



# Conservation News & Notes

Volume 020 Number 2 Summer 2020

## The People's Garden



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This is the 8th year the Caldwell Service Center Employees have participated in the People's Garden and donate the produce to Metro Community Services (Elderly Pantry). There are also a few other participants who donate produce and non-perishable food items. In May, Rich Sims began cleaning up the garden, laying new weed barrier, planting veggie plants and laying straw around the plants to keep in the moisture in the ground.



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This is year four for our Pollinator Garden. We have seen an increase in butterflies, humming birds, bumble bees, and other pollinators. Mindi Rambo Public Relations Specialist and Nayre Herrera Pathways Public Affair Intern (NRCS State Office) interviewed Rich and Lori for the NRCS Informant newsletter. Do you see the insect on the milkweed plant?

### Quote:

**We are the only species which, when it chooses to do so, will go to great effort to save what it might destroy.**

**Wallace Stegner**



## 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  
Stan Haye  
Soil Conservation  
Technician

### NRCS Staff:

Tate Walters — Acting  
District Conservationist  
Erin Brooks  
Soil Conservationist  
Technician  
Josh Chapman  
Soil Conservation  
Technician  
Martin Pena  
Civil Engineering  
Technician  
Bobby Hilton  
Civil Engineering  
Technician  
Ted Moyer  
Civil Engineer  
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://](https://www.canyonsoilconservation.org)**  
**[www.canyonsoilconservation.org](https://www.canyonsoilconservation.org)**

## Canyon District Supervisors Election

On November 3rd there will be three Canyon SCD Supervisor positions open for election. Canyon SCD supervisor position is voluntary & they either assist or lead the way by offering non-regulatory technical assistance in the following areas:

- \* Implement farm, ranch and forestland conservation practices to protect and improve soil productivity, water quality and quantity, air quality and wildlife habitat;
- \* Conserve and restore wetlands, which purify water and provide habitat for birds, fish and numerous other animals;
- \* Protect groundwater resources;
- \* Assist communities and homeowners to plant trees and other land cover to hold soil in place, clean the air, provide cover for wildlife and beautify neighborhoods;
- \* Help developers control soil erosion and protect water and air quality during construction;
- \* Reach out to communities and schools to teach the value of natural resources and encourage conservation efforts.

For candidate forms contact Canyon Election office at  
(208) 454-7562 or Lori Kent 208-779-3443.

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## New Civil Engineer at NRCS Caldwell

Hello. My name is Ted Moyer, and I am the new Civil Engineer assigned to the Caldwell Office. I live in Emmett with my wife, and three kids. Enjoying the great outdoors, we love to ride ATV'S, hike, and travel across the United States. We also have a small farm that we tinker with and have chickens, rabbits, fish, and plenty of resident deer.



I enlisted in the Air Force and after 10 years, I got out and joined the National Guard. At that time, I went to Boise State for engineering, and after graduation, have worked for Mountain Home Air Force Base, the Forest Service in Grangeville, and the National Guard in Washington State and in Boise at the airport. I have always enjoyed the natural resource type of engineering work, so I am excited at this opportunity to further my work experience by working for the NRCS!

### 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.



## CANYON COUNTY NEWEST MEMBER

Stan Hays is the NEWEST MEMBER TO THE SCD

Stan Hays was raised and grew up in the Magic Valley working for a local rancher SCD Board member Roy Jesser in the Kimberly area, during and after high school. Stan joined the US Army for three years and was honorably- discharged. Working again for Roy, after his service Stan was able to run his own cattle and farm. Over the next several years while raising six kids, Stan and his wife Diana would run cattle in southern Idaho and Northern Nevada; Leasing and eventually buying their own place.

