



PICKENS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2022 SPRING 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



Spring is Here! Time to Start Gardening

Having fresh produce available at any time is easier when you can grab it straight from your own garden. Home gardening is not a new trend, but it's continued to pick up steam in recent years, with the pandemic bringing a new level of interest to the subject. Everyone has the ability to plant a garden, regardless of space – an herb box makes for a perfect addition to any windowsill option. Vegetables can be grown in a variety of ways, from traditional in-the-ground planting and raised beds to pots and yes, even straw bales. For additional information visit the Clemson Cooperative Extension Home and Garden Information Center at: <https://hgic.clemson.edu/>

The gardening experts at *The Old Farmer's Almanac* have done the homework for you! Their planting tool is personalized down to your zip code, pulling from a database of thousands of weather station reports, and using the "days until harvest" for the most popular vegetables grown in the home garden.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.almanac.com/gardening/planting-calendar>



Natural Resources Conservation Service - United States Department of Agriculture

Do you farm or ranch and want to make improvements to the land that you own or lease? NRCS offers technical and financial assistance to help farmers, ranchers and forest managers.

NRCS provides farmers, ranchers and forest managers with free technical assistance, or advice, for their land.

Common technical assistance includes: resource assessment, practice design and resource monitoring. Your conservation planner will help you determine if financial assistance is right for you

The NRCS EQIP obligation for 2021, awarded 7 new contracts totaling \$234,230.00 and impacting 231 acres for Pickens County

For more information please contact the Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District office by email: pickensswcd@gmail.com or phone: 864-878-6155

South Carolina Agricultural Tax Exemption (SCATE)

Get Your SCATE Card SOUTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL TAX EXEMPTION

A SCATE card issued by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture shows you are eligible for agriculture sales tax exemptions. Learn more and apply at: scatecard.com

After July 1, 2022, you must have a South Carolina Agricultural Tax Exemption (SCATE) card to claim agriculture sales tax exemptions in South Carolina.

What you need to apply:

- Valid email address
- Credit card, debit card, or bank account number

We recommend you use a desktop or laptop computer rather than a mobile phone to complete your SCATE application.

1. What is SCATE?

Under the South Carolina Agricultural Tax Exemption (SCATE) program, the South Carolina Department of Agriculture is issuing cards to individuals eligible to receive agriculture sales tax exemptions under South Carolina state law.

2. When is the new SCATE card being implemented?

- Farmers can apply for the SCATE card starting February 1, 2022.
- Retailers can begin accepting the SCATE card as proof of exemption starting in February 2022.
- Retailers should no longer accept the SCDOR's Agriculture Exemption Certificate (ST-8F) after July 1, 2022.



Pickens County Cattlemen's Association

Pickens County Cattlemen'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.



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

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

Associate Commissioners

Leslie Morgan
George Hood
Alix Danker

USDA-NRCS

Brian Stoddard - NRCS District Conservationist
Robby Holcombe - NRCS Soil Conservationist Technician

Racquel Slaton - NRCS Soil Conservationist

District Manager

Aimee Brown

Wednesday, April 6, 2022
PSWCD Board Meeting 8:45 a.m.
Sunday, April 17, 2022
Easter Sunday, HAPPY EASTER
Friday, April 22, 2022
Earth Day
April 24, 2022 ~ May 1, 2022
Soil & Water Stewardship Week
Thursday, April 28, 2022
Deadline for Education Contest:
Essays, Photos & Posters are due
by 12:00 p.m.
Friday, April 29, 2022
Arbor Day
Thursday, May 12, 2022
PSWCD Board Meeting 8:45 a.m.
Sunday, May 8, 2022
Mother’s Day
Monday, May 30, 2022
Memorial Day



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



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, May 19, 2022
Thursday, July 21, 2022
Thursday, September 20, 2022
Thursday, November 17, 2022

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.

****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>

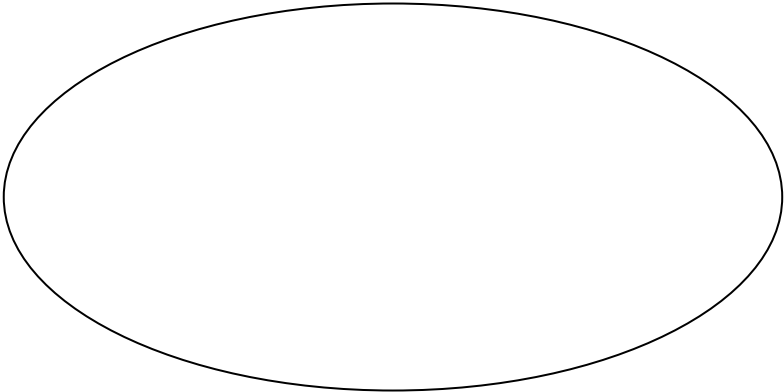
Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District is excited to be partnering with Anderson & Pickens County Stormwater Partners, Clemson University Cooperative Extension and the Pickens County Beautification Committee

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

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



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.

Upcoming Library Events

Make a Carrot Garden-Children

Come to the Sarlin Library during the month of April to create a carrot garden using paper plates and construction paper.

Grocery Shopping Tour-Adults **Sat, April 23, 11:00 am**

Pamela Altstatt, Clinical Exercise Physiologist with Tri-County Technical College, shares ways to shop healthier at the grocery store. Learn how to read nutrition labels, about milk substitutes, and much more. Registration required. Call 843-5805 to register.

Kim's Crafts: Teapot Herb Garden- Adults **Sat, May 7 at 11am**

Create a teapot herb garden. Decorate your teapot, sow seeds from the Seed Library, and attach chalkboard labels to label your herbs. Registration required. Call 843-5805 to register.

Mosaic Garden Art Demonstration- Adults **Mon, May 23, 5:30 pm**

Combine your love of thrift store shopping with crafting to make inexpensive and colorful garden art. Learn how to buy the right plates, break them, and turn them into stepping stones, flower pots, and bird baths. Presented by Master Gardener, Dianne Schnell. Registration required. Call 864-843-5805 to register.



SEED LIBRARY
PICKENS COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

Grow With Us!

Visit the Seed Library at the Sarlin Library and take home up to ten packets of seeds!

Choose from multiple varieties of vegetable, flower, and herb seeds including heirloom varieties!

For more information call 864-843-5805.

Sarlin Library: 15 S. Palmetto St., Liberty SC 29657

PLAY | CONNECT | LEARN | SHARE





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 10 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!



The Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District along with the NACD Stewardship and Education Committee is excited to announce the **2022 Poster Contest and Stewardship Week theme:**
“Healthy Soils: Healthy Life.”

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 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 28, 2022

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.