

Welcome



Western Conservation District would like to take this opportunity to tell you about our conservation district, starting with a little history and an overview of some of our programs with a few highlights of 2019.



Western

Conservation District

WV State Charter 1940

Jackson, Mason & Putnam Counties

The Conservation Districts Law (Chapter 19-21 A of the WV Code) established Conservation Districts which are chartered legal sub-divisions of state government. Districts operate under the guidance and with the support of the West Virginia State Conservation Committee (State Agency) and develop and implement local soil and water conservation programs based upon established resource priorities.

Western Conservation District Supervisors



Charles Lipscomb, Chairman; Oscar Harris, Vice-Chairman; D. W. "Peachie" Arthur; Jeremy Grant; Don Stephens, Treasurer; Jim Withrow, Secretary

As set forth in Chapter 19-21A-2 of the West Virginia Code the responsibilities of West Virginia's fourteen Conservation Districts and the West Virginia State Conservation Committee are directed to "provide for the conservation of the soil and soil resources of this State, for the control and prevention of soil erosion, for the prevention of floodwater and sediment damage, and for furthering the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water.

DUST BOWL



Drought was nothing new to the farmers of western Kansas. But the drought of 1931 was more severe than most could remember. On Sunday, April 14, 1935, called Black Sunday, a massive front moved across the Great Plains from the northwest. Packing winds of 60 miles per hour, the loose topsoil was scooped up and mounded into billowing clouds of dust hundreds of feet high. Many factors led to the Dust Bowl. Four years of drought shriveled the crops and left the loose top soil to the mercy of the ever-present winds.



The Dust Bowl gave birth to the US Soil Conservation Service in 1935

Farmers listened to the advice of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service and began strip and contour farming, restoring pastureland and planting hundreds of miles of wind breaks. With concerted effort and favorable weather conditions, the land was made to bloom again as the breadbasket of the nation.

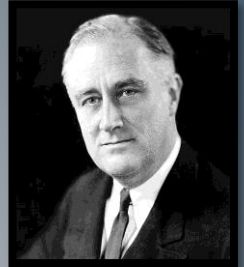
A massive dust storm 2 miles high traveled 2,000 miles before hitting the East Coast on May 11, 1934. For five hours, a fog of prairie dirt enshrouded landmarks such as the Statue of Liberty and the U.S. Capitol, inside which lawmakers were debating a soil conservation bill.



Our History



- May 1934 & 1935 the Great Plains experienced severe dust storms.
- April 1935, Congress passed, and President Roosevelt approved the establishment of the “Soil Conservation Service.”
- Hugh Hammond Bennett was named Chief of a new agency the Soil Conservation Service and is now known as the “Father of Soil Conservation.”
- On June 14, 1939, a law was passed allowing the establishment of 14 Soil Conservation Districts
- November 1940, Landowners in Mason County voted to establish the Western Conservation District. In 1942 Jackson and Putnam counties joined the Western Conservation District.



