



# CONSERVOGRAM

The newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

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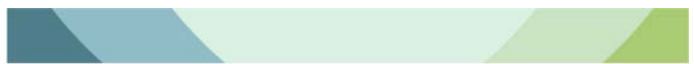
## The Soil and Water Conservation Society and COVID-19

As COVID-19 has impacted all of our lives, at work and at home, we want to let you know your professional society is thinking of you and your families. As staff are working remotely, [please use email](#) to connect with SWCS at this time.

## Final Opportunity to Submit an Individual for SWCS Award or Apply for SWCS Scholarship

The awards program of the Soil and Water Conservation Society is designed to recognize individuals and organizations who have made outstanding contributions in advocating the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources. Nominate a deserving individual by **April 23, 2021**.

View the [awards flyer](#) and visit [www.swcs.org/awards](http://www.swcs.org/awards) for additional information and to submit your nomination.



# Submit a Nominee!



## SWCS Scholarships are Available

The Soil and Water Conservation Society has three scholarship opportunities for all members. Submit your application by **April 23, 2021**.

View the [scholarship flyer](#) and visit [www.swcs.org/scholarships](http://www.swcs.org/scholarships) for additional information and to complete your application.



## 76<sup>th</sup> SWCS International Annual Conference

Virtual Event

July 26–28, 2021

[www.swcs.org/21AC](http://www.swcs.org/21AC)

### Become a Sponsor by May 28!

Be a part of this one-of-a-kind opportunity to connect with a uniquely targeted group of conservation and environmental professionals. Becoming a sponsor gives you an affordable opportunity to market your products and services to a key audience and maximize your organization's exposure. Allow us to help connect your organization with our audience of nearly a thousand conservation professionals!

Download the [Sponsor Guide](#) for more information.



### Complete Required Annual Chapter Activity Report by April 23

The mandatory chapter activity report is now available [online](#). This report is combined with the chapter awards nomination form, allowing chapters to easily apply for two annual awards when filling out the report. Reports must be completed by **April 23, 2021**.

Questions? Contact your chapter leader or [memberservices@swcs.org](mailto:memberservices@swcs.org).

### Upcoming Events

[76th SWCS International Annual Conference](#)

Virtual Event  
July 26-28, 2021

## Submit your Conservation Photos by May 19

Enter our free photo contest by **May 19** for a chance to win a \$50 e-gift card from Amazon, be selected for display during the virtual SWCS International Annual Conference, and see your photo on the cover of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*!

We want to see photos that display soil and water conservation and people in action, showcase the beauty of the world's natural resources, and/or inspire conservation professionals working to ensure the future of our natural resources on both private and public lands. View the photo contest information at [www.swcs.org/21PC](http://www.swcs.org/21PC).



## SWCS Seeking Grazing Experts and Technologies for Blue Ribbon Panel

SWCS and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service have partnered to convene a series of Blue Ribbon Panels on conservation technology. The goal of the panels is to bring together a cross-section of experts and national leaders to discuss the state of conservation technology and the role of technology in accelerating conservation adoption.

SWCS is currently seeking recommendations for potential panelists, organizations, and technologies to contribute to a Blue Ribbon Panel focused on grazing. Please contact [catherine.delong@swcs.org](mailto:catherine.delong@swcs.org) to share your recommendations.



Photo courtesy of the Conservation Media Library (NRCS/SWCS photo by Lynn Betts).

## USEPA Science Advisory Board Seeking Nominations

SWCS members, the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) is inviting nominations of scientific experts from a diverse range of disciplines to be considered for appointment to the EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB).

Those selected to join the board may also be asked to participate on a SAB Standing Committees such as the Agricultural Science Committee, Climate Science Committee, Drinking Water Committee, and Environmental Justice Science Committee.

Please consider nominating yourself or a fellow-SWCS member! **Nominations should be submitted no later than May 3, 2021.** [Click here](#) for instructions to submit a nomination.

## Science and Policy News

Below you will find a list of some of the latest conservation science and policy news. Links to full articles on the different subjects are included.

