"When the well is dry, we know the worth of water."
- Benjamin Franklin

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Union County and all other Supporters of the Northeastern Soil & Water Conservation District: Hello from your local USDA office in Clayton, NM!

Some of you may remember a time when we had a Newsletter during the year in the past and some of you may not! Either way, your local Soil & Water Conservation District is happy to announce that it is being revived! We are very excited to once again be bringing you up to date information on our district, tips for conservation, tree and dripline sales, and much more!

The NSWCD is ecstatic to be up and running, open to the public from 8:00 am - 4:30 pm mountain time Mondays through Thursdays! We are located in the USDA Office in Clayton, NM and are enthusiastic partners with the NRCS and the FSA! Stop in and see us!

Being grateful for the moisture we have received in the past month or so still doesn’t erase our area’s need for moisture! The heat in the past week and predicted future coupled with the lack of moisture for quite some time is definitely leading to some dry times!

Here at the Soil & Water Conservation District we are always trying to think and plan conservatively! As a district, we would like to share with you some helpful water saving tips!

**The number one rule:**

**WATER YOUR PLANTS AND YARDS EARLY IN THE MORNING!**

This super simple practice can save **GALLONS** of water simply by not allowing the water that is being poured through the air during the hot part of the day to evaporate faster than it can water your plants and grasses!

**[To water well, timing is everything! Water in the early morning – between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m. Midday watering leads to wasteful evaporation, while nighttime watering causes droplets to cling to grass overnight, increasing the chance of lawn diseases.]**

- Information from Gilmour.com - Check them out online!

If you notice your water from your yard running down the street: adjust your sprinklers, reset your timers to water a little less, check for leaks in your systems!

**Conserving Water in the Household:**

**How Much Water Do You Use?**

#drops2gallons

Simple practices such as:
- turning off the water while applying soap to your hands.
- Using the least amount of water to boil your food
- Looking **ABOVE**: Using a dishwasher is actually more efficient than hand washing!
- Wash your fruit and vegetables in a bowl of water instead of running the tap.
- Empty the water used from washing veggies or eggs etc. onto your plants and grass!
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth.
THE GREAT DEBATE!
ROCKS VS. MULCH!!!
WHICH IS BETTER FOR
FLOWER BEDS AND AROUND TREES?

PROS AND CONS OF ORGANIC MULCH:
Pros-
Better Growth: Mulch can nearly double how fast trees and plants grow, according to this study.
Less Water: Mulch reduces water evaporation, so you spend less time and money watering!
More Nutrients: As mulch breaks down, it adds nutrients that plants need to thrive.
Fewer Weeds: Mulch stops weed seeds from sprouting, so you may see 50 percent fewer weeds.
Just the Right Temperature: Mulch keeps plants warm in the winter and cool in the summer.
Reduce Compaction and Erosion: Mulch reduces soil erosion by up to 85 percent. Plus, people are less likely to walk on mulch, so there’s less soil compaction.
Cons-
Annual Replacement: Depending on your mulch type, you’ll have to replace it every one to four years. So, it’s a recurring cost and time expense.
Too Much of a Good Thing: Adding a layer of mulch more than 2-3 inches of mulch stresses out plants.
Too Early = Late Blooms: Mulching too early may slow how quickly the ground warms, which means you could see blooms a bit later than normal.
Too Late = Weeds: Mulch stops weeds from germinating. If you mulch too late, it may not stop them as much.
Check for Seeds: Some organic mulches, like pine bark and hay, may have weed seeds in it.

PROS AND CONS OF ROCKS IN THE GARDEN:
Pros-
Low Maintenance: You almost never need to replace them.
Lower Cost: Because they’re longer lasting, it is generally less expensive to mulch with rocks.
Fire-Proof: If you live in an area with wildfires, rocks could be better since they’re nonflammable.
Weeds Be Gone: Rocks can keep weeds away longer.
Wind-Resistant: Heavy rocks are great at preventing soil erosion in windy areas.

Perfect for Rock and Cacti Gardens: Rocks are just right for these garden spaces!
Cons-
Too Hot: Rocks, raise the soil temperature, leading to stressed, thirsty plants.
No Benefit to Plants: Rocks don’t aid plant growth or soil health.
Messy pH: Most trees prefer acidic soil, but rocks create alkaline soil, which can hurt trees.
Return of the Weeds: Wind will eventually blow soil between rocks, creating a spot for weeds to grow.
No Good for Pruning: Rocks can prohibit rejuvenation pruning, creating unwieldy shrubs.
Remove by Hand: If you want to remove stones, you must do it manually, which can be tedious!

VERDICT: ORGANIC MULCH IS OVERALL BETTER THAN STONE. BUT STONE IS BETTER THAN NO MULCH AT ALL!

Information can be found @ Davey.com

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**Water Pie**

*(Recipe from the Great Depression)*

**Ingredients:**
- 1 9-inch deep-dish pie crust, unbaked
- 1 1/2 cups water (that is one and a half cups)
- 4 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 5 tablespoons butter, cut into 5 pieces

**Instructions:**
Preheat oven to 400 and set empty pie crust on a baking sheet.

- 1 9-inch deep-dish pie crust, unbaked
- Pour 1 + 1/2 cups water into the pie crust.
- In a small bowl, stir together the flour and sugar. Sprinkle this mixture evenly over the water in the crust. Don’t stir.
- 4 tablespoons all-purpose flour, 1 cup sugar
- Drizzle the vanilla over the water in the pie crust.
- Place pats of butter on top of this.
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract, 5 tablespoons butter, cut into 5 pieces

Bake at 400 degrees or 30 minutes. Reduce heat to 375 and cover sides of crust if needed to prevent burning. Continue cooking for an additional 30 minutes.

