

CONSERVOGRAM

The newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

In This Issue

75th SWCS International Annual Conference	1
Leadership of Midwestern Watersheds Meeting Recap	2
Special Issue of the Journal	3
Donate to Help SWCS "Grow Conservation"	3
Combined Federal Campaign	4
Science and Policy News	4
Conservation NewsBriefs: Popular Articles from October	4
New Members	5
Corporate Partners	5

75th SWCS International Annual Conference

Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center
Des Moines, Iowa
July 26-29, 2020
www.swcs.org/20AC

2020 Conference Theme Announced!

This year's conference theme, "Expanding Horizons: Where Conservation Meets Innovation," evokes images of the expansive views of the region and the deep and varied soil horizons that make Iowa's farmland some of the most productive in the world. This year's theme also speaks to the broadening of individual perceptions and experiences as attendees discover new concepts, partners, and advancements in soil and water research.

The conference will feature the latest ideas, technologies, and practices, and foster a dialogue around their adoption. Through workshops, sessions, symposia, tours, exhibits, and demonstrations, cutting-edge research and practice developments in soil health, water quality, and resource management will be shared. Scientists and practitioners will present their work at the field, farm, and watershed scales across an array of private and public arenas. Researchers and conservationists will team up with farmers to share lessons learned and the environmental outcomes of on-farm trials, monitoring, and state-of-the-art precision agricultural tools. Applications of social theories and examples of successful outreach and education will enable attendees to identify ways to scale up grassroots efforts. Participants will also hear about policy and economic developments that build a framework to increase conservation adoption and support future generations.



EXPANDING HORIZONS

WHERE CONSERVATION MEETS INNOVATION



SWCS 75TH INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE
JULY 26-29, 2020 | DES MOINES, IOWA

945 SW Ankeny Road, Ankeny, IA 50023

P: 515-289-2331 | F: 515-289-1227 | pubs@swcs.org

Join Give Journal



Central Iowa is where the Soil and Water Conservation Society's story began and where the Society is still headquartered today. Attendees will have an opportunity to view artifacts, never before displayed, from the founder of the Society, Hugh Hammond Bennett. Attendees will also have the opportunity to reflect on the ideas of the founding members of the conservation movement as we usher in a new era of research, practice, and people.

The Soil and Water Conservation Society's 75th International Annual Conference will assemble a diverse, multigenerational conservation community of researchers, practitioners, industry leaders, farmers, and students from around the world. Join us in Iowa as we recognize lessons from the past, expand our professional and personal horizons, and shape the future of conservation.

Call for Presentations Now Open

The Soil and Water Conservation Society Call for Presentations is now open, and abstracts are being accepted for oral presentations, poster presentations, symposia, and workshops.

The Annual Conference Program Planning Committee has identified four special topic areas based on this year's conference location. These specialty tracks are open for submission as well as the general conference track. Special consideration will be given to presentations that cater to the conference theme.

- Applied Data in Agriculture
- Back to the Future
- Edge-of-Field Practices and Monitoring
- The Producer and the Plot
- 2020 General Conference Theme Submissions – Expanding Horizons: Where Conservation Meets Innovation

Detailed information regarding the Call for Presentations can be found at www.swcs.org/20AC.

Leadership of Midwestern Watersheds Meeting Recap

The Soil and Water Conservation Society was glad to become the newest partner of the Leadership of Midwestern Watersheds (LMW), a popular forum for professionals who deliver projects that reduce agricultural runoff in watersheds of the Upper Mississippi River Basin. SWCS joined the planning committee to develop content for their annual meeting held November 6 and 7 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, with existing partners Sand County Foundation, American Farmland Trust, North Central Region Water Network, and Iowa Soybean Association, with financial support from the McKnight Foundation. SWCS also organized meeting logistics as part of their new conservation [professional services](#) offering.

