



PICKENS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2019 SPRING NEWSLETTER

What is a Conservation District?

Conservation Districts are subdivisions of state government that work to address natural resource concerns. The Pickens Soil and Water Conservation District is committed to improving the quality of life for the citizens of Pickens County. The Pickens Soil and Water Conservation District consists of a board of five commissioners- three elected in the general election and two appointed by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. These commissioners volunteer their time, talents, and services to help improve natural resource awareness. The Directors serve without pay to inspect the lakes' dams and ensure maintenance work is done to keep the dams in good shape. The Directors are elected officials, and their names appear on the ballot in the General Election. The position is non-partisan. They serve because they are concerned about their communities and fellow citizens. There are five directors on each Watershed Board. Directors must live in the watershed district they serve.

There are a total of eleven watershed lakes in Pickens County, SC. The Pickens Soil and Water Conservation District oversees seven lakes in the Twelve Mile Watershed. The Oolenoy Watershed Board of Directors oversees three lakes. The Georges Creek Watershed Board oversees one lake.

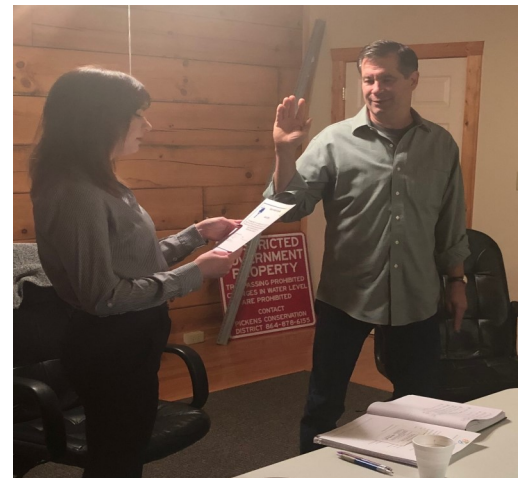
The flooding disaster that hit our state in 2015 made us more aware of the need to keep all of the flood control dams in proper operating condition. The Pickens Soil and Water Conservation District along with the Pickens County Emergency Management and Pickens County Council have repaired five of the seven watershed dams in the Twelve Mile Watershed. Work will begin on the sixth dam and the seventh dam will be completed in the Fall of 2019.

The Pickens Soil and Water Conservation District is here to serve YOU! Our conservation district is working for you and your community to promote wise use of our natural resources. We have a partnership with USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and SC Department of Natural Resources. Want to know more about the Pickens Soil and Water Conservation District? Attend our monthly board meetings! The board meets the second Thursday of each month at 8:45 a.m. at the Pickens Soil and Water Conservation District office located at 144 McDaniel Avenue, Pickens, SC 29671. Monthly board meetings are open to the public and we invite you to attend!

Swearing in of Elected Commissioners for The Pickens Soil and Water Conservation District, Georges Creek Watershed, and Oolenoy Watershed - Congratulations and Welcome to the newly elected Commissioners!



Pictured left to right (standing): Amy Wilson - Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District, Matthew Chappell - Oolenoy Watershed, Toni Vitanza - Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District, Andy Anderson - Oolenoy Watershed, Eddie Crittendon - Georges Creek Watershed, and Chris Workman - SC DNR



Pictured left to right: Kristina Lane and Jeff White - Oolenoy Watershed

Want to serve on the Pickens Soil and Water Conservation District Board, Georges Creek Watershed Board, or the Oolenoy Watershed Board? The next election date for open seats will be November 3, 2020.

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



NRCS is here to help farmer's improve their usage of Natural Resources. Our motto is: "Helping people help the land"

- 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.

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

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.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

The Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program (FRPP) provides matching funds to help purchase development rights to keep productive farm and ranchland 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.

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!

NO TILL RENTAL PROGRAM

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. Rental Fee: \$25 minimum

For more rental information regarding rates and availability contact Amy Wilson 864-901-6946



Compare the results of the same Pickens County farm planted using a No-Till Drill versus Traditional Broadcast Planting.



Why Should You Use Our No-Till Drill?

- 

Buy Less Seed
- 

Grow Healthier Crops
- 

Use Less Fuel
- 

Prevent Weeds
- 

Reduce Erosion & Runoff



Yes!
I want to lend my support as an Affiliate Member of the PICKENS CON-
SERVATION DISTRICT and join the impressive list of individuals and
businesses who believe in sharing the responsibility for the abundant natu-
ral resources in which we live, work, and play.

- _____ \$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 Address: _____

Submit to:
Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District
PO Box 245
Pickens, SC 29671

Memberships are Tax-Deductible.

