



Conservation News & Notes

Volume 118 Number 4 Winter 2019/2020

FY 2019 Canyon SCD Performance Report

By Lori Kent



Board of Supervisors	2
Performance Report (cont.)...	2
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program Rule.....	3
Soil Health Symposium.....	4
Harvest & Hearth Workshop..	4
Lower Boise River 319 Grant...	5
Civil Engineering Technician...	5
Kid's Connection	6
Recipe Spot.	8

Quote: "...As a farmer, man himself became closely attached to the landscape, firmly rooted to the soil that supported him. At times the soil seemed bountiful and kindly and again stubborn and unfriendly, but it was always a challenge to man's cunning."

By: Charles E. Kellogg

Project Activities

The Canyon Soil Conservation District (SCD) worked with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). There were 6 contracts totaling \$37,000.00, on 20 acres. There was 1 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) contract totaling \$66,800.00 on 99 acres. There were 2 contracts in the amount of \$15,000.00, on 21 acres that qualified as a State Socially Disadvantaged producer. Through EQIP organic there was 5 in the amount of \$167,700.00, on 190 acres. This year Canyon County received the opportunity for EQIP National Water Quality Initiative funding with 3 contracts in the amount of \$248,000.00, on 250 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 & water quality.

In FY 2019 Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) was provided to 5 different producers on 550 acres. This assistance consisted of site visits, conservation planning, engineering designs, and analysis and recommendations for irrigation systems, and planting. There were various irrigation systems including recommendations for improved gravity systems, sprinklers, and drip systems.

Through the 319 Program there were 3 projects in amount of \$550,850.00 on 350 acres.

Outreach Activities

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 325 participants for the four-day event.

** CSCD/319 Project tour was held 8/14/18 with 36 attendees and 10 presenters. FY 2018 tour focused on completed project sites for Best Management Practices.

** Sponsored the District Poster Contest for 18 students from Notus Elementary.

** Sponsored the Natural Resources Camp scholarship for two students at the week-long event.

Continued on page 2

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

NRCS Staff:

Amie Miller
District Conservationist
Erin Brooks
Soil Conservationist
Josh Chapman
Soil Conservationist
Martin Pena
Civil Engineering
Technician
Bobby Hilton
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)

** 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 way to reach out to the public as a one stop shop for 233 attendees at the two-day event.

** Participated in the 10th annual Soil Health Symposium with 100+ participants, along with the CSCD Soil Health Display.

** Lori helped Ada SWCD with registration for their Harvest and Hearth Workshop with 65 in attendance.

** CSCD & NRCS participated at the Notus School District STEM night on April 25th from 6 – 8 PM with 200 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 1000 students & teachers at the 5-day event.

** Canyon SCD/Caldwell USDA Service Center donated 246 lbs. of produce from The Peoples Garden to Metro Community Services Inc.

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 in products utilizing this 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 seek funding to address resource concerns.

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

Capacity Building Funds

The Canyon SCD was able to use the Capacity Building Funds in the amount of \$800.00 for outreach and education to inform landowners, students and the public of the importance of Best Management Practices (BMP's) for our soil and water conservation and natural resources. Power Point Presentations were put together for the Western Idaho Ag Show, Canyon County Budget Meeting, Canyon County Fair, Canyon SCD Tours, Soil Health Symposium, and several other events. Canyon SCD will continue to outreach and education to inform the landowners, students and the public to teach and conserve all natural resources and importance of (BMP's).

USDA Invites Input on Agricultural Conservation Easement Program Rule

By: Mindi Rambo

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) seeks public comments on its interim rule for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP). ACEP is USDA's premier conservation easement program, helping landowners protect working agricultural lands and wetlands. The rule – now available on the Federal Register – takes effect on publication and includes changes to the program prescribed by the 2018 Farm Bill.

"Through easements, agricultural landowners are protecting agricultural lands from development, restoring grazing lands and returning wetlands to their natural conditions," NRCS Chief Matthew Lohr said. "The new changes to ACEP under the 2018 Farm Bill make it stronger and more effective and will result in even better protection of our nation's farmlands, grasslands and wetlands."

