



# 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. Click [here](#) for COVID-19 SWCS Annual Conference Impacts and Organizational Updates.

## 75th SWCS International Annual Conference

Virtual Event  
July 27-29, 2020  
[www.swcs.org/20AC](http://www.swcs.org/20AC)

### The Countdown Is On!

The SWCS 75th International Annual Conference, to be held virtually July 27-29, 2020, will feature presentations and dialogue surrounding the latest conservation ideas, technologies, and practices.

To learn more about activities at the SWCS International Annual Conference or to register, visit [www.swcs.org/20AC](http://www.swcs.org/20AC). Registration will close July, 15, 2020. In order to prepare speakers and attendees for the best event possible, no registrations will be accepted after the July 15 deadline.

### Thought Leaders to Kick-Off 75th SWCS International Annual Conference

Kicking off the conference will be the Pritchard Keynote Panel, "Diffusing Conservation Innovations." This interdisciplinary panel will explore opportunities to advance conservation adoption at the watershed scale and nationwide. View the [full press release](#) for more information on this year's Pritchard Keynote panel.

Continuing education units will be available for certified crop advisors, professional agronomists, professionals in erosion and sediment control, and others.



## Sponsorship Opportunities

The virtual 75th SWCS International Annual Conference is a 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. Put your brand in front of those who are directly involved in the decision-making process of purchasing products or those who influence prospective buyers and conservationists.

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

Thank you to our 75th SWCS International Annual Conference Sponsors!

### Presenting Sponsor:



### Platinum Sponsor:



Natural Resources Conservation Service

### Gold Sponsors:



### Silver Sponsor:



### Bronze Sponsors:



### Student Leader Development Sponsor:



Association Of Retired Conservation Service Employees

## Presenting Sponsor Spotlight: Syngenta

By Caydee Savinelli, Stewardship Team & Pollinator Lead



Caydee Savinelli, Syngenta

At its core, conservation aims to preserve, replenish, and protect our world's resources. Many different groups devote countless hours to preserving soil health, replenishing watersheds, and protecting wildlife. While conservation helps bridge the gap between different stakeholder groups, we all—collectively—play a role in being good stewards of the resources we have.

Stewardship itself is much more than any one project or program. Instead, it is the culmination of these efforts. It includes conservation but also biodiversity, pollinator health, and product use and pesticide education, to name a few. Stewardship encompasses the interconnectedness of agriculture, the natural world, and society. The intersection of these areas is collaboration.

As we at Syngenta work to accelerate innovation across the agricultural industry, we are expanding our horizons to change the conversation about conservation and stewardship by collaborating across industries and building partnerships.

Recently, the Iowa Soybean Association announced that they, in collaboration with 11 partnering organizations including Syngenta, received a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) award from the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. This public-private partnership brings together farmers, landowners, ag retailers, agronomists, and organizations to establish better conservation practices in the North Raccoon River watershed. This localized, collaborative approach will boost the delivery, efficiency, and effectiveness of conservation services to farmers. Over the next five years, farmers will be implementing practices that will reduce an estimated 781,000 pounds of nitrogen export from the North Raccoon River watershed, as well as 33,600 tons of reduced sediment loss. We're excited to continue this partnership to not only help farmers but also help these groups better steward the watershed and surrounding habitats.

The Growing Matters coalition is another example of collaboration in action. This group, comprised of Syngenta and the other registrants of neonicotinoid insecticides, has worked together since 2013 to help feed a growing population, enhance the beauty of our surroundings and sustain an industry commitment to protect the environment and wildlife. For the past two years, the

BeSure! campaign has reminded farmers and applicators across the United States to use best management practices when using these important crop protection products to protect pollinators, maintain environmental sustainability, and preserve soil and water quality. Collectively, we can better ensure these technologies are used responsibly so they remain viable.