Pie will be watery when you pull it out of the oven but will gel as it cools. Allow to cool completely and then cover and place in the fridge until chilled before cutting.
NRCS Nook

Remember you can turn in EQIP applications any time during the year for next year’s ranking. Come by the office or call Cody, Curtis or Anna at the NRCS office here in Clayton!

(575) 374-9461 Opt. 3.

Rangeland
Soil Health Workshop
June 30, 2022 | 8:30am - 4:30pm
Tucumcari, NM

This workshop is for ranchers who want to learn about rangeland soil health principles, plant communities, grassland health, and production. The day will be spent outside focused on field demonstrations and talks with local ranchers and leading experts to learn about grazing management, extending the grazing season, drought resilience and range soil health indicators. Workshop is free and lunch and snacks will be provided.

Workshop will be facilitated by staff from Quivira Coalition, NMACD, and NRCS. Call Lynnae Abarca at SW Quay SWCD for questions: 575 309-5537.

More info and to register:
quiviracoalition.org/events/tucumcari

“Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land.” - Aldo Leopold

District Administrator’s
Sidenote:

Hello from the Northeastern Soil & Water Conservation District Admin’s desk!

My name is Ariel Fury and I am very excited to have taken this position! I am a 29 year old Kansan transplant and live in Texline, TX with my husband Keden!

I graduated from WT with a bachelors in Agriculture and have some background in business and crop consulting! I put my faith and family first but truly enjoy being a present member of the community!

I have been active in FFA, 4-H, Lions, Rotary, WT Rifle Club, horseback drill team and present in many other activities as I slowly worked my way to Texas/ New Mexico.

Conservation is of the utmost importance to me as well as taking care of our farmers and ranchers who have been the working backbone of America since day one.

I look forward to meeting more of the community and to have as much helpful information as possible for our community’s conservation!

# Ariel Fury,
NSWCD District Administrator

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For Sale @ Northeastern SWCD

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<tr>
<th>Drip Tubing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>¼” 250 ft Roll</td>
<td>$49.53</td>
<td>¼” 250 ft Roll</td>
<td>$98.41</td>
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<tr>
<td>½” 500 ft Roll</td>
<td>$95.20</td>
<td>¼” 500 ft Roll</td>
<td>$158.19</td>
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**Ground Cover:**

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<tr>
<td>Roll of 100’ x 3’</td>
<td>$56</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roll of 300’ x 4’</td>
<td>$95</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roll of 300’ x 8’</td>
<td>$168</td>
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**Fabric Staples:**

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<tr>
<td>6 inch (box of 1000)</td>
<td>$75</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 inch (box of 500)</td>
<td>$85</td>
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We also have Drip supply parts available for purchase!

We also sell staples individually, shorter lengths of dripline, and are always improving our inventory!

**NSWCD Services! ~ We Want To See You!**

Along with the annual tree sales and every day sales of dripline supplies, we are more than happy to identify plants for you! Don’t know if it is a weed or a native plant? Trying to figure out what grass you have growing out in your pasture? Bring a sample on in and we can help! If we don’t know the answer we will search to find it!

Every year the NSWCD has hosted the Rangeland Management Contest at the **Union County Fair**! Our district loves being part of the community and wants to meet and get to know it better! Look for us at the Union County Fair and come watch the Rangeland Management Jr. & Sr. classes compete to win handsome new belt buckles made by **Red Bluff Buckles** and sponsored by the **NSWCD**!
NSWCD would like to thank Red Bluff Buckles for the fabulous continued service through the years! If you are looking to order buckles for your next event call Red Bluff Buckles!

Break Time!

ALL ABOUT THE WATER
WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

ANCHOR
BECHE
BOAT
CANOE
CORAL
DOLPHIN
FERRY
FISH
FROG
ICE
ISLAND
LINER
PADDLE
PIER
PORT
RAFT
REEF
SHARK
SHORE
SONAR
SURF
WAVE
WHALE

RENI LAND
ALY LLE WAOR
SURF W HAN LAT
ATRES DPNA E
RPEI EHOOC E
AIFROIS BILF
FESRNREH DRE
TROPAAVDOSE
LAROCHAGORR
KRAHSP WHALE

The words appear UP, DOWN, BACKWARDS, and DIAGONALLY. Find and circle each word.

Thank You!

The NSWCD would like to thank Union County and the surrounding communities for all of their support! Our tree sales were a success and we are very hopeful to grow our base a little bit for next year and have more available for everyone coming in! Thank you for being patient as we transition into this next fiscal year with a new hire in the middle of the season and for your continued kindness! Our goal is to help conserve our soil and water! With water conscious drip lines and planting more trees and plants we can do our part to keep our county's soil intact!

If there is a certain topic you would potentially like to see in our upcoming newsletter please let us know! You can contact us via email, phone, US mail, or Facebook messenger!
Calendar of Events

Aug. 10th -13th—Union County Fair!

Aug. 12th—NSWCD Ranch Management Contest

Aug. 12—1:00 p.m. NSWCD Board Meeting

Sept. 12—NSWCD Board Meeting

LOOK FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER IN SEPTEMBER!

At: Northeastern Swcd

Find us on: facebook®

Keep up to date with Field Days, meetings, plant sales, and lots more!

Northeastern Soil & Water Conservation

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