

Mini-Cassia Conservation Update

Volume No. 2022.2



East Cassia, West Cassia, & Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation Districts

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Burley Temporary Office

Room # 201

In the Cassia County Courthouse
Burley, Idaho

Monday-Thursday 9:00-2:00

208-572-3375

Minidoka New Office Location

85 East Baseline,

(In the McGregor Building)

Minidoka County Fairgrounds

Rupert, Idaho

Tuesday-Friday 9:00-2:00

208-436-4202



SUPERVISORS PREPARE for the 2023 SEEDLING TREE SALE

Soil District Supervisors are making preparations for the 2023 Seedling Tree Sale. Orders for seedlings will be accepted starting February 1st, 2023.

A final list of the varieties that will be available will be posted on our website in January and published in our upcoming newsletters. Possible varieties may include Norway Poplar, Lombardy Poplar, Black Hills Spruce, Rocky Mountain Juniper, Common Purple Lilac, Nanny Berry, Blue Arctic Willow, Smooth Sumac, and Prairie Red Plum.

Order forms will also be available after the first of the year but you should start planning NOW.

See page 7 in this newsletter for seedling planning and preparation tips.

WORKSHOP PLANNED FOR JANUARY

Managing Water for Tomorrow's Agriculture will be the theme for the 8th workshop planned by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the Mini-Cassia area. Minidoka, West Cassia, and East Cassia Soil & Water Conservation Districts work together to manage the Mini-Cassia Direct Seed Cover & Crop Project which includes the upkeep and rental of 2 direct seed drills and educational workshops.

Water management has been added to their regular Soil Health focus. The workshop will be held on January 10th, 2023 at a new location in Burley. You can register for the workshop online at www.minicassiaswcd.com.



Managing Water For Tomorrow's Agriculture

Educational Workshop on Water & Soil Health

January 10, 2023

New Location *** Burley Event Center - 2500 Washington Ave.***

Sponsored by Minidoka, East Cassia and West Cassia
Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Register online at www.minicassiaswcd.com



STUDENTS EVALUATE the SOIL at the IDