



CONSERVOGRAM

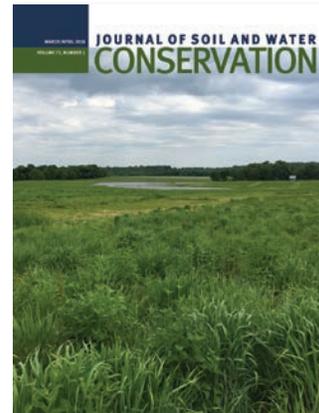
The newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

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March/April Issue of the Journal

In the latest issue of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*, conservation topics addressed range from cover crops to streambank erosion to agricultural impacts on groundwater quality. Haruna et al. consider the effect



no-till and cover crops have on water infiltration, while Burnett et al. review factors associated with farmer cover crop adoption in the western Lake Erie basin. Also in the research section, Xu et al. evaluate the long-term impacts of grazingland intensification (conversion of native range into managed or sown pasture) on soil organic carbon and nitrogen accumulation. In addition, an article by Porzig et

al. tests the use of a single-ring infiltration test as an indicator of soil organic carbon and bulk density in rangelands. Don't miss A Section articles by Olson and Morton and Stewart and Lal, which provide two views of the increasing importance of international water resource management. Find these and more articles in the [online journal](#) or your print issue.

Individual Awards and Scholarships Deadline: March 16

Applications for individual awards and scholarships are due Friday, March 16! If you've been working on an application but haven't gotten it submitted, be sure to do so by the end of tomorrow. Information on the award and scholarship programs can be found on the [SWCS website](#).



2018 International Annual Conference

Albuquerque Convention Center
 Albuquerque, New Mexico
 July 29 to August 1, 2018
www.swcs.org/18AC

Conference Hotel Accommodations

This year's annual conference will take place in the Albuquerque Convention Center, which is located adjacent to the Hyatt Regency Albuquerque, the SWCS headquarters hotel. Situated in beautiful downtown Albuquerque, the Hyatt offers a variety of amenities including a full service restaurant and bar, a bakery/deli for quick grab-n-go meals, Starbucks, a cozy lounge for evening gatherings, and onsite shopping. We think you are going to enjoy this home away from home!

SWCS has negotiated a discounted conference rate of \$149 for single and double occupancy rooms. This block is available on a first-come, first-served basis, and the discounted rate is available through July 5, 2018. Room rates for reservations booked after July 5 are at the hotel's discretion and are based on availability. [Make your online reservation](#) at the discounted rate by following the link and selecting "Attendee" in the dropdown menu.

Visit swcs.org/18AC for additional information on hotel accommodations.

Transportation

The Hyatt Regency Albuquerque is located approximately 10 minutes from the Albuquerque International Sunport (ABQ). Our recommended economical method of travel to and from the airport is to take a taxi (approximately \$15 each way), Uber, or Lyft. You may also wish to arrange private shuttle service or rental car.

Albuquerque offers public transportation from the airport to downtown; however, that particular route does not run on Sundays. Please plan accordingly if your arrival date is Sunday, July 29.

Visit swcs.org/18AC for additional transportation information.

Preliminary Program and Conference Registration

Be sure to watch your email in the upcoming weeks for the announcement that conference registration is open and the preliminary program is available to download.

Exhibitor and Sponsor Opportunities Available

Do you have an organization or a business or know of one that could benefit from increased exposure to over 400 conservation professionals? If so, please visit swcs.org/18AC for details on becoming an exhibitor or sponsor of the 73rd SWCS International Annual Conference.

You may also contact Jamie Nieman at corporate.info@swcs.org or call 515-289-2331 ext. 114 to receive further details or to discuss a customized sponsorship package. Exhibitor and sponsor referrals are also greatly appreciated!



Exhibitors visit with the attendees of the 2017 Annual Conference.



