



PICKENS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

FALL NEWSLETTER



HAPPY FALL Y'ALL

Twelve Mile Watershed Work in Progress

Thank You Pickens County Council for your support and help on the repairs of the watershed structures in the Twelve Mile Watershed! We would also like to Thank- Pickens County Emergency Management, NRCS, SC DHEC and McCall Brothers Diving! We're grateful for your support!

The Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District along with the help of Pickens County Council, Pickens County Emergency Management, NRCS, SC DHEC and McCall Brothers Diving, has completed upgrades on six of the seven watershed structures in the Twelve Mile Watershed. The flooding disaster that hit our state in 2015 made us more aware of the need to keep all of the flood control dams in proper operating condition. Work on the seventh and final structure is scheduled for the Fall of 2019.

The purpose of this repair work was to replace the gate system and hardware that has been in place for some 30 plus years. All of the new hardware installed in the watershed structures was inspected by USDA-NRCS and SC DHEC personnel. Dam safety is the art and science of ensuring the integrity and viability of dams such that they do not present unacceptable risk to the public, property and the environment. The Pickens Soil and Water Conservation District is dedicated to the safety of the residents in Pickens County!

THANK YOU PICKENS COUNTY COUNCIL



Pickens County Farmer *Summer Highlight*

The Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District would like to recognize and introduce you to Farmstead Flowers of Briar Hill Farm!



Farmstead Flowers is the cut flower business of Briar Hill Farm. Belinda Smith along with her husband Russ & their three daughters grow specialty cut flowers on their private family farm & homestead located in Pickens, SC. Belinda is a Certified Clemson Extension Master Gardener and a member of the Association of Specialty Cut Flower Growers. Through her involvement and membership in various groups such as the South Carolina Native Plant Society and the Pickens Garden Club, she enjoys giving back to the foothills community by volunteering her time helping maintain multiple local flower gardens. Belinda has also partnered as a volunteer with 4-H in the past to teach a Jr. Master Gardener Course to elementary school students in an after school program.

In addition to grocery sales, customers can request Briar Hill Farm specialty cut local flowers be used when they order from any florist or designer. Briar Hill Farm also offers retail sales of flowers by the bucket to individuals who like to Do-It-Yourself.

The farm is open by appointment only & is closed to the public.

Please email briarhillfarmstead@gmail.com or call or text Belinda at 864-386-4995 for flower availability

Instagram: @farmsteadflowers

Facebook: Farmstead Flowers @briarhillfarmstead

Associate Commissioners Needed for the Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District

Want to be an Associate Commissioner? Associate Commissioners, are officially appointed by the board as advisors and representatives. Associates do not vote on board decisions but augment the board's knowledge and experience and assist with conservation district programs. Attend the Pickens Soil and Water Conservation District's monthly board meetings at, 8:45 a.m. on the second Thursday of each month at the Pickens Soil and Water Conservation District office located at 144 McDaniel Avenue, Pickens, SC 29671.

Watershed District Directors are non-salaried officials who are elected to four-year terms. Candidates must be registered voters in the county & watershed in which they are seeking office. Candidates are required to file a Statement of Economic Interests and a Campaign Disclosure online with the State Ethics Commission

Want to serve on the Pickens Soil and Water Conservation District Board, Georges Creek Watershed Board, or the Oolenoy Watershed Board? The next election date for open seats will be November 3, 2020.



NRCS is here to help farmer's improve their usage of Natural Resources. Our motto is: "Helping people help the land"

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a new program designed to identify conservation concerns and set conservation priorities to address soil erosion, water quality, wildlife habitat and other resource issues through a community based process. EQIP is available in all 46 counties to address statewide resource concerns. Technical and financial assistance is available to assist landowners in addressing resource concerns on their property.

USDA works everyday to strengthen the American agricultural economy. Despite the difficult economic climate of the past years, our efforts - coupled with the 2008 Farm Bill, the Recovery Act, and the hard work and resilience of America's farmers and ranchers - are helping American agriculture lead the nation's recovery. We maintain a strong and appropriate safety net for America's farmers, ranchers and growers which includes assistance to struggling industries, disaster assistance, and crop insurance, and provide technical assistance, access to credit, and help producers implement conservation practices.

<https://www.usda.gov/topics/farming>

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

The Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program (FRPP) provides matching funds to help purchase development rights to keep productive farm and ranchland in agricultural uses. Working through existing programs, USDA partners with State, tribal, or local governments and non-governmental organizations to acquire conservation easements or other interests in land from landowners. USDA provides up to 50 percent of the fair market easement value.

To qualify, farmland must:

- be part of a pending offer from a State, tribe, or local farmland protection program
- be privately owned;
- have a conservation plan for highly erodible land;
- be large enough to sustain agricultural production;
- be accessible to markets for what the land produces;
- have adequate infrastructure and agricultural support services;
- and have surrounding parcels of land that can support long-term agricultural production.

