



CONSERVOGRAM

The newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

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77th SWCS International Annual Conference

SWCS would like to extend our most sincere thank you to the sponsors, exhibitors, presenters, session organizers, volunteers, and participants who made the [77th SWCS International Annual Conference](#) a success! There is a tremendous amount of time and energy that goes into planning behind the scenes that makes this conference possible. We truly could not have brought our participants such a quality program without the help of all involved.

The 2022 Annual Conference brought together 370 conservationists, representing 5 countries and 47 states. The conference program included 4 workshops, 144 oral presentations and symposia, 53 poster presentations, and 3 tours. This year's specialty topics included At the Intersection of Agriculture and Conservation, Climate-Smart Agriculture, and On the Frontier of Conservation in the West. Leaders from 23 chapters were in attendance, and they were able to network and share their perspectives.

SWCS was excited to offer the virtual resources platform post event this year to conservation professionals who were unable to join us in Denver. The platform included 321 minutes of general sessions, 1,965 minutes of symposia sessions, 257 minutes of oral presentations, 140 presentation PowerPoints, 18 poster presentations, 29 award winner profiles, 13 sponsor pages, and an opportunity for attendees to connect and network with other attendees through personal profiles.

Keep an eye out as details regarding the 2023 SWCS International Annual Conference will be released in the coming months!



11th International Drainage Symposium

Earlier this month SWCS participated in the 11th International Drainage Symposium in Des Moines, Iowa. Two days of sessions highlighted drainage research, practice design, implementation, and policy. The third day of the symposium featured field tours highlighting some of the innovative drainage work happening in the local area. Over 200 attendees representing 12 countries from 6 continents were present to view the over 90 presentations and posters. It was a pleasure to be a part of this event that brought conservation professionals together from around the world. You can take a look at more photos from the event [here](#).



Student Professional Development Session 1: Find the Career for You!

Learn from the National Society for Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences ([MANRRS](#)), the [Soil Health Institute](#), and SWCS in the first session of the student professional development series.

Join us on Thursday, September 22, at 6 p.m. EST. [Register now!](#)

Speakers Beatrice Faulknor and LaKisha Odom will guide you in how to approach your future career in the industry. Gain valuable connections, knowledge, and build your network! Please share with anyone who may find the training valuable.

Learn more at www.swcs.org/studentevents.



JOIN US FOR THE FIRST SESSION OF OUR STUDENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES

Find the Career For You

Thursday, Sept. 22 at 6 p.m. EST

HOSTED BY:



REGISTER TODAY



Upcoming Events

[Student Professional Development Series: Finding a Job](#)

Virtual Event

September 22, 2022

[SWCS Oregon Chapter: Celebrate, Connect, and Congratulate](#)

Pendleton, Oregon

October 12-13, 2022

Conservation at the Co-op: September Update

In November of 2019, our partnership with Truterra was awarded over \$1.5 million in funding by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Through the project, SWCS and Truterra aim to accelerate the adoption of precision nutrient management and soil health practices in Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska.

How do retailers help manage their clients' digital farm records? This month we convened a panel to discuss that very topic. As part of an active USDA NRCS-funded project to advance the adoption of the latest technology into conservation guidance and programming, SWCS is convening groups of experts from industry, agency, and the research sectors. Past panel topics have included edge-of-field practices, agroforestry, and grazing, while the latest panel explored the changing and increasingly important role of on-farm recordkeeping in this age of digital agriculture. Here are some exclusive, preliminary takeaways from that discussion:

- Farmers are leery of data privacy and ownership. Federal policy and guidance enabling farmers to hold their data like property and grant access to third parties on an as-need basis would improve farmer-conservationist relationships that rely on data sharing.
- Data sets provided by NRCS are highly desired and valued for their credibility; however, the commercial sector is developing new tools and platforms faster than NRCS can create guidance on them.
- The prevailing system for public-private data sharing lacks the capacity to process "bulk" requests from software developers and data service providers that are becoming the industry norm. Adding personnel and processing power to handle this new, growing presence would greatly improve NRCS's partnership-building capacity.
- Small, rural producers lack the reliable internet connectivity required to gather/upload on-farm data to cloud platforms in real time. Without an improved rural broadband infrastructure, the ease of data collection will be a privilege accessible to better-resourced growers with newer equipment having on-board data collection and internet connectivity.
- The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) processes for verification and technical assistance delivery can be improved by enabling growers to self-certify by uploading records into NRCS and Farm Service Agency (FSA) databases, for example, a

time-stamped and geo-tagged photograph taken from a cell phone after a field is seeded to cover crops. Anything that allows a grower to move ahead without scheduling a meeting or aligning their time-sensitive work to another person's schedule would likely shepherd more growers into NRCS collaborations.

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.

- New docuseries details impact of applying [soil health principles](#) to Noble Ranches
- Farmers poised to [accelerate conservation](#) efforts, ag secretary says
- Study shows [fertilizer ordinances](#) improve water quality, but timing matters
- Europe's drought might force acceptance of [gene-edited crops](#)
- [Cover crop](#) popularity continuing to grow as soil health option
- The link between [water quality](#) and social inequality
- Long-term Arkansas soil health study shows benefits of [carbon sequestration](#)
- Researchers model benefits of riverfront [forest restoration](#)
- Drought threatens an [Indigenous tribe's farm](#) in an isolated corner of Colorado
- California to become first state to install [solar panels](#) over water canals
- Study shows 'unprecedented' changes to [world's rivers](#)
- Color appears in [wetlands](#) of nature reserve
- Agriculture drives more than 90% of [tropical deforestation](#)

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.

New Members

Welcome members who joined in August!

Alabama

Barry Fagan

California/Nevada

Jim Hurja
Nall Moonilall

Colorado

Matthew Redmond

Iowa

Justin Schroeder
Jeremy Sills

Massachusetts—University of Massachusetts-Amherst

Nargis Mirzaie

Maine—Pine Tree

Angel Anaya

Minnesota

David Nelson

Nebraska

Annette Sudbeck

New Mexico

Phelan Stover

Pennsylvania—Keystone

Annie Mailloux

New Conservation Community Members

Welcome community members who joined in August!

Learn how to become a Conservation Community Member [here](#).

Alabama

Coffee County SWCD

Corporate Partners

Please visit www.swcs.org/corporatepartner for more information on how to become a corporate partner.

Platinum



Gold



Silver



Bronze

