



# PICKENS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## 2023 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

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

**2024 Poster Contest and Stewardship Week theme:**

***"May The Forest Be With You Always"***

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:**

**Thursday, April 18, 2024 by 2:00 p.m.**

Parents, Educators, & ALL Pickens County Residents

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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

### Why Participate?

Researching the theme to design a poster, write an essay or take a photograph gives you a voice in your community on important conservation issues. Posters, essays and photographs tell important stories to present and future generations. Capturing people's attention with a powerful graphic, and inspire with a message to your community.

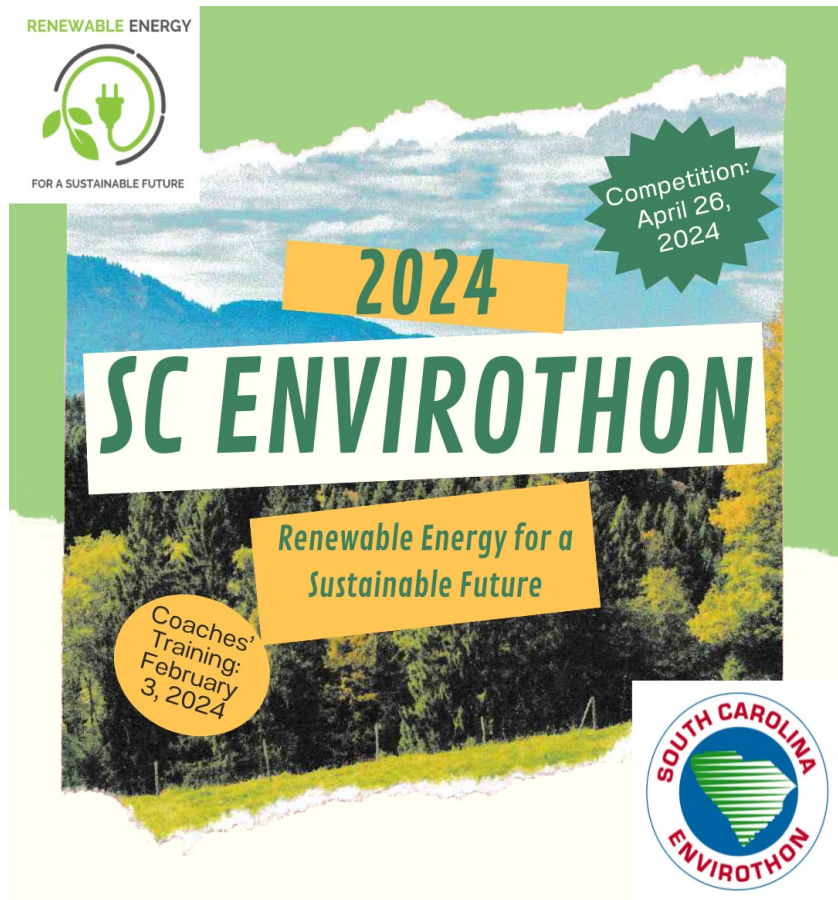


### Classroom Presentations

To set up classroom presentations to help the students prepare for the contest, Contact: Anaston Porter- Education Coordinator for the Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District by email: [anaston.porter@andersonswcd.org](mailto:anaston.porter@andersonswcd.org)

### 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](mailto:pickensswcd@gmail.com). Candidates must be currently teaching K-12th grade in public or private schools in Pickens County.



South Carolina Envirothon is a South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) program for high school students to learn more about our natural environment.

During the Envirothon, high school student teams are tested on their knowledge of five areas of environmental science (wildlife, forestry, soil science, aquatics, and a current topic) and their performance on an oral presentation.

Teams consist of 3-5 students plus an alternate (optional) in grades 9-12.

Each team must have the support of a team coach.

The 2024 Competition Theme is

***"Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future."***

A free coaches' training will be held on  
February 3, 2024.

The student competition will be held on  
April 26, 2024.



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](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.



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.



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.

\_\_\_\_ \$1,000 or above Trustees of the Land \_\_\_\_\_ \$500-\$999 Guardians of the Land  
\_\_\_\_ \$200-\$499 Keepers of the Land \_\_\_\_ \$50-\$199 Stewards of the Land \_\_\_\_ \$49 or less 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  
Chuck Owens - Vice-Chairman  
Clayton Kerr - Treasurer  
Roddey Gettys, III - Commissioner  
Amy Wilson - Commissioner

Associate Commissioners

Leslie Morgan

George Hood

Tom Smith

Alix Danker

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

Tuesday, October 31, 2023  
Halloween

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

Thursday, November 23, 2023  
Thanksgiving Day

Wednesday, December 13, 2023  
PSWCD Board Meeting and  
Holiday Reception 8:45 a.m.

