



# PICKENS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## 2020 FALL NEWSLETTER

Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District is dedicated to Natural Resource Conservation in Pickens County. Serving Pickens County since 1937



### CONSERVATION TILLAGE

#### Do Any of these interest you?

- More diverse farm wildlife.
- A state income tax credit.
- Better uniformity of stands.
- Less runoff, erosion, and weeds.
- Crops surviving dry weather better.
- Saving fuel, time, machinery wear and labor (money!).
- Saving nutrients that you paid for.
- Better water quality on your farm and down stream.
- Better soil tilth and overall soil quality.



#### What is Conservation Tillage?

Simply stated, conservation tillage is *planting crops in the soil through a previous crop's residue*. Herbicides are usually used for weed control because you rarely use actual tillage. Farmers are now actually planting more acres to conservation tillage than to conventional tillage. Conservation tillage is very effective for corn, wheat, soybeans, and even cotton. Pasture renovation, too.

Although it often needs special equipment, conventional equipment can be adapted to leave more residue on the surface. Overall equipment and labor costs can actually *decrease* since you don't need a plow, disk, or cultivator, or as powerful a tractor as when you were turn-plowing.

#### Why Conservation Tillage?

- **Reduced labor & fuel needs:** As little as one trip for planting compared to two or more plus planting for conventional tillage. That saves fuel, time, and machinery wear (money!).
- **Time savings:** On a 500-acre farm, the time savings can be as great as 225 hours, or almost four 60-hour work weeks.
- **Easier planting:** You can plant in straighter rows on hilly land; rows don't have to exactly follow the contour.
- **More soil moisture:** Crop residues lower evaporation from the soil. This can mean up to 2 additional inches of water available to your crop in late summer.
- **Better soil tilth:** It builds up a rich layer of organic material on the soil surface. This increases water infiltration and moisture holding capacity. That means more uniform stands that can better survive dry weather.
- **Less erosion:** Year-round ground cover can reduce erosion by up to 90% compared to an unprotected, conventionally tilled field.
- **Improved water quality:** Crop residues help hold soil particles and the associated nutrients and pesticides in the field, and out of your streams. And the microbes that live in organic-rich soils quickly degrade pesticides, better protecting ground water quality.
- **Improved soil quality:** You get more earthworms and other soil critters that work for free. What's the benefit? Reduced soil compaction, improved soil structure, increased organic matter, better soil tilth, and better nutrient holding capacity.
- **More wildlife:** Do you enjoy nature? Crop residues provide food and shelter for small game and many species of songbirds. Research shows that quail chicks in no-till fields meet their daily food needs in half the time compared to conventionally tilled fields.
- **Lower your taxes:** You may be eligible for a state income tax credit after purchasing a conservation tillage planter or drill, or converting existing equipment.

#### Want to be Successful?

- For early crops like corn, well drained soils are better suited to conservation tillage than are poorly drained soils, which warm more slowly in the spring.
- Test your soil fertility yearly.
- Develop a nutrient management plan that gives credit for a previous legume crop, manure, or other land applied wastes. Use a starter fertilizer if needed.
- Know your weeds before you plant, and use a pre-emergence herbicide. After the crop germinates, properly identify weeds that you may need to spray with a post-emergence herbicide.
- Scout for weed problems to plan *next* year's weed control.
- Scout for insect pests, and apply insecticide only when natural predators don't provide economical control.
- Plan for next year's residue cover at harvest time. Spread the residue evenly; don't allow it to accumulate in wind rows behind the combine.
- Finally, be patient. The benefits of conservation tillage may take a few years to notice, but they last for many years.

For more information on Conservation Tillage, please visit: <https://www.dnr.sc.gov/conservation/tillage.html>

### Stream Bank Repair Program

Clemson's Stream Bank Repair program works with homeowners, land managers, park staff, and landscape professionals to address unhealthy stream banks that are suffering from erosion and instability. Workshops will provide insight on how watersheds function and will identify steps needed to stabilize and revegetate stream banks.

We'd love to hear your feedback on how you have managed streams on your property! This information will help Clemson Extension continue to build meaningful programs to address issues throughout the state.

Stream Bank Repair workshops are offered October – March. One important step in the process of stream bank repair is using live cuttings called livestakes from dormant species such as elderberry, black willow, and tag alder. These live stakes must be harvested and installed during the plants dormant season (October-March).

The Stream Bank Repair program will be offered throughout the state beginning in Fall/Winter 2020. Subscribe to the Stream Bank Repair newsletter to receive information on upcoming workshops and events!

<https://www.clemson.edu/extension/water/stream-bank-repair.html>

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Cooperative Extension Water Resources Extension Agent  
Carolina Clear Program  
313 South Towers Street, Anderson, SC 29624  
864.359.3385 [www.clemson.edu/CarolinaClear](http://www.clemson.edu/CarolinaClear)



## Natural Resources Conservation Service United States Department of Agriculture

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

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.