Depending on funding availability, proposals must be submitted by the eligible entities to the appropriate NRCS State Office during the application window.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) offers landowners incentives to conserve soil, water, and wildlife habitat. Landowners can apply to enroll highly erodible land and other environmentally sensitive areas in the CRP. By enrolling land, a landowner can receive annual rental payments and cost share benefits to implement conservation practices. Contact the local Farm Service Agency at 864.467.2755.

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (2002 Farm Bill) (Pub. L. 107-171) amended the Food Security Act of 1985 to authorize the program. CSP is administered by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

USDA recognizes that conservation by farmers, ranchers and forest owners today means thriving and sustainable agriculture for our future. Seventy percent of the nation's land is privately owned and conservation of our nation's private lands not only results in healthy soil, water, air, plants, animals and ecosystems, it also provides productive and sustainable working lands.

<https://www.usda.gov/topics/conservation>

Want to improve your land without tilling the soil? Take advantage of the Pickens Soil & Water No-Till Drill Rental Program. Contact us today to reserve your rental!

NO TILL RENTAL PROGRAM

No-Till Drills Improve Pastures. No-till drills plant seeds without tilling the soil. This makes pasture management easier, more economical, and reduces loss of soil. An acre meter on each drill measures use.

Rental Fee: \$25 minimum

For more rental information regarding rates and availability contact Amy Wilson 864-901-6946



Why Should You Use Our No-Till Drill?

Compare the results of the same Pickens County farm planted using a No-Till Drill versus Traditional Broadcast Planting.



Buy Less Seed



Grow Healthier Crops



Use Less Fuel



Prevent Weeds



Reduce Erosion & Runoff



Yes! I want to lend my support as an Affiliate Member of the PICK-ENS CONSERVATION DISTRICT and join the impressive list of individuals and businesses who believe in sharing the responsibility for the abundant natural resources in which we live, work, and play.

- _____ \$500 Trustees of the Land
- _____ \$250 Guardians of the Land
- _____ \$100 Keepers of the Land
- _____ \$50 Stewards of the Land
- _____ \$25 Defenders of the Land

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone#: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Submit to:

Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District
PO Box 245 Pickens, SC 29671

Memberships are Tax-Deductible.

Telephone: 864-878-6155 E-mail: pickensswcd@gmail.com

Visit our website: www.pickenssoilandwater.com

“Like” us on Facebook:

Pickens Soil and Water Conservation District



Upcoming Events

October 10th

Monthly Board Meeting 8:45 a.m.

November 14th

Monthly Board Meeting 8:45 a.m.

Oolenoy Watershed Board of Directors Meetings.

Regular meetings are the 4th Thursday of each month. Location: Pumpkintown Fire Department
4205 Pumpkintown Hwy. Pickens, SC 29671

Time: 6:30pm unless noted otherwise.

September 26

October 24

November 28

December 26



Board of Commissioners

Amy Wilson - Chairman
Dale Mayson - Vice-Chairman
Roddey Gettys III - Treasurer
George Bryant - Commissioner
Toni Vitanza - Commissioner

Associate Commissioners

Leslie Morgan
George Hood
Alix Danker

District Manager

Aimee Brown

USDA-NRCS

Mike Banks - District Conservationist
Robby Holcombe - Soil Conservationist Technician



Georges Creek Watershed Board

Steve Pace - Chairman
John Cutchin - Treasurer
Stewart Bauknight
Eddie Crittendon
Cynthia Wise

Oolenoy Watershed Board

Matthew Chappell - Chairman
Andy Anderson - Secretary
Jeff White - Treasurer
David Gilstrap

Commissioner’s meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month at 8:45 a.m. in the Stillwell Conference Room (unless otherwise posted at the office) at the Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District office located at 144 McDaniel Avenue Pickens, SC 29671

Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District is dedicated to natural resource conservation in Pickens County. Serving Pickens County since 1937.

Advertise your business here in the Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District Quarterly Newsletter!

The PSWCD Newsletter is published to over 300 Affiliate members! Contact the Pickens Soil & Water office for more information! Phone: 864-878-6155 or E-mail: pickensswcd@gmail.com

***VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ***
Volunteers are needed to participate in Soil and Water Conservation activities. This is a great opportunity for you to participate in promoting Conservation in the Pickens County Community. For more information about volunteering please call: 864-878-6155 or e-mail: pickensswcd@gmail.com

Need a Soil Sample?

Bring your soil samples to your local Clemson Extension Office
222 W. Main St. Pickens, SC
29671 Phone: 864-878-*1394



Pickens County 4-H
222 W. Main Street
Pickens, SC 29671
jsutter@clemson.edu
864-878-1394 ext. 122



Join Today!

