



PICKENS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2021 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

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



“Healthy Forests = Healthy Communities” was the theme for Soil & Water Stewardship Week.

Trees and forests are critical to providing clean air and water, healthy soil, abundant wildlife habitat, and valuable products we use every day. Healthy forests promote healthy communities by creating healthier environments. Studies indicate that spending time in forests reduces stress, improves mood, boosts concentration, and can strengthen the immune system.

Trees reduce stormwater runoff, increase the soil’s ability to absorb and store water, and prevent soil erosion—all of which lead to cleaner, healthier waterways and reduce flooding that can impact communities. Trees shading and cooling effects make cities more livable and help reduce cooling costs and energy consumption.

Despite their importance, forests face enormous threats due to over exploitation.

Trees are vital. As the biggest plants on the planet, they absorb carbon from the atmosphere, stabilize the soil, filter water, provide healthy habitat for wildlife and offer many additional benefits – for nature, people and biodiversity. Not only is it necessary to protect existing trees and plant new ones, but it’s also important to advocate and educate about trees and forest conservation within your community.



Kindergarten - 1st Grade Poster Contest
1st Place
Anna Atcheson
Six Mile Elementary School

Congratulations



Kindergarten - 1st Grade Poster Contest
2nd Place
Reese Townsend
McKissick Academy of Science & Technology



2nd - 3rd Grade Poster Contest
1st Place
Carter Atcheson
Six Mile Elementary School

To the
Winners of the
NACD Education
Contest:

“Healthy Forests
Healthy Communities”



9th- 12th Grade Poster Contest
1st Place
Sada Dempsey
Daniel High School



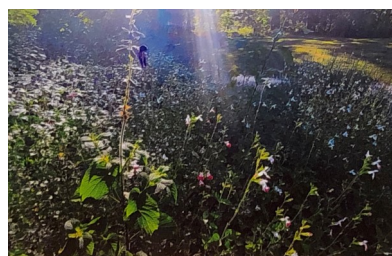
K 5th Photo Contest
1st Place
Anna Atcheson
Six Mile Elementary School



K 5th
Photo Contest
2nd Place
Reese Townsend
McKissick Academy of
Science & Technology



K 5th Photo Contest
3rd Place
Carter Atcheson
Six Mile Elementary School



9th- 12th Grade Photo Contest
1st Place
Sada Dempsey
Daniel High School

Congratulations to the following School District of Pickens County Teachers: *In Honor of Outstanding Performance:*

Francy Barnes ~ McKissick Academy of Science & Technology
Taylor Holden ~ Six Mile Elementary

Laura Friar ~ Six Mile Elementary
Jim Davidson ~ Daniel High School

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.



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 2018 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>

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

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.



Yes! I want to lend my support as an Affiliate Member of the Pickens Soil & Water 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.

Memberships are Tax-Deductible.

_____ \$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: _____

Submit to:

Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District
144 McDaniel Avenue
Pickens, SC 29671

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 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)

Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Commissioners

Roddey Gettys, III - Chairman
Amy Wilson - Vice-Chairman
Kirby Player - Treasurer
Dale Mayson - Commissioner

Associate Commissioners

Leslie Morgan
George Hood
Alix Danker

USDA-NRCS

Brian Stoddard - NRCS District Conservationist
Robby Holcombe - NRCS Soil Conservationist Technician
District Manager
Aimee Brown

August 12, 2021
PSWCD Board Meeting
8:45 a.m.

September 6th Labor Day
September 9, 2021
PSWCD Board Meeting
8:45 a.m.

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

October 31st Halloween
Happy Halloween

Georges Creek Watershed Board
Steve Pace - Chairman
John Cutchin - Treasurer
Stewart Bauknight
Eddie Crittendon
Clay Coggins



Oolenoy River Watershed Board
Matthew Chappell - Chairman
Greg Thomas - Secretary
Jeff White - Treasurer
Andy Anderson
Rick Meadows

Oolenoy River Watershed Board of Directors
Bi-Monthly Meetings.

Thursday, September 23, 2021
Thursday, November 18, 2021
Location:
Pumpkintown Fire Department
4205 Pumpkintown Highway
Pickens, SC 29671
Time:
6:30 p.m.
unless noted otherwise.

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 River Watershed Board? The next election date for open seats will be November 8, 2022.