Conservation Leaders

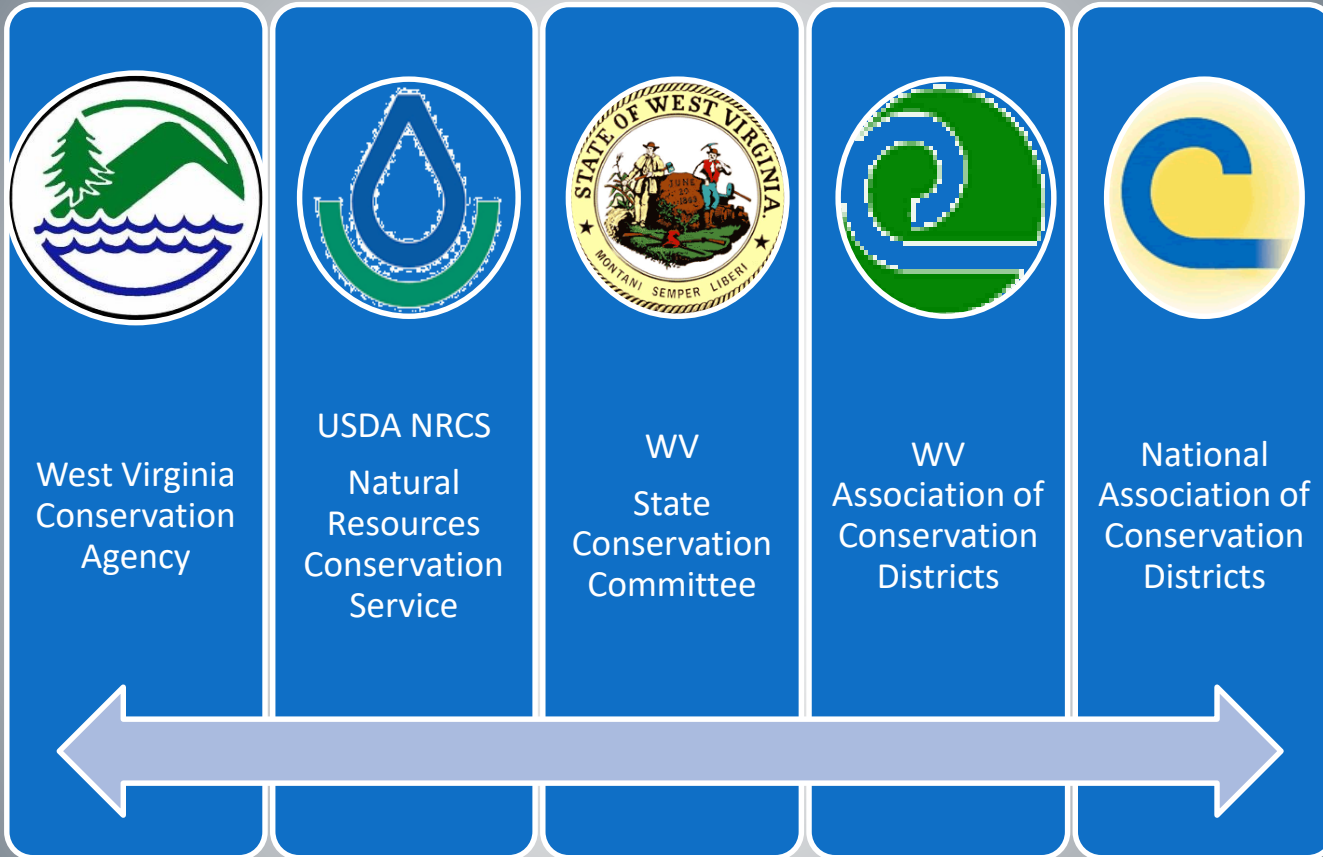


*Western Soil & Water Conservation District
Chartered December 19, 1940*



Local Districts are the Strength of Conservation Work

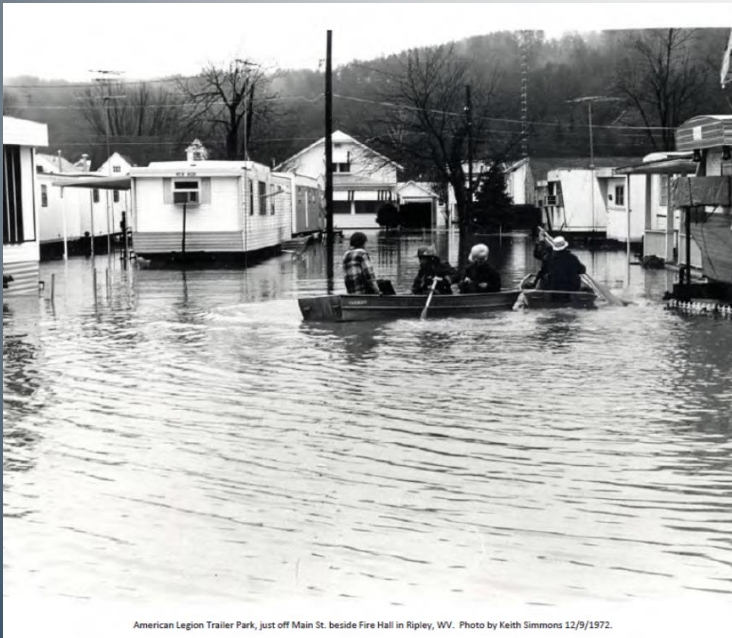
Our Partners



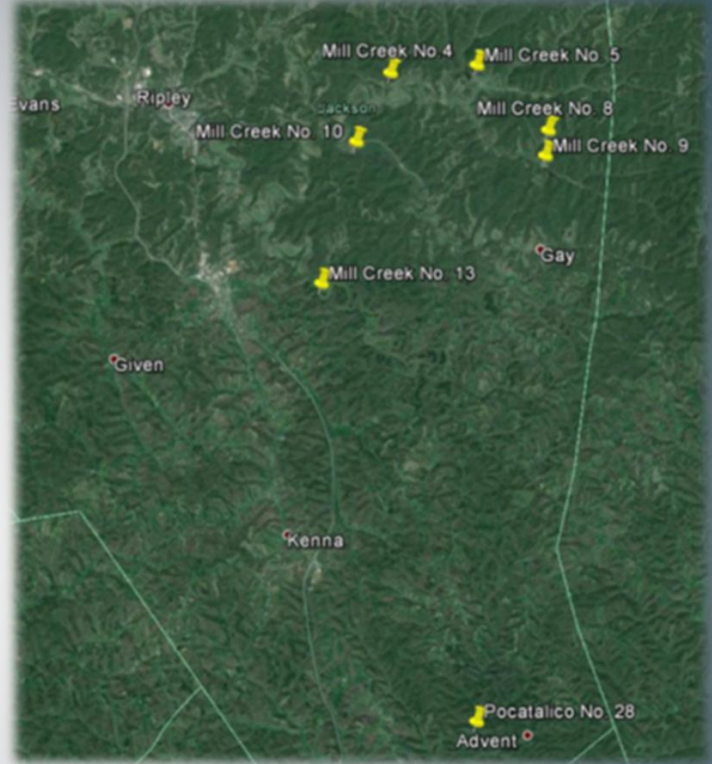
Watershed Dams

The City of Ripley had historically been plagued by devastating flooding from Mill Creek. The Mill Creek Watershed Project:

- Eliminated flooding
- Eliminated the need for water rationing
- Eliminated the flood hazard from several otherwise prime development sites
- In the 1970's Mill Creek reached flood stage 19 times, each time resulting in dozens of flooded homes and businesses
