



Northern Panhandle Conservation District Spring Newsletter 2013

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The fourth annual celebration of “Women in Agriculture” will be held on May 23, 2013 at the Moundsville Center located at the site of the former WV State Penitentiary in Moundsville.

Whether you are directly involved in farming, a backyard gardener, or you just appreciate where good food comes from, you and your friends are welcome to attend! Participants will learn about high tunnels, starting small ag businesses, flower production, wine making, and more!

There will be a \$5.00 registration fee to help cover lunch and additional program costs. Vendors will

be set up to promote their products that are grown or created in WV. Door prizes will be awarded throughout the day and each attendee will receive a free gift to take home.

Registration will begin at 9:00 am, and the program will be held from 9:30 am until 2:30 pm, with ample time for breaks to visit the vendors at the event. To request a registration form, call Joy Riggle at 304-242-0576 x 122.

Conservation Program & Estate Planning Dinner Meeting

Do you have a gas lease? Is your farm affected or going to be affected by the coal industry? Are you in need of pasture division fence, watering systems, or lime? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you should attend our educational dinner meeting. It is planned for Monday, April 29, 2013, at the Limestone Community Building, Rte 250 South, Limestone, WV. Dinner will begin at 6:30 P.M. and the program will follow at 7:30 P.M. There will be a fee of \$8.00 per person.

The program will feature Conservation Programs presented by your local NRCS staff and the Northern Panhandle Conservation District. Daniel Staggers of Staggers & Staggers, Martinsburg, WV, will present Estate Planning/Elder Law.

You must pre-register by April 22, 2013. Contact Katie Fitzsimmons at 304-242-0576 ext. 108 or katie.fitzsimmons@wv.usda.gov for a registration form and more information.

NPCD Scholarship Program

The Northern Panhandle Conservation District will once again award a \$1,500 scholarship to a student currently enrolled in college pursuing a degree in agricultural science, environmental science or a related field. To be eligible for this scholarship the student must be working toward their first bachelors degree, must be a resident of a Northern Panhandle County (Brooke, Hancock, Marshall or Ohio County), must have successfully completed 56 credit hours at an accredited college or university and have a cumulative grade point average of 2.8 or higher.

To receive a scholarship application, call the Northern Panhandle Conservation District at 304-238-1231. Applications are due no later than July 5.



Sampling Soils

Fertilizer and lime are most effective when used in the proper amounts. The reason for soil testing is to determine the amount of lime (if lime is needed) and the proper fertilizer amounts for the crop or plants to be grown.

Many years of research have gone into developing soil testing equipment and methods which accurately correlate the fertility and acidity of any kind of soil with the crop to be grown and the expected yield. Modern soil testing methods are very accurate but this accuracy is of no value if the small sample is of poor quality and not representative of the entire area. It is important to remember that this small sample may represent an area that is 10 to 20 million times larger than the sample. Thus the quality of the soil sample sets the limits on the reliability of the soil test and on the recommendations based on soil test results.

As a reminder, if you plan to participate in the Lime Incentive Program a current soil test is required. Your soil's fertility is important to us. Soil sampling will be provided through the Conservation District.

Lime Incentive Program

Your farm's pH is important, not only to you but to us as well. Because of its importance the Northern Panhandle Conservation District is still offering the Lime Incentive Program.

This program assists landowners with the cost incurred when applying lime. The program cost shares 50% of the cost of lime, delivered and dumped at the farm, up to \$32 per ton.

When applying for the program you are required to submit soil test results that have been taken within the last three years, complete a request for assistance form, and be a District Co-operator. This is a great program that people need to take advantage of!

Contact our office at 304-238-1231 for more information and to obtain an application for this program.

Equipment Rental

The Northern Panhandle Conservation District has the following equipment available for rent:

- Lime/Fertilizer Spreaders—\$25 per day*
- Aerator—\$25 per day
- Sprayer—\$10/day
- No-Till Drill— 4-15 acres \$10 per acre

15 or more acres \$7 per acre

You must be signed up as a District Cooperator to be eligible to rent the equipment.

*Due to increase in cost of purchase of new equipment and the increase in cost of repairs the Conservation District has increased the price of the lime/fertilizer spreader rental. The new cost is now \$25 per day. The Conservation District Board is reviewing the costs of all equipment and may increase other rental prices in the near future.

Contact the NPCD for more information at 304-238-1231.

Upcoming Events

April 11—District Board Meeting
April 29—Agricultural Dinner Meeting
May 9—District Board Meeting

May 27—Memorial Day—Office Closed
June 7—Photos due to District for Contest
June 13—District Board Meeting



The Conservation District held a fruit tree, berry plant and seed mix sale in March. All profits of the sale will be used to fund the annual college scholarship the District offers. Nearly 300 fruit trees and 200 berry plants were sold. The District still has seed mix available for sale. The seed mixes are sold in one ounce packages. The Butterfly/Hummingbird Garden mix will cover 250 square feet and the cost is \$6.50. The Northeast Annual/Perennial Wildflower mix will cover 125 square feet and the cost is \$5.00. Both mixes will attract bees, butterflies and many other animals that play an important role in pollinating the foods we love.

Contact the NPCD office at 304-238-1231.

Conservation Education

The Northern Panhandle Conservation District has made monetary sponsorship to the following:

- Women in Agriculture—\$1,000
- Two Junior Conservation Camp Scholarships—\$360
- Two Senior Conservation Camp Scholarships—\$370
- Cameron FFA Ham, Bacon & Egg Sale—\$250

Currently the District is awaiting Samara test results. The Samara contest tests the conservation knowledge of seventh grade students in West Virginia. The District also has promoted the National Association of Conservation Districts poster contest. The contest is open to all students in the Northern Panhandle grades K-12. This year's theme is "Where does Your Watershed?".

The District is accepting entries for the annual NACD Photo Contest. Photos will be judged in a youth and adult category. Photos are due to the District office no later than July 7, 2013. To receive an entry form and more information for the photo contest contact Veronica Gibson at 304-238-1231.

The WV Forestry Association is accepting applications for scholarships available for Forest Industries Camp. Applications are due by June 29, 2013. Camp will be held July 21—July 27 in Ellamore, WV. Contact the District office for more information.

The 2013 WV Envirothon will be held April 18—19 in Wood County. John Marshall High School and Cameron High School have registered two teams each for this year's event. The teams will compete at the state level to test their knowledge in aquatics, forestry, soils, and wildlife. The Conservation District supports the teams by paying for their registration and expenses. A training for the teams will be held in early April at the Conservation District office. Best of luck to all!!



"I consider the soil conservation districts movement one of the most important developments in the whole history of agriculture."

Hugh Hammond Bennett



Northern Panhandle
Conservation District
1 Ball Park Drive
McMechen, WV 26040

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SERVICES

Emergency Watershed Protection
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Forage Sampling

EQUIPMENT RENTAL

Aerator \$25 per day
Lime Spreaders \$25 per day
Fimco Sprayer \$10 per day
No-till Drill \$10 per acre (4-5 acres)
 \$ 7 per acre (15 + acres)

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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