



SWCS COLORADO CHAPTER

Newsletter August 2003

President's Message

by Wendell Hassell



❖ Spokane 2003 Conference

Hi, everyone! We just returned from an enjoyable and exciting conference: seven Colorado Chapter

members participated in the 2003 SWCS Conference held in Spokane, Washington, July 27–31. The meetings were co-hosted by the Washington and Idaho Chapters. The theme, *"The Columbia, Conserving a Legacy of Life,"* brought first-hand opportunities for natural resources technical workshops, plenary sessions, concurrent sessions, educational tours, and professional development.

Myron Senechal, President of SWCS for 2003-2004, welcomed everyone to the 58th annual conference. Professional development played a big part in this year's conference. Several workshops were offered with Continued Education Credits available.

During the opening plenary session on Monday morning, NRCS Chief Bruce Knight and Robert Caughlan, presenting the Pritchard lecture, provided conference participants with an insight to conservation worldwide. "NRCS's goal is to help farmers and ranchers take a more holistic approach to conservation," stated Knight.

One of the greatest challenges to agriculture in the areas of clean air and

clean water is to come up with market-based solutions to the challenge of manure from animal feeding operations. That is why the NRCS recently released new draft technical standards for anaerobic digesters

Caughlan echoed Knight by stating SWCS members can use their powers "to connect the dots" and work together to think more holistically. "Protecting America's resources is one of the healthiest forms of patriotism," Caughlan said.

National Awards Received

Kristi Gay received the Commendation Award at the Spokane Conference. The Colorado Chapter wants to congratulate her for all the dedicated work and effort she has given the chapter. The Chapter sends **"A BIG CONGRATULATIONS TO KRISTI!"** The Commendation Award is given for recognition of a society member that has given above and beyond service to SWCS and their Chapter.

On behalf of the Colorado Chapter, **Barbara Gohlke** and **Wendell Hassell** received the Chapter Achievement Award and the Chapter Sustained Performance Award, respectively. We extend a big thank you to all of the Colorado Chapter members and the past officers for their dedicated work and accomplishments.



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❖ 2004 St. Paul, Minnesota and Beyond

St. Paul, Minnesota is the location of the SWCS Conference in July 24–28, 2004. Start making plans to attend now.



New York is the location for 2005.

And our own beautiful **State of Colorado** is the site selected for the 2006 Conference! We can begin thinking and planning for this occasion.

❖ AFO/CAFO Workshops Planned Prior to CACD Annual Meeting

The Colorado Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS), Colorado Section of the Society for Range Management, Colorado Association of Conservation Districts (CACD), and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service are sponsoring two Animal Feeding Operation/Confined

Animal Feeding Operation (AFO/CAFO) workshops and a Technical workshop on Monday, November 17, 2003.

The sessions begin at 1 p.m. at the Wyndham Hotel in Colorado Springs. These pre-convention workshops are just prior to the CACD annual convention scheduled for November 18-20, 2003.

One workshop will be tailored to landowners that fit into the AFO category. Topics planned in this session

will include federal regulations, Colorado's implementation of the federal regulations and the timeline for permit applications, the 10 commandments of manure management, and how to do your own permit.

The second workshop will be technical in nature and offer Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for Certified Crop Advisors and training for potential Technical Service Providers. Agenda items for this session are still being developed.

Registration information and final agendas will be available on the Colorado Chapter SWCS web site, www.ccswcs.org, in mid to late August.

For more information contact Kristi Gay (719) 765-4676, Barbara Gohlke (719) 632-9598 ext. 3, or Lana Pearson (719) 541-2358 ext. 3.

❖ Nominations for 2004 Council Members

Are you a leader? Do you know if you have leadership potential? Many of us



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never realize our leadership potential because we limit our opportunities to develop our leadership potential by assuming we don't have the "right stuff."

Now is a great chance to challenge yourself! The Colorado Chapter Executive Council is seeking nominations for three positions to be filled as of January 2004: President-elect, Secretary-Treasurer, and Member-at-large.