- Since 1980 Mill Creek has not reached flood stage a single time after six flood control dams were installed on the major tributaries of Mill Creek



Keeping People & Property Safe



Benefits:

Water Supply

Recreation

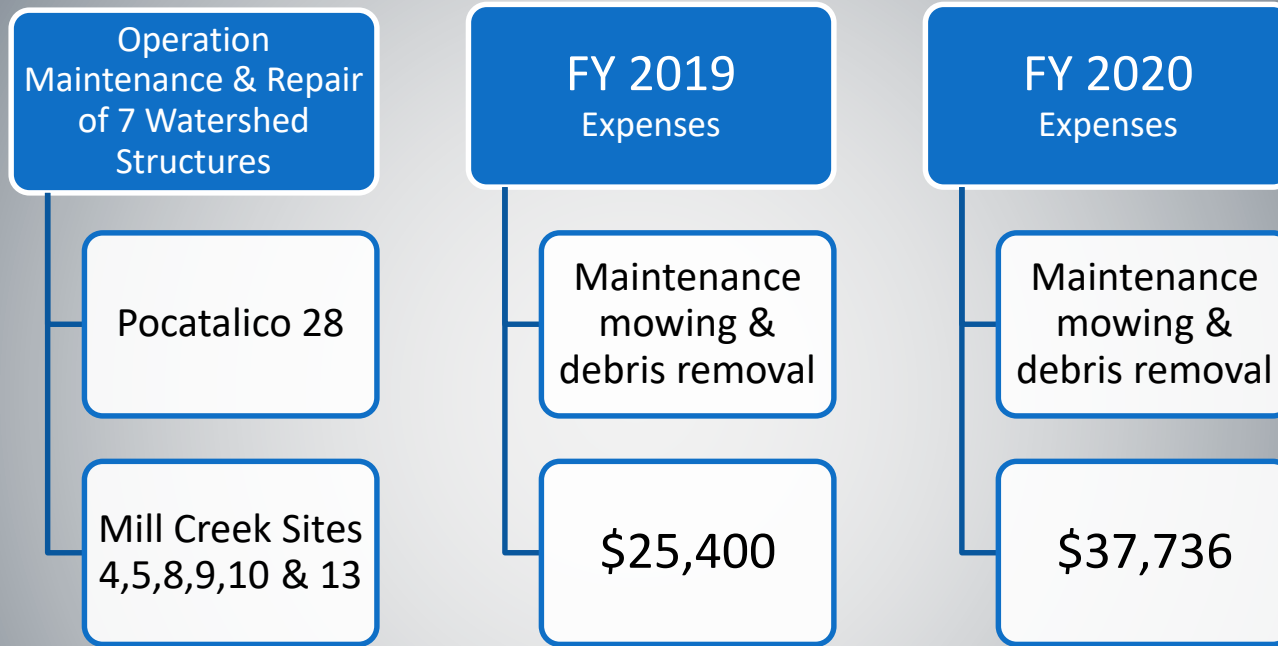
Community Development

Public Safety

Agriculture

Businesses

Funding to Rehabilitate Dams an Issue



- General Maintenance for two years on **7** dams in WCD \$63,000
- WV Districts Provide Annual OM&R on **170** Watershed Dams
- Funding for Rehabilitation is in Addition to OM&R

Supporting Agriculture

AgEP

Agriculture Enhancement Program

Conservation Best Management Practices
For Your Land...

