



Conservation News & Notes

Volume 118 Number 4 Winter 2018/2019

FY 2018 Canyon SCD Performance Report

By Lori Kent



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The Canyon Soil Conservation District (SCD) worked with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Under the Division III general EQIP there were 9 contracts totaling \$197,433.00, on 287 acres. There were 3 contracts in the amount of \$93,500.00, on 46.5 acres that qualified as State Socially Disadvantaged producers. Through EQIP organic there was 4 Soil Health projects in the amount of \$66,852.00, on 90 acres. There was 1 Monarch Initiative contract has been signed (only one in the state of Idaho) totally \$3,286.00 on 4.2 acres. This year Canyon County received the opportunity for EQIP National Water Quality Initiative funding with 4 contracts in the amount of \$486,900.00, on 786 acres. The projects included: pivot/ sprinkler irrigation systems, drip irrigation systems, Irrigation Water Management (IWM), Nutrient Management, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Soil Health Practices, and other improvements for soil health and water quality.

In FY 2018 Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) was provided to 21 different producers on 2,040 acres. This assistance consisted of site visits, conservation planning, engineering designs, and analysis and recommendations for irrigation systems, and plantings. There were various irrigation systems including: recommendations for improved gravity systems, sprinklers, and drip systems.

Through the 319 Program there were 2 projects in amount of \$288,985.00 on 170 acres. Both projects were converted from surface to sprinkler irrigation

A \$46,210.07 grant provided by Idaho Water Resource Board was installed for the Farmers' Co-Operative Ditch Company to upgrade their head-gates. The upgrade will allow the Company to reduce irrigation water usage from the Boise River by 12 to 18 CFS (23 to 38 feet per day) on a daily average.

Educational Programs

Canyon SCD (CSCD) Outreach educates the landowners, public, and students in conservation awareness.

** In July, the CSCD had an education booth and display at the County Fair with 129 participants for the four-day event.

Quotation:
"The soil is the great connector of lives, the source and destination of all... Without proper care for it, we can have no life"

BY: Wendell Berry

Continued on page 2

Your Canyon SCD

Supervisors:

Mike Swartz, Chairman
Mike Somerville, Vice Chair
Rex Runkle, Sec./Treas.
Robert McKellip, Supervisor
David Dixon, Supervisor

Associate Supervisors:

Tom Johnson
Rich Sims
Matt Livengood

District Staff:

Lori Kent,
Administrative Assistant
Outreach
Mary Rosen
Soil Conservation
Technician

NRCS Staff:

Amie Miller
District Conservationist
Erin Brooks
Soil Conservationist
Robert Hilton
Soil Conservation
Technician
Doug Higbee
Civil Engineer
Martin Pena
Civil Engineering
Technician
Rich Sims
Earth Team Volunteer

District board meetings are held the first Thursday after the first Tuesday of each month. Meetings are open to the public. Call the office for exact times.

All programs and services of the Canyon Soil Conservation District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, marital or familial status and political beliefs.

Educational Programs

** CSCD/319 Project tour was held 8/8/17 with 24 attendees. FY 2017 tour focused on possible project sites for Best Management Practices. Also featured was a No Till Drill.
** Sponsored the District Poster Contest for 12 students.
** Sponsored the Natural Resources Camp scholarship for one student at the week-long event.
** Participated at the Western Idaho Ag Expo with an educational display. NRCS & Farm Service Agency partnered a booth next to CSCD. This was a great to reach out to the public as a one stop shop for 154 attendees at the two-day event.
** CSCD participated at the 5th Ag Forum, this year, with an educational display & brochures for over 200 attendees.
** Participated in the 9th Annual Soil Health Symposium with 106+ participants, along with the CSCD Soil Health Display.
** CSCD participated at the Notus School District STEM night on April 25th from 6 – 8 PM with 65 students/teachers/parents visiting our booth.
** The Canyon SCD newsletter goes out quarterly to 600 subscribers.
** Canyon office staff participated in 5th grade Ada SWCD conservation field days with over 200 students & teachers at the 5-day event.
** Canyon SCD/Caldwell USDA Service Center donated 259 lbs. of produce from The Peoples Garden and 157 canned/gleaned donations to Metro Community Services. There were 21 lbs. of pet food donated to Metro Community Services.

Future Projects

Canyon SCD will continue to seek future projects for Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMP's) for Water Quality Improvements and the possibility of additional 319 funding. In the absence of 319 funding, there may be some irrigation evaluations to be done and used for demonstration. There are numerous projects for 319 funding if available. Center pivot sprinklers, wheel line sprinklers, annual drip systems, and permanent drip systems have been requested and there is a continued interest by landowners' to utilize funding.

Continued efforts will be made with the assistance of a Conservation Technical Assistance Program. The Canyon SCD Resource Enhancement Project is designed to accelerate natural resource treatment and improvements. This project will address high priority natural resource issues documented by Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) plans and Watershed Planning documents.

Canyon SCD will continue partnering with agencies, and plan and seek funding to address resource concerns.

Canyon SCD will continue to promote natural resource conservation through outreach & education programs for youths and adults.

