



COLORADO SWCS

CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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The 2013 SWCS International Conference will be in Reno, Nevada this year from July 21-24. The theme is Resilient Landscapes and will focus on planning for flood, drought, and fire. As drought tightens its grip on much of our state, this year's conference is a call to action for conservationists everywhere. Please let the chapter know if you are interested in attending. Registration details can be found at:

http://www.swcs.org/en/conferences/2013_annual_conference/. It should be noted that early registration offers some savings and ends June 11.

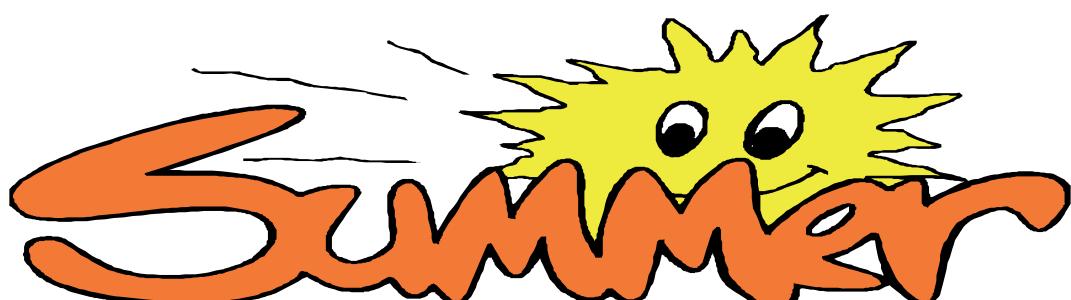
There will be other opportunities for SWCS members to take advantage of trainings and tours. Details will be forthcoming for a seasonal high tunnel July tour in Pueblo. And the San Luis Valley will host another cover crop tour during the first week of August.

I'd also like to mention that the chapter is still looking for a science fair coordinator. If you are interested please contact Barbara Gohlke in the Colorado Springs NRCS field office.

While summer is usually an intense time professionally for those who work with the land, I hope you are able to take time to also enjoy family, friends, food, and the phenomenal natural beauty that Colorado still has to offer.

Cathy Dix
Colorado Chapter President

SHERRI BRANDT—
NEWSLETTER EDITOR



WY Hosts NP Regional Meeting

By: Andy Laca, CO SWCS West Slope Director

The Northern Plains Regional Conference was held in Casper, Wyoming and was also available via Video Teleconference in Casper, WY, Alamosa Colorado, Dickinson, North Dakota, with several VTC's in Montana, South Dakota and Nebraska as well as live streamed on ustream.tv. The conference opened with an introduction by Cory Cole. Mike Collins and Joel Moffett then demonstrated a no till vs. tilled soil slake test, followed by "Discover The Cover" video featuring Ray Archuleta and Jon Stika.

Our First presentation of the day was "Soil Health- What Do You See?" with Joel Moffett, Soil Conservationist in Springfield, Colorado . Joel discussed soil health and ecological processes that drive soil/plant communities (water cycle, nutrient cycle, energy flow and plant relationships), changing the thought process from a mechanical approach to an ecological approach regarding agricultural management.

The next presentation was on Soil Biology by Kristine Nichols, Research Biologist for ARS in Mandan, ND. She covered Inputs and Outputs for an efficient soil system, and the soil food web. She also talked about how soil management affects soil microorganisms, that small management changes may produce larger effects to the soil system. She went on to show studies showing the loss of soil carbon due to conventional tillage and how stubble heights affected yields.

Our next topic was Crop Diversity and Soil Health, presented by Jon Stika, NRCS Area Agronomist in Dickinson, ND. The objective for this presentation was to discuss how we need to change the way we manage soil health by feeding the underground herd and mimicking nature. This is done not by making the tools(cover crop, no-till, etc.) a management goal, but use the tools to get to a management goal.

