



Conservation News & Notes

Volume 118 Number 3 Fall 2019

CSCD/319 Project Summer Tour

By: Lori Kent



CSCD/319 Tour.....	1
Board of Supervisors	2
CSCD/319 Tour.....	3
Pollinator Habitat.....	4
Conservation Days.....	5
Kid's Connection	6
Recipe Spot.	8

Quote:

"Be it deep or shallow, red or black, sand or clay, the soil is the link between the rock core of the earth and the living things on its surface. It is the foothold for the plants we grow. Therein lies the main reason for our interest in soils."

**BY: Roy W. Simonson,
USDA Yearbook of Agriculture, 1957**

On August 29th the Canyon Soil Conservation District and the Lower Boise Watershed Council held their CSCD/319 Project Tour with 22 participants.

The first stop on the tour — conversion from surface irrigation to pivot sprinkler systems on approximately 34 acres. The project was awarded in January 2019 and completed which allowed the group to tour the project.



Pivot Sprinkler Crossing Bridge



Pivot Sprinkler on 34 Acres of Corn

Your Canyon SCD

Supervisors:

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

Associate Supervisors:

Tom Johnson
Rich Sims
Matt Livingood

District Staff:

Lori Kent,
Administrative Assistant
Outreach
Mary Rosen
Soil Conservation
Technician

NRCS Staff:

Amie Miller
District Conservationist
Erin Brooks
Soil Conservationist
Bobby Hilton
Soil Conservation
Technician
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.

Canyon SCD Website
[https://
www.canyonsoilconservation.org](https://www.canyonsoilconservation.org)

The second stop on the tour — conversion from surface irrigation to pivot sprinkler systems on approximately 137 acres. The project was awarded in December 2018 and completed this summer which allowed the group to tour the project.



Pivot Sprinkler on 137 Acres of Alfalfa



Pump Station for Pivot Sprinkler

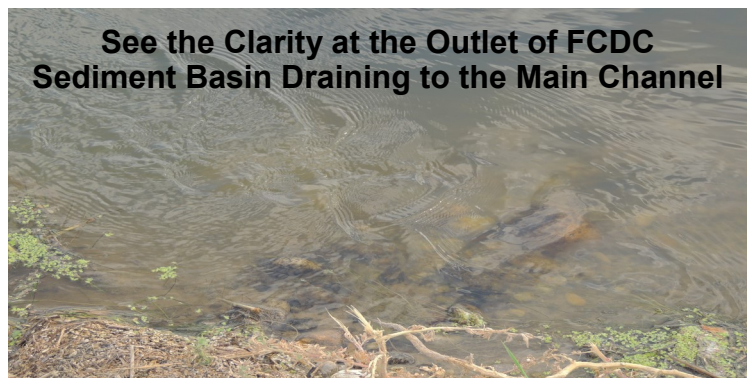
Mission:

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.

The third stop was at the 8.8 acre Farmers' Co-Operative Ditch Company (FCDC) Sediment Basin. The project was awarded in the fall of 2016, the project was completed in the Spring of 2019 and monitoring water quality started in June of 2019.



See the Sediment Entering the Inlet of FCDC Sediment Basin



See the Clarity at the Outlet of FCDC Sediment Basin Draining to the Main Channel

The fourth stop on the tour - conversion from surface irrigation to pivot sprinkler systems on approximately 190 acres. The project was awarded in August 2018 & completed Spring of 2019.



Pivot on 190 acres of Corn



Pump Station for Pivot



The fifth stop was at Vine and Branch Ranch which included a lunch presentation by Christopher Swain, Water Quality Advocate. Afterwards Peaceful Belly Farm gave a presentation on cover crops. The group then went out to the cover crops & their pollinator garden.

One side the sorghum Sudan grass is planted in a 14 way species mix the other side is a 3 way mix. These mixes were planted the exact same day, same seed company, same field and on the same hand lines. There is a 3 foot difference in growth. This is a grazing blends.



Cover Crop Field



Pollinator Garden

Idaho Soil & Water Conservation (ISWCC) Tour of Districts Projects

Tuesday, August 27, 2019, the ISWCC hosted a tour for ISWCC & State agency representatives in the Weiser, Payette and Parma areas. The Farmers' Co-Operative Ditch Company Sediment Basin Project was the site that was selected to visit in the Canyon SCD. There were 18 participants who visited the site. Also, at the site were ducks on the sediment basin, blue herons & other wildlife.