The Secretary-Treasurer and Member-at-large positions are for two-year terms. The President-elect will serve one year as President-elect before serving a year as President, followed by a year as past-President. Nominees for President-elect should plan to make a 3-year commitment to serve on the executive council.

Nominations are open to current Colorado Chapter members. Meetings are accomplished by teleconference and the council plans to meet face to face at least 3-4 times per year. Meeting locations will vary as needed due to locations of council members.

Still not sure? Sometimes you don't know what you can do until you're challenged to do it! Questions can be directed to any member of the executive council. Nominations will be accepted until September 10, 2003 and should be submitted to:

Kristi Gay at (719) 765-4676 or Tony Arnhold at (719) 846-3681. E-mail addresses are: kristi.gay@co.usda.gov and anthony.arnhold@co.usda.gov

❖ Chapter Awards Nominations

It is time once again to reflect on the significant contributions made in the recent past to the Chapter and the cause of soil and water conservation and to nominate these contributors for a Chapter Award.

Please submit a nomination to the Chapter Award Committee for each Chapter member whom you feel is deserving of recognition with the Chapter Commendation Award (especially, but not limited to, a deserving member who has not been so recognized in the last several years). Generally, this award is presented to those members who have made significant contributions of their time and talents to Chapter work and activities. We will present these awards at our annual meeting, in conjunction with the Carbon Sequestration workshop, December 3 at the Renaissance Denver Hotel.

We are also looking for nominations for an outstanding or exceptional Junior Conservationist. If you know of any youth in your area who are active in their 4-H or FFA clubs and are an asset and contribute much to their club, or who have been active in conservation activities, please send a nomination or contact name and number of the person from whom I can obtain information. Nominations should include involvement in activities, projects relating to natural resources, honors won, and other related soil and water conservation experiences.



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As in the past, the Chapter will use the CACD's Conservationist of the Year Award nominations to obtain a deserving producer for our own Conservationist of the year Award.

The Chapter also has a media award for a Reporter of the Year. Nominations should consist of a letter giving the conservation reporting accomplishments of the nominee. Please include publication(s) the reporter writes for or submits articles to, how much conservation publicity the reporter has provided, and his/her effectiveness. It is recommended that nominators also provide a sample or two of the nominee's conservation reporting.

Please send nominations to Beth Fortman (Chapter Awards Committee Chairman), 1626 Hwy. 50 W., Pueblo, CO 81008; or email elizabeth.fortman@co.usda.gov by October 3, 2003.

❖ **Colorado Chapter SWCS to Kick Off Membership Campaign**

The Colorado Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) will kick off a membership campaign this fall. The Chapter's Membership Committee is currently working on a plan that will guide the campaign for the next year.

The campaign will revolve around informing individuals about the benefits of being an SWCS member.

In the past few years, the Colorado Chapter SWCS Executive Council has

sponsored conferences and workshops that are educational, provide training, and provide continuing education units to certified crop advisors and certified professionals in rangeland management. In addition, members receive up-to-date natural resources information through the Conservogram and Journal of Soil and Water Conservation from the Society's headquarters in Ankeny. These are just a couple of examples of the benefits of membership.

The Membership Committee is developing different levels of recruitment goals. For each level, members will receive one or more awards.

Look for more information in upcoming newsletters on when the campaign will begin and what it entails.

❖ **Western Colorado Field Day/Workshop This Month!**

The Colorado Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Service is sponsoring a Field day/workshop in the Grand Junction area. The West slope meeting is set for Friday, August 22, 2003. This is conveniently timed to coincide with the heart of peach season. Bring the family and enjoy good tasting peaches and the many attractions in the area.

We will meet at the Fruita CSU Research Station for registration from 7:30—8:00 am., and will be touring current research work at the Station from 8 am to 12 pm. In the afternoon



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we will tour the Colorado Dept. of Agriculture's Insectary in Palisade

There will be a registration fee of \$10.00 for SWCS members and \$15 for nonmembers. A sack lunch will be provided with registration.

Plans are to provide CCA credits in Pest management, Soil and Water Management, and Crop Management at the Field day. Please arrange for your own transportation and car pool where possible to help with parking.

For more information contact Amy Sidener at (970)874-5726, ext. 103.