Videos from 2017 National Conference on Cover Crops and Soil Health

The second National Conference on Cover Crops and Soil Health, held December 7-8, 2018, in Indianapolis, Indiana, served as an opportunity to learn recent developments in how cover crops are being used by innovative farmers across the country and gain important insights on improving soil health from producers, conservation leaders, and scientists. All sessions were recorded, including a farmer panel and the keynote by geologist and author David Montgomery. Watch videos and find presentation materials on the [SWCS website](#).



Michigan Chapter Seminar

The SWCS Michigan Chapter held a seminar in East Lansing, Michigan, earlier this month. The seminar, "A Matter of Balance: Managing Soil and Crop Nutrient Systems to Protect Water Quality," included national experts and experienced crop producers who shared experiences and insights into how to capture crop nutrients and organic inputs in the root zone for crop use, and to build soil health and keep contaminants from entering waterways. SWCS CEO Clare Lindahl attended the seminar along with North Central Region Director Susan Meadows. "I am so impressed with the Michigan Chapter's local leadership," said Clare. "They held an inspiring and informational meeting I was honored to be part of. During my visit I learned about their strategic plan goals, and I look forward to providing tools to help them and other chapters pursue their ambitions."

Upcoming Events

[Southern New England Chapter Winter Conference](#)

Sturbridge, Massachusetts
March 16, 2018

[Keystone Chapter Annual Meeting](#)

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
March 22, 2018

[Firman E. Bear Chapter Meeting and Tour](#)

TBD, New Jersey
April 20, 2018

A Note from Outgoing North Central Region Director Susan Meadows



It has been a pleasure to serve as the North Central Region director on the Soil and Water Conservation Society Board for the last 5 years. I have been a member of the Society for over 25 years, and holding this leadership position has been integral to my professional growth. I have

gained so much from connecting with and learning from other professionals outside my normal area. I have seen the professionalism and forward thinking of the Board increase as we brought on the appointed at-large directors. They have a larger grasp of natural resource issues at the national level, and I have been impressed with their input. I've also been at the forefront and part of the Society's decisions to reconnect with local chapters and am so excited with the plans for the future.

As a practicing conservationist, the Society has been a way for me to gain the support I need to deal with the increasing challenge of caring for our natural resources and producing food, fuel, and fiber in a sustainable way. The excellent training opportunities and discussions provided through the Hoosier Chapter and national annual conference events have been enormously beneficial.

While I have completed my term as a national leader with the Society, I will continue my involvement with the Indiana Chapter and headquarters through committee work. If you have not yet found a place to serve your local chapter, I would urge you to keep asking and looking. Being part of SWCS has made, and will continue to make, a huge impact in my professional career. These are exciting times for SWCS—come join us!

Welcome, Courtney Slagle!



Courtney Slagle began her role on February 19, 2018, as the new event and professional development director and executive assistant to the CEO at SWCS. Courtney received her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from AIB College of Business, now known

as the University of Iowa Des Moines campus. Courtney is the lead staff person for the SWCS Annual Conference and also manages the special conferences, workshops, distance learning, and other professional development opportunities with regional or national scope. In addition, she provides administrative support to the CEO. We are excited to welcome her to the SWCS team!

Career Profiles Rolling Out This Spring

As a scientific and educational organization, part of the Society's mission is to encourage young people to explore soil and water conservation as a possible career. We know how daunting it can be to choose a career path, especially in a field that seems to be ever-changing. In the coming months we will be creating career profiles in an effort to shed light on the diverse opportunities available in conservation today. These profiles will be published on the SWCS website, and we hope that they provide clarity and inspiration to students and young professionals who want to learn more about soil and water conservation. An abridged version of the first profile appears below:



Leonard Jordan, Acting Chief of USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Career sector: Government
Degree: BS in Agronomy

What was the best advice you received regarding your career?

Strive to learn all that you can, be mobile, work hard, and to be willing to take on new challenges. Additionally I was

always encouraged to seek mentoring and coaching from individuals both inside and outside the agency. I followed those recommendations.

How has SWCS impacted your career, or contributed to your continued education and/or professional development?