- The war on beef in the West: Public lands [grazing](#) for livestock is under growing pressure
- With FDR's New Deal as blueprint, Sen. Booker and Rep. Spanberger re-introduce [climate change](#) bill focused on investing in conservation programs, reforestation, and wetlands restoration
- Farmers on the Missouri River sue the Army Corps of Engineers for [flood damages](#)
- Las Vegas pushes to become first to ban [ornamental](#) grass in water conservation move
- Blockchain could play an important role in future agriculture and [food security](#)
- New legislation in Virginia strengthens "conservation purpose" of [land easements](#)
- Supreme Court sides with Georgia over Florida in long-fought [water war](#)
- Senator suggests building climate mitigation on USDA [conservation programs](#)
- USDA official promotes federal purchases of [carbon credits](#)
- A better mousetrap is needed for [carbon programs](#), consortium says
- Biden's [infrastructure](#) plan: For ag, rebuilding roads and bridges tied to energy and climate proposals
- [US Environmental Protection Agency](#) head removes Trump-era science advisors
- Why corporate climate pledges of "net-zero" emissions should trigger a healthy dose of skepticism

- Rural [broadband](#) is on Biden's infrastructure list
- US farmers to plant fewer [corn, soy](#) acres than expected: USDA
- [Climate](#) not a dirty word in agriculture anymore
- Growing concerns expressed over [Mexico's](#) trade actions
- US House panel divides on party lines over how to conserve [public lands](#)
- [Navajo Nation](#) looks to future water-related economic development
- Senators eye rollback of Trump [methane](#) rule with Congressional Review Act
- Nebraska takes aim at Colorado's [meat-free](#) day by declaring pro-meat day
- US House approves protections for "Dreamers" and [farmworker](#) immigrants

*The opinions expressed in these articles are meant to keep SWCS members informed of current conservation conversations and do not necessarily represent the views of SWCS.*

## Conservation NewsBriefs: Popular Articles from March



Are you up-to-date with news about soil and water conservation research and policy? *Conservation NewsBriefs* is a highly informative e-news brief that delivers the most relevant content to your inbox each and every Thursday. Below are links to some of the most read articles from the past month:

- [Senator suggests building climate mitigation on USDA conservation programs](#) (Successful Farming)
- [How dirt could help save the planet](#) (Scientific American)
- [NASA data powers new USDA soil moisture portal](#) (NASA)
- [Conservation agriculture: Necessary for the future, and incentives are needed](#) (No-Till Farmer)

[Click here](#) to sign up and start receiving your weekly *Conservation NewsBriefs* today!

## Conservation at the Co-op: April Update

Did you know that SWCS has two grants to work with agricultural retailers? In partnership with Truterra and select agricultural cooperatives, SWCS is conducting two On-Farm Trials in Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska, supported by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and funded through its Conservation Innovation Grant program. More information can be found [here](#).

The southernmost growers in the project's Kansas footprint are planting fields and terminating cover crops, with those northward in Nebraska and Iowa watching the weather and anticipating field work to commence in the coming weeks. Great Bend Co-op added a conservation agronomist to their team—the fourth to join the retailers' staff since the project started last year.

