



Conservation News & Notes

Volume 118 Number 3 - FALL 2018

NRCS Accepting Environmental Quality Incentives Program Applications

By Mindi Rambo

Sign-up targeting four categories of conservation practices

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Idaho has announced an early sign-up period for four categories of Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) projects. Applications may be submitted for conservation practices covered under:

- The National On-Farm Energy Initiative,
- The High Tunnel System Initiative,
- Disaster Relief Funding, this includes any Grassland Reserve Program, Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program or Agricultural Land Easement Program easements that need repairs; and
- Conservation Activity Plans.

Applications must be received by November 16, 2018 to be considered for this funding cycle. Applications received after the deadline will be reviewed in subsequent funding cycles.

“Agricultural producers are always very resilient and known for rising to any challenge,” said Curtis Elke, NRCS State Conservationist for Idaho. “Recognizing that challenges are opportunities to make things better, this early sign-up period is going to enable us to help Idaho’s farmers, ranchers and private timber producers implement useful conservation practices. This will in turn allow them to be more prepared in the face of natural disasters, rising energy costs, and increasing variability in weather conditions.”

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

About EQIP

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program 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.



High Tunnel

Helping People
Help The Land



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Quotation:

“Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall.”

BY: F. Scott Fitzgerald

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Lori Kent,
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Mary Rosen
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NRCS Staff:

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District Conservationist
Erin Brooks
Soil Conservationist
Justin Ross
Soil Conservationist
Bobby 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.

Canyon SCD/319 Project Tour

Canyon Soil Conservation District/319 Project Tour was held August 14th with 36 participants.

The first stop on the tour — conversion from surface irrigation to drip irrigation system and pivot irrigation system on 134 acres. Last year the 319 tour visited this project as a proposal.



The second stop on the tour — surface irrigation to permanent drip system installed on 150 acres of trees to improve water and nutrient efficiency and reduce soil erosion. A filter strip of teff was planted to control weeds and increase soil health.



The third stop on the tour — 319 project on 1000 acres of surface irrigation to pivot system (3 phases), waste water drains directly to Boise River.



The Farmers' Co-Operative Dich Company Project Sediment Basin (Regional Conservation Partnership Program—RCPP) on 8.8 acres was the fourth stop. The basin will remove approximately 2,000 tons of sediment each year in an effort to improve water quality & quantity and help shareholders with more water efficient system such as drip or sprinkler irrigation. The project impacts approximately 4,000 acres in the Parma area.



The final stop of the tour was the Middleton Mill Slough Project which we visited the proposed project at the 2017 CSCD/319 Project tour. Phase 1 was completed in April for the concrete headwall stop logs. Phase 2 will be complete in the fall for the 3.7 acres Mill Slough Sediment Basin for the City of Middleton.



Ada Soil and Water Conservation (SWCD) District Event

Ada SWCD held their 5 day event in September for the Ada 5th Grade Conservation Days. The first event day was held at Bob McKellips Farm (Canyon SCD, supervisor) on September 8th. Bob hosted 200+ students and their teachers. The students learn the importance of soil health, mint still, water, trees, wildlife, fire and native species habitat conservation and much more. Glenn Edwards, (Ada SWCD, Chairman) hosted two days at his farm and the other two days were hosted by the Boise Urban Garden School (BUGS).



Farmer's Co-operative Ditch Company Project

By Rich Sims

Farmers' Co-Operative Ditch Company (FCDC) of Parma received funds from the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)'s Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) for a project impacting approximately 4,000 acres in the Parma area. RCP promotes coordination and collaboration between NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners.

With the assistance of the Canyon Soil Conservation District and its employees, the FCDC developed the RCP proposal that ultimately draws on the talent and support of seven different organizations. The project seeks to address a major resource concern for the Treasure Valley – water quality. The five-year timeline for the project seeks to address this using several conservation practices recommended by NRCS.

The farmer's co-operative ditch company project is in the final stages of construction. They have completed a 8.8 acre sediment basin and a rock liner. The next two items will be two concrete box structures which will be finished this December.

Starting the spring of 2019, the monitoring phase will begin. Six to eight collection points will be identified and begin to collect irrigation's water samples and testing for phosphorous and sediment.

The collection and analysis will be for 2 to 4 years. It is expected to remove several thousands pounds of sediment and a smaller portion of phosphorous from the channel irrigation water.

Look for more information about the project in our next newsletter.

