



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, our would like to be added to our mailing list, please visit wvca.us/districts/tvcd.cfm or call our district office

Dates to Remember

- ⇒ **December 16th Office Closed**
- ⇒ **December 24th, 25th & 31st, Office Closed**
- ⇒ **January 1st Office Closed**
- ⇒ January 14th Eat & Reap Dinner Belington
- ⇒ January 27th Board Meeting
- ⇒ January 30 1st Ag Days @ The Capitol Building
- ⇒ February 11th Eat & Reap Dinner Beverly
- ⇒ February 24th Board Meeting
- ⇒ March 10th Eat & Reap Dinner Parsons
- ⇒ March 30th Board Meeting
- ⇒ April 20th—May 8th Cost Share Sign Ups

Winter 2019

Upcoming Winter Dinner Meetings

It's time for the annual Winter Dinner Meeting series for local farmers. There will be a series of 3 meetings held within Tygart's Valley Conservation District.

The Tygarts Valley Conservation District, in conjunction with the WVU Extension Service, will be sponsoring the Ag Dinner Meetings this winter. The first meeting will be January 14th at the Belington Fire Hall at 6:00 pm. Tom Basden will present on the topic of Soil Testing and Fertility. Deadline for reservations is January 7th.

The February 11th meeting will be held at Camp Pioneer in Randolph County. Steve Boyles will be presenting on Cattle Handling. Reservations deadline is February 4th.



The March 10th Meeting will be held in Tucker County. The topic will be Animal Health. Speaker and location are yet to be determined. Deadline for reservations is March 3rd.

The meeting is free to the public; however, the dinner will be available for \$5.00 (to be paid at the door). Reservations are required for the dinner/meeting. For more information or to make a reservation, please contact the Tygarts Valley Conservation District office at 304-457-3026.

Legislative News

The Tygarts Valley CD held their annual legislative dinner on October 24th in Buckhannon.

This annual event allows for TVCD supervisors and staff to speak one on one with various state and local officials as to what projects the district has completed in the last year, and what goals it has both short and long term.

During the dinner, TVCD gave a short presentation on the services provided by the district and the educational program it offers.

WV Ag Day

WV Ag Day at the Capitol is planned for Friday January 31st. Several TVCD supervisors plan to attend the event. They will meet with state legislators to discuss the importance of conservation districts throughout the state and budget allocations for the upcoming fiscal year.

**TVCD Wishes
You A Happy
New Year!**

Century Farm Program

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. Century Farms, Sesquicentennial Farms and Bicentennial Farms will be recognized. A Century Farm is one that has been in continuous operation by the same family for at least 100 years. A Sesquicentennial Farm has been in continuous operation by the same family for at least 150 years, and a Bicentennial Farm has been in continuous operation by the same family for at least 200 years. A family member must live on the farm or must 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. Line of ownership from the first family member owning the land may be through wives, husbands, children, brothers, sisters, nephews, or nieces.

Applications are due to the district office no later than February 1, 2020.

Contact the TVCD Office for additional information.

Cost Share Program FY21

Don't forget to take your soil samples NOW!

Recent samples are needed for the FY2021 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.



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 April 20th to Friday May 8th for the Agricultural Enhancement Program (AgEP). The following practices have been offered previously:

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

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

Supervisor Vacancy

Are you interested in becoming a Tygarts Valley Conservation District Supervisor representing Barbour County?

Are you a landowner living in Barbour County?

Do you have a strong interest in the conservation of West Virginia's natural resources?

Are you an active or retired farmer with five years of farming experience?

If so, you may qualify to fill a vacant seat as a Tygarts Valley Conservation District Supervisor

For more information, contact:

Tygarts Valley Conservation District
304-457-3026

How may we help you?

The Tygarts Valley Conservation District has a work crew and large equipment available to perform a variety of work on your property.

Some of the work we perform includes:

- Pond cleanup
- Brush removal
- Watering trough installations
- Water/spring developments
- Heavy use area protection
- Streambank stabilization
- Pond building

We have excavators, dozers, backhoes, tractors, brush hogs, dump trucks, flatbed trailer, and much more at our disposal.

If you are interested in having us work for you, please call our office for a **free estimate!**



District Equipment Rental

TVCD offers the following equipment for rental by district cooperators:

- (2) Four ton lime spreaders \$60/day
- 3 Pt. Hitch Fertilizer Spreader \$30/day
- Post driver \$75/day
- Five ton litter spreader \$60/day
- Crimper \$30/day

If you would like to reserve our equipment for your personal use, please call 304-457-3026. We recommend calling at least a week in advance of your desired pick-up date. All rental contracts are subject to an advance deposit of one day's rental fee.





Taking Soil Samples



THE WVU SOIL TESTING LAB

WHEN?

- > Late summer- early spring
- > 3 or more months after application of fertilizer or lime
- > Avoid taking samples when soil is wet
- > Plan Ahead: use your soil test results to purchase fertilizers and soil amendments

How often
should I have
my soil tested?

Garden	Every Fall
Agricultural crops	Every 1-2 years
Pastures	Every 3-4 years
Lawns	Every 4 years

For additional information
visit : soiltesting.wvu.edu
or
your local extension office

HOW TO SELECT AND SEND YOUR SAMPLES

For Areas less than 1 acre:

- Choose 7-10 throughout the entire area
- Using a spade, auger or soil probe take a soil sample at the appropriate depth (see table below)
- Place samples in a hard container
- Remove any grass, debris, or rocks from the samples
- Crumble and mix the samples
- Allow the composite samples to air dry
- Place 1-2 cups of soil in a Ziploc bag

- Completely and legibly fill out the information sheet and attach it to the sample

For areas 1-10 acres:

- Choose at least 15-30 locations throughout the entire area
- Using a spade, auger or soil probe take a soil sample at the appropriate depth (see table below)
- Place samples in a hard container
- Remove any grass, debris, or rocks from the samples

- Crumble and mix the samples
- Allow the composite samples to air dry
- Place 1-2 cups of soil in a Ziploc bag
- Completely and legibly fill out the information sheet and attach it to the sample

Mailing your Samples:

Send samples in a box or padded envelope to:

WVU Soil Test Lab

PO Box 6108

Morgantown, WV 26505

HOW DEEP SHOULD I TAKE MY SAMPLES?

Home Gardens	To Tillage Depth
Agricultural Crops- Conventional Tillage	To Tillage Depth
Agricultural Crops- No -till	6 inches split in two samples: a) top 2 inches b) lower 4 inches
Pastures	2-4 inches
Meadows	4-6 inches
Lawns	Existing: 4 New: 6 inches



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Visit us online

<http://www.wvca.us>



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FY20 Agricultural Enhancement (Cost Share) Program Completion Deadlines

District Supervisors

Barbour County
Keith Knight

Randolph County
Joe Gumm
James Dean, Treasurer

Taylor County
Joe Shaffer

Tucker County
James Nester, SR.
Donald Adams

Upshur County
Doug Bush, Vice Chairman
Donnie Tenney, Chairman

The completion dates and practices are:

Pasture Division/Water Exclusion Fence & Pollinator Habitats
April 17th.

Invasive Species, Nutrient Management & Urban Agriculture
May 22nd

**Reminder: We must have receipts, a signed cost verification form
and current W-9. NO payment can be made until we have all
paperwork completed.**

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."*