime, fertilizer and manure and nitrogen that use smart phone apps to determine side-dress needs of field corn. Luke Hunter, NRCS stressed making plans for dependable, clean livestock water during times of drought. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency along with the WV Conservation Agency and the District spoke on local programs, sign up periods, and deadlines.

Special points of interest:

- AGDAY AT THE CAPITOL AGRICULTURE & CONSERVATION DAY MARCH 20, 2013
- AGRICULTURE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM DEADLINE TO COMPLETE PRACTICES MAY 1ST
- WV CENTURY FARM PROGRAM APPLICATIONS DUE APRIL 1ST

Agriculture Enhancement Program Practices for 2013

The Western Conservation District will be taking applications again this spring for practices under the Agriculture Enhancement Program (AgEP).

Cost share assistance will be provided towards the practices of applying bulk agricultural lime, building

exclusion or division fence and installing water systems. There will be a sign up period to apply for fencing and water. The sign up period will begin April 1st and end on June 30th. Lime applications will be taken beginning April 1st on a continual basis. The AgEP

Program is limited by funding. The program offers technical and financial assistance as an incentive to implement suggested best management practices. If you would like to learn more contact the District office or a District Supervisor.

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AgEP Contract Deadline is May 1, 2013



AgEP Deadline....
Deadline to complete
contract and submit
invoices by May 1st.

All Agriculture Enhancement Program (AgEP) practices must be completed and invoices submitted to the WCD for reimbursement by the deadline of May 1, 2013. The WCD office will be closed on April 29 and 30 for staff training. Contract holders should make arrangements to turn in their original receipts and verify there practices have been completed before April 29th. In 2012 the District received over 100 applications for

AgEP practices. Contracts written in fiscal year 2013 total over \$200,000.00. Contracts were approved for cover crop, exclusion fence, frost seeding, lime and water systems.

The mission of the AgEP Program is to assist the agricultural cooperators of WV Conservation Districts with the voluntary implementation of best management practices (BMP's) on agricultural lands in order to

conserve and improve land and water quality. The intent of AgEP is to be a simple, user-friendly program in order to encourage participation. Each conservation district has the ability to modify the program to address specific agricultural



*Rex Jr. & Carolyn Miihlbach Farm,
Jackson County (front cover)*

WV Century Farm Program

IS YOUR
FARM A
WV
CENTURY
FARM?

The West Virginia Century Farm Program is designed to recognize those families who have been farming the same tract of land for at least 100 years. A Century Farm is one that has been in continuous operation by the same family for 100 years or more. A family member must live on the farm or be an integral part of the day-to-day operation of the farm enterprise. The farm

must consist of at least 10 acres of the original holdings and gross more than \$1,000 annually from farm products. Western CD has recognized twenty one farms, fourteen in 2011 and seven in 2012 as WV Century Farms. This year we have already given out over a dozen application to prospective century farms. Applications to be designated as a 2013 WV Century Farm

must be received at the WCD office by April 1, 2013 to be considered for this year.



*Retired Agriculture Commissioner
Douglass & Family were designated
as a WV Century Farm in 2012*

Envirothon Teams Training Workshop Planned



*Soil Scientist, Carlos Cole
takes to the field with one of
the Envirothon teams during
training at Cedar Lakes.*

Last year one of our own, Ravenswood FFA, took first place in the WV Envirothon competition. The other teams from our area all placed in the top 10. We are so very proud of these young folks and their advisors.

Each year the WCD sponsors an Envirothon training work-

shop for not only the teams from our area but any team that wishes to attend. The workshop is held at Cedar Lakes Conference Center near Ripley in Jackson County in late March. Presenters for aquatics, forestry, soils and wildlife volunteer their time to provide the training in these fields of

study. The workshop is held just a few weeks before the state competition. Training trunks are available through the WCD on each field of study and will be on hand at the workshop.

Stream Protection & Restoration Program

The Stream Protection & Restoration Program (SPRP) covers non-emergency situations. The WVCA evaluates potential projects based on citizen contact reports. For a site to be considered eligible for SPRP, there must be a 75 percent obstruction to stream

flow and the blockage must be affecting improved property, such as a house. Determination of an eligible site is not a guarantee of approval. Final authorization is made by the local conservation district board of supervisors. The WCD approved and

removed a blockage under SPRP in Mason County last fall. The WCD recently approved a site in Putnam and a site in Mason County for blockage removal. The job showing and bid opening for both of these projects will be held in March.