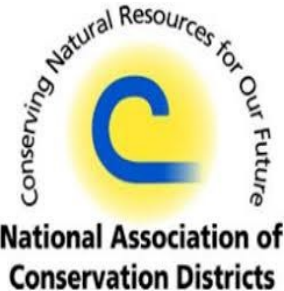
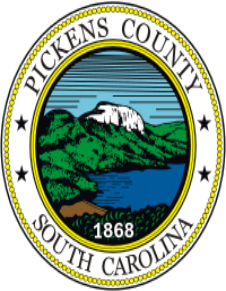
Pickens County 4-H is an organization of young people who wish to "Learn by Doing" in Pickens County, SC

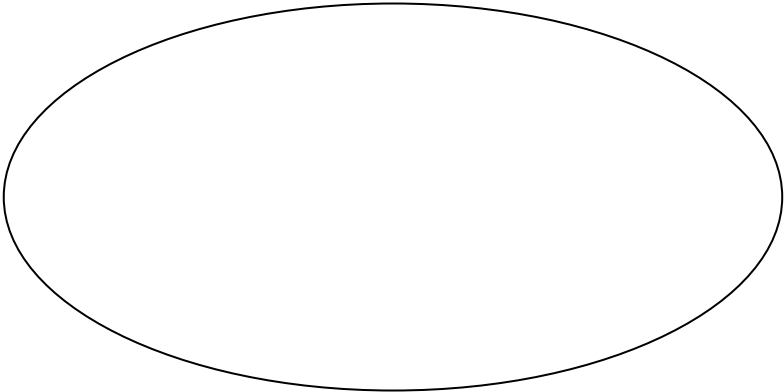


ANDERSON & PICKENS COUNTIES



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

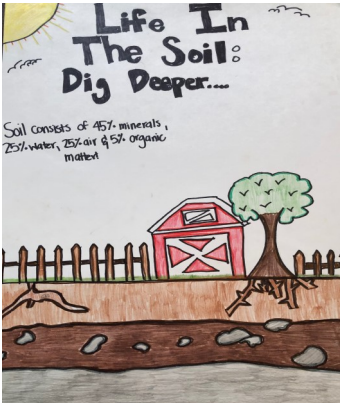




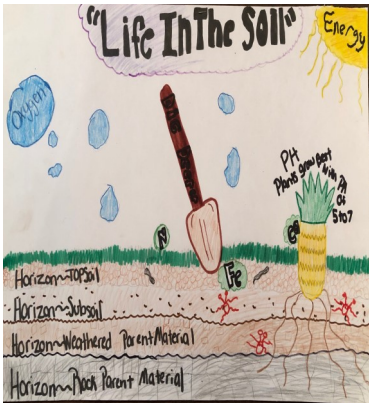
Congratulations to the winners of the NACD Poster Contest “Life in the Soil; Dig Deeper”



Congratulations to
 Dr. Susan Hilyer
 Pickens Middle
 School Teacher for
 having the most stu-
 dent participation!



1st Place
 Kyleigh Michelle Eddleman
 Pickens Middle School
 Teacher ~ Dr. Susan Hilyer



2nd Place
 Freda Ruiz
 Pickens Middle School
 Teacher ~ Dr. Susan Hilyer



3rd Place
 Ally Carter
 Gettys Middle School
 Teacher ~ Deborah Anderson

2019-2020 NACD Poster Contest Theme: “Where Would We BEE Without Pollinators?”



- Awards will be:
- 1st Place: \$35 gift card
 - 2nd Place: \$30 gift card
 - 3rd Place: \$25 gift card
- Five categories for judging/ winners:
- K to 1st Grade
 - 2nd - 3rd Grade
 - 4th - 6th Grade
 - 7th - 9th Grade
 - 10th - 12th Grade

The teacher with the most posters turned in will receive a \$40 gift card per category.

Why Participate?
 Designing a poster and researching the theme gives you a voice in your community on important conservation issues. Good posters tell important stories to present and future generations. Posters capture people's attention with a powerful graphic, and inspire with a message to your community.

*****Parents, Educators, and Pickens County residents*****

Take advantage of this awesome opportunity for your children/students of Pickens County
Poster Contest for Grades K-12 Individual project for Homeschool, Public, or Private School children
 Winning entries will advance to the state level!

Do you know a Pickens County School District Teacher to Nominate for the Conservation Teacher of the Year Award?

Conservation Teacher of the Year Award recognizes a teacher who has been actively working to advance environmental and conservation education. Procedure: Submit a brief narrative describing the teacher's qualifications for this award including a list of his or her conservation education activities or programs to the Pickens County Soil and Water Conservation District. Candidates must be currently teaching K-12th grade in public or private schools in Pickens County. For more information, please contact the Pickens Soil & Water office at 864-878-6155 or pickensswcd@gmail.com