Collecting Milkweed Seeds for Pollinator Habitat

This year, the Caldwell field office staff collected 11 lbs. of milkweed seeds for their monarch habitat project. Canyon SCD has been working with local residents to establish pollinator habitats focusing on Monarch butterfly's. Last year, the staff gave out 5 lbs. of milkweed seeds, in 6-ounce containers, to interested landowners. CSCD associate supervisor/ NRCS earth team volunteer built a milkweed seed and floss separator to the collection of seeds. (MONARCHWATCH.ORG)

Fall (or Spring) is a great time to think about planting a monarch habitat with milkweed seeds. This can help out pollinators and other beneficial insects by providing nectar and pollen sources. Monarchs prefer to lay only one egg on a milkweed plant.

Here is a quick guide to plant your own showy milkweed (*Asclepias spiciosa*) or narrowleaf milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*) seeds (for more information see CSCD newsletter Spring 2017 page 3):

1. The first step is ensuring that the planting area is free of weeds and other plants that might compete for water and light resources.
2. Irrigate! This is a must during the establishment phase of the habitat.
3. Maintenance is key to having an effective pollinator area. Check the condition of the stand mid-season to determine if weeding or reseeding as necessary.



Pictured is enough seeds to plant 33 acres for monarch/pollinator habitats. Call Canyon SCD/NRCS at 208-779-3443 or 208-779-3444 or visit the office at 2208 E. Chicago in Caldwell.

No-Till Drill

BY: Bobby Hilton

My dad just bought a 5-acre parcel with a house in Wilder with the ambition of putting a pasture in and raising goats. This was a lofty goal for us, seeing as how we had practically no farm experience whatsoever. But it was with the technical guidance and encouragement of our conservation planners here at the NRCS that gave us the confidence to try. But now the hard part comes in... getting the seed in the ground at the end of summer.

This is where the Ada Soil Water Conservation District was an amazing help. One of our biggest concerns was seeding this pasture without disturbing the seed bank on our 3-acre weed patch. Lucky for us Ada SWCD had a solution: A no-till drill. A no till drill cuts through organic matter on the surface and minimally disturbs the soil while simultaneously dropping seeds and covering them up. Imagine cutting a pizza. The cheese and sauce are your organic matter, and the crust is your soil. As you roll the circular pizza cutter through the cheese and crust, it drops a seed behind it to the desired planting depth. Once it has passed through the cheese closes up behind it, and no crust is at the top.

There were definitely some obstacles to overcome, though nothing insurmountable. Transporting the drill from a farm in Nampa to the other side of the county was one issue. The 7-foot sunflower drill can be pulled relatively easy with a big enough truck, but just make sure you have the right sized drop pin hitch and electrical plug ins beforehand. Having the right tractor with the right hydraulic hookups is also a consideration we learned the hard way. Apparently different hydraulic line manufacturers have different hook ups, so make sure the lines on your tractor are from the same company as the drill or you will need to make some modifications. Calibration on the sunflowers small hopper was also an issue. I recommend if you can't get the small hopper to give you an adequate seeding rate, transfer some seed to the big hopper and see how that works. All in all, for the price of renting it from the Ada SWCD was worth the minor inconveniences. Not to mention the pasture is coming in and looks great!

With a bit of help from a local producer familiar with the drill, we were up and running. I've been told there will soon be instructional videos online to help troubleshoot the drill, which I think is a great idea. The equipment can seem intimidating for the beginning farmer, but with the right instruction and insight it can be an amazingly helpful tool.



Legume (Grass Seed) Attach
RATES ARE APPROXIMATE (POUNDS PER ACRE) OF
DRIVE WHEEL - 5.0 x 15" TIRE

7' 12" ROW SPACING

SEED	ARROWHEAD COVER PULLEY RATIO	ANNUAL CORNHORN SEEDING	ERODENT TRUCKS SEEDING	GRASS SEEDING	WHEAT SEEDING	BARLEY SEEDING	RYE SEEDING	ORCHARD GRASS SEEDING	ALFALFA SEEDING	LEGUMES SEEDING
1/4"	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
1/2"	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
3/4"	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
1"	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4
1 1/4"	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
1 1/2"	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
1 3/4"	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
2"	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
2 1/4"	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
2 1/2"	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
2 3/4"	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
3"	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2
3 1/4"	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3
3 1/2"	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4
3 3/4"	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
4"	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6
4 1/4"	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7
4 1/2"	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8
4 3/4"	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9
5"	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
5 1/4"	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1
5 1/2"	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2
5 3/4"	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3
6"	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4
6 1/4"	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
6 1/2"	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6
6 3/4"	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7
7"	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8
7 1/4"	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9
7 1/2"	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
7 3/4"	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1
8"	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2
8 1/4"	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3
8 1/2"	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4
8 3/4"	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
9"	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6
9 1/4"	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7
9 1/2"	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8
9 3/4"	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9
10"	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0

Coming Events . . .