Storm Casper started our afternoon session by demonstrating the SmartMix Cover Crop Calculator created by Green Cover Crop. This inline tool allows someone to create a cover crop mix, and get a cost figure. It also gives the person a rating for C:N ratio, Nitrogen Fixation, Drought and Frost Tolerance, Winter Hardiness, plant diversity, and salinity.

Brendon Rockey from Rockey Farms in Center, Colorado was our next speaker with "The Big Picture in Soil Health". Brendon discussed the changes that he has made in his management decisions focusing on "the big picture" of soil communities, and how to take into the account all the components of soil health, and not "chasing your tail" by solving the problems using methods that may create new problems.

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Some on hands on soil slake/infiltrations tests where then demonstrated by the WY-SWCS members, as you can see by the below photo the VTC was in use.



Many lessons were learned this day as the two technologies were merged, VTC and Ustreamtv. We did learn that the ustreamtv drops its resolution from HD to a much lower resolution which makes it hard to see especially during the worksheet presentation with Storm. All presentations is located on www.ustream.tv.com and search for "soil health".

From Anita Nein, NP Regional Director

Soil Health has been a big priority with the SWCS Board of Directors and this workshop couldn't have "hit the nail on the head" any better. This one came together so well because each of you in your own chapters and at your own technical workshops have done outstanding work at seeking out and hearing great soil quality sessions. I feel very fortunate to have heard them and it's the only way I could have had the understanding to capture the work of these speakers.



2013 SWCS Northern Plains Meeting attendees.

Time Management

Submitted By Joel Moffet

I don't have time!!! This is a common expression, which we all have ranted at one time or another. There is THIS or THAT deadline and THIS or THAT report which has to be somewhere all the time. How do they (the proverbial THEY) expect us to get all this accomplished? We all have more to do and it seems we are expected to do more with less constantly. When I was a kid my Dad would always say to me "everyone makes time for those things which are important to us". We all have seen people who seem to get more done than is humanly possible. How do they do it? Are they super humans? Do they have more time in a day than anyone else? How do they juggle all their responsibilities and their sanity at the same time? Take a look at AgLearn class "100 Great Time Management Ideas", this class went through 100 different ways to make your time more productive. Techniques which can be applied not only to our professional lives but also our personal lives, methods we can use to help us be more valuable and our time better utilized. These are not some mystical or magical solutions they are just some procedures which if utilized can help us get through the distractions and successfully meet our deadlines.

The main thing is to recognize and prioritize items, keeping the main thing the main thing. Prioritizing and ordering tasks as to their importance is forever important. Stop procrastinating with jobs that are less desirable will help all of us to become more productive and have a more sense of accomplishment.

I believe all of us at one time or another have asked ourselves at the end of a day "what did I accomplish?" I had an old supervisor which would ask us "are you making me any money?" He would ask us this when he walked in on a discussion we employees were having about something or another. Many times we were talking about non-work issues and then other times we were assisting one another in clarifying our assigned tasks. His main point was, are we wasting time or being productive? Many times, time wasting activities need to be identified and dealt with in order to be more productive and properly use our allotted time. Everyone needs to ask the question "what activities am I involved in that are not assisting me in achieving my desired goals?" These may include; extended conversations on the phone that are for a large part unnecessary and/or reading emails that do not pertain to you or to what you need to accomplish. Avoid confusion and clutter whether this is on your desk or in your mind. Many people get lost on their own desks. Make lists and then check off accomplishments. Stay on task and avoid unnecessary interruptions.

Some of the techniques discussed in the AgLearn will be better suited for some people more than others. I would recommend going through the course, 100 Great Time Management Ideas. All the techniques are worth looking at and thinking about in our pursuit of being more productive in this ever increasingly paced world in which we live.

68th SWCS International Conference

The 68th International SWCS Annual Conference will be held in Reno, Nevada, July 21-24, 2013 at the Peppermill Resort Spa and Casino. The theme this year is "Resilient Landscapes: Planning for Flood, Drought and Fire".

