

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

Registration is Now Open for the 76th SWCS International Annual Conference



SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY

**One World,
Connected through
CONSERVATION**

2021 July 26-28 | Virtual Event
www.swcs.org/21AC

[View message from SWCS CEO Clare Lindahl](#)

Join us virtually for the [76th SWCS International Annual Conference](#), July 26-28, 2021. The event will provide the opportunity for attendees around the world to share their conservation stories and bring natural resource management solutions from far and wide into their homes and offices. The virtual event format allows access and inclusivity on a broad scale, and our interactive conference platform provides a robust conference experience with live sessions, Q&A, networking, a virtual exhibit hall, and many other ways to learn, connect, and engage.

For complete conference details, visit www.swcs.org/21AC. **Registration will close Friday, July 16.** In order to prepare speakers and attendees for the best event possible, no registrations will be accepted after the July 16 deadline.

[Register Here](#)

Don't Miss Out: 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.



Last Opportunity to Submit Your Conservation Photos

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.



Welcome SWCS Intern, Jordyn Rodriguez!



In April, Jordyn Rodriguez joined the SWCS staff virtually as the Student Leader Project Intern. Her focus during the internship will be developing a student session and assisting in the operations and logistics of the 76th SWCS International Annual Conference, as well as assisting the Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees (ARCSE), the intern sponsor, on website and communication development.

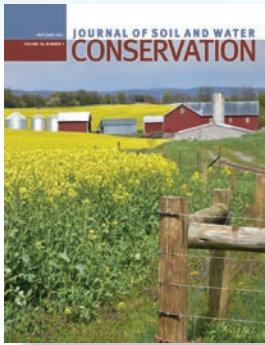
Jordyn received her bachelor's degree in Agricultural Leadership at Oklahoma State University. She currently attends the University of Mississippi as a graduate student within the Integrated Marketing Communications master's program. Following her graduation in spring of 2022, Jordyn aspires to work as a communications coordinator for an agricultural corporation. Welcome, Jordyn—we are so excited to have you!

Last Day to Order SWCS Swag

Today, May 14, is the final day to [order SWCS swag](#). Along with the classics, we're also selling a limited-edition conference-themed shirt, "One World, Connected through Conservation." Even though we won't be together in person during this year's event, we can still feel connected through our mutual passion for conservation. With a variety of designs, colors, and sizes to choose from, you're sure to find swag to fit your style. Order today!



May/June Journal Highlights



The latest issue of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* is now available online and will be delivered in print soon! In this issue, a feature article by [Rejesus et al.](#) reviews the economic benefits and costs of soil health practices in the United States, and specifically in the Northeast region. Authors also make recommendations for future research directions to better understand the relationships

between soil health practices and economic outcomes. Also in the A Section, a viewpoint article by [Lal](#) describes the potential for achieving negative emission farming.

Research articles in this issue include a study by [Franzluebbers et al.](#) to determine the soil impacts of a multispecies cover crop in North Carolina, work by [Williams and Wuest](#) to evaluate performance of winter wheat under different tillage systems in the Inland Pacific Northwest, and an effort by [Liu et al.](#) to explore effects of tillage and straw mulching on soil water and temperature in a maize system in the black soil region of China. Additionally, an article by [Sawadgo et al.](#) examines factors influencing adoption of no-till, cover crops, buffer strips, and ponds/sediment basins from a survey of Iowa landowners and makes recommendations for policies to increase practice adoption. Find the full table of contents of the May/June issue in the [online journal](#).

SWCS Comments on Behalf of Conservation Professionals on Climate-Smart Agriculture Executive Order

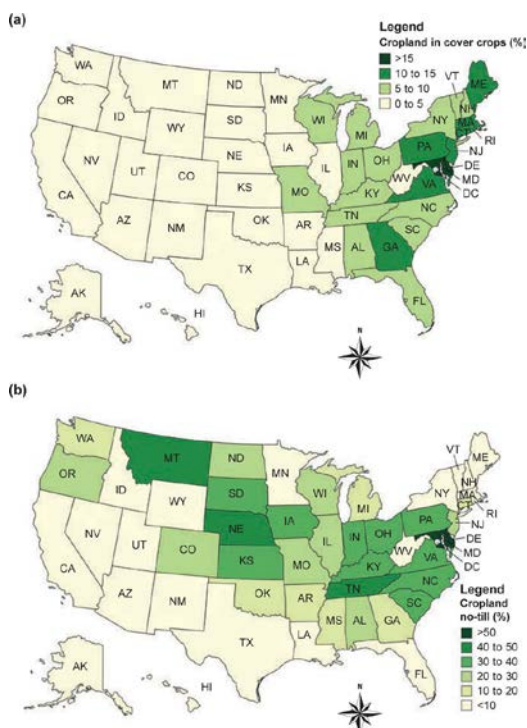
SWCS submitted comments to the USDA in April on the Executive Order focused on “Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad.” As the professional society for conservation professionals, SWCS’s comments focused on the important role of *people* in scaling up conservation solutions. SWCS called for the increased valuation of conservation professionals, both practitioners and researchers, and for additional resources and training to elevate and inspire their work. Excerpts of SWCS’s comments can be found below:

“An increase in climate-smart agriculture adoption is only possible with a parallel increase in conservation technical assistance.”

There are two primary avenues to increase farmer-access to technical assistance at the USDA:

Climate-smart farming is highly technical and localized, and farmers, ranchers, and landowners need the expert help of conservation professionals to establish these conservation practices, and to continuously manage them successfully.

1. Hiring additional Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservation professionals (Soil Conservationist, Soil Conservationist Tech, etc.) who work directly with farmers.
2. Allow employees already employed by NRCS who work in field offices and have conservation farming expertise to spend the majority of their time working directly with farmers, rather than administrative paperwork. SWCS receives consistent feedback from conservation professionals that the best part of their job is working one-on-one with farmers; allowing them the time to build trust with farmers and get out of the office will also radically improve morale.



(a) Cover crop acres and (b) no-till acres as a percentage of state total crop acres in the United States based on the 2017 US Census of Agriculture. Source: [Rejesus et al.](#)

Upcoming Events

[Southern New England Chapter Summer Meeting](#)

Virtual Event
June 18, 2021

[Nebraska Chapter Annual Meeting](#)

Ogallala, Nebraska
June 24-26, 2021

[76th SWCS International Annual Conference](#)

Virtual Event
July 26-28, 2021

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.

- Vilsack confirms that [USDA](#) research arms will not return to Washington, DC
- Robert Bonnie nominated to oversee USDA [farm programs](#)
- From Dust Bowl to California [drought](#): A climate scientist on the lessons we still haven't learned
- Biden isn't banning [meat](#), USDA chief says
- Senate overwhelmingly approves \$35 billion bipartisan [water infrastructure](#) bill
- Newsome extends [drought](#) emergency to 41 California counties
- "Everyone Loses": The government is rationing water at the [California-Oregon](#) boarder
- Trump weakened an iconic law that protects [birds](#). Biden just moved to restore it.
- American Farm Bureau launches online directory to help producers with [mental health](#)
- New funding to curb [wildfires](#) pushed in Congress, as another fire season looms
- As extreme weather batters America's farm country, costing billions, banks ignore the financial risks of [climate change](#)
- Carbon markets stand to reward "[no-till](#)" farmers, but most are still tilling the soil
- [Snake River](#) is the most endangered in the country: Inside the fight to save it
- [Florida](#) legislature unanimously votes to protect wildlife corridor
- COVID and "peak cow" created a boom for food and [agriculture tech](#) in 2020
- White farmers sue seeking government [loan forgiveness](#)
- Amid COVID chaos and protests, [India's farmers](#) eye record wheat crop

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 April

CONSERVATION NEWSBRIEFS

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:

- [Climate-friendly farming strategies can improve the land and generate income for farmers](#) (The Conversation)
- [Water scarcity footprint reveals impacts of individual dietary choices in US](#) (University of Michigan via ScienceDaily)
- [Climate bill would expand USDA stewardship programs](#) (Successful Farming)
- [Cover crop coach: Soil health must be made](#) (Morning Ag Clips)

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



New Members

Welcome members who joined in April

International

Kaveh Ostad-Ali-Askari
Yongsheng Wang

Arkansas—Razorback

Nicole Matthews

Arizona

Michael Johnson

Canada—Alberta

Kris Nichols

Connecticut/Massachusetts/Rhode Island—

Southern New England Chapter

Alex Healy
Jessica Townsend

Iowa

Alaina Allen
Ruth McCabe
Taylor O'Bryan

Iowa—Iowa State University Student Chapter

Jace Wiemers

Illinois

Max Webster

Michigan

Adam Bosch

Montana

Tina Cummins
Madi Weber

New Hampshire/Vermont

Amelia Fitch

Ohio—All Ohio

Bre Hohman

Oregon

Zaigham Abbas

Corporate Partners

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

Platinum



Gold



Silver



Bronze