The LMW 10th annual meeting was focused on "Conservation and Farm Profitability for Watershed Health." The meeting featured presentations and facilitated discussions on subjects essential to successful watershed projects including understanding the farm economy, how farmers evaluate risk, the economics behind conservation practices, and how conservation can benefit from partnerships with agricultural lenders and retailers. Over the two-day meeting, 80 attendees from Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and beyond participated in these important discussions.



Attendees of the LMW 10th annual meeting, "Conservation and Farm Profitability for Watershed Health."



SWCS is on Instagram!

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



@SWCSnews

Special Issue of the Journal

The November/December issue of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*, [“Nutrient Management Databases and Networks for Conservation,”](#) is a special collection of USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) papers reporting on recent studies related to nutrient management. These findings are examples of the diverse research data that can be added to growing networks



and databases, such as the Agricultural Collaborative Research Outcomes System (AgCROS) and the Nutrient Uptake and Outcome Network (NUOnet), which have the potential, together with other advancements in precision agriculture, to revolutionize management systems and provide a path forward for conservation.

For an overview of the issue contents and a discussion of the opportunities for integrating big data with other emerging conservation technologies, be sure to read the [issue introduction](#) by Delgado et al. Other issue highlights include the following:

[Using the Conservation Practice Effectiveness \(CoPE\) Database to assess adoption tradeoffs](#)

Smith et al. report on the CoPE Database, which was created from a literature survey in order to assist conservation planners in identifying effective water quality protection practices and managing multiple (and sometimes conflicting) resource concerns and consequences. In addition, the database can provide data to natural resource modelers for soft calibration. The data included encompass both those related to widely accepted practices, such as cover crops and riparian buffers, and those for novel practices, such as bioreactors and drainage water management.

[Integrated data across multiple and diverse disciplines are essential for developing a sustainable food system](#)

In their research editorial, John Finley, the USDA ARS national program leader for human nutrition, and Naomi Fukagawa, director of the USDA ARS Human Nutrition Research Center, provide an interdisciplinary perspective on the joint challenges of supplying a growing population with nutritious food and clean water, protecting natural resources, and adapting to a variable climate. The authors argue that identifying solutions for the future will require a systems-style approach, where research teams link data across all disciplines for integrated analysis and interpretation. Barriers to achieving this integrated approach, as well as opportunities, are discussed.

[Increasing infiltration into saturated riparian buffers by adding additional distribution pipes](#)

Saturated riparian buffers are an edge-of-field conservation practice that can reduce nitrate delivery from row crop artificial subsurface drainage water to surface waters. However, a buffer usually cannot infiltrate all of the water discharged from a tile drainage outlet. Jaynes and Isenhart’s study models how the placement and number of distribution pipes affect the amount of water that is infiltrated into the buffer for denitrification. They conclude that moving the distribution pipe farther from the field edge (closer to the stream) or adding a second distribution pipe may increase infiltration. The authors note, however, that these modifications also reduce the distance water travels through the buffer and may reduce nitrate removal.

Donate to Help SWCS “Grow Conservation”

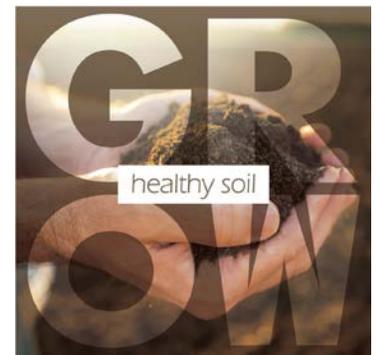
Here at the Soil and Water Conservation Society, we work tirelessly throughout the year to cultivate an organization of informed, dynamic individuals whose contributions create a bright future for agriculture, the environment, and society. Through publications, conferences, trainings, and leadership opportunities, we inspire and empower conservation professionals to succeed.



Our members allow us to do this important work through donations. Visit swcs.org to view our most recent annual report and learn more about our past year of growth.

We need your continued support to promote and grow a greater understanding of our soil, water, and other natural resources through our journal, reports, conferences, advocacy, communications, and on-the-ground projects.