Together, across disciplines and industries, we can help secure a sustainable food supply while preserving land and protecting pollinators. Collaboration helps ensure that no matter the role we play, important tools remain available to help farmers provide us with food while creating a world in which biodiversity and conservation are at the forefront.

I invite you to stop by our virtual Syngenta booth at the SWCS International Annual Conference next month. We are eager to hear about your soil and water conservation efforts and value the opportunity to share information about some of our ongoing initiatives that build unique partnerships, help farmers grow crops more efficiently, and protect the environment.



### Upcoming Events

[Nebraska Chapter Annual Conference](#)

Virtual Event  
June 18, 2020

[SWCS 75th International Annual Conference](#)

Virtual Event  
July 27–29, 2020



Find us on  
**Facebook**

[facebook.com/soilandwaterconservation](https://facebook.com/soilandwaterconservation)



## Welcome, Newly Elected SWCS Board Members!

Jerry Hatfield, Ellen Gilinsky, and Keith Berns will officially begin their term as SWCS Board Members beginning August 1, 2020.

### At-Large Director: Jerry Hatfield



Jerry Hatfield received his PhD from Iowa State University in 1975 in the area of agricultural climatology and is the retired director of the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment in Ames, Iowa. His research focuses on the interactions among the components of the soil-plant-atmosphere continuum and their linkage to air, water, and

soil quality. His focus has been on the evaluation of farming systems and their response to water and nitrogen interactions across soils and remote sensing methods to quantify field variation. He utilizes the genetics × environment × management concept to show producers how they can increase their production efficiency, increase soil health, and develop resilience to weather and climate variation. He is the recipient of numerous awards including being inducted into the USDA ARS Hall of Fame for his research impact and the Hugh Hammond Bennett award. He is the author of 498 refereed publications and 18 monographs.

### Northeast Regional Director: Ellen Gilinsky



Ellen Gilinsky, PhD, is president of Ellen Gilinsky, LLC, which she started in January of 2017 to work with government, industry, and the private sector on finding environmental solutions to water challenges. Her clients include Resources for the Future, National Great Rivers Research and Education Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Environmental Defense Fund, SERA-46 Land Grant

Universities, and National Academy of Sciences. As part of the Obama Administration from 2011 through 2016, she was the Associate Deputy Assistant Administrator for Water at the US Environmental Protection Agency, where she played a key role in water programs at the federal, state, and local levels, working closely with diverse stakeholders in the water quality, quantity, and agriculture

sectors, and serving as co-chair of the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Task Force. Prior to this appointment, Gilinsky served as director of the Water Division at the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, and in the early 1980s she was part of Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Program staff. In addition, she has 12 years of experience as an environmental consultant at several regional and national environmental engineering firms. Gilinsky received her BA in biology from the University of Pennsylvania and her PhD in zoology, with a concentration in aquatic ecology, from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She has been a past president of the Association of Clean Water Administrators, and held a past gubernatorial appointment to the State Advisory Board of the Virginia Water Resources Research Center. She currently serves as a board member of River Network and holds a gubernatorial appointment to the Science and Technical Advisory Committee of the Chesapeake Bay Program.

### Northwest Regional Director: Keith Berns



Keith Berns combines over 20 years of no-till farming with 10 years of teaching agriculture and computers. In addition to no-tilling 2,500 acres of irrigated and dryland corn, soybeans, rye, triticale, peas, sunflowers, and buckwheat in south central Nebraska, he also co-owns and operates Green Cover Seed, one of the major cover crop seed providers and educators in the United States. Through Green Cover Seed, Berns

has experimented with over 100 different cover crop types and hundreds of mixes planted into various situations and has learned a great deal about cover crop growth, nitrogen fixation, moisture usage, and grazing utilization of cover crops. He was honored by the White House as a 2016 Champion of Change for Sustainable and Climate-Smart Agriculture. Berns also developed the SmartMix Calculator™, one of the most widely used cover crop selection tools on the internet. He has a master's degree in agricultural education from the University of Nebraska and teaches about cover crops and soil health more than 30 times per year to various groups and audiences. Berns was also recently appointed by Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts to be the chairman of the Nebraska Healthy Soils Task Force.