Pre emergent herbicide application

By: Bobby Hilton

Its getting to be that time of year, the holidays are over and the growing season is just around the corner. Careful planning and preparation is without a doubt essential to a successful year regardless of your objective. I myself am no true farmer (though I like to pretend I am on the weekends) and so my struggles are less high stake. It is more of a hobby and not my livelihood on the line.

But, no matter what our objectives tend to be we are all plagued by the same problem, weed control! Unfortunately there is no shortage of people who forget that they have a weed problem until after they have come out from dormancy. A solution that I myself will be trying this year is a pre emergent herbicide application.

There are some questions that we need to answer for ourselves before we do something ridiculous and start spraying on prime growing space:

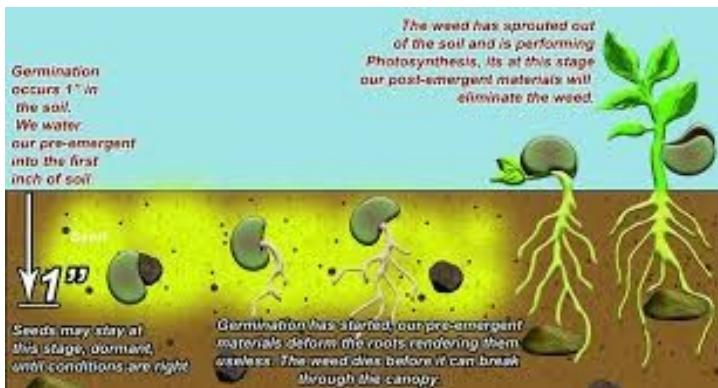
- What weeds are we trying to control?
- What are the life cycles of those weeds and when should we apply the herbicide to control them?
- Will the herbicide affect the desirable species on the property?

Then we need to understand certain principles of pre-emergent herbicides:

- Pre- emergent herbicides are designed to control germinating weed seeds. They are not meant to be used on existing weeds or dormant weed seeds, summer or winter is probably not the best time.
- Pre-emergent must be mixed correctly and applied evenly over the target area for best results. Think of pre-emergent like a blanket – you need to cover an entire area through which the weed seeds cannot germinate.
- Pre-emergent herbicide must be watered in. Watering in activates the herbicide, creating a barrier just below the surface. Most products call for 0.5 inches of irrigation or rain within 21 days after application.

While you can certainly do this on your own it is never a bad idea to contact a professional. One of the best resources Canyon County has in this regard is our county weed and pest control. Another resource that is full of useful information is the NRCS plant database. Below are links to these resources.

- <https://plants.usda.gov/>
- <https://www.canyonco.org/elected-officials/commissioners/weed-pest-control/>



Mission:

The Canyon Soil Conservation District is committed to providing quality leadership, information, education, technical assistance and financial assistance for the conservation and wise use of natural resources.



10th ANNUAL SOIL HEALTH SYMPOSIUM

SOIL HEALTH PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2019
8:15AM-4:30PM
REGISTRATION OPENS AT 7:30AM

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Paul Muller, Full Belly Farm
Marlon Winger, USDA-NRCS
Saad Hafez, University of Idaho
Brad McIntyre, McIntyre Farms
Steve Hines, U Of I Extension

FOUR RIVERS CULTURAL CENTER
676 SW 5TH AVE., ONTARIO, OR

REGISTRATION INCLUDING LUNCH
\$25 BY 2/8/2019
\$30 AT THE DOOR

LOCAL PRODUCER PANELS



① LIVESTOCK



② CROPS

PRESENTED BY

PAYETTE SWCD, CANYON SCD
ADA SWCD, MALHEUR SWCD

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

USDA-NRCS,
UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO EXTENSION,
OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

LEARN MORE AT WWW.PAYETTESWCD.ORG

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Application Deadline for EQIP Sign-Up Nearing

By Mindi Rambo, NRCS

BOISE, Idaho, December 18, 2018 –The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Idaho has a January 18, 2019, application deadline for this round of funding Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) projects. This includes currently funded special projects, national initiatives and Regional Conservation Partnership Program projects.

Applications for EQIP are accepted on a continuous basis, however, only the applications received by January 18, 2019 will be considered for funding during this particular cycle. Applications received after the deadline will be reviewed in subsequent cycles.

EQIP helps agricultural producers complete resource conservation projects and make conservation-related management changes on their farms or ranches. Conservation program participation is voluntary and helps private landowners and operators defray the costs of installing conservation practices.

For more information on these programs as well as eligibility requirements, stop by your local USDA service center or visit NRCS online at <http://www.id.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>.

Lower Boise River 319 Grant

Canyon Soil Conservation District (Canyon SCD) partners with Lower Boise Watershed Council to implement projects in Canyon County. 319 funding assists landowners with cost share to implement projects that reduce pollutants which may impact water quality in the Lower Boise River watershed.

Canyon SCD provides administrative and technical assistance to our Partner-Lower Boise Watershed Council and landowners in Ada and Canyon Counties. If you have an idea for a water quality project or have a resource concern that you would like technical and/or financial assistance with please call or come by our office:

- 2208 E. Chicago, Suite A, Caldwell, ID 83605
- Mary Rosen—208-779-3446



Coming Events . . .