At SWCS, we know our efforts are integral to soil and water conservation and all life on Earth. We believe that we—together with people like you, who dedicate time and energy to protecting our natural resources—can keep conservation growing. And when we grow, so do you!



Donations can be made online at swcs.org/give, by phone at 1-800-THE SOIL (1-800-843-7645), or checks can be sent to 945 SW Ankeny Rd., Ankeny, IA, 50023.

We look forward to growing with you.

Combined Federal Campaign

For over 70 years, SWCS has been working to educate land managers and promote natural resources conservation practices. These efforts are made possible through contributions from supporters like you. Payroll deductions are an easy way to have a valuable impact on the Society's work. Please show some love for the land



during this campaign by supporting the Soil and Water Conservation Society. **The Charity Code for the Society is 11797.** Thank you for supporting the future of soil and water conservation!

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.

- Trump begins year-long process to formally exit Paris [climate](#) agreements
- More than a third of US [farm income](#) in 2019 will come from the government
- Grassley bill aims to curb [suicides](#) among farmers
- Water war shifts to southeast [Georgia](#) as Florida takes aim at farmers
- The Money Farmers: How oligarchs and populists milk the [European Union](#) for millions
- For many US farmers who planted [hemp](#), CBD boom leaves bitter taste
- [China's](#) pigs to take half a decade to recover from killer virus
- Brazilian ranchers are responsible for an estimated 80% of deforestation in the [Amazon](#)
- [Rice](#) paddies rise in the Hudson Valley
- Feds: [Grouse](#) recovery could cost \$560 million, take 50 years to complete
- US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) shrinks [pesticide](#) application exclusion zone, weakening farmworker protections
- [China](#), United States say good progress made on phase-one deal to end trade war
- Potential e-verify deal would give legal status to [farmworkers](#)
- "Land will be abandoned": UK's farmers feel squeeze as [Brexit](#) looms
- We're very close to disrupting the [cow](#)
- Ag [inspector](#) bill passes Senate

- USDA releases interim final rule providing clarity on [hemp](#) production
- Rabo AgriFinance offering industry's first [organic](#) transition loan
- USDA, National Sorghum Producers to quantify [sorghum](#) sustainability for ethanol production
- [Precision Ag Reviews](#) launches web resource for farmers
- Opinion: USDA [Farm Service Agency](#) staff needs to be beefed up
- USDA seeks public comments on conservation [practice standard](#) updates
- Leaked [USEPA](#) plan reveals controversial effort to restrict science in public health
- Farmers in crisis turn to [high-interest loans](#) as banks pull back
- USDA invites input on Conservation Stewardship Program ([CSP](#)) rule

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 October



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:

- [19-year study shows we've been undervaluing how much compost can boost carbon capture](#) (Civil Eats via Science Alert)
- [Mother Earth doesn't like to be naked](#) (Scientific American)
- [Soil scientists determine how abandoned arable land recovers](#) (RUDN University via Phys.org)
- [Let this soak in: Roots in soil between crops can reduce flood impact, researcher says](#) (Omaha World-Herald)

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

New Members

Welcome members who joined in October!

California/Nevada

Charlene Duncan
 Brook Gale
 Rustin Gamboa
 Nick Kimutis

Connecticut/Massachusetts/Rhode Island—Southern New England Chapter

Tom Benjamin

Iowa

Anshu Singh
 Joel Swanson

Iowa—Iowa State University Student Chapter

Joshua Beckman
 Angelo Buscaglia

Maryland—Maryland Old Line

Irene Hantman

Michigan

Anna DeBraber

Montana

Haylee Barkley
 Cody Bergum
 Kristy Cullinan
 Tori Olgolin

Nebraska

Dana Bradfield

Oklahoma

Mary Collier

Oregon

Stephanie Russo

Wisconsin

Ryan Tevis

Corporate Partners

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

Gold



Silver