I have been an active member of the Society since 1979. The Society afforded me an opportunity to grow professionally, by taking on leadership roles and participating in many workshops and conferences. I strongly believe and know without a doubt the Society prepared me for greater leadership roles and responsibilities.

What advice do you have for college students or early career professionals who might want to work in a job similar to the one you have right now?

For college students, I would say to make sure their courses of studies align with their career objectives, affording them job opportunities. For early career professionals, be motivated to be the best you can be. Set goals that reflect over time an increase in responsibilities. Get a mentor and be flexible and mobile.

Describe what impacts you have on fostering the art and science of natural resource conservation within your current job.

My role is to always explore new and emerging science and technologies. I work to always ensure that policies are flexible enough to be the most effective in addressing the private land-users' abilities to practice good stewardship voluntarily, resulting in effective resource management.

Putting Your Gifts to Work

Please help us to meet and exceed our giving goals for this fiscal year by making a gift by March 30! Your gifts help provide support for important projects and programs such as development of new resources for chapters, our advocacy and outreach efforts, and expanded website and online media offerings.

In 2017, SWCS produced a new "[Conservation Matters](#)" video series to communicate some of our members' valuable conservation research to the public. In fall of 2018, we will be adding a new media project to our website, the Conservation Media Library. The library will be a multimedia storing house for conservation photos, graphics, informational videos, factsheets, PowerPoints, and other resources. The library will be open to the public, and all materials can be downloaded and circulated free of charge.

The library includes over 500 professional photos of farmers and landowners who are in the process of installing conservation practices. It also includes drone footage and photographs so that visitors can see a bird's eye view of large-scale implementation of practices including drainage water management. This project was supported by an Iowa NRCS funded Conservation Innovation Grant.

These resources will be of use to farmers and landowners as they decide which practices are appropriate for their land. It can also be useful to the media as a visual and informational introduction to these important conservation practices.

Please consider sending SWCS a donation to support educational resources like our online media and other special projects that contribute to the Society's mission.

Give Online

www.swcs.org/give

Mail

Soil and Water Conservation Society
 945 SW Ankeny Road
 Ankeny, IA, 50023

Call

1-515-289-2331 ext. 118

Amazon Smile

Amazon Smile is tripling its donation rate for March only! Be sure to select "Soil and Water Conservation, Ankeny, Iowa" the next time you shop on Amazon Smile.

Now your support goes 3 times as far

From Mar 12 – 31, Amazon will triple the donation rate to 1.5% on your first eligible purchase at smile.amazon.com.

amazonsmile

President Trump's FY2019 Budget Impact

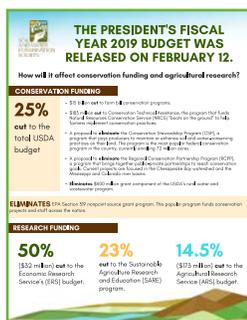
Wondering how President Trump's FY19 budget, released February 12, 2018, will affect conservation and agriculture research funding? Below is a brief breakdown. You can also download the [infographic](#) to share with friends and colleagues.

Conservation Funding

- 25% cut to the total USDA budget, which includes the following:
 - » \$15 billion cut to farm bill conservation programs.
 - » \$183 million cut to Conservation Technical Assistance, the program that funds Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) "boots on the ground" to help farmers implement conservation practices.
 - » A proposal to eliminate the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), a program that pays producers to maintain or enhance soil and water-conserving practices on their land. The program is currently the most popular federal conservation program in the country, currently enrolling 72 million acres.
 - » A proposal to eliminate the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), a program that brings together public-private partnerships to reach conservation goals. Current projects are focused in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and the Mississippi and Colorado river basins.
 - » Eliminates \$500 million grant component of the USDA's rural water and wastewater program.
- Eliminates EPA Section 319 nonpoint source grant program. This popular program funds conservation projects and staff across the nation.

Research Funding

- \$32 million cut (50%) to the Economic Research Service's (ERS) budget.
- Cuts the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program by 23%.
- \$173 million cut (14.5%) to the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) budget.