Pollinator Habitat Program Enters Third Year

By: Rich Sims

The Canyon Conservation District's pollinator habitat program continues to gain popularity. The plot of flowering plants at the office was a smorgasbord for all the local butterflies and insects. There were several onlookers learning how to establish a small pollinator area at their home.

When was the last time you saw a Monarch butterfly? The Monarch butterfly migrates 3,000 miles a year. Each fall the monarchs leave their summer breeding grounds in northeastern U.S. and Canada to reach overwintering grounds in southwestern Mexico. This year the butterfly started to show up in Idaho around June.

Why all the hoopla about milkweed plants? As they travel, they need milkweed plants to lay their eggs. This is the preferred plant for the butterfly. One butterfly can lay up to 500 eggs and normally it is one egg per plant. In recent years, the population of milk weed plants has declined.

Volunteers collected 11 pounds of milkweed seeds and distributed the seeds at several public events such as Canyon County Fair, Western Idaho Ag Expo, Soil Health Symposium, Irrigation Conference and at the office. The seeds should be planted now (Fall) or in early spring.

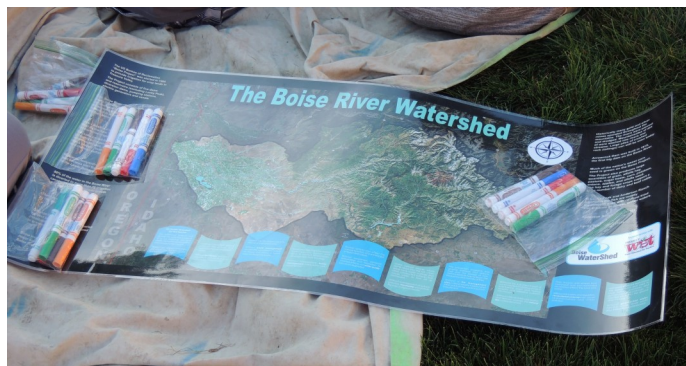
Stop at the office and visit our pollinator habitat plot. We can help you get one started at your home.

This year's Canyon SCD and NRCS volunteers collection of milkweed seed.



Ada SWCD 5th Grade Conservation Days

The Caldwell and Marsing Field Office Staff gave a presentation to over 800 students, teachers and chaperons at 5th grade conservation days sponsored by Ada Soil and Water Conservation District (Ada SWCD). The 5 day event educates the children about soil, water, fire, wildlife, trees, and native species habitat conservation. Bob McKellip hosted a day event at his farm, educating the group on raising mint and how the mint still works to extract and make oil, along with the other education stations. See three stations below.



Top left
Mint Station
Extracting Oil

Top Right
Insect Station
Identifying Insects

Drawing a
Watershed
Station to the left

What you can do on one acre of land

The Caldwell FO staff was invited to tour an one acre urban setting with trees, wildlife, bog ponds, and a shop with restored cars along with an ice-cream parlor.



Several variety of
trees surrounds a
big pond.

Around the big
pond are several
bog ponds with
many different
types of plants and
polliwogs.



Coming Events . . .

District Board Meeting

Caldwell Field Office
2208 E. Chicago Street
December 12, 2019
January 9, 2020
February 6, 2020

