



PICKENS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2020 WINTER NEWSLETTER

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



Completion of Twelve Mile Watershed Upgrades

Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District would like to first and foremost sincerely Thank Pickens County Council for their help with funding the cost of the needed repairs and upgrades on the seven Twelve Mile Watershed flood control dams. In addition, Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District would also like to Thank- Pickens County Emergency Management, NRCS, SCDHEC and McCall Brothers Diving for their assistance and help on the completion of upgrades. 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.

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 Emergency Management NRCS SCDHEC McCall Brothers Diving

In observance of South Carolina Arbor Day on Friday December 6, 2019, the Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District along with Kings Sunset Nursery worked together in donating three Kousa Dogwood trees to the Youth Leadership Academy of South Carolina located in Pickens, SC. The students celebrated South Carolina Arbor Day by planting the trees on their school campus.



Thank You Kings Sunset Nursery and Youth Leadership Academy of South Carolina



Gardening Time



Spring is almost here and before you know it Summer! Time to start planning your garden! From colorful flowers to whatever your favorite fruits and vegetables are, a well-planned garden will be a productive garden! Soil Sample! Need one? Take your soil samples to your local Clemson Extension Office 222 W. Main St. Pickens, SC 29671 Phone: 864-878-1394

There are several nutrients that are essential for plant growth. A soil test is used to determine the amount of these nutrients in the soil. The soil test results are subsequently used to make a soil test report. In addition to indicating the level of nutrients in your soil, the report will also tell you the pH value or how acidic or basic your soil is, and it will make a recommendation for the amount and type of fertilizer and/or lime you need to add to the soil for optimum plant growth. This allows you to customize your soil fertilizer and lime applications to your plants' needs.

Following the recommendations will help prevent problems with nutrient deficiencies (in the case of under-fertilization) or problems associated with over-fertilization, such as excessive vegetative growth, delayed maturity, salt burn, and wasted money. In addition, it can protect against environmental pollution resulting from excessive fertilizer applications. Testing the soil is very important because in some parts of the state the soil may already contain high levels of phosphorus or calcium, and may already be in the correct pH range (or higher). In these cases, the indiscriminate addition of lime or a fertilizer containing phosphorus may create nutrient imbalances that reduce plant health. Home garden vegetables can be grown abundantly in most areas of South Carolina with proper care. Many who have grown vegetables for the excellent fresh flavor or as a hobby now find home gardening profitable with today's high food costs.

Planning the Garden & Site Selection

- * Who will be doing the work?
- * Will the garden be a group project with family members or friends who will work willingly through the season to a fall harvest? Remember that a small weed-free garden will produce more than a large, weedy mess.
- * What do you and your family like to eat?
- * How do you plan to use the produce from your garden? If you plan to can, freeze, dry or store part of the produce, this will be a factor not only in planning the size of the garden but also in selecting varieties
- * How much space is available?
- * Plan the garden on paper first. Draw a map showing arrangement and spacing of crops. If you wish to keep the garden growing all season, you may need a spring, summer and fall garden plan.
- * Group plants by length of growing period. Plant spring crops together so that later crops can be planted in these areas after the early crops mature. Consider length of harvest as well as time to maturity. Place perennial crops to the side of the garden where they will not be disturbed by annual tillage. Finally, practice crop rotation. Try not to plant the same vegetable or a related vegetable in the same location year after year.
- * The garden should be as small as possible to cut down on unnecessary work. In South Carolina, gardens should receive at least six hours of direct sun each day. Leafy vegetables can tolerate partial shade; vegetables that produce fruit, such as peppers and tomatoes, must be grown in full sun.

For more information please visit: <https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/planning-a-garden/>

For all your Home & Garden needs visit: <https://hgic.clemson.edu/>





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

BROADCAST



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.

NO-TILL SEED DRILL



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



Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District 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

USDA-NRCS

- Mike Banks - District Conservationist
- Robby Holcombe - Soil Conservationist Technician

District Manager

Aimee Brown

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 Hwy. 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

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

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

Upcoming Events

March 6th & 7th

Clemson's Tigers for Green Innovation (TGI) are also hosting a Sustainability Summit

March 12th

Monthly Board Meeting 8:45 a.m.

April

Rain Barrel Sale: Rain barrels MUST be pre-ordered online by Sunday, April 12th at

<https://www.rainwatersolutions.com/products/apcsp-ivy>.

April 9th

Monthly Board Meeting 8:45 a.m.

April 16th

Rain Barrel Pick-up is scheduled for Thursday, April 16, 2020 from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00p.m.

April 22nd

Earth Day

April 23rd

2:00 p.m. Deadline for Contest Entries

April 24th

National Arbor Day

May 14th

Monthly Board Meeting 8:45 a.m.

June 11th

Monthly Board Meeting 8:45 a.m.

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 about volunteering call: 864-878-6155 e-mail: pickensswcd@gmail.com

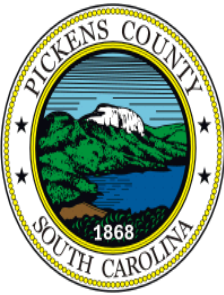
Advertise your business here in the Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District Quarterly Newsletter!