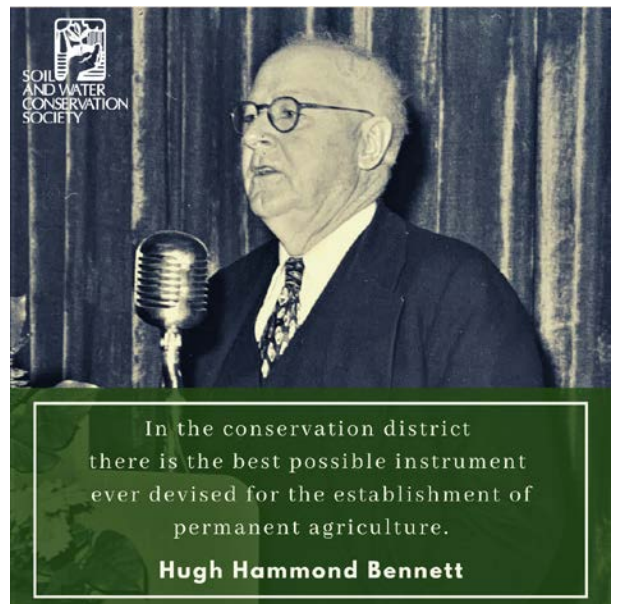
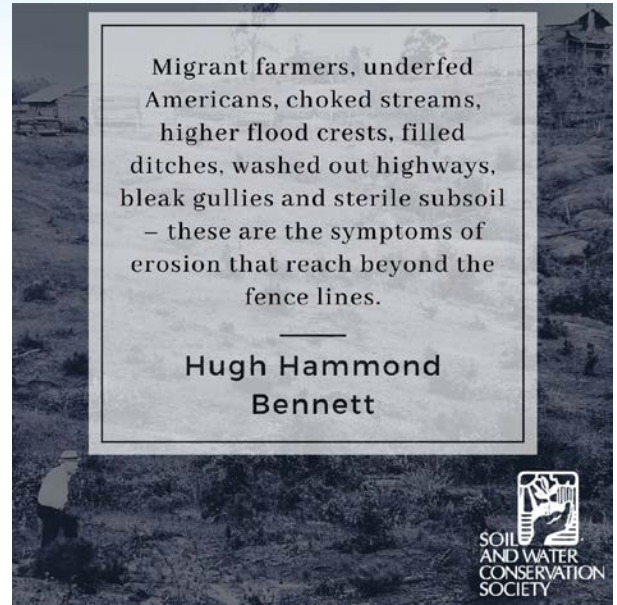
“Ask an Expert” connects co-op personnel with professionals in the SWCS network who are experts in their chosen conservation areas. The experts field questions and provide informed advice to co-op personnel about specific scenarios happening in the On-Farm trials. For this month's installment of “Ask an Expert,” the project team was joined by Scott Nelson, Director of Agronomy at the Iowa Soybean Association, to discuss variable rate technology (VRT) application of phosphorus and potassium. Scott emphasized regular soil testing as the foundation of all variable rate recommendations. He also related the efficiency of VRT to reduced input costs. “Conservation is really just about eliminating waste and saving the farmer money.” He added that farmers in Iowa see the greatest money-savings with VRT with lime application. Following Scott's presentation was a robust discussion about the relationship between crop yields, soil fertility, and input recommendations based on soil tests.

SWCS will be continuing this “Ask an Expert” series with the agricultural retailers throughout the project. Do you have expertise in cover crops, strip tillage, or zone nutrient management, and would you like to share your knowledge with our project team? Contact Joe Otto, project manager, at [joe.otto@swcs.org](mailto:joe.otto@swcs.org) to discuss and learn more.

## Happy Birthday, Hugh!

Today, April 15, is SWCS founder Hugh Hammond Bennett's 140th birthday! A true pioneer and father of soil conservation, Hugh's legacy of bringing agriculture and conservation together continues to live on. Today we're celebrating by wearing his face on a shirt! If you'd like to join the party, order your shirt at <https://www.bonfire.com/imwithhugh/> by April 29.

In addition to today's special recognition, every week we share some conservation inspiration on social media from Hugh Hammond Bennett. Enjoy these quotes and find more by following us at [facebook.com/soilandwaterconservation](https://facebook.com/soilandwaterconservation).



Order your shirt [here](#) by April 29.

## New Members

Welcome members who joined in March

### Alabama

Cassidy Burnside

### Arkansas—Razorback

Chuck Wilson

### Connecticut/Massachusetts/Rhode Island—

#### Southern New England Chapter

Alison Milliman

### Florida

Santiago Lozano

### Iowa

Hayes Durbin

### Massachusetts—University of Massachusetts-

#### Amherst Student Chapter

Justin Maynard

### Michigan

Emily Malkin

Laura Muntzinger

### Missouri—Show Me

Jamie Bokern

### North Carolina—North Carolina State University

#### Student Chapter

Kristan Cockerill

### Nebraska—University of Nebraska-Lincoln

#### Student Chapter

Kennadi Griffis

### New Mexico

Koffi Djaman

### Ohio—All Ohio

Molly Conley

Van Slack

### South Dakota

Matthew Sperry

### Virginia

Bryan Hofmann

### West Virginia

Matt Oliver

## Corporate Partners

Please contact [memberservices@swcs.org](mailto:memberservices@swcs.org) or visit [swcs.org/corporatepartner](http://swcs.org/corporatepartner) for more details.

### Platinum



### Gold



### Silver



### Bronze