- Conserves & Improves Land & Water Quality
- Provides Technical Assistance
- Provides Cost-Share Assistance
- User Friendly to Encourage Participation
- Reduces Nutrients & Sediment in Water
- Increases Farm Sustainability & Profitability

Approved AgEP Practices



AGRICULTURAL LIME

COVER CROP

FROST SEEDING

DIVISION FENCE

EXCLUSION FENCE

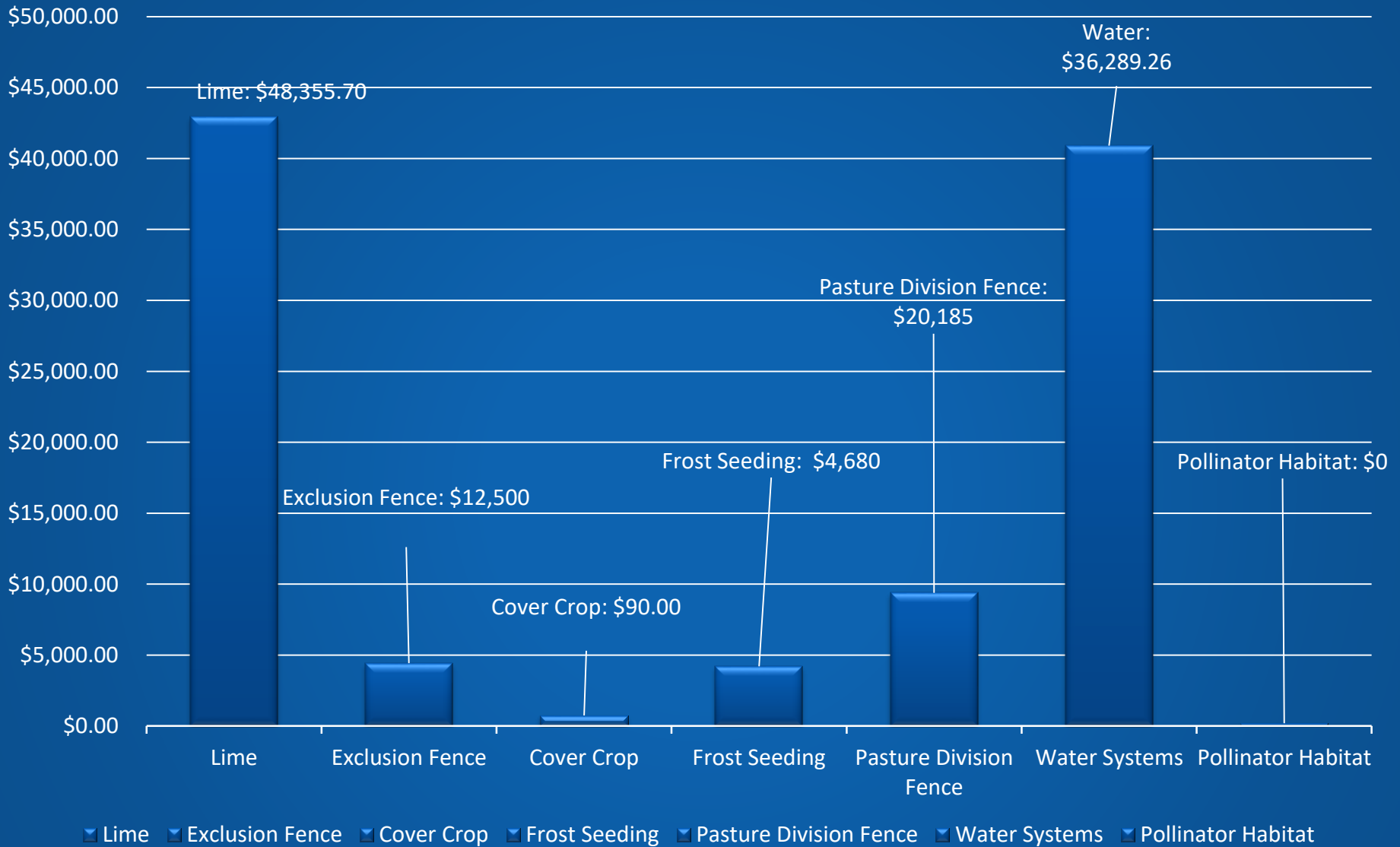
POLLINATOR HABITAT

WATER SYSTEMS



Conservation Best Management Practices For Your Land....





