



PICKENS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2022 FALL NEWSLETTER

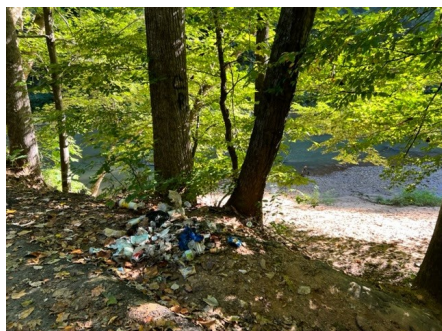
Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District is dedicated to Natural Resource Conservation in Pickens County. Serving Pickens County since 1937



“For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.” Isaiah 61:11

ADOPT a STREAM

Take a look at these pictures from the site in Pickens County. We were surprised at the amount of trash at this location and will be leading a clean up effort in the future. Please be mindful of picking up your trash when you leave. Leaving behind trash takes away from the beauty of places like this - be sure to bag it and trash it. Thank you! For more information on Adopt-A-Stream, please contact us by phone: 864-878-6155 or email: pickensswcd@gmail.com and anaston.porter@andersonswcd.org



The Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District, Education Coordinator ~ Anaston Porter, will be conducting Education programs throughout Pickens County. For more information on participation and how to get involved contact Anaston Porter by email: anaston.porter@andersonswcd.org or pickensswcd@gmail.com or phone: 864-878-6155.

Thanksgiving Family Craft Night

Join us! We will make wild turkey pinecone crafts and learn about how to be backyard environmental stewards and citizen scientists!

TUESDAY | NOVEMBER 15TH
5:00pm - 6:00pm
Pickens Soil and Water District Office
144 McDaniel Avenue Pickens, SC 29671

To RSVP please email Anaston Porter :
anaston.porter@andersonswcd.org
PSWCD Office 864 878-6155

PROJECT WET

The total amount of water on Earth cannot be increased, but we can learn to protect, conserve and better manage the water resources available to us. Dive in with water activities and lessons!

PROJECT WILD

The goal of Project Wild is to assist students of any age in developing awareness, knowledge, skills, and commitment to result in informed decisions, responsible behavior, and constructive actions concerning wildlife and the environment.

Attention Teachers and Educators in Pickens County!

We are now offering K-12
Environmental Education
Programs!

Topics Include: Water Resources, Soil Health, Forestry,
Wildlife, Careers in Natural Resources & Agriculture

Programs will be offered through the Fall 2022 - Spring 2023 School Year!
We will come to your classroom and teach lessons that meet SC State Standards!

Contact Anaston Porter (anaston.porter@andersonswcd.org) for more details!



The Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District along with the National Association of Conservation Districts is excited to announce the

2023 Poster Contest and Stewardship Week theme: “One Water”

Contact the Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District for more information by phone: 864-878-6155 or email: pickensswcd@gmail.com

Contest entries deadline will be 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 20, 2023

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.



Parents, Educators, & ALL 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-12th. Individual project for Private School, Homeschool or Public School children

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, pickensswcd@gmail.com. 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.



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.

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 Wednesday 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

Kirby Player - Chairman
Roddey Gettys, III - Vice-Chairman
Chuck Owens - Treasurer
Amy Wilson - Commissioner

Associate Commissioners

Leslie Morgan Alix Danker
George Hood

USDA-NRCS

Brian Stoddard - NRCS District Conservationist

Robby Holcombe - NRCS Soil Conservationist Technician

Racquel Slaton - NRCS Soil Conservationist

District Manager

Aimee Brown

Education Coordinator

Anaston Porter

Wednesday, October 12, 2022
PSWCD Board Meeting 8:45 a.m.

Monday, October 31, 2022
Halloween

Tuesday, November 8, 2022
Election Day

Wednesday, November 9, 2022
PSWCD Board Meeting 8:45 a.m.