The conference will include workshops, concurrent sessions, symposia, posters, plenary sessions and technical tours designed to raise the awareness of conference participants to recent developments in the science and art of natural resources conservation and environmental management on working land.

The primary focus of training and presentations is on the science and art of natural resource conservation and environmental management in agro ecosystems. We also welcome and encourage reports of knowledge gained from management of parks, wildlife refuges and other land uses that contribute to necessary ecosystems.

Highlighted meetings of the Conference will include a SWCS Board of Directors Meeting, Society meetings, House of Delegates, Leadership Training & Workshops, and Fellows Forum. Other highlights include the Pritchard Lecture, Symposia and Educational Presentations, Outdoor Classroom Educational Tours, and Poster Presentations.

The Pritchard Lecturer will be Gene Kelly, Ph.D. Dr. Kelly is a professor of pedology and has supervised several large, interdisciplinary research projects examining ecological interplay. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Colorado State University and earned his Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley. He has been a faculty member of CSU Department of Soil and Crop Sciences for 25 years and was named Department Head in 2011. Kelly's research program is directed toward studying the origin and evolution of soils and quantifying the biologically mediated processes of soil formation in many environments around the world. He has conducted research on the South African savannah. He has also worked for 8 years on CSU's Shortgrass Steppe Long Term Ecological Research Program on Colorado's northeastern plains. He has been an advisor to the USDA with National Cooperative Soil Survey. He has served as President of the Soil Science Society of America and was elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2010.

Continuing Education Credits in soil and water will be available again this year. Attendees wishing to receive CEU's need to designate the certification program for which they are seeking CEU's when they register for the conference. The last day to register for the conference to get the early rate is June 11, 2013.

For more information, a detailed schedule and to register for the 68th International SWCS Annual Conference, please visit www.swcs.org/13ac.

Volunteers Needed

The Colorado Chapter of SWCS is looking for two enthusiastic members to fill vacancies for the Science Fair Committee Chair and serve as Co-Chair of the Membership Committee.

The Membership Co-Chair will work closely with Kristi Gay, our current chair to promote membership within the chapter.

The Science Fair Chair is responsible for getting in contact with the Colorado Regional Science Fair Directors for dates; lining up judges to judge the natural resource related projects at the fairs and distributing awards and ribbons to the judges for use at the fairs.

For more information on either of these positions with CO SWCS please contact Barb Gohlke at 719-632-9598 ext 107 or Barbara.gohlke@co.usda.gov.

