



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.

76th SWCS International Annual Conference

Virtual Event
July 26–28, 2021
www.swcs.org/21AC

Become a Sponsor by April 2!

Sponsor recognition will be included in the virtual 76th SWCS International Annual Conference preliminary program if sponsorship is secured by April 2!

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

BECOME A SPONSOR!





Submit a Nominee!

Award Nominee Submissions are Open

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 for additional information and to submit your nomination.

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 for additional information and to complete your application.

Chapter Activity Report and Awards Nomination Form

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.

Upcoming Events

[Illinois Chapter Prescribed Fire Demonstration](#)

Hudson, IL
March 17, 2021

[76th SWCS International Annual Conference](#)

Virtual Event
July 26-28, 2021

March/April Issue of the Journal



The latest issue of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* is now available online and will be arriving in mailboxes soon. In this edition, a survey by the American Farmland Trust provides a better understanding of the [role of nonoperator landowners](#) in supporting conservation on their land. Also in the A Section, Audia et al. demonstrate the use of the [Soil Vulnerability Index](#) to

provide a broad, state-wide estimate of priority areas for implementation of conservation practices. While demonstrated in Iowa, this tool could be applied to other states and regions. Research in the issue includes an article from Skaalsveen and Clarke investigating the [impacts of no-tillage](#) on two different soil types in the United Kingdom and work by Campbell et al. to determine how [farmer risk preferences and cost-share payments](#) affect willingness to adopt best management practices, including cover crops and no-tillage. Additionally, Oliver and Strager provide a process for the spatial modeling of the level of participation in the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service [Conservation Technical Assistance program](#) in West Virginia. The authors suggest that this process could have application for other programs seeking to identify underserved communities for improved outreach. View the full issue contents in the [online journal](#).

Membership Survey Coming Your Way

This month, SWCS is conducting a survey to understand the needs of our community and ways we can better serve those involved in soil and water conservation. Your participation is essential to this effort.

The world has changed a lot in the 75 years since our organization formed, even in the last year alone, and so has our profession and those who practice it. In realizing this, SWCS is seeking feedback so we can continue to cultivate an organization of informed, dynamic individuals whose contributions create a bright future for agriculture, the environment, and society in the years to come.

You can participate in our survey [here](#). Surveys will also be emailed out today, March 15. Please take 5 to 7 minutes to help shape the future of SWCS and the conservation profession. Thank you!

Enter Free Conservation Photo Contest

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. Additionally, providing a descriptive caption for your photo, including how it portrays conservation, will help bring the photo to life for our judges. View the photo contest information at www.swcs.org/21PC.



Conservation at the Co-op Update

Did you know that SWCS has two grants to work with agricultural retailers? In partnership with Truterra (formerly Land O'Lakes SUSTAIN) and select agricultural cooperatives, SWCS is conducting two On-Farm Trials in Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska, supported by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and funded through its Conservation Innovation Grant program. Totaling over \$1.8 million in funding and reaching 57 growers across 7,200 acres, these projects aim to increase producer knowledge of conservation practices, accelerate their adoption on the ground, and integrate conservation management programs into co-op services.

With springtime field activity on the horizon, co-op personnel are working with growers to prepare cover crop termination plans, write zone nutrient management prescriptions, and calibrate strip tillage equipment. During a recent virtual meeting, the project team was joined by cover crop expert and SWCS member Rob Myers of the University of Missouri. Rob reminded the retailers that one of the most fail-proof approaches for cover crop success in the Midwest is using cereal rye ahead of soybeans. In this scenario, one of the benefits of the cover crop is suppressing herbicide-resistant weeds like palmer amaranth and mare's tail.

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 like to share your knowledge with our project team? Contact Joe Otto, project manager, at joe.otto@swcs.org to discuss and learn more.

It's a "Waterful" Life: Tell Us About Your Favorite Water System

March is a month filled with water advocacy, including International Day of Action for Rivers (March 14), World Water Day (March 22), and National Groundwater Awareness Week (March 7-13). Our amazing student representative to the Science and Policy Committee, Lauren Haygood, has put together a unique project to highlight the importance of this invaluable resource. Lauren will be making an ArcGIS StoryMap—a medium for visual storytelling—to highlight YOUR favorite water system. **Please help Lauren out by filling out this short survey by March 26:** <https://forms.gle/aXWnh71xXCywiwjSA>. We look forward to sharing the completed StoryMap with all of you!

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.

