



Out and About In The Tygarts Valley Conservation District

We're Going Green!

TVCD now offers an "e-newsletter" for anyone who is interested.

If you would prefer to receive an electronic version of our newsletter, or would like to be added to our mailing list, please visit wvca.us/districts/tvcd.cfm or call our district office at 304-457-3026.

Dates to Remember

- ⇒ Poultry Litter Cost Share Sign Ups April 9–April 20
- ⇒ TVCD Regular Meeting April 30 9am
- ⇒ AgEP Signups May 14– May 25
- ⇒ Spring Soils Field Day @ Old Fellow & Rebekah Home May 19
- ⇒ TVCD Regular Meeting May 21 9am
- ⇒ Memorial Day May 28 OFFICE CLOSED
- ⇒ Livestock Tack Swap June 2 10 am—2pm
- ⇒ Family Discovery Day @ Barbour County Fairgrounds Community Trail June 9 11am
- ⇒ TVCD Regular Meeting June 25 9am

Spring 2018

What's Tygarts Valley Doing This SPRING !



Springs Soils Day

Come join the Tygarts Valley Conservation District at the Odd Fellow & Rebekah Home Farm in Elkins on May 19 @10am for a Soils Educational Day. This event will feature several speakers and demonstration by Tygarts Valley Crew. Speakers will cover the following topics: Soil Testing, Soil Health, Lime & Fertilizer Application, Grazing Management, and Brush Removal.

Family Discover Fun Day at the Barbour County Fairgrounds Community Trail

Did you know we have a hiking trail at the Barbour County Fairground? This is a great place to walk and observe nature at its best. Tygarts Valley Conservation district would like to invite you to a fun filled family day at the Community Trail of the Barbour County Fairgrounds on Saturday, June 9, 2018 from 11 AM to 3PM. There will be fun learning activities along the trail for all of the family. This will include forest insects, birds, trees, wildflowers and wildlife. This event is free to the public. Bring the family out for a walk on the trail and to learn about conserving nature.

Community Agricultural Buy/Sale Or Trade Items

Anyone who has an agriculture items they are wanting to get rid of please come and visit the TVCD Office and add them to our new bulletin board.

Our Declining Pollinators. What Can You Do to Help?

Everyone has heard of the loss of honey bees in recent years, but did you know that our native bees are also suffering losses. One in particular is the Bumble Bee. For the first time a bumble bee has been placed on the endangered species list. This endangered bumble bee is the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee. The decline of the bumble bee is due to habitat loss, pesticide use, climate change and the introduction of non-native bumble bee diseases. Bumble bees and other native pollinators are needed to reproduce native wildflower and for creating the seeds and fruits that feed wildlife. They also pollinate our gardens and orchards. Bumble bees are among our most important pollinators of crops such as blueberries, cranberries and clover. Bumble bees are more effective pollinators than honey bees for some crops, in part because of their ability to “buzz pollinate.” In buzz pollination bumble bees extract pollen from a flower by vibrating against the flowers anther, making a buzzing noise. They literally shake the pollen out of the flower. What can you do to help conserve the bumble bee and other pollinators? You can plant a garden. Add a flowering tree or shrub to your yard. Even small areas or containers on the patio can provide nectar and pollen for bees. Use native plants in your yard such as lupines, asters and bee balm. Plant flowers that bloom at different times during the year. Provide natural areas for the bees. Many bumble bees build nests in undisturbed soil, abandoned rodent burrows or grass clumps. Keep some unmowed brush areas and tolerate bumble bee nests if you find them. Limit the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizer whenever possible or avoid them entirely. Pollinators are a vital part of a healthy environment. Will you help save the Bumble Bee



Cost Share Program is Almost Here!

Did you know that the TVCD receives state funding annually to assist local cooperators and farmers with implementing conservation practices on their land? This spring, the TVCD will be holding signups from Monday May 14th to Friday May 25th for the Agricultural Enhancement Program (AgEP). The TVCD AgEP Committee plans to offer assistance on the following practices:

- Watering System Developments
 - Urban Agriculture
 - Agricultural Lime
- Nutrient Management (Fertilizer)
 - Heavy Use Area Protection
 - Pasture Division Fencing
- Water and/or Woodland Exclusion Fencing
 - Pollinator Plantings
 - Invasive Species Management

More information will be posted on the district website and Facebook page as it comes available.



Don't forget to take your soil samples NOW!

Recent samples are needed for the FY2019 cost share program. For further information on how to take a sample, call your local WVU Extension office.

All cost-share applicants also need an aerial map of their property. These maps can be obtained from your local FSA office.

2nd Annual Livestock Tack Swap

The Tygarts Valley Conservation District is having our 2nd Annual Livestock Tack Swap on June 2, 2018 from 10 am to 2 pm at the District Office Complex in Philippi. Vendor fee set up is \$5.00, all sales you make are yours. Bring your new, used, unneeded livestock tack, equipment, clothes and supplies to sell or swap. Call 304-457-3026 for details and to reserve your space.



Poultry Litter Cost Share Program

TVCD is offering a Poultry Litter cost share program, if litter is shipped outside of the Chesapeake Bay. Sign ups will run Monday April 9th to Friday April 20th. The website for the WV Litter Market is <https://wvlittermarket.wordpress.com/>. Click on the Find a Buyer, Seller or Transporter link and fill out the form, this will send you an up to date list of all buyers and sellers. You may also call the WV Poultry Hotline @ 1-844-LITTER1 (844-548-8371). The hotlink is a communication resource linking sellers and buyers of poultry litter.

Tygarts Valley Conservation District has a poultry litter spreader for rent at \$60.00 per day.



If you would to sign up for the program please stop by the office between April 9 and April 20 and complete your paperwork. To be eligible for the program you must have completed soil samples and be a cooperator.



**conserving
natural resources**
for our future

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Ag & Conservation Day @ State Capitol

Several Tygarts Valley District Supervisors attended Agriculture Conservation Day @ the State Capitol on February 7, 2018. Each year the Department of Agriculture hosts a day at the Capitol, to show programs around the state and allow citizens to voice their concerns to the legislators. All attendees were invited to attend a farm to table breakfast featuring local farmers' produce, eggs, and meats, and were encouraged to visit the 14 conservation district presentations set up in the Capitol Building.

AG DAY

Our Mission:

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