Along the way Stan started working for the Twin Falls Canal company, as a ditch rider then East End Water Master eventually Field supervisor for the 210,000-acre tract. Learning public relations and how to handle upset producers became a quality that prevented many escalating problems. As Field supervisor Stan worked closely with NRCS staff, Balanced Rock, Snake River and Twin Falls SWCD, to develop Water quality projects such as large sediment basins, sprinkler conversions, and promote the use of polymers (to prevent soil erosion). Working with City Municipalities, Idaho Department of Water Resources and DEQ Stan ventured out to become a certified Nutrient Management Planner to write Nutrient Management Plans for over forty dairies and CFO'S. All of this experience played a part in getting hired on at NRCS in 2008 as a Soil Conservationist Technician. Writing conservation plans, designing irrigation conversion systems, developing ,and certifying 319 projects for the Magic Valley and Treasure Valley area field offices. Stan started on June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020 with Canyon Soil Conservation District (Canyon SCD).



Stan has many passions from horseback riding skiing, hunting, fishing hiking or backpacking in remote areas. Rock & ice climbing or helping his wife put on An Annual Rock-Climbing Event for Veterans and their Families.

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## Canyon SCD No-Till Drill

Canyon Soil Conservation District is busy this year with their new No-Till-Drill purchase from Burks Tractor.

This Great Pains Drill is very maneuverable, and has the down pressure to insure good uniform seeding.

Contact Stan Hays at:  
208-731-9930 or 208-779-3446 for scheduling the No-Till-Drill

Canyon Soil Conservation District is currently leasing the new 12 ft drill out for \$13.00 per acre.

It can be used with a 70HP Tractor, and can be easily towed down the road with a heavy duty truck.



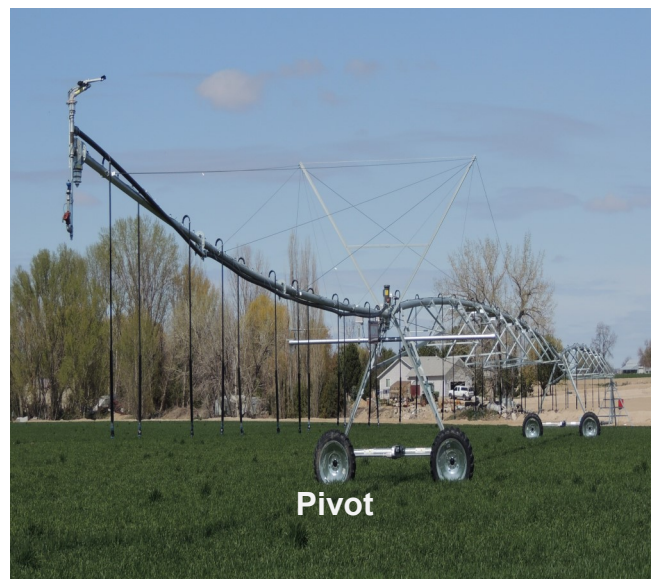
No-Till Drill - Radishes/Oats/Winter Peas Cover Crop  
Planted July 31, 2020

## **Grants Available through 319 Funds to Implement the Lower Boise River TMDL**

The Lower Boise Watershed Council and Canyon Soil Conservation District formed a partnership in 2009 to address sediment and nutrient runoff to the Boise River watershed. We currently have 319 funding available. This funding provides up to 60% cost share to install Best Management Practices (BMPs) which decrease runoff. Implementation of these practices has been successful in decreasing sediment and nutrients in the Boise River watershed but more work needs to be done!

If you have a project in mind you can go to our website (<https://www.canyonsoilconservation.org>), download a project application and submit to us or give Stan Hays a call to discuss your ideas at 208-779-3446.

Participation is voluntary and offers opportunities to improve agricultural practices that benefit both operators and water quality.





## NRCS Report

By Tate Walters

The NRCS office in Caldwell has been combined as a team with the NRCS office in Marsing. We are calling it Team 6, one of 17 different teams in the state of Idaho. Both offices have been working very hard to obligate contract and assist customers with installation of projects this summer. As grain harvest begins and haying continues, we look forward to fall and cooler weather as many of you are as well I'm sure. Unfortunately, at this time, the NRCS offices in Idaho are not able to accept visitors due to COVID-19 restrictions. But we still are striving to get out in the field and meet with your customers and address land management issues and natural resources.