Contracts Written: 72

Total : \$122,259.96

AgEP Emergency Program

Revegetation of Feeding Areas

Applications	Completed	Paid
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 49• Recovering from Mud Spring 2019 Cost: \$29,253	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 39 Reseeded 384.55 Acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$24,393 Cost Share Paid

July 2018-June 2019 was one of the wettest on record. A revegetation program resulted, to assist cooperators with reseeding impacted winter feeding areas. Technical guidance was provided by WVU Extension and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Conservation Districts around the state participated through the Agriculture Enhancement Program provided by the State Conservation Agency.

Spring 2019

Record setting wet weather, left winter feeding areas in need of revegetation to control erosion and protect water quality.



WV Century Farm Program

Agriculture Heritage



36 Century Farms 1 Bicentennial Farm
Designated by Western CD since 2011.



*A Century Farm is operated by the same
fam family for 100 years. In 2018
Sesquicentennial 150 years and
Bicentennial 200 years or more were
added.*



Conservation Education



NATIONAL & STATE CONTESTS



Planting the seeds of Conservation



Poster Contest

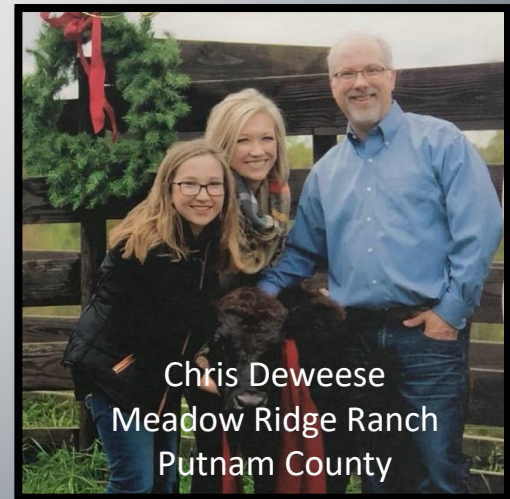


2019 Awards Banquet

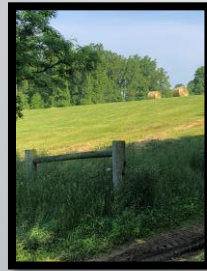
Conservation Farm Program



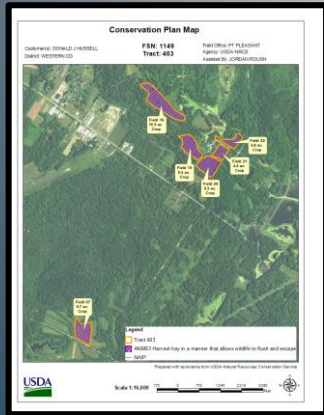
State Finalist



2019 Conservation Farms



Conservation Matters



Mission Statement

Mission of Conservation Activities in WV

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.

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact us at:

Western Conservation District
224C 1st Street
Point Pleasant WV 25550

Phone: 304-675-3054

Fax: 304-675-3054

Email: wcd@wvca.us

Web: www.wvca.us

2020 WCD Supervisors Directory

Charles Lipscomb, Chairman Email: diamondlfarms@hughes.net 2754 Plain Valley Road, Letart WV 25253	304-675-8656	Mason County
Oscar Harris, Vice-Chairman Email: ojharris1942@yahoo.com 7422 Spencer Road, Leroy WV 25252	304-372-3957	Jackson County
Dorrell "Peachie" Arthur Email: peachie.arthur7@gmail.com 1355 Hereford Road, Hurricane, WV 25526	304-562-6745	Putnam County
James Withrow, Secretary Email: vandjfarms@yahoo.com 116 McCloud Road, Scott Depot WV 25560	304-755-4300	Putnam County
Jeremy Grant Email: jgrant.wvfma@gmail.com 1269 Southside Lane, Southside 25187	304-939-3901	Mason County
Donald Stephens, Treasurer Email: dstephens26164@hotmail.com 220 Wolfpen Hollow Road, Ravenswood 26164	304-532-2276	Jackson County



Thank You