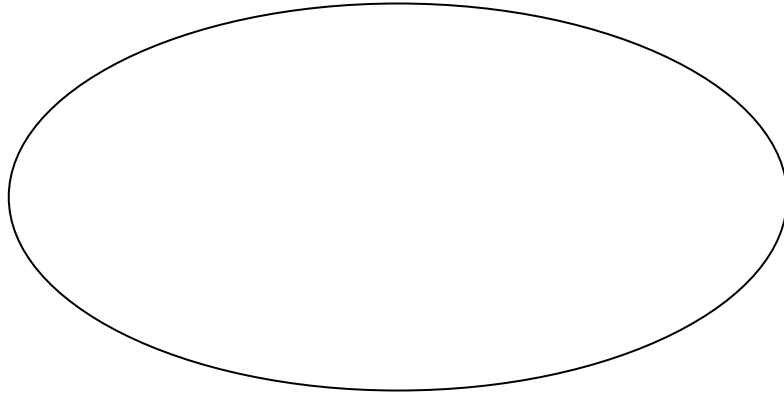
The PSWCD Newsletter is published to over 300 Affiliate members! Contact the Pickens Soil & Water office for more information! Call: 864-878-6155 or E-mail: pickensswcd@gmail.com

ANDERSON & PICKENS COUNTIES



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

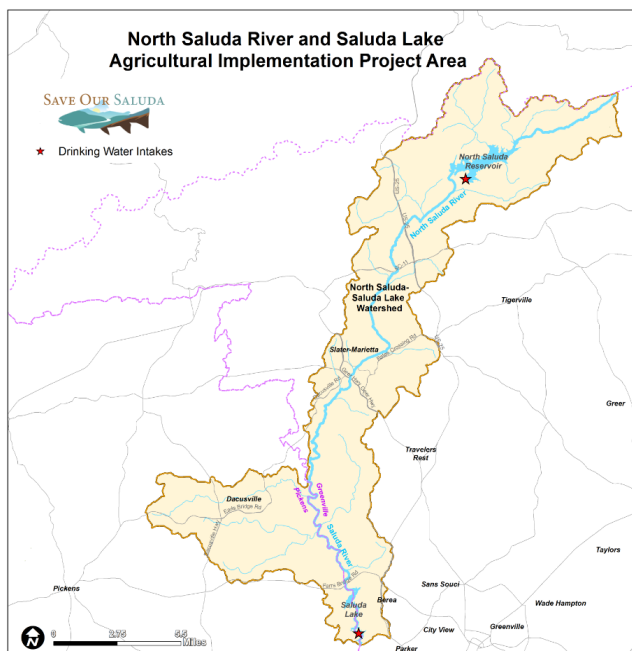




Cost Share Program For Soil Conservation Practices in the North Saluda and Saluda Lake Watershed Areas

Save Our Saluda, in cooperation with partnering organizations, received a grant from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environment Control to address sediment runoff in the North Saluda River and Saluda Lake watershed areas. Save Our Saluda is offering financial assistance through a 90% cost share program to landowners and farm operators in these areas for installation of various soil conservation practices.

For more information contact:
 Melanie Ruhlman at (864) 270-7629 or
 email info@saveoursaluda.org



Eligible Practices

- Cover Crops
- Intercropping
- Vegetated Riparian Buffers
- Vegetated Filter Strips
- Field Borders/Pollinator Strips
- Culvert and Ditch Stabilization
- Farm Access Road Stabilization
- Vegetated Waterways/Drainages
- Sediment Control Basins
- Streambank Stabilization
- Livestock Fencing and Watering
- Stream Crossings
- Heavy Use Area Stabilization

To download an application, please visit:

<https://www.saveoursaluda.org/projects/ag-implementation-grant.html>.

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

Rain Barrel Sale in April:

For a limited time, Anderson and Pickens Counties Stormwater Partners (APCSP) are selling 50-gallon Ivy rain barrels for only \$68 each. The normal retail price is \$129. Rain barrels must be pre-ordered online by Sunday, April 12th at <https://www.rainwatersolutions.com/products/apcsp-ivy>. Pick-up is scheduled for Thursday, April 16, 2020 from 2:00 pm to 6:00pm at the South Carolina Water Resources Center, 509 Westinghouse Rd., Pendleton, SC 29670.



2019-2020 NACD Contest Theme: "Where Would We BEE Without Pollinators?"
Deadline for all entries : Thursday April 23, 2020 2:00 p.m. -Contact us today for
 more information: 864-878-6155 or email: pickensswcd@gmail.com

Parents, Educators, and Pickens County residents

Take advantage of this awesome opportunity for your children/students of Pickens County.
 Poster Contest, Essay Contest & Photo Contest for Grades K-12
 Individual project for Private School, Homeschool or Public School children

Why Participate?

Designing a poster or writing an essay and researching the theme gives you a voice in your community on important conservation issues. Good posters and essays tell important stories to present and future generations. Capturing people's attention with a powerful graphic, and inspire with a message to your community.

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