NRCS is investing more than \$300 million in conservation easements for fiscal 2020. NRCS state offices will announce signup periods for ACEP in the coming weeks.

Changes to ACEP for agricultural land easements include:

- Authorizing assistance to partners who pursue "Buy-Protect-Sell" transactions.
- Requiring a conservation plan for highly erodible land that will be protected by an agricultural land easement. Increasing flexibility for partners to meet cost-share matching requirements.

Changes to ACEP for wetland reserve easements include:

- Identifying water quality as a program purpose for enrollment of wetland reserve easements. Expanding wetland types eligible for restoration and management under wetland reserve easements

"Conservation easements have a tremendous footprint in the U.S. with nearly 5 million acres already enrolled. That's 58,000 square miles," Lohr said. "This is a great testament to NRCS's and landowner's commitment to conservation."

Submitting Comments

NRCS invites comments on this interim rule through March 6 on the Federal Register. Electronic comments must be submitted through regulations.gov under Docket ID NRCS-2019-0006. All written comments received will be publicly available on regulations.gov, too.

NRCS will evaluate public comments to determine whether additional changes are needed. The agency plans on publishing a final rule following public comment review.

Applying for ACEP

ACEP aids landowners and eligible entities with conserving, restoring and protecting wetlands, productive agricultural lands and grasslands. NRCS accepts ACEP applications year-round, but applications are ranked and funded by enrollment periods that are set locally.

Easements in Idaho

Currently across Idaho there are 86,341 acres covered by NRCS easements. These easements provide for the conservation of agricultural production as well as protect valuable wetlands, which are critical not only for wildlife and livestock but also watershed and aquifer health.

"NRCS easement programs are important for farmers and ranchers planning succession for children interested in agriculture," said Wade Brown, NRCS Idaho Easement Specialist. "They provide long-term conservation and, at the same time, provide a financial edge that allows for a new generation of farmers or ranchers to get started. This makes easements an ideal tool in estate planning for agricultural producers."

According to Brown, signup information for FY2020 will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

For more information on how to sign up for ACEP, visit your state website at nrcs.usda.gov or contact your [local NRCS field office](#).

**11th ANNUAL SOIL HEALTH SYMPOSIUM
PUTTING LIFE BACK IN SOIL
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2019
8:30 AM—4:30 PM REGISTRATION OPENS AT 7:30 AM**

• FEATURED SPEAKER

Dr. David Johnson—Regenerating the diversity of life in soils-hope for: farming, ranching environment, nutritional foods and climate!

**FOUR RIVERS CULTURAL CENTER 676 SW 5TH AVE., ONTARIO, OR
REGISTRATION INCLUDING LUNCH
\$25 BY 2/13/2020
\$30 AT THE DOOR**

**• LOCAL GROWER PANELS
• LOCAL SCIENTISTS**

• PRESENTED BY

Payette SWCD — Canyon SCD — Adams SWCD — Malheur SWCD — Ada SWCD

• TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

USDA-NRCS — University of Idaho Extension — Oregon State University Extension

**Harvest and Hearth / Farm and Heritage Workshops
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2020
8:30 AM—5:00 PM
College of Idaho, Caldwell**
From: Jessica Harrold

Harvest and Hearth is a wonderful farmer-to-farmer educational opportunity, focusing on conservation in agriculture and teaches farmers how to start or expand agricultural enterprises to adapt to the changing market. Featuring a wide variety of workshops and panels, select courses from five tracks: farmstead management, crop and field production, livestock management, enterprise diversification, and NCAP "Growers Own." Harvest and Hearth includes a keynote from our guest speakers, lunch, and wraps up with an informal networking session!

Keynote Speaker: Dr. David Johnson

Registration: \$60, which includes lunch and networking appetizers. Visit our website to see the full schedule and course descriptions, and to purchase your tickets. www.adaswcd.org.