If you require assistance, just give us a call and we'd be happy to set up an appointment to try to help you whether over the phone or on the farm in a socially distant setting. We look forward to being able to allow partners into our offices and host meetings etc. when it is deemed safe and prudent to do so by USDA leadership.

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### Canyon SCD Events

Canyon Soil Conservation District continues to monitor the coronavirus pandemic closely. Our commitment to conservation remains strong. We continue to work with farmers, the public and local organizations to advance conservation practices in Canyon County by social distancing.

We will not hold in person events through the month of September. We will reassess after September and follow USDA guidelines.

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### Milkweed Seed Questions

When to collect milkweed seeds?

Canyon SCD/NRCS volunteers start collecting milkweed seeds in September.

When to plant milkweed seeds?

Plant in early spring after being stored in a refrigerator for two or three months.

What is the germination rate of milkweed seed?

The Volunteers do not know the germinate rate of the seeds.

See page 1 of this issue there is a picture of milkweed that volunteers planted a couple of years ago

CSCD/NRCS has milkweed seeds to share with landowners/public they collected last year. We have plenty of seed if you would like some, contact the office at 208-779-3443 ask for Lori.

## Coming Events . . .

**Due to no public access to USDA Buildings/stay at home order — meetings will be held remotely until further notice.**

### District Board Meeting

Conference Call

For more information  
contact 208-779-3443

August 6

September 3

October 8

### Lower Boise River Watershed Advisory Group

Webex Meeting

For more information  
contact 208-779-3443

1:00 to 3:00 PM

August 13

September 10

October 8

### Canyon SCD Speech Contest

Caldwell Field Office

September 25

### Canyon SCD Poster Contest

Caldwell Field Office

October 5

### Division III Fall Meeting

Homedale Community Center

At Fairgrounds

Owyhee CD Hosts

October 13—11am to 3:30 pm

### IASCD State Conference

**Best Western—Burley**

November 10—13, 2020

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## *Kids Connection. . .*

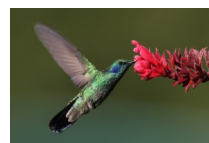


### **2020 Poster and Speech Contest Theme** "Where Would We BEE Without Pollinators?"

The grocery stores would be rather empty without the hard work of bees, birds, butterflies, bats and other pollinators. More than 80 percent of the world's plants need pollinators to survive, including many that provide the food we eat. But today, many pollinators are in trouble and in decline. When pollinators shrink in number, many plants either produce less seed or no seed at all.

Birds, bats, butterflies, moths, flies, beetles, wasps, small mammals and most importantly bees, are pollinators. They visit flowers to drink the nectar, they feed off of pollen and transport pollen grains as they move from spot to spot.

Canyon SCD poster contest is open to 4th, 5th and 6th grade students. Canyon SCD supplies poster board (14" x 22") contact Lori at 208-779-3443





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## BLT Chicken Salad

### *Recipe Spot . . .*

1/2 cup mayonnaise  
3 to 4 Tablespoons BBQ sauce  
2 Tablespoons finely chopped onion  
1 Tablespoon lemon juice  
1/2 Teaspoon pepper  
8 cups torn salad greens  
2 large tomatoes, chopped  
1—1/2 lbs. boneless chicken breast, cooked and cubed  
10 bacon strips, cooked and crumbled  
2 hard boiled eggs, sliced  
Croutons



In small bowl combine first 5 ingredients; mix well cover & refrigerate until serving. Place salad greens in large bowl. Sprinkle with tomatoes, chicken and bacon. Garnish with eggs. Drizzle with dressing.

Serves 8

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**Canyon Soil  
Conservation District**  
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