Telephone: 864-878-6155 **E-mail:** pickensswcd@gmail.com
www.pickenssoilandwater.com

“Like” us on Facebook: Pickens Soil and Water Conservation District



Georges Creek Watershed Board
Stewart Bauknight
Eddie Crittendon
John Cutchin
Steve Pace
Cynthia Wise

Oolenoy Watershed Board
Andy Anderson
Matthew Chappell
Drake Curry
David Gilstrap
Jeff White

Board of Commissioners
Amy Wilson, Chairman
Dale Mayson, Vice-Chairman
Roddey Gettys III, Treasurer
George Bryant, Commissioner
Toni Vitanza, Commissioner
Associate Commissioners
Leslie Morgan
George Hood
Alix Danker
USDA-NRCS
Mike Banks, District Conservationist
Robby Holcombe, Soil Conservationist Technician
District Manager
Aimee Brown

Commissioner’s meetings are held the 2nd
Thursday of each month at 8:45 a.m. in the
Stillwell Conference Room(unless other-
wise posted at the office) at the Pickens Soil
& Water Conservation
District office located at 144 McDaniel Ave-
nue Pickens, SC 29671

The Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District is dedicated to natural resource conservation in Pickens County.
Serving Pickens County since 1937.

It’s Soil Sample Time!
Bring your soil samples to your local Clemson Extension Office
222 W. Main St. Pickens, SC 29671
864-878-*1394



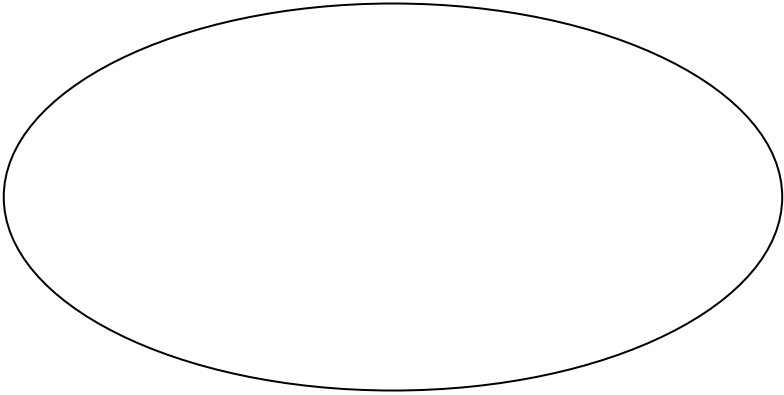
Advertise your business here in the Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District Quarterly Newsletter!
The PSWCD Newsletter is published to over 300 Affili-
ate members! Contact the Pickens Soil & Water office for
more information! Phone: 864-878-6155 or
E-mail: pickensswcd@gmail.com

*****VOLUNTEERS NEEDED *****
Volunteers are needed to participate in Soil and Water Conservation activities. This is a great opportunity for you to participate in promoting Conservation in the Pickens County Community. For more information about volunteering please call:
864-878-6155 or e-mail: pickensswcd@gmail.com

Pickens County 4-H
222 W. Main Street
Pickens, SC 29671
jsutter@clemson.edu
864-878-1394 ext. 122



Pickens County 4-H is an organization of young people who wish to "Learn by Doing" in Pickens, SC Join your local 4-H today!



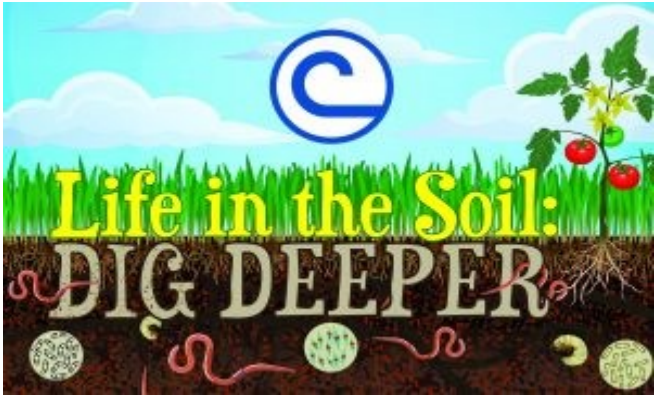
Conservation Teacher of the Year Award

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.

The NACD Stewardship and Education Committee is pleased to announce the 2019 Poster Contest theme:

“Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper.”



Poster Contest for Grades K-12

Individual project for Homeschool, Public,
or Private School children

Winning entries will advance to the state level!

**Mail or hand deliver by
Thursday May 21, 2019**

You can drop posters off at the Clemson Extension Office located at 222 W. Main St. Pickens, SC 29671 or Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District Office located at 144 McDaniel Ave Pickens, SC 29671

Questions?

Janine Sutter, jsutter@clemson.edu
864-878-1394
or
Aimee Brown, pickensswcd@gmail.com
864-878-6155

Parents, Educators, and Pickens County residents

Take advantage of this awesome opportunity for your children/
students of Pickens County

Awards will be:

1st Place: \$35 gift card

2nd Place: \$30 gift card

3rd Place: \$25 gift card

The teacher with the most posters turned in will receive a \$40 gift
card per category.

Every participating Teacher will receive an Education Poster

There will be five categories for judging/ winners:

Kindergarten to 1st Grade

2 nd Grade to 3rd Grade

4 th Grade to 6th Grade

7 th Grade to 9th Grade

10th Grade to 12th Grade

Why Participate?

Designing a poster and researching the theme gives you a
voice in your community on important conservation issues.
Good posters tell important stories to present and future
generations. Posters capture people’s attention with a powerful
graphic, and inspire with a message to your community.

Is your school a SC Green Steps School? Does your school have a
Garden Club?

Contact the Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District office or
the Clemson Extension office for activities!