



PICKENS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2021 SPRING NEWSLETTER

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

HAPPY SPRING



Seed Library at the Sarlin Library Branch in Liberty is Now Open!!!

Chairman, Roddey Gettys, III of the Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District board, along with Jean Toole, President of the Sarlin Library Friends, cut the ribbon for the opening of the Seed Library on Saturday, March 20, 2021!



Visit the Seed Library at the Sarlin Library and take home up to five packets of seeds. 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. 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.



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 promote sustainable gardening practices



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!

Seeds Donated By

- [Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds](#)
- [Burpee Seeds](#)
- [Gardener's Supply Company](#)
- [High Mowing Organic Seeds](#)
- [Seed Savers](#)
- [Sow True Seed](#)
- [Sustainable Seed Company](#)
- [Sow Right Seeds](#)



Vegetables & Fruits

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------|----------|
| Bean | Beet | Broccoli |
| Brussel Sprouts | Cantaloupe | Carrot |
| Cucumber | Lettuce | Okra |
| Onion | Peas | Peppers |
| Pumpkins | Squash | Tomato |
| Watermelon | | |



Herbs

- Basil Chives Cilantro Dill

Flowers

- Sunflowers Zinnia Wildflowers



Congratulations to the following School District of Pickens County Teachers: *In Honor of Outstanding Performance:*
Brent Adcox ~ Gettys Middle School **Jim Davidson** ~ Daniel High School
Kelli Abernethy ~ Six Mile Elementary School **Melissa Nolan** ~ Six Mile Elementary School

Congratulations **Winners of the NACD Education Contest: "Where Would We BEE Without Pollinators?"**

Essay Contest Winners

- K ~ 5th**
1st Place
Carter Atcheson
Six Mile Elementary
- 6th ~ 8th**
1st Place
Vicky Wen
Gettys Middle School
- 2nd Place**
Breanna Davis
Gettys Middle School
- 3rd Place**
Keira Page
Gettys Middle School



1st Place
Carter Atcheson
Six Mile Elementary



1st Place
Riley McPherson
Gettys Middle School



1st Place
Sada Dempsey
Daniel High School



2nd Place
Reese Townsend
Six Mile Elementary



2nd Place
Alexis Johnson
Gettys Middle School



3rd Place
Alice Cunningham
Gettys Middle



1st Place
Reese Townsend
Six Mile Elementary



1st Place
Sada Dempsey
Daniel High School

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

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>

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

The **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program** provides matching funds to help purchase development rights to keep productive farm and rangeland 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.

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. CRP is administered by Farm Service Agency.

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.

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

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

Associate Commissioners

Leslie Morgan
 George Hood
 Alix Danker

USDA-NRCS

Lynne Newton - Acting District Conservationist

Robby Holcombe - Soil Conservationist Technician

District Manager
 Aimee Brown

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)

May 13, 2021
PSWCD Monthly Board Meeting 8:45 a.m.

June 10, 2021
PSWCD Monthly Board Meeting 8:45 a.m.

July 2021
No Board Meeting

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

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, May 27, 2021
 Thursday, July 22, 2021
 Thursday, September 23, 2021
 Thursday, November 18, 2021
 Location:
 Pumpkintown Fire Department
 4205 Pumpkintown Highway
 Pickens, SC 29671
 Time: 6:30pm unless noted otherwise.

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.

- _____ \$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

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

****VOLUNTEERS NEEDED****

Volunteers are needed to participate in Pickens Soil and Water Conservation District activities. This is a great opportunity for you to participate in promoting Conservation in the Pickens County Community.
 For more information on volunteering:
 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 River Watershed Board? The next election date for open seats will be November 8, 2022.

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



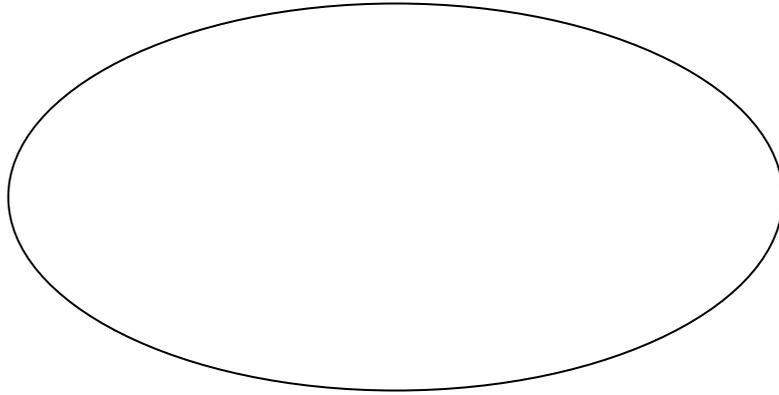
Pickens County 4-H

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



Address Service Requested



**Governor Henry McMaster has issued a Governor's Proclamation proclaiming
 April 25 – May 2, 2021 as Soil and Water Stewardship Week!**

This falls in line with the NACD National Soil and Water Stewardship week. Receiving this Governor's Proclamation is a huge recognition of our Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the mission of conservation by the Governor. Credit for this idea goes to the SC Association of Conservation Districts Legislative Committee who brought the idea of a Governor's proclamation forward. A big thank you goes to the SCDNR leadership who worked with the Governor's office to get this proclamation recognizing Soil and Water Stewardship Week on behalf of Conservation Districts.

State of South Carolina
Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, the soil and water resources of South Carolina are the foundation for the health and well-being of our residents; and

WHEREAS, the wise use of soil and water in the Palmetto State is essential to a sound environment, a strong economy, and the vibrancy of agriculture, forestry, and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, each county in South Carolina is organized as a Soil and Water Conservation District and managed by a board of commissioners; and

WHEREAS, these forty-six Soil and Water Conservation Districts are committed to the conservation of our soil and water resources through the wise use of soil and water for the benefit of all South Carolinians; and

WHEREAS, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, in cooperation with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, partner to actively implement agricultural, forestry, urban, and educational programs and technical assistance for soil and water conservation and management with the active participation of landowners and other volunteers; and

WHEREAS, Soil and Water Stewardship Week calls attention to the importance and value of locally-led conservation efforts by Soil and Water Conservation Districts to continually improve the soil and water resources for present and future generations.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 25 - May 2, 2021, as

SOIL AND WATER STEWARDSHIP WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize our responsibilities to future generations as stewards of our vital soil and water resources.



Henry McMaster
HENRY MCMASTER
 GOVERNOR
 STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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.