District Board Meeting

Caldwell Field Office
2208 E. Chicago Street
January 10 @ 1:00 PM
February 7 @ 1:00 PM
March 7 @ 1:00 PM

Lower Boise River Watershed Advisory Group

Caldwell Airport
4814 E. Linden Street
February 14 @ 1:00 — 3:00 PM

NRCS-USDA EQIP Deadline

January 18, 2019

2019 Western Idaho Ag Expo

O'Conner Field House—Caldwell
January 29 & 30

2019 Soil Health Symposium

Four Rivers Cultural Center--Ontario
February 14

2019 Harvest and Hearth / Farm and Heritage Workshops

College of Idaho-Caldwell
February 15, 8:30am-4:30pm

2019 Spring Division Meeting

For more information call
208-779-3443
Canyon SCD Hosting
February 26



Kids Connection . . .

Canyon SCD Poster Contest

Canyon SCD held their 2018 Poster Contest after the October 4th Canyon SCD Board Meeting. Canyon received 11 posters from Notus Elementary School, Ms. Cayler 6th grade class.

The winning posters from Notus Elementary School are: (pictured left to right)

3rd place — Wendoline Gallegos & Alyah Bronson

2nd place — Pierson Fields

1st place — Carter Harrison



Trim a tree for the birds

The Kids' Nature Book

Carry on a centuries-old tradition and put out some special treats for the birds! Decorate a tree in your yard with edible ornaments.

Make the tree especially festive for the holiday season. Use cookie cutters to cut out shapes from stale bread, and spread them with peanut butter. Hang them from the tree with cotton or wool yarn (it will eventually decompose, or be used by the birds to build their nest come spring). Hang pretzels from the branches, or even donuts! Scooped-out orange halves can be filled with seed or suet and hung. When you take down your indoor Christmas tree, remember to leave any edible decorations to add to the birds' tree.

What other ways can you think of sharing the holiday spirit with wildlife?

Landon Huter Attended Natural Resource Camp

Canyon Soil Conservation District (SCD) sponsored Landon to attend the Natural Resource Camp (NRC), June 25-30, 2018. Landon attended NRC last year, this year he was a cabin leader in training.

Landon attended the November 8th Canyon SCD board meeting to give his presentation and thank Canyon SCD board for the scholarship.

Landon and the other students learned about aquatics, fire protection, forestry, plants, rangeland and soils.

If you know of a child between the ages of 12—14 and they are interested in attending the NRC June 24—29, 2019, contact the Canyon SCD office at 208-779-3443 or visit CSCD website at <https://www.canyonsoilconservation.org>.

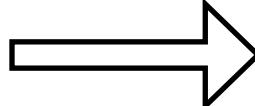
You may visit the NRC website at <https://www.extension.uidaho.edu/nrc>.



Landon Huter,
NRC, Student



From Left to right —
Mike Somerville,
Dave Dixon, Lonnie
Huter, Rich Sims, Jon
Beals, Rex Runkle &
Mike Swartz



Recipe Spot. . .

Cheesy Cauliflower Breadsticks

BY: jocooks.com

4 cups riced cauliflower about 1 large head of cauliflower
4 eggs
2 cups mozzarella cheese I used a Tex Mex Blend
3 tsp oregano
4 cloves garlic minced
Salt and pepper to taste
1 cup mozzarella cheese, or more for topping

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Prepare 2 pizza dishes or a large baking sheet with parchment paper.
 2. Make sure your cauliflower is roughly chopped in florets. Add the florets to your food processor and pulse until cauliflower resembles rice.
 3. Place the cauliflower in a microwavable container and cover with lid. Microwave for 10 minutes. Let the cauliflower cool just until there's no more steam coming from it.
Place the microwaved cauliflower in a large bowl and add the eggs, 2 cups of mozzarella, oregano, garlic, salt and pepper. Mix everything together.
 4. Separate the mixture in two and place each half onto the prepared baking sheets and shape into either a pizza crust, or a rectangular shape for the breadsticks.
 5. Bake the crust (no topping yet) for about 25 minutes or until nice and golden. Don't be afraid the crust is not soggy at all. Once golden, sprinkle with remaining mozzarella cheese and put back in the oven for another 5 minutes or until cheese has melted.
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**Canyon Soil
Conservation District**
2208 E. Chicago, Suite A
Caldwell, Idaho 83605

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED





February 15, 2019, 8:30am-4:30pm

College of Idaho, 2112 Cleveland Blvd, Caldwell Idaho

Attend workshops and panels led by local farmers. Topics include: livestock, farmstead management, crop production and enterprise diversification. Expand your farm, learn a new skill, and manage your acreage sustainably. Special guest speakers from Full Belly Farm!

Registration: \$55, includes lunch. Join us for networking and happy hour after the event!

Workshop details, registration and more at
www.adaswcd.org

Presented by the Ada Soil & Water Conservation District, College of Idaho Environmental Sciences, University of Idaho Extension, Canyon Soil Conservation District, and our workshop sponsors.