- [USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) (NRCS) seeks public comment on revised conservation standards
- US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) investigates toxic "forever chemicals" in [pesticides](#)
- Thousands of women join [Indian protests](#) against new laws
- Vilsack: Work on [climate-smart agriculture](#) should begin before next farm bill
- Big step forward for \$50 billion dollar plan to save [Louisiana's](#) Coast
- USDA debt relief for [minority farmers](#) is a certainty
- When Big Tech meets farm country: Rep. Ro Khanna is trying to bring the software revolution to [rural America](#)
- Missouri, Kansas attorneys general sue Biden Administration to stop [greenhouse gas](#) regulations
- [European Union](#) says it agrees post-Brexit WTO quotas with United States
- Alternative meats bringing uncertain future for [cattle farmers](#)
- [Montana](#) conservation group tries to keep Castle Mountains pristine
- A resolution to stop [South Dakota agriculture](#), environment department merger fell one vote short
- [Vilsack](#) confirmed for 2nd stint as US agriculture secretary
- [USEPA](#) says it now agrees with 10th Circuit waiver ruling

- A climate for a [carbon bank](#): Examining climate change, lawmakers look at risks of USDA creating a carbon bank
- McDonald's launches beef [cattle grazing](#) project
- [Texas agriculture](#) businesses survey storm damage, work to recover
- "Do better this time": Black farmers unconvinced by [Vilsack vow](#)
- Judge rejects Biden request for delay in Trump [environmental](#) rollback case
- Burning California to save it: Why one solution to raging [wildfires](#) can't gain traction
- Scientists don't know why one-third of [US rivers](#) have turned yellow or green
- Florida and Georgia face off again in long-running fight over [water rights](#)

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 February



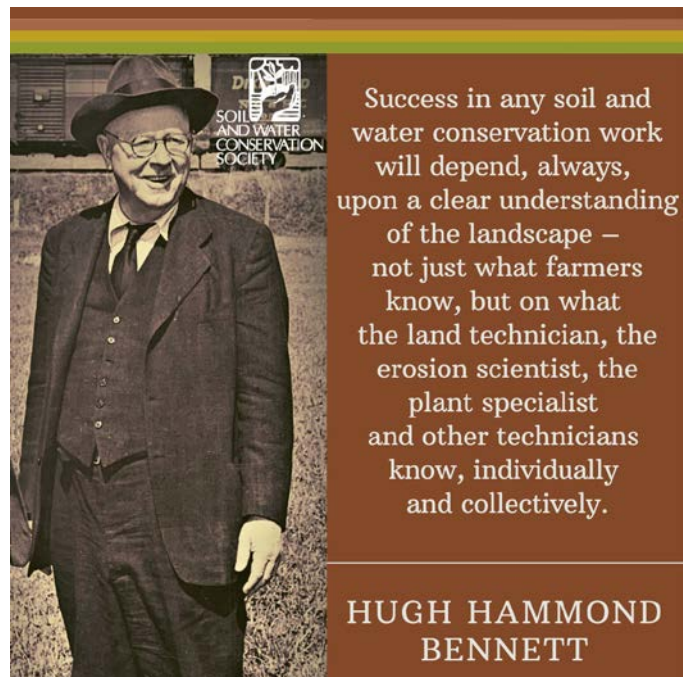
Are you up-to-date with news about soil and water conservation research and policy? *Conservation NewsBriefs* is a highly informative e-news brief that delivers the most relevant content to your inbox each and every Thursday. Below are links to some of the most read articles from the past month:

- [New evidence shows fertile soil gone from Midwestern farms](#) (NPR)
- [The 20 best places to tackle US farm nitrogen pollution](#) (University of Vermont via ScienceDaily)
- [Agriculture, policy and conservation leaders collaborate on a path to accelerate the use of edge of field practices on US farmlands](#) (The Nature Conservancy)
- [Two Biden priorities, climate and inequality, meet on Black-owned farms](#) (The New York Times)

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

Follow Us on Social Media

SWCS is on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#)! Follow us for Society updates and inspiring quotes, and to connect with other conservationists.



New Members

Welcome members who joined in February

International

Kamilla Skaalsveen
Marlene Vissac

Canada—Ontario

Peter Johnson

Connecticut/Massachusetts/Rhode Island—

Southern New England Chapter

Michelle Cozine
Emad Mady
Lawrence Rusiecki

Iowa—Iowa State University Student Chapter

Khadija Mbacke
Austin Ober

Illinois

Jody Bickel

Kansas

Cammie Vaupel

Louisiana

Josh Soileau

Michigan

Gary Boersen

Minnesota

David Nelson

North Carolina—Hugh Hammond Bennett Chapter

Brandy Oldham
Joshua Vetter

Oregon

Amy Garrett

Pennsylvania—Keystone

Jared Schwab

South Dakota

Elise Reid
Thomas Tran

Wisconsin

Jose Franco

Corporate Partners

Please contact memberservices@swcs.org or visit swcs.org/corporatepartner for more details.

Platinum



Gold



Silver



Bronze

