



PICKENS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2023 WINTER 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

On behalf of the Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District Board, the Georges Creek Watershed Board, the Oolenoy River Watershed Board, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SC DNR) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), We Would Like To Welcome Our Newly Elected Commissioners:

Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District ~ Chuck Owens and Clayton Kerr
Georges Creek Watershed ~ Steve Pace and BJ Sutherland
Oolenoy River Watershed ~ Andy Anderson, Jeff White and Zach Dunaway

Oath of Office and Swearing-In ceremony for our newly elected commissioners was conducted by Tyler Brown ~ SCDNR and Chris Workman ~ SCDNR and was held on December 13th at our Election and Christmas Celebration



Pictured left to right:
Chuck Owens ~ Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District
Tyler Brown ~ SCDNR



Pictured left to right: Chris Workman ~ SCDNR, BJ Sutherland ~ Georges Creek Watershed, Steve Pace ~ Georges Creek Watershed, Jeff White ~ Oolenoy River Watershed, Andy Anderson ~ Oolenoy River Watershed, Zach Dunaway ~ Oolenoy River Watershed and Tyler Brown ~ SCDNR



Pictured left to right:
Shelly Kerr, Clayton Kerr ~ Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District and Tyler Brown ~ SCDNR



Kirby Player presented the Conservation Educator of the Year – Primary Level (K-6) & Conservation Educator of the Year – Secondary Level (7-12)



Chuck Owens presented the Watershed District of the Year Award & Watershed Director of the Year Award.

Connections Through Conservation

The 81st Annual South Carolina Partnership Conference (South Carolina Association of Conservation Districts, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Natural Resources Conservation Service) was held January 23rd – January 25th at the Hyatt Regency in Greenville, SC. The Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District Board & staff along with a couple of Oolenoy River Watershed Board members attended the conference. Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District was honored to have two of our board members present awards. There were many great speakers including our very own Kirby Player and our keynote speaker, Lt. Governor Pamela Evette!



Pictured left to right:
Lt. Governor Pamela Evette & Kirby Player

Susan Lunt, with Clemson Extension, helped Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District host a family craft night in November to teach community members how to become backyard environmental stewards! Participants learned about SC Adopt-a-Stream, CoCoRaHS, Clemson Extension education programs, and how they can make a difference for conservation!



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 12:00 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.

____ \$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
Roddey Gettys, III ~ Vice-Chairman
Chuck Owens ~ Treasurer
Amy Wilson ~ Commissioner
Clayton Kerr ~ 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
Education Coordinator
Anaston Porter

Wednesday, February 8, 2023
PSWCD Board Meeting 8:45 a.m.
Tuesday, February 14, 2023
Valentines Day
Wednesday, February 22, 2023
Gardening Workshop at the Sarlin
Library in Liberty, 4:00~5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 8, 2023
PSWCD Board Meeting 8:45 a.m.
Friday, April 7, 2023
Good Friday
Sunday, April 9, 2023
Easter Sunday
Wednesday, April 12, 2023
PSWCD Board Meeting 8:45 a.m.
Thursday, April 20, 2023
Education Contest Submissions Due
by 12:00 p.m.
Friday, April 28, 2023
SC Envirothon Sandhills Rec in
Columbia, SC

Georges Creek Watershed Board

Steve Pace ~ Chairman
John Cutchin ~ Treasurer
Stewart Bauknight
Clay Coggins
BJ Sutherland

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, March 16, 2023
Thursday, May 18, 2023
Thursday, July 20, 2023
Thursday, September 21, 2023
Thursday, November 16, 2023

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

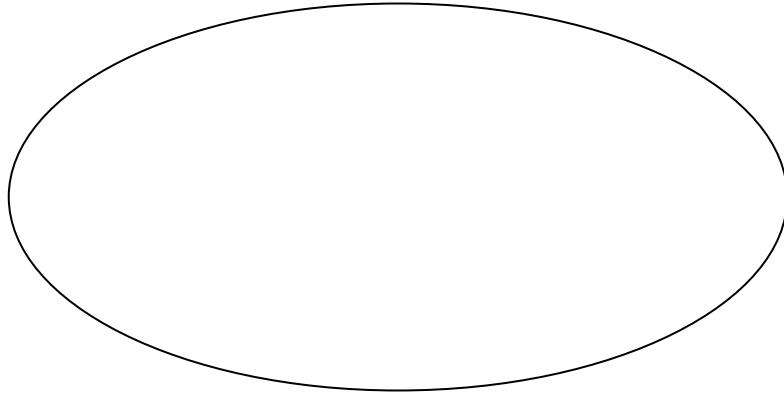


Pickens County 4-H

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





It's almost Gardening Season

Gardening Workshop will be held at the Sarlin Library in Liberty February 22, 2023 from 4:00—5:00 p.m. Participants will learn a quick introduction to gardening for new and beginning gardeners, talk about how to install a raised garden bed, learn about soil composition and what nutrients plants need to grow!

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 Soil & Water Conservation District would like to sincerely Thank the Pickens Federal Credit Union for their generous donation to support the South Carolina Envirothon. Our office now has funds to sponsor two SC Envirothon Teams in Pickens County! SC Envirothon is a SCDNR program for high school students to learn more about our natural environment. The competition tests students' knowledge on topics such as soils, water resources, forestry, wildlife and current environmental issues. Teams need 5 participants and a coach to participate. For more information about SC Envirothon, visit SCDNR's webpage: <https://www.dnr.sc.gov/education/Envirothon/> This year's competition will be held at the Sandhill Research and Education Center in Columbia, SC on April 28th, 2023.



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.

ADOPT a STREAM

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!

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!

Project **WILD**

project **WET**
WATER EDUCATION TODAY