Thursday, November 24, 2022
Thanksgiving Day

Saturday, December 24, 2022
Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 25, 2022
Christmas Day

Sunday, January 1, 2023
New Year's Day

Wednesday, January 11, 2023
PSWCD Board Meeting 8:45 a.m.



Georges Creek Watershed Board

Steve Pace ~ Chairman
John Cutchin ~ Treasurer
Stewart Bauknight
Eddie Crittendon
Clay Coggins



Give thanks with a grateful heart



Oolenoy River Watershed Board

Andy Anderson ~ Chairman
Greg Thomas ~ Secretary
Jeff White ~ Treasurer

Oolenoy River Watershed Board of Directors

Bi-Monthly Meetings.

Location: Pumpkintown Fire Department

4205 Pumpkintown Highway,
Pickens, SC 29671

Time: 6:30 p.m. unless noted otherwise.

Thursday, November 17, 2022



****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

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

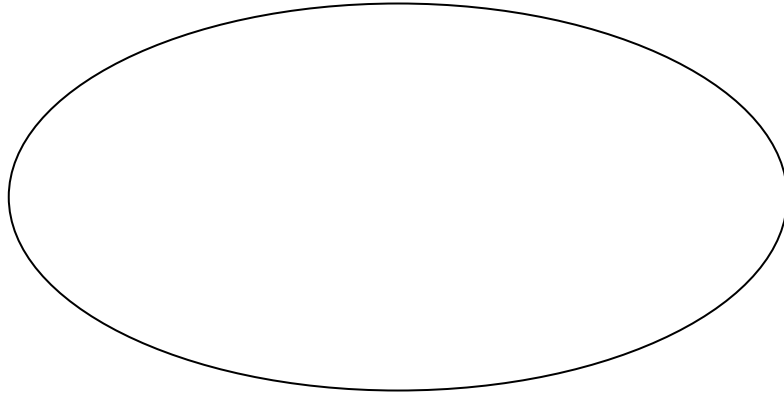
222 West Main Street, Pickens, SC 29671 ~ Phone: 864-878-1394
Clemson Extension employs local Extension Agents who provide expertise in Agribusiness, Agronomy, Food Safety & Nutrition, Horticulture, Livestock & Forages, Forestry and Wildlife Resources, Water Resources, and 4-H and Youth Development. 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





The Leaves Are Falling! Deciduous tree leaves are transitioning in color from green to yellow, orange, red, and purple hues as temperatures decrease and day lengths shorten. The changing color of leaves is a spectacular event most years. However, nothing announces the arrival of autumn like leaves raining down from trees to scatter across the landscape. This serves as a reminder that fallen leaves are a free, valuable, and often underused natural resource. Recycling leaves closer to home reduces waste in landfills and the fuels used to transport them there. Additionally, using leaves in gardens and landscapes can improve stormwater management and reduce flooding caused by clogged residential street drains. Considering that fallen leaves in a forest ecosystem are recycled into vital nutrients used for plant growth, our landscapes should function the same. So be creative and consider new ways to repurpose your leaves this fall and winter.

The reward will last for years!

For more information contact HGIC at hgic@clemson.edu or 1-888-656-9988.

HAPPY FALL *from the Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District*



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 ten 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. For upcoming monthly events information, call or stop by the Sarlin Library and see the Seed Library. 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.



Pickens County Cattlemen's Association ~ Pickens County Cattleman's Association offers informative meetings on a myriad of subjects including pasture management, calving problems, animal health, and selecting the right bull, just to name a few. We are committed to the cattle industry and the promotion of beef. We are stewards of the land and the animals. If you have cattle and live in Pickens County, or surrounding counties, we urge you to join the PCCA or your local Cattlemen's association and the South Carolina Cattlemen's Association (www.sccattle.org) in order to stay up on the latest information. If you have no cattle, but enjoy a good steak, come join us at a meeting and see where your beef is raised. Visit pickenscountycattle.com to fill out a membership form.