District Board Meeting
Caldwell Field Office
2208 E. Chicago Street
November 8 @ 7:00 PM
December @ 1:00 PM

**Lower Boise River Watershed
Advisory Group**
Caldwell Airport
4814 E. Linden Street
November 8 @ 1:00 — 3:00 PM

IASCD State Conference
Post Falls, Idaho
November 13-16

**Canyon Soil Conservation District
Supervisor Elections at the
General Election on November 6th.**
Two supervisor positions will need
to be voted on. Thank you.

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.



Kids Connection . .

Children, please ask your parents to help you make these yummy alien pretzels & ghost pizza.

Alien Pretzels from: allrecipes

Put yogurt-covered pretzels on parchment paper. Heat a few colors of candy melts according to package-directions. Spoon each color into a separate zip-lock plastic bag, then snip off a tiny corner. Let cool for a minutes. Pipe into pretzel holes to make eyes. Before the filled areas set, have kids add colorful sprinkles or small candies for pupils.



Ghost Pizza from: allrecipes



Top a premade pizza crust with pizza sauce and shredded mozzarella. To make the spider, cut a pitted black olive in half lengthwise. From another olive, cut 8 thin slices for legs. Set spider pieces into place (Tweezers make this easy!) Bake pizza according to package directions. Meanwhile, cut a ball of fresh mozzarella into 1/4-inch-thick slices. With a paring knife, trim away bits of cheese to form ghost shapes. With 3 minutes of baking time left, arrange cheese ghost shapes on pizza, then finish baking add bits of olives for eyes. Serve warm. (in place of pizza crust use English muffin halves.)

Speech contestant winners at the Division III Fall meeting held in Indian Valley on October 9th. The first place winner will go to the State Conference in Post Falls. Congratulations!



1 Speech contestant winner Oam Patel, age 15, Elmore SWCD in Mountain Home.



2 Speech contestant winner Cadey Grey, age 15, Valley SWCD in Cascade.



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Recipe Spot . . .

Winter Squash Rolls

BY: allrecipes



- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 1/2 Cups cubed winter squash (8oz) OR CANNED PUMPKIN | 1 cup milk |
| 2 (0.25-oz.) packages active dry yeast | 1/2 cup shortening |
| 1/2 cup warm water (105 to 115 degrees) | 2 Tbsp. butter, softened |
| 6 cups flour | 2 Tbsp. fresh snipped thyme (optional) |
| 1/2 cup sugar | |
| 2 1/2 tsp. salt | |

1. Cover squash with water in a small saucepan. Bring to a boil and cook until tender, about 10 minutes. Drain, cool, and mash with a fork. (You should have about 1 cup.)
2. Meanwhile, dissolve yeast in warm water in a small bowl. Stir together 5 cups flour, the sugar, and salt in a large bowl. Heat milk and shortening in a small saucepan over medium heat, stirring frequently, until milk is scalded (bubbles form at edges) and shortening almost melts.
3. Stir squash, yeast mixture, and milk mixture into flour mixture. Add remaining cup flour, 1/2 cup at a time, stirring well after each addition.
4. Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface; knead until smooth, about 8 minutes. Lightly oil a large bowl, add dough, and turn to coat with oil. Cover with a damp cloth and let rise in a warm place until doubled in volume, about 1 hour.
5. Divide dough in to 24 equal pieces and roll into balls. Arrange in 2 lightly greased 9x13-inch baking pans. Cover with a damp cloth and let rise until doubled in volume, about 30 minutes.
6. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Bake until rolls are golden brown, tenting with foil if overbrowning, 15 to 20 minutes. Brush with butter and sprinkle with thyme (if using).

(PER ROLL: 187 CAL; 6gFAT (2gSAT); 4gPRO; 30gCARB; 1g FIBER; 256mg SODIUM; 5g SUGARS)

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