Lower Boise River Watershed Advisory Group

Caldwell Airport
4814 E Linden
No December Meeting
February 13, 2020

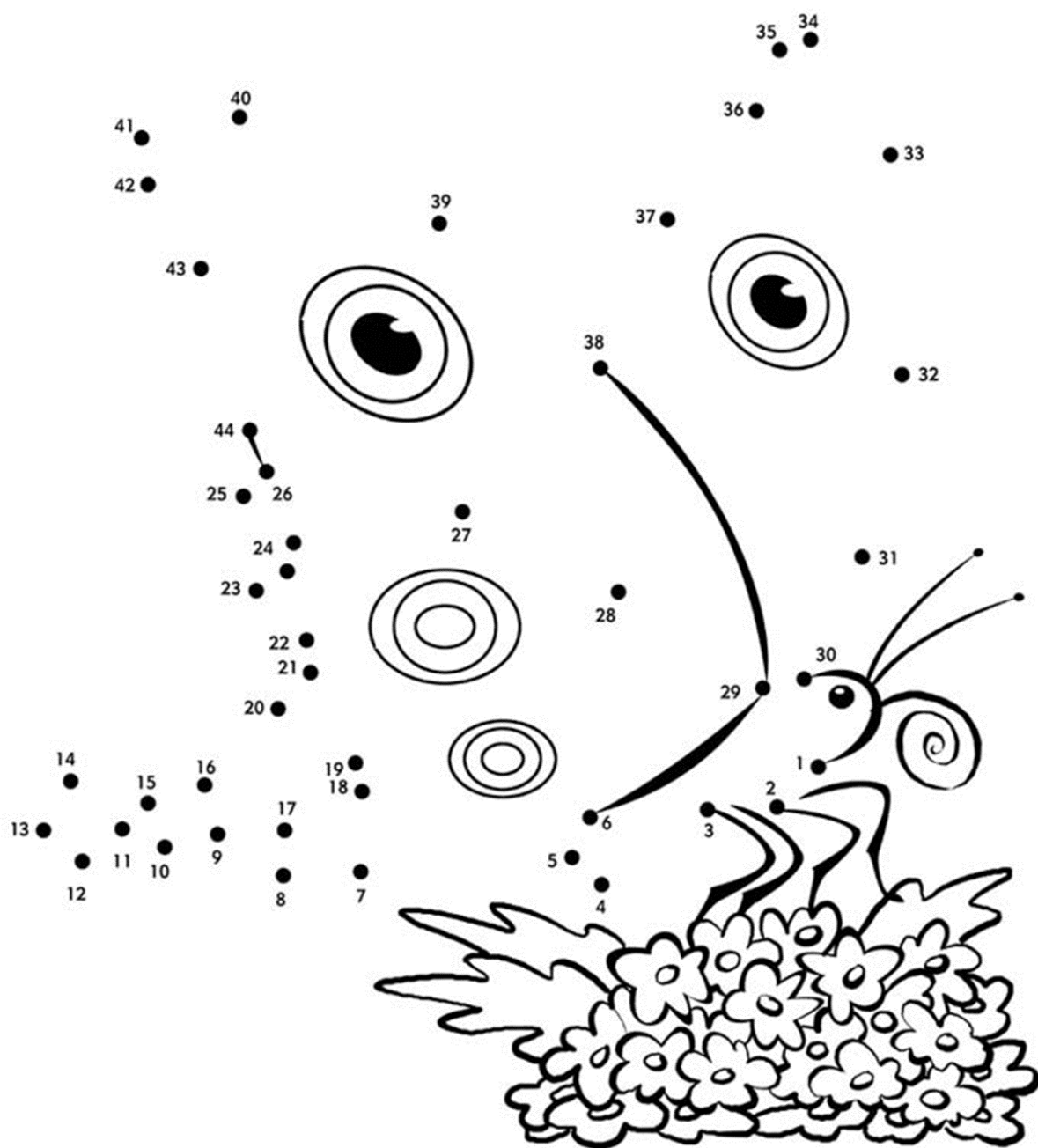
Western Ag Expo
Caldwell Events Center
January 28 & 29 2020

Soil Health Symposium
Four Rivers Culture Center
February 13, 2020

Division III Spring Meeting
Weiser SCD Hosting
February 25, 2020

Happy Holidays!

Kids Connection...



Connect the Dots to Discover the Pollinator

Thanks to the wonderful work of butterflies and other animal pollinators, the world's flowering plants are able to reproduce and bear fruit, providing many of the foods we eat, the plant materials we and other organisms use, and the beauty we see around us.





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Recipe Spot . . .

Buffalo Wig Dip

From: Maira Coupe

8 oz. cream cheese*
1 cup ranch dressing
1 cup buffalo sauce
2 cups shredded cheese
1 rotisserie chicken (shredded)

* Leave out so it can come up to room temperature.



Note: Although not required, I found that it is best using hidden Valley Ranch Dressing and Texas Pete Buffalo Sauce (if you can find it, and not the hot sauce) are the best tasting for this recipe.

- Preheat oven to 325 F.
- Using a mixer, mix cream cheese until smooth, then add ranch dressing until well incorporated. Follow the same steps for the buffalo sauce, and cheese. Using a spatula, mix the chicken.
- Transfer mix to a baking pan and bake for 20-30 minutes or until the top starts bubbling.
- Serve with chips.

**Canyon Soil
Conservation District**
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