## You Matter to SWCS. We Will Do More.

*Courtesy of Clare Lindahl, SWCS CEO*

As the premier international organization for those who practice and advance the science and art of natural resource conservation, the Soil and Water Conservation Society recognizes we can only create a bright future for agriculture, the environment, and society with the intentional inclusion of people of color.

**The Soil and Water Conservation Society denounces the systemic racism, discrimination, and inequality that exist today.**

Racism, discrimination, and inequality of any kind go against SWCS's core values, which include respect for people and cultures and the unification of people with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and ideas.

However, it is not enough to value diversity—we all must take action. Our goals for the world's soil, water, and other natural resources cannot be realized without equity and inclusion.

Today, we are seeking out diverse voices and we are listening. I invite you, as a member and partner of our organization, to [reach out to us](#), and I thank all of those who have shared their stories and offered counsel and guidance in the past week as we set in motion a plan of action for greater diversity, equity, and inclusion at our next Board of Directors meeting, Thursday, June 18th at 3 p.m. CT.

We recognize we don't have all the answers. We recognize this pushes us to confront things within ourselves and our organization that make us uncomfortable, and we will engage in the active listening, critical thinking, and dialogue necessary to take meaningful action. We recognize substantive action will take an investment of our time and talent. Most importantly, however, we recognize how needed real change is, how long overdue this change is, and our responsibility to be part of creating institutions and systems that serve and value people equally.

## 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.

- Bill aims to help farmers sell [carbon credits](#)
- Why we can't count on [carbon-sucking](#) farms to slow climate change
- Bayer faces more weedkiller woes as US court bans [dicamba](#)

- Congressman Simpson co-sponsors bill to permanently fund [Land and Water Conservation Fund](#)
- Most Trump [environmental](#) rollbacks will take years to be reversed
- [Tyson](#) reinstates policy that penalizes absentee workers
- Government payouts to make up 36% of [farm income](#)
- [Ethanol](#) usage up, plants coming back online
- [Farm-to-table](#) dining takes on new meaning amid pandemic
- [Western Colorado](#) water purchases stir up worries about the future of farming
- Study: [development](#) threatens farming
- An Aussie "[vertical farm](#)" company has gained international interest amid concerns about food supply during the coronavirus pandemic
- Scientists develop new method for efficient mass [ethanol](#) production
- The age of [unmanned](#) tractors is coming, but not without a fight from farmers
- [North Carolina](#) wetland conservation projects gets funding
- Governor DeSantis draws praise from environmentalists over [Florida](#) forever land conservation deals
- [Slaughterhouses](#) reopen but farmers still euthanizing pigs

*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.*



**SWCS is on Instagram!**

Follow @SWCSnews for inspirational quotes and photos, and feel free to tag us in your conservation shots!



@SWCSnews

## New Members

Welcome members who joined in May!

### International

Chelay Alovera  
Heidi Leonhardt  
Xianghu Li

### Arkansas—Razorback

Alexx Ivey

### Arizona

Marques Munis

### California/Nevada

Erick Cervantes

### Canada—Alberta

Bry Hamman

### Connecticut/Massachusetts/Rhode Island—Southern

#### New England Chapter

Dave McCluskey

### Iowa

Jenny Stoffel

### Iowa—Iowa State University Student Chapter

Jacob Handel

### Idaho

Laura Heinse

### Indiana—Hoosier

Jessica Hoehn

### Michigan

Carley Allison

### Missouri—University of Missouri Student Chapter

Nasruddeen Al-Awwal

Jamshid Ansari

### New York—Empire State

Caitlin Stewart

### Oregon

Gabrielle Roesch-McNally

### Texas—Riviera

Casey Stevens

## 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