WANTED: West Slope Director

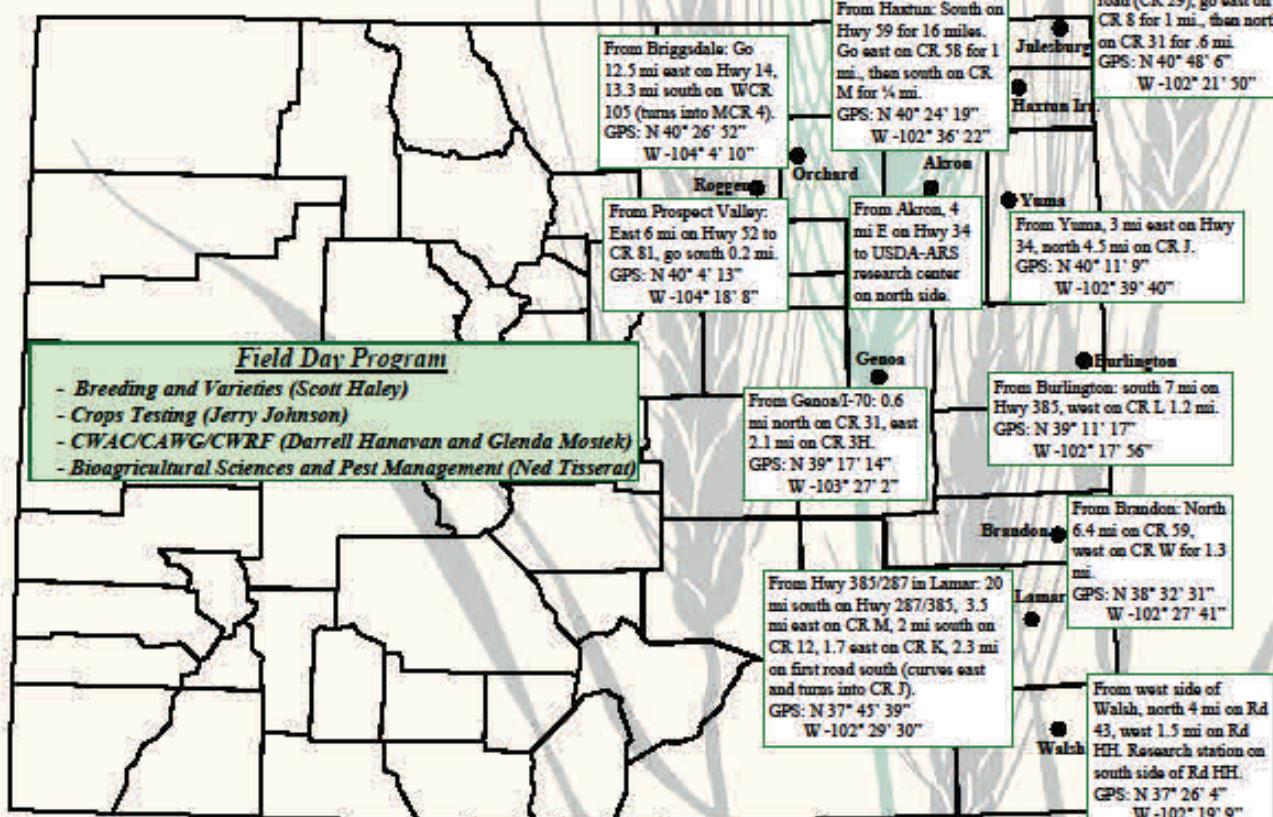
By: Andy Laca, CO SWCS West Slope Director

Greetings Colorado SWCS'ers! In April, I accepted the District Conservationist position in Winnemucca, Nevada. I am excited to start a new chapter with new challenges, but unfortunately I will no longer be able to serve as the West Slope Director for the Colorado Chapter. Even though my time was short, I enjoyed being able to help spread the word on soil and water conservation with the local field tours and Northern Plains SWCS regional meeting. Now it is time to find someone to "step up" and use their talent and skills help lead the Colorado Chapter in their future activities. Soil and water conservation has become increasingly more important with the drought conditions that are creating dust bowl-like wind erosion due to decreased ground cover, crop production, and decreased range forage. Education is the key to combat these conditions, and the workshops and guest speakers SWCS has helped bring in to our state has brought in fresh concepts that are being adapted. As I pack up and head towards the sunset, I would like to thank you for allowing me to serve and wish everyone the best.



Colorado Wheat Field Days 2013

<i>Walsh</i>	<i>June 10 (Mon)</i>	<i>8:00 a.m. at Plainsman Research Center, Baca County</i>
<i>Lamar</i>	<i>June 10 (Mon)</i>	<i>12:00 p.m. at John and Jensen Stulp Farm, Prowers County</i>
<i>Brandon</i>	<i>June 10 (Mon)</i>	<i>5:00 p.m. at Burl Scherler Farm, Kiowa County</i>
<i>Burlington</i>	<i>June 11 (Tues)</i>	<i>8:00 a.m. at Randy Wilks Farm, Kit Carson County</i>
<i>Genoa</i>	<i>June 11 (Tues)</i>	<i>4:00 p.m. at Ross Hansen Farm, Lincoln County</i>
<i>Akron</i>	<i>June 12 (Wed)</i>	<i>7:30 a.m. at Akron USDA-ARS Research Station, Washington County</i>
<i>Yuma</i>	<i>June 12 (Wed)</i>	<i>5:00 p.m. at Andrews Brothers Farm, Yuma County</i>
<i>Julesburg</i>	<i>June 13 (Thurs)</i>	<i>8:30 a.m. at Jim and David Carlson Farm, Sedgewick County</i>
<i>Haxtun (Irrigated)</i>	<i>June 13 (Thurs)</i>	<i>12:00 p.m. at Steve Boerner Farm, Phillips County</i>
<i>Orchard</i>	<i>June 17 (Mon)</i>	<i>11:00 a.m. at Cary Wickstrom Farm, Morgan County</i>
<i>Roggen</i>	<i>June 17 (Mon)</i>	<i>5:00 p.m. at Cooksey Farms, Weld County</i>