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

Pickens County Extension Office

222 West Main Street, Pickens, SC 29671 ~ Phone: 864-878-1394
Clemson Extension employs local Extension Agents who 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>

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

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

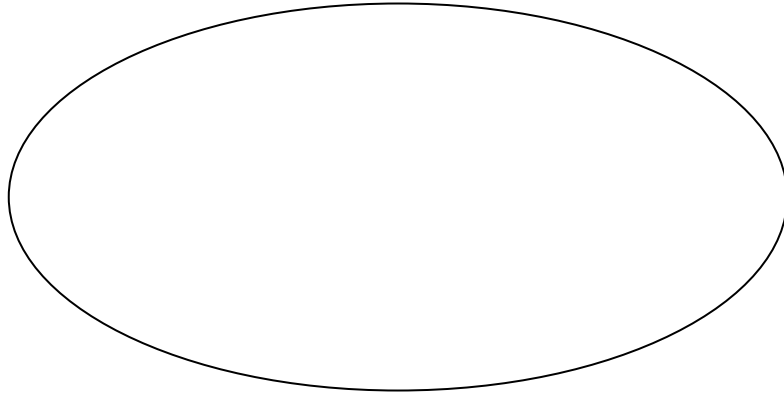


Pickens County 4-H

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: 864-878-1394 ext. 122
or email: jsutter@clemson.edu

Join Today





Seed Library Garden Photo Contest Aug 1-31

Grow any vegetables, flowers or herbs using seeds from the Seed Library? Share photos of your garden for a chance to win a \$20 cash prize. Entries will be judged by Pickens County Soil and Conservation District. Winners will be announced in September. One entry per person. Contact the Sarlin Library for more info at 843-5805.



Seed Library at the Sarlin Library Branch in Liberty

The Seed Library was created in partnership with the Pickens County Soil and Water Conservation District to provide education on growing food and flowers, promote nutrition, and to promote sustainable gardening practices.

Library patrons can visit the Seed Library at the Sarlin Library in Liberty and take home up to five packets of seeds. They can choose from multiple varieties of vegetable, flower, and herb seeds including heirloom varieties. Seed packets come with planting instructions for when to plant, spacing, light requirements, and more.

The Liberty Library opened the Seed Library to the public on March 20th. Since then, 450 people have used the seed library, which is an average of 111 people a month. 1800 seed packets have been given out, with flowers, herbs, squash, tomatoes, and watermelons being the most popular.

Pickens County Library System received a grant from Slow Food Upstate to buy Ark of Taste seeds for the Seed Library. This program was also made possible by a contribution from The Friends of the Library.

Stop by the Sarlin Library and see the seed library as one of the activities featured on the Summer Reading Program activity list. Anyone with a library card will have access to free vegetable, herb, and flower seeds. Seeds will be stored in a vintage, card catalog cabinet. For more information, please visit: pcls.fyi or call the Sarlin Library at 864-843-5805.



How does it work?

- * The seeds are kept in a vintage library card catalog. Browse the drawers of the card catalog and select up to 5 seed packets.
- * Help keep the Seed Library stocked by using the seed check out form and showing a library card to library staff who will note the seeds you've chosen.
- * Take your seeds home to plant and enjoy!



[Dam Ownership in SC](#) | [College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences](#) | [Clemson University, South Carolina](#)

The Dam Ownership in South Carolina class assists every dam owner or operator with understanding the basic concepts to protect the integrity and benefit of their dam rather than becoming a nuisance, or worse - a safety risk.

This online course will teach South Carolina dam owners the basics of dam design, inspection and maintenance techniques, how to develop a dam repair plan, and much more. The Dam Ownership in South Carolina class is designed for owners of both unregulated dams and dams regulated by the SC DHEC Dam Safety Program.

This free, six-week online class was developed through a collaboration between Clemson Extension, the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Clemson Online. All dam owners in South Carolina are invited to participate. The classroom curriculum is offered through the virtual Clemson Online Canvas classroom and is self-paced. <https://www.clemson.edu/extension/water/dam-ownership.html>

Course content includes:

- | | |
|--|--|
| * <i>Introduction to Dams and Their Function</i> | * <i>Inspections and Assessments</i> |
| * <i>Parts of a Dam</i> | * <i>Maintenance and Repair</i> |
| * <i>State Law and Regulations</i> | * <i>Special Considerations for Significant & High Hazard Dams</i> |



Upcoming Webinar: Farming For Clean Water

Are you a farmer interested in protecting water quality? This is the webinar for you! Join us for an overview of best management practices for new and beginning farmers. Free for the SCNBFP Class of 2021 and \$15 for the general public. Topics include pollution sources and management of nutrients, pests, runoff, and waste as it relates to stormwater.

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/farming-for-clean-water-tickets-164532582383>

Stream Bank Repair Manual

Clemson Extension is happy to announce the release of its **2021 Stream Bank Repair Manual**. This manual is intended to help homeowners and professionals choose practices that will help prevent property loss, stabilize stream banks, and protect water quality. It covers the basic practices that will be taught at upcoming workshops and also touches on native plants used for livestocking, erosion control options, and upland best management practices. The manual is available: <https://www.clemson.edu/extension/water/files/stream-bank-repair-for-sc-print.pdf>