Sunday, December 24, 2023  
Christmas Eve

Monday, December 25, 2023  
Christmas Day

Sunday, December 31, 2023  
New Year's Eve

Monday, January 1, 2024  
New Year's Day

Wednesday, January 10, 2024  
PSWCD Board Meeting 8:45 a.m.

Oolenoy River Watershed Board

Andy Anderson ~ Chairman

Greg Thomas ~ Secretary

Jeff White ~ Treasurer

Zach Dunaway

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 16, 2023

Georges Creek Watershed Board

Steve Pace ~ Chairman

John Cutchin ~ Treasurer

Stewart Bauknight

Clay Coggins

BJ Sutherland



**\*\*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>

**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 Wednesday of each month at the Pickens Soil and Water Conservation District office located at 144 McDaniel Avenue, Pickens, SC 29671.

The Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Commissioners is governed by a local board of five commissioners serving four year terms. Three commissioners are elected during the General Election and two commissioners are appointed by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) Board.

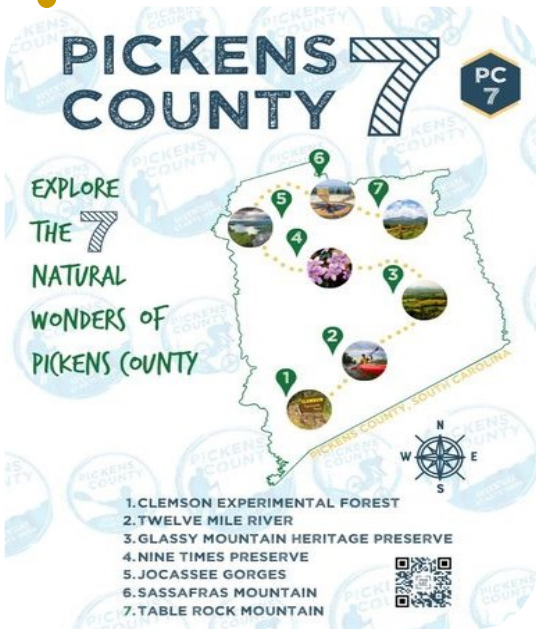
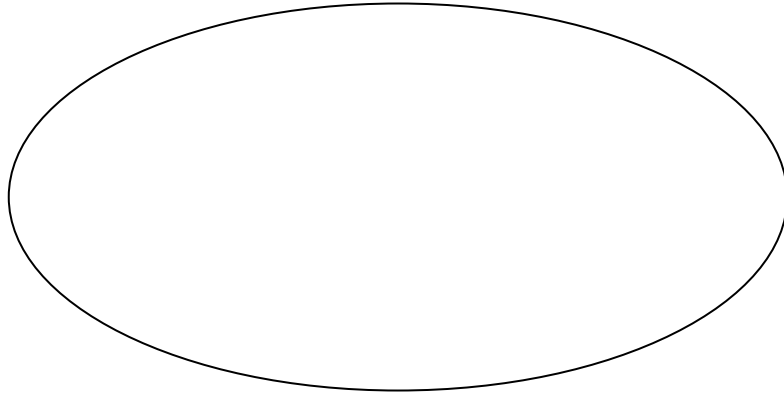
Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District is excited to be partnering with Anderson & Pickens County Stormwater Partners, Clemson University Cooperative Extension and the Pickens County Beautification Committee

**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 7

Inspired by the South Carolina 7, The Pickens County 7 highlights seven of Pickens County's greatest natural landmarks - from thousands of acres of forests, to the Twelve Mile River, to the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. With parks and trails for walking, hiking, mountain biking, paddling, enjoying scenic overlooks, and more, there are recreational opportunities for everyone to enjoy!

For more information, please visit the following websites:

[co.pickens.sc.us/departments/parks\\_recreation\\_tourism/index.php](https://co.pickens.sc.us/departments/parks_recreation_tourism/index.php)  
<https://www.southcarolina7.com/>



### Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District

#### Fall Scavenger Hunt

We would like to say, Thank You, to each and every participant of our Fall Scavenger Hunt!



#### 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](mailto:anaston.porter@andersonswcd.org)) for more details!

**Project WILD**

**project WET**  
WATER EDUCATION TODAY



SC Adopt-a-Stream  
Kit Rental Contest  
Clemson Extension Office  
Pickens, SC

The first 5 people to use the SC Adopt-a-Stream kit from the Clemson Extension Office in Pickens, will get a free t-shirt with an outline of Lake Hartwell on the front!