Agricultural
Experiment
Station

Crops
Testing

Colorado
State
University
Extension

Dept. of Soil &
Crop Sciences

BIOAGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
AND PEST MANAGEMENT

Fall Elections

It's not too soon to be thinking of fall elections. Positions to be filled for 2014 include President Elect, Director at Large and Secretary/Treasurer. Nominations are due no later than September 15, 2012. There are also positions available on committees, including the membership and awards committees. Director and Secretary/Treasurer serve 2 year terms, and President Elect serves a total of 3 years. If you are interested in helping out, please let a current board member know.

Chapter Offers Financial Assistance

The Colorado Chapter of SWCS is willing to offer financial assistance to chapter members who would like to attend the International SWCS Annual Conference in Reno, Nevada July 21-24, 2013. The Colorado Chapter is accepting proposals for financial assistance until July 1, 2013. Please submit your proposal to President, Cathy Dix at catherine.dix@co.usda.gov or Secretary/Treasurer, Barbara Gohlke at barbara.gohlke@co.usda.gov.



EVENTS TO WATCH FOR



☺ 68TH SWCS INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE
WWW.SWCS.ORG/13AC
RENO, NV JULY 21-24, 2013

☺ SEASONAL HIGH TUNNEL TOUR
PUEBLO, CO JULY 2013

☺ COVER CROP TOUR
SAN LUIS VALLEY, CO AUGUST 2013



2013 COLORADO CHAPTER LEADERS

OFFICERS

Catherine Dix, President

101 South Craft Dr., Suite B
Alamosa, CO 81101
719-589-3486 ext 136

Catherine.dix@co.usda.gov

Kyle Franz, President-Elect

138 South 14th Street
Burlington, CO 80807
719-346-7699 ext 106

Kyle.franz@co.usda.gov

Michael "Storm" Casper, Past President

PO BOX 398, 27200 HWY 287
Springfield, CO 81073
719-523-6251 ext 118

Michael.casper@co.usda.gov

Greg Langer, East Slope Director

5610 Industrial Pl., Suite 100
Colorado Springs, CO 80916
719-632-9598 ext 106

Greg.langer@co.usda.gov

Daniel Palic, Director-at-Large

210 Elm Street
Julesburg, CO 80737
970-474-2518 ext 109

Daniel.palic@co.usda.gov

Andrew Laca, West Slope Director

101 South Craft Dr.
Alamosa, CO 81101
719-589-6435 ext 114

Andrew.laca@co.usda.gov

Barbara Gohlke, Secretary-Treasurer

5610 Industrial Pl., Suite 100
Colorado Springs, CO 80916
719-632-9598 ext 107

Barbara.gohlke@co.usda.gov

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Beth Fortman, Awards

719-543-8386 ext 3
Elizabeth.fortman@co.usda.gov

Kristi Gay, Webmaster/Membership

719-767-5648 ext 101
Kristi.gay@co.usda.gov

Vacant, Science Fair***Barbara Gohlke, Financial***

970-474-2518 ext 112
Sherri.brandt@co.usda.gov

719-632-9598 ext 107

Barbara.gohlke@co.usda.gov

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Colorado Chapter of SWCS is to promote the wise use of soil, water and related resources through scientific, educational and service oriented functions. The members promote a stewardship ethic that recognizes the interdependence of people and natural resources.