Contact Ada Soil & Water Conservation District

Jessica Harrold j.harrold@adaswcd.org

Cell: 208-863-6949 Office: 208-685-6981

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



Coming Events . . .

District Board Meeting
Caldwell Field Office
 2208 E. Chicago Street
 February 6, 2020
 March 5, 2020
 April 9, 2020

Lower Boise River Watershed Advisory Group
Caldwell Airport
 4814 E Linden
 February 13, 2020
 April 9, 2020

Western Ag Expo
Caldwell Events Center
 January 28 & 29 2020

Soil Health Symposium
Four Rivers Culture Center 676
 SW 5th Ave. Ontario
 February 13, 2020

Harvest and Hearth
Caldwell College of Idaho
 February 14, 2020

Division III Spring Meeting
Weiser SCD Hosting
Judy's Restaurant
 February 25, 2020

Civil Engineering Technician

From: Bobby Hilton

The chance to work with farmers and to encourage conservation on the local landscape has been one of the greatest opportunities that I have had. I have learned so much about agriculture and the implementation of different practices for different resource concerns in the short amount of time that I have been a soil conservation technician. However there was one part of the job that I liked more than the others, and that is the engineering aspect. Something about the math and the conceptualizing of how irrigation systems work are more in tune with my education background in hydrology. When the opportunity arose to apply for the Civil Engineering Technician, I took it (with the gentle and forceful prodding of my colleagues).

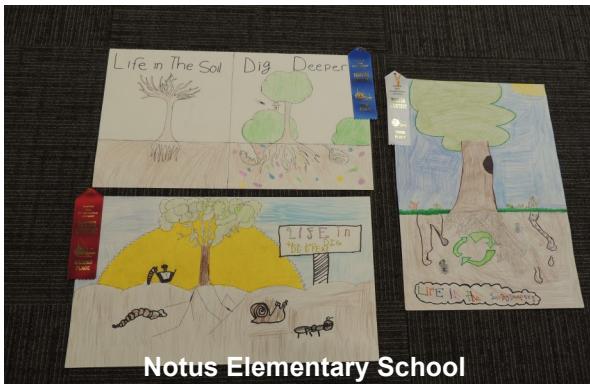
Two years working as a soil conservation technician, I am now a civil engineering technician. As well as a raise and more responsibilities, there are some other changes as well. Instead of working solely in Canyon and Ada counties, I will now work with land owners in surrounding counties as well. Instead of making conservation plans, I design engineering practices. I consider it as being a different part of the same machine, where the goal is still the same: conservation on the ground. As long as we are doing that, then I am satisfied that I am doing my job and living the dream.

My dad always told me that if I found a job doing something I love, then I never have to work again. And I haven't been to work in over two years.

Kids Connection . . .

Canyon SCD Poster Contest

Canyon Soil Conservation District Board judges posters at their annual poster contest held October 4th. 2019 theme was Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper.



The 2020 Stewardship Week will take place April 26—May 2, 2020. This year's Poster Contest and Stewardship Week theme is “Where would we BEE without Pollinators?” More information to follow.

Design some display and storage boxes

From: The Kids' Nature Book

With a little imagination and tape and glue, you can turn all sorts of ordinary boxes into display cases and storage bins. Look around for containers that can be sectioned off to hold small items (such as rocks and insects); larger boxes can serve as filing cabinets or even temporary cages for small animals. Use interlocking strips of cardboard to divide the boxes into smaller specimen sections, or just mark the boxes with ruled lines if your collections will be glued in place.

Save yogurt or sour cream containers for protecting individual specimens, and for planting seedlings and windowsill gardens.

Wait, don't throw that away!

There is plenty of free stuff for the taking that can make your nature studies easy on your piggy-bank. Save paper and plastic goods (especially the boxes and containers that food, clothing, and shoes come wrapped in), and turn them into storage and display units. Look through the mail for pictures you can cut out.