➤ [Download the infographic.](#)

News from DC

Courtesy of SWCS DC Representative John Peterson

- The US House of Representatives draft of the 2018 farm bill is expected to raise Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to 30 million. The USDA program has nearly 24 million acres enrolled (peak enrollment hit nearly 37 million acres in 2007).
- Sens. Amy Klobuchar (Minnesota) and John Thune (North Dakota) [introduced legislation](#) that would aggregate and anonymize USDA farmer data, making it accessible to land-grant university researchers while maintaining producer privacy.
- The US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) is considering change to a water pollution regulation. The USEPA is asking for comments on its abstract policy on pollution discharges through groundwater. This comes after a court ruled against a Hawaii sewage treatment plant that injects its wastewater into underground wells connected, via groundwater, to the Pacific Ocean.
- US House Reps. Tim Walz (Minnesota) and Michelle Lujan Grisham (New Mexico) separately introduced two bills to streamline conservation programs. Walz's legislation places greater focus on soil health through the Conservation Stewardship Program and Environmental Quality Incentives Program— incentivizing cover crops, rotational grazing, and water quality practices.
- Senate confirmed Bill Northey as the USDA Undersecretary of Farm Production and Conservation, ending a four-month delay. Northey will lead the Farm Service Agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Risk Management Agency.
- A federal judge has [temporarily blocked California's plans](#) to require cancer warnings on products containing the popular weed killer glyphosate, in a win for manufacturer Monsanto Co.
- Communities in the east metro area of Minneapolis, Minnesota, will receive \$850 million from the state's settlement with the 3M Company that they can devote to clean water initiatives. [The lawsuit](#) was in response to groundwater pollution from perfluorinated chemical contamination.
- Longtime critics of farm subsidy programs, Arizona Sen. Jeff Flake and Tennessee Sen. John Duncan, introduced a bill on Wednesday that would prohibit row crop farmers from participating in both the crop insurance and commodity support programs. The proposal would save an estimated \$60 billion over a decade, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

New Members

Welcome members who joined in February!

Alabama

Brandon Maziarz

Arkansas—Razorback

Patrick Dill

California—Humboldt State

University Student Chapter

Chris McCarron

Iowa

Stefan Gailans

Tim Palmer

Indiana—Hoosier

Mustapha Abouali

Adam Alford

Andrew Anderson

Gina Anderson

Andrea Baker

Whitney Baldwin

Blair Beavers

Rita Becker-Forler

Sandy Belth

Kirsten Brichler

Christina Bruce

Emily Bruner

Tony Carroll

Brandy Daggett

Cheryl Deltaven

Morgan Devine

Megan Dillon

Lou Feagans

Darrell French

Christina Gates

Susan Grivas

Jessica Harig

Ryan Hendricks

Emily Jacob

Shane Johnson

Eric Langer

Nathan Lind

Julie Loehr

Greg Marlett

Miranda McGillem

Stephanie McLain

Travis Mead

Stephanie Mitchell

Kathleen Ownbey

Thomas Perkins

Vince Pitstick

Chris Ritz

Lauren Salvato

Victor Shelton

Allison Shoaf

Chris Shoults

Amy Sims

Andrew Smith

Brad Smith

Lesa Smith

Melissa South

Scott Stephenson

Robert Suseland

Lance Tresenriter

Randy Van Matre

Zachary Voyles

Doug Walker

Warren Waymire

Sam Whiteleather

Betsy Wilkinson

Jeff Woodward

Louisiana

Larry Elworth

Michigan

Shelby Burlew

Roger Crowner

New Hampshire/ Vermont

Richard Mellor

Oregon

Oksana Adamtsev

Vivian Benjes

Vivian Benjes

Utah

Christopher Bernau

Corporate Members

Please contact corporate.info@swcs.org for more details.

Gold



Hickenbottom Inc.

Look for the bright orange inlet - Hickenbottom's Trademark®

Silver



Bronze



SAVING THE LAST GREAT PLACES ON EARTH