



# PICKENS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## 2022 WINTER NEWSLETTER

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



# HAPPY NEW YEAR



Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District along with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SC DNR) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Welcomes our new Commissioner, Chuck Owens

Oath of Office for Chuck Owens was held on Thursday, November 11, 2021, conducted by Leslie Morgan



Pictured left to right: Leslie Morgan and Chuck Owens



Pictured left to right: Kirby Player, Chuck Owens, Amy Wilson and Roddey Gettys



Pictured left to right: Leslie Morgan, Chuck Owens and Roddey Gettys

## Welcome to the Pickens Soil & Water Conservation Board of Commissioners Chuck!

### 2022 SC Envirothon Competition Information

SC Envirothon is back! In person, that is! The competition will be held April 29, 2022 in Columbia, SC. The District sponsors one team each year. If you are putting a team together and would like to be considered for a sponsorship, please contact us. Team registration is due no later than March 31st to Deanne Myrick, SCDNR. Competition information can be found at

<https://www.dnr.sc.gov/education/Envirothon/competition.htm>

Training information can be found at <https://www.dnr.sc.gov/education/Envirothon/coachsnap.htm>

#### What is the Envirothon?

The Envirothon is a program for high school students to learn more about our natural environment.

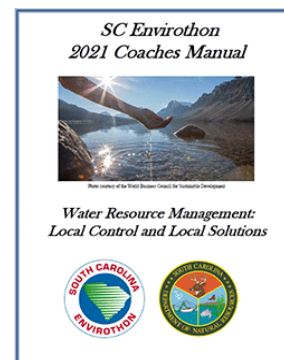
The spirit of competition motivates athletes, drives successful businesses and stimulates new ideas. The Envirothon tests the student's knowledge on topics such as soils, water resources, forestry, wildlife and current environmental issues.

The Envirothon began in Pennsylvania in the spring of 1979. Since then, it has spread to other states and countries. South Carolina held its first Envirothon in 1997. High school teachers across the country are recognizing the value of the Envirothon as a means of strengthening the environmental awareness of young men and women, while still achieving the goals set forth by the State's curriculum standards.

The Envirothon experience is a unique approach to environmental education. Teams compete in an outdoor setting where they learn that cooperation is needed to achieve success. Participation in this competition can be great fun for both students and their advisors. The activities are designed to help the students become environmentally aware, action-oriented adults.

#### SC Envirothon Mission Statement

The SC Envirothon strives to advance environmental awareness through an outdoor venue for high school students to assess their knowledge of natural resource management issues and to promote a life-long commitment to environmental stewardship.



### 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](http://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](http://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](http://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.



NO-TILL SEED DRILL



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 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) January-April 2022 ~ 2nd Wednesday of each month and May-December 2022 ~ 2nd Thursday of each month.

Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Commissioners

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

January 1, 2022 HAPPY NEW YEAR

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

Monday, January 17, 2022  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

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

Monday, February 14, 2022  
Valentine’s Day

Monday, February 21, 2022  
President’s Day

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

Thursday, March 17, 2022  
St. Patrick’s Day

Wednesday, April 13, 2022  
PSWCD Board Meeting 8:45 a.m.

Sunday, April 17, 2022  
Easter Sunday, HAPPY EASTER

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  
Rick Meadows

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, January 20, 2022 Thursday, March 17, 2022  
Thursday, May 19, 2022 Thursday, July 21, 2022  
Thursday, September 20, 2022 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

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

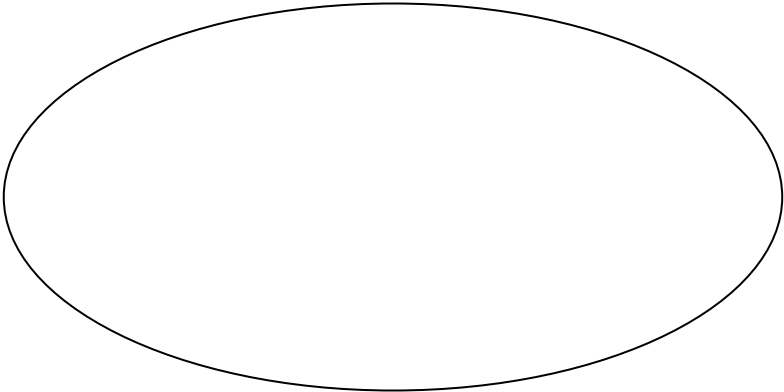
Join Today



U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service



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](http://pcls.fyi) or call the Sarlin Library at 864-843-5805.

January 2022

**January 3–** Seed Library Reopens!

**Storytime**–seed library themed pre-school Storytime at library, TBD

February 2022

**Monthly library event- TBD**

**Storytime**–seed library themed pre-school Storytime at library, TBD

**February 10-** Library staff lead Sprout House activity, share seed library info, and sign-up parents for library cards at Liberty Elementary School.

March 2022

**Monthly library event- TBD**

**Storytime**–seed library themed pre-school Storytime at library, TBD

April 2022

**Monthly library event- TBD**

**Storytime**–seed library themed pre-school Storytime at library, TBD



**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](mailto:pickensswcd@gmail.com)  
Contest entries deadline will be 2:00 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.