Blockage at a site in Mason County removed by the SPRP Program

Nonpoint Source 319 Related Projects

West Virginia's NPS Program is responsible for addressing a variety of non-point source pollution impacts from agriculture, small scale construction and various other sources. Two projects are currently underway in Western Conservation District with anticipated completion dates set for fall of 2013. The first project is located on a beef farm in Putnam County. The project seeks to establish a 35 foot buffer by erecting nearly 8000 linear feet of fence to exclude livestock from a tributary that drains to the Kanawha River. The buffer will produce significant reductions in fecal coliform,

sediment and temperature of the stream. The project will also establish an alternative watering source that will provide fresh clean water for livestock. The second project will address common non-point source pollutants associated with storm-water runoff in urbanized areas by constructing a 2000 square foot rain garden at Connor Street Elementary in Hurricane. A rain garden is a shallow depression that is planted with deep-rooted native plants and grasses that reduce pollution by capturing rainwater runoff. Many of the excess sediments and pollutants settle in the rain garden where they are

assimilated by the plants. This type of structure mimics something much closer to the natural hydrology of the landscape and keeps the pollutants from being directly deposited in the stream via storm-water drains.

Nonpoint source pollution is the technical term used to describe polluted runoff from a variety of sources including urban and suburban areas, farmland, and forestry operations.



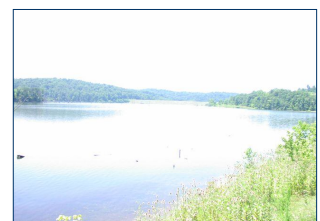
It is the single largest cause of the deterioration of the nation's water quality.

OM&R Inspections Slated for March

Jackson County is home to seven watershed dams. The District oversees the Operation, Maintenance and Repair (OM&R) of these dams. An annual inspection is held each spring at each dam by the WV Conservation

Agency, the WCD and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. This year inspections are scheduled for March 25th and 26th. The WCD is also responsible for securing the funds for OM&R. The total cost of OM&R for

2012 was \$17,270. The dams are located at Joe's Run, Big Run, Wimblin, Frozen Camp, Elk Fork, Tug Fork and Pocatamico. The acquisition of these dams from 1974 to 1989 was at a historical cost of \$23,000,000.



Mill Creek Site 10 in Jackson County on Elk Fork



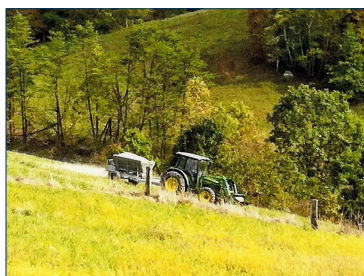
WESTERN CONSERVATION DISTRICT

224C First Street
Point Pleasant, WV 25550
Phone: 304-675-3054
Fax: 304-675-3054
E-mail: wcd@wvca.us

We're on the Web
at wvca.us
click on Districts



WCD Supervisors: Oscar Harris, Vice -Chairman; Jim Withrow; Carla Mullins, Secretary; Tim Cottrill; Robert Baird, Chariman and Bob Siebel, Treasurer



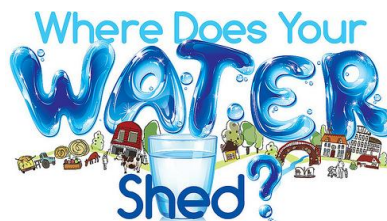
District's lime spreader in use on the Dale Stone Farm in Putnam County.

Lime Spreader for Rent

Oscar Harris, Vice-Chairman of the Board reports the District purchased a two ton Stoltzfus lime spreader last year to rent out to District Cooperators. The spreader is to be used for lime only.

It rents for \$100 for a full day, pick up by 11 a.m. use next full day and return by 9 a.m. the following day. Each additional day is \$50. The weekend rate is \$150 from 11 a.m. on Friday until 9 a.m. on Monday.

To rent the spreader contact the District office at 304-675-3054 or call NRCS in Ripley at 304-372-6231x3.



The National Association of conservation Districts (NACD) Stewardship Week is one of the largest conservation related observances. The 3,000 conservation districts that make up NACD manage soil and water conservation programs in virtually every community in the United States. Since 1955, NACD has sponsored the national Stewardship Week program.

National Stewardship Week is observed annually between the last Sunday in

April and the first Sunday in May. This year's theme is

Where Does Your Water Shed?

The Western CD will be observing National Stewardship Week. Supervisors will be taking materials to local churches for observance on Sunday, April 28th through Sunday, May 5th.

Educational materials are also available for grades K-12 through NACD and the District.