

July 2022



Healthy Land
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CONSERVOGRAM

The newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

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77th SWCS International Annual Conference Updates

Denver, Colorado

July 31–August 3, 2022

www.swcs.org/22AC

Register by July 20 for the 77th SWCS International Annual Conference

Registration for the 77th SWCS international Annual Conference, July 31-August 3, 2022, at the Hilton Denver City Center in Denver, ends July 20.

This year's conference will feature the latest conservation ideas, technologies, and practices and foster a dialogue around their scaling. Through workshops, sessions, symposia, tours, exhibits, and demonstrations, cutting-edge research and practice developments in soil health, water quality, and resource management will be shared.

For complete conference details and to register, visit www.swcs.org/22AC.

REGISTER TODAY!



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Platinum Sponsor Spotlight: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

The US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Colorado is an integral leader and partner in helping private landowners productively use, care for, and make healthy choices for the land and water. Colorado NRCS conservation partnerships are diverse including federal, state, and nonprofit groups that have a variety of expertise in discipline, area, and focus. As partners in conservation, these groups help NRCS to put more conservation on the ground.

NRCS field staff work directly with urban and rural farmers, ranchers, forest owners, and other land stewards to provide technical expertise and financial assistance to make conservation work on private lands. Much of the work is accomplished through partnerships and voluntary incentive-based conservation programs associated with the Farm Bill.

In FY-21, NRCS in Colorado

- led the country in Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) enrollments totaling 1/3 of all the acres that were enrolled nationwide in FY-20 (14 easements in Colorado, totaling \$15.2 million and protecting over 66,200 acres);
- invested over \$13.3 million on 286,000 acres on 162 new and renewal projects that help farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners expand conservation activities while maintaining agricultural production on their land through new technologies and management techniques, and croplands managed consistently with a grassland conservation plan; and
- funded 556 contracts, totaling \$42 million, helping address resource concerns on 403,851 acres and landowners implement structural and management conservation practices, which optimize environmental benefits on working agricultural land.

Some landowners and natural resource stakeholders partner with NRCS, seeking only the agency's technical expertise and assistance. NRCS works with those entities through the Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) program to conduct resource assessments, develop practice designs, establish resource monitoring, or follow up on installed practices. One of the most popular tools the agency provides through CTA is the development of a conservation plan. In FY-21, NRCS in Colorado wrote conservation technical assistance plans to treat over 645,760 acres and applied CTA on over 197,744 project acres.

NRCS in Colorado is also a major force and source for disaster recovery efforts. Over the past 24 years, Colorado experienced record-breaking natural and man-made disasters, which have had devastating impacts on the state's natural resources, private landowners, and their communities. Through the Emergency Watershed Protection Program, the NRCS has helped many impacted Coloradans navigate toward stability, notably more so within the past 10 years. **Over 80% of the state's EWP funding allocated between 1998 and 2020 has been expended between 2010 and 2020.**

2010–2020	
NRCS EWP FA & TA	\$147,959,393
Sponsor	\$42,443,873
Total	\$190,403,267

1998–2020	
NRCS EWP FA & TA	\$165,654,393
Sponsor	\$48,523,873
Total	\$214,178,267

Colorado's landscape and natural resource needs are as diverse as its mountainous terrains are to its eastern plains. The NRCS employees and leadership across the state are dedicated to meeting and exceeding those needs.

Did you know...

- Colorado is known as THE headwaters state because of its 156 of the 158 named rivers originate in the Rocky Mountains and flow out of the state.
- Eight major river basins originate in Colorado, including the Colorado River, which is a vital lifeline for the southwestern portion of the country; it supplies water to seven states, 29 American Indian reservations, and a portion of Mexico.
- There are nearly 34,000 farms and ranches in Colorado encompassing 31.7 million acres. That's nearly half of the state's total land area.
- Colorado farmers and ranchers help to feed the world, exporting nearly \$2 billion in products. Canada, Mexico, Japan, Korea, and China receive the largest share of Colorado food products.

- There are more than 170,000 jobs in Colorado related to agribusiness, contributing more than \$40 billion annually to Colorado's economy.
- The US Air Force Academy is in Colorado Springs.
- The world's largest flat-top mountain is in Grand Mesa, Colorado.
- The 13th step of the state capital building in Denver is exactly 1 mile above sea level.
- Colorado has more microbreweries per capita than any other state.
- Colorado's leading fruit crops are peaches and apples.
- Cattle and calves is Colorado's number one agricultural commodity with 2.8 million head of cattle in the state.
- Colorado's production of sunflowers ranks fourth in the nation.



NRCS partners to help fund and provide technical assistance to support forest management activities.



NRCS soil scientists from around the country gather to celebrate the completion of the initial modern soil survey conducted by NRCS through the National Cooperative Soil Survey program.

Congratulations to the 2022 Award Winners!

The Soil and Water Conservation Society would like to congratulate the winners of the 2022 SWCS awards. Awards are presented annually to individuals and organizations who have made outstanding contributions in advocating and advancing the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources.

View the full [press release](#) and visit www.swcs.org/awards for additional information on this year's award recognitions.

All award winners will be showcased during the awards luncheon at the 2022 SWCS International Annual Conference on August 2, 2022, in Denver, Colorado. [Register by July 20](#) to join us for the event!

11th International Drainage Symposium

Des Moines, Iowa

August 30–September 3, 2022

www.swcs.org/22IDS

Join Us in Des Moines, Iowa, for the 11th International Drainage Symposium!

Solutions to agricultural drainage challenges and opportunities will be the focus of this year's symposium. Two days of sessions will highlight drainage research, practice design, implementation, and policy. The third day of the symposium will feature field tours highlighting some of the innovative drainage work happening in the local area. The symposium will provide an opportunity for the research, agency, industry, and practitioner communities to interact, share experiences, and address emerging issues related to agricultural drainage.

For complete conference details and to register, visit www.swcs.org/22IDS. The online registration cutoff is **August 19, 2022**.



AUGUST 30 – SEPTEMBER 2, 2022

Save the Date(s) for New Student Professional Development Series

SWCS is partnering with MANRRS and the Soil Health Institute to bring you a new virtual events series for students and early career professionals. Join us to learn from experts in the conservation field as they share advice on topics like professional branding, getting into grad school, and finding a job.

Thursdays at 6 p.m. EST

- September 22, 2022
- October 20, 2022
- January 26, 2023
- February 23, 2023

More information will be posted [online](#).



Join us!

Learn from experts in the conservation field as they share advice and knowledge on topics such as professional branding, getting into grad school, managing money, and finding a job. These virtual events are for students and early career professionals in natural resources conservation, environmental science, biology, agriculture, soil science, hydrology, and others working toward a more sustainable world.

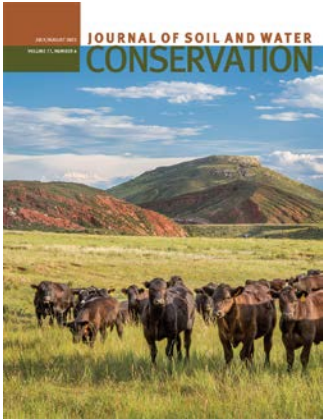
Thursdays, 6pm EST

- September 22, 2022
- October 20, 2022
- January 26, 2023
- February 23, 2023

Hosted by:



July/August Journal Highlights



The latest issue of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* is here, and this issue features a preview of work that will be presented at the SWCS International Annual Conference in Denver in just a few weeks! Three A Section articles (linked below) highlight topics that are featured during the following presentations:

- Workshop #3: [Elevating Conservation Outreach through Improved Messaging](#)
- Symposium: [Forest Management and Biochar for Continued Ecosystems Services](#)
- Poster: [How Much Grass Will Grow on Your Rangelands this Year? Grass-Cast Sheds Light on the Question!](#)

Read the articles now, and then follow up with authors in person at the conference.

Also in this issue, don't miss recent research findings, including work by Li et al. that tracks soil changes in Texas [Conservation Reserve Program land that is returned to production](#) and a study of [phytoremediation's potential to improve saline soils](#) in the Northern Great Plains by Fiedler et al. For those interested in cover crop research, a survey by Schoolman and Arbuckle explores [cover crop use by specialty crop growers](#) in Ohio and Michigan. Find these and more articles in the [online journal](#).