### 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.

NRCS offers technical and financial assistance to help farmers, ranchers, and forest owners. To find out more, go to: [www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted)

Get Started with NRCS, 5 steps to assistance:

1. Planning
2. Application
3. Eligibility
4. Ranking
5. Implementing

## Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District NO TILL RENTAL PROGRAM

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! Rental Fee: \$25 minimum For more rental information regarding rates and availability contact Amy Wilson 864-901-6946

*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.*



## Advantages of No-Till Farming

- \* *Less Soil Erosion*
- \* *Reduce Erosion & Runoff*
- \* *Less Soil Compaction*
- \* *Saves You Time*
- \* *Lower Fuel Costs*
- \* *Use Less Fuel*
- \* *Less Soil Moisture Loss*
- \* *Healthier Soil*
- \* *Buy Less Seed*
- \* *Grow Healthier Crops*
- \* *Prevent Weeds*

## 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.





Pickens Soil & Water Conservation

District Board of Commissioners

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

Associate Commissioners

Leslie Morgan  
George Hood  
Alix Danker

USDA-NRCS

Mike Banks - District Conservationist  
Robby Holcombe - Soil Conservationist  
Technician

District Manager

Aimee Brown

Upcoming Events

October 31, 2020 - Halloween  
Happy Halloween from PSWCD

Tuesday, November 3, 2020  
Election Day

November 12, 2020  
PSWCD Monthly Board Meeting  
8:45 a.m.

November 26, 2020 - Thanksgiving  
Happy Thanksgiving from PSWCD

December 25, 2020 - Christmas  
Merry Christmas from PSWCD

January 1, 2021 - New Years Day  
Happy New Year from PSWCD

January 14, 2021  
PSWCD Monthly Board Meeting  
8:45 a.m.

Oolenoy River Watershed Board

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

Oolenoy Watershed Board of Directors Meetings

Regular meetings are the 4th  
Thursday of each month.  
Location: Pumpkintown Fire Department  
4205 Pumpkintown Highway  
Pickens, SC 29671  
Time: 6:30pm unless noted otherwise.

Georges Creek Watershed Board

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

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

Yes! I want to lend my support as an Affiliate Member of the PICKENS 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  
144 McDaniel Avenue 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



Office Space For Rent

Are you looking for a small office space to rent?  
Contact the Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District for more information: 864-878-6155 or  
Email: pickensswcd@gmail.com

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!  
Call: 864-878-6155 or  
E-mail: pickensswcd@gmail.com

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.

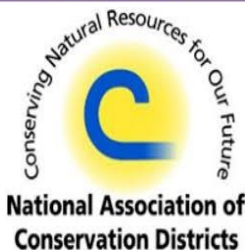
Watershed District Directors are non-salaried officials who are elected to four-year terms. Candidates must be registered voters in the county & watershed in which they are seeking office. Candidates are required to file a Statement of Economic Interests and a Campaign Disclosure online with the State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

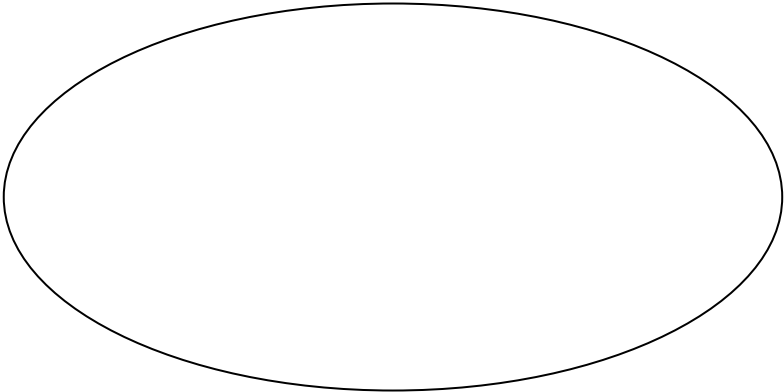
\*\*VOLUNTEERS NEEDED\*\*

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 on volunteering call: 864-878-6155 or E-mail: pickensswcd@gmail.com

Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District is excited to be partnering with Anderson & Pickens County Stormwater Partners, Clemson University Cooperative Extension and the Pickens County Beautification Committee



Address Service Requested



### Pickens County Extension Office

222 West Main Street, Pickens, SC 29671 ~ Phone: 864-878-1394  
Clemson Extension employs Extension Agents who work closely with state extension specialists and researchers located on campus and at the various research and education centers located across the state. Your local Extension Agents provide expertise in Agribusiness, Agronomy, Food Safety & Nutrition, Horticulture, Livestock & Forages, Forestry and Wildlife Resources, Water Resources, and 4-H and Youth Development. For more information and upcoming events please visit the following link:  
<https://www.clemson.edu/extension/pickens/index.html>

### Need a Soil Sample?

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



### Pickens County 4-H

222 W. Main Street, Pickens, SC 29671  
Pickens County 4-H is an organization of young people who wish to "Learn by Doing" in Pickens County, SC . Contact Janine Sutter  
call: 864-878-1394 ext. 122 or email: [jsutter@clemson.edu](mailto:jsutter@clemson.edu)



### South Carolina's Clemson Extension Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program - EFNEP

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) has moved to virtual programming!  
<https://www.facebook.com/SCClemsonEFNEP/>  
College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences

Who Can Participate?  
Youth 8-12 years old  
Interested? Contact Us!

Upstate Region: Shana Madden  
[smadden@clemson.edu](mailto:smadden@clemson.edu)

### Choose Health: Food, Fun & Fitness- CHFFF FREE Nutrition Classes & Cooking Demonstrations

#### What is CHFFF?

- A series of virtual hands-on interactive lessons
- Teaches the importance of healthy eating and active play
- Offers an opportunity to connect with peers
- Eligibility: Youth aged 8-12 years old and who receive free or reduced -priced lunch

#### Participants Will Learn To:

- ✓ Choose healthy snacks
- ✓ Develop healthy eating habits
- ✓ Increase physical activity
- ✓ Practice safe food handling
- ✓ NO COST to participate