Consider buying the ends of newsprint rolls which newspapers sell for only a few dollars. The width and continuous length are perfect for murals. (Used, continuous, computer print-out paper also works well.) This paper can also be shredded as bedding for small animals.

Be on the lookout for these and other items that can be used and reused. Recycling begins at home! Shoe boxes, berry boxes & baskets, plastic bags, jars, large & small, cardboard boxes of various sizes, catalogues& magazines, film canisters, styrofoam butcher's trays, egg cartons, coffee cans, deli containers, plastic soda bottles, yogurt & cottage cheese containers and margarine tubs.



Agri-Lines
IRRIGATION INC.

Call for a quote!!
(208)722-5121

www.agri-lines.com

ZIMMATIC™

BY LINDSAY

Modern solutions for your irrigation needs

**BENNETT CONST.
CO., INC.**



Middleton, Idaho

"We pour new and fix old."

Call us for all your irrigation needs."

585-3255
573-4500

585-3255
573-4500



Layne of Idaho, Inc.
I-84, Exit 35 - Nampa, Idaho

Chris Salazar
(c)208-318-4603
(p)208-466-7376
(f)208-466-5078
sales@layneofidaho.com

Irrigation Pumps
T-L Irrigation
Systems
Sales & Service
Videos & Testing



T-L The Choice Is Simple



Serving agriculture's DRIP irrigation needs
aquairr.com

Locally owned and operated with 14 years combined irrigation design experience!
Kasey Garrett Corby Garrett CID
208-350-0563 208-250-7207
26500 Sand Rd. Parma, ID



A RETAIL & WHOLESALE GROWER OF
208.467.5106 | McSOD.com *beautiful sod*



Your trusted source.

- Real Estate Financing
- Operating Lines of Credit
- Crop Insurance*

208.468.1600 | northwestfcs.com

Here to Help You Grow™

SAGELY SOWN

Your Southern Idaho
Dealer for

Precision®
PLANTING

Mark Jensen
mark@sagelysown.com

cell (208) 965-7809
office (208) 495-3178

www.sagelysown.com

Advertise

With

Canyon SCD

Advertise

With

Canyon SCD


Interwest Supply

20488 Pinto Ln. Caldwell, Idaho 83607
Phone (208) 453-9155

For all your irrigation needs

 
Pivots, Linears,
K-Line, Wheelines,
Handlines & PVC

Advertise

With

Canyon SCD

Advertise

With

Canyon SCD

*Thank you for
advertising
with the
Canyon Soil
Conservation District.*

Recipe Spot . . .

Slow Cooker Cowboy Beans



Ingredients

- 1 lb. lean ground beef
- 12 oz. bacon
- 1 med. onion, diced
- 16 oz can kidney beans (drained and rinsed)
- 16 oz. can white or black beans or both (drained and rinsed)
- 16 oz. can pinto beans (drained and rinsed)
- 32 oz. can pork 'n beans (do not drain)
- 1 can sliced water chestnuts (drained)
- 1 cup ketchup
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1 to 2 tbsp liquid smoke

Instructions

1. In a large skillet, brown ground beef. Drain and set aside
 2. Add bacon to the skillet and cook 5 to 7 minutes or until cooked through, stirring frequently.
 3. Add onions and cook an additional 4 to 5 minutes or until onions are soft and translucent.
 4. Add ground beef and bacon mixture to a large 6 quart slow cooker.
 5. Add pork 'n beans, kidney beans, white or black beans & pinto beans, ketchup, brown sugar & liquid smoke.
 6. Stir gently to combine. Place lid on slow cooker and cook on low for 4 to 5 hours or on high 2 to 3 hours, stirring as needed. If the mixture seems a little dry, add a few tablespoons of water.
 7. Serve with tortillas chips, corn chips, sour cream, cheese, whatever you want. Anything goes!
-

**Canyon Soil
Conservation District**
2208 E. Chicago, Suite A
Caldwell, Idaho 83605

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
CALDWELL, ID
PERMIT NO. 65

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