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.

- [Supreme Court](#) restricts the US Environmental Protection Agency's authority to mandate carbon emissions reductions
- Soil conservation on an [upward trend](#) in Indiana
- Plowing and tilling [soil on slopes](#) is jeopardizing future farm yields
- America's new agricultural frontier: [vertical farms](#)
- Sorensen awarded [Hugh Hammond Bennett Award](#) for conservation excellence
- New [soil database](#) will help Alberta farmers plot out sustainable practices
- [Soil quality](#) critical to help some US crops weather heat stress from climate change
- How an Arkansas farmer found counsel for [climate-smart practices](#) to grow the best crop
- [Cover crops](#) build soil, slow erosion and protect water
- Pollution and health: Contaminated soil may lead to [heart disease](#)
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Army Corps of Engineers [renew partnership](#)
- Soil Health Institute announces [five strategic goals](#)
- Scientists are pursuing [flood-resistant crops](#), thanks to climate-induced heavy rains and other extreme weather

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.

Upcoming Events

[Southern New England Chapter
Annual Summer Meeting](#)
Kingston, Rhode Island
July 20, 2022

[77th SWCS International Annual Conference](#)
Denver, Colorado
July 31-August 3, 2022

[11th International Drainage Symposium](#)
Des Moines, Iowa
August 30-September 2, 2022

New Members

Welcome members who joined in June!

International

Kristoffer Ronn Andersen

Alabama

Jennifer Yates

Arkansas—Razorback

Elisabeth Spratt

California/Nevada

Helen Dahlke

Tom Devol

Jairo Diaz

Geoff Koch

Gabriele Ludwig

Iael Raij Hoffman

Abbey Warner

Colorado

AJ Brown

Lauren Hafford

Francesco Serafin

Ryan Taylor

Erik Wardle

DC—National Capital Chapter

Whitney Forman Cook

Paul Hishmeh

Gina Nichols

Greg Pilchak

Kelly Young

Florida

Yuchuan Fan

Illinois

Kaitie Adams

Mark Stoermann

Joshua Zuckerman

Indiana—Hoosier

Bukola Dada

Lourival Carmo Monaco Neto

Ayorinde Ogunyiola

Meg Skrypka

Kansas

Ron Graber

Kentucky—Bluegrass

Krista Lea

Lee Moser

Aysha Tapp Ross

Louisiana

Xi Zhang

Massachusetts—University of Massachusetts-Amherst Student Chapter

Roberto Navarrete

Minnesota

Brad Jordahl Redlin

Udai Singh

Missouri—Show Me

Kurt Boeckmann

North Carolina—Hugh

Hammond Bennett Chapter

Lily Kirk

Lee Miller

Nebraska

Lindsey Forbis

Katja Koehler Cole

Katie Pekarek

John Shanahan

New Hampshire/Vermont

Jonnie Dunne

Bryony Sands

New Jersey—Firman E. Bear

Zachary Lenzi

Ohio—All Ohio

Michael Brooker

Brent Nicol

Oklahoma

Meg Greski

Oregon

Shannon Cappellazzi

Norie Wright

Tennessee

Katie Commender

Texas—Heart of Texas

Douglas Smith

Texas—North Texas

Carolina Brandani

Katie Lewis

Quinn McColly

Utah

Matt Madsen

Virginia

Zhengwei Yang

Wisconsin

Mike Beacom

Ricardo Costa

Jessica Espenshade

Krista Hood

Matthew Pronschinske

West Virginia

Andrew Bierer

Corporate Partners

Please visit www.swcs.org/corporatepartner for more information on how to become a corporate partner.

Platinum

The Nature
Conservancy 

 syngenta®

Gold

 Agri Drain
CORPORATION



Silver

 THE
FERTILIZER
INSTITUTE

Bronze



New Conservation Community Members

Welcome community members who joined in June! Learn how to become a Conservation Community Member [here](#).

Alabama

Geneva County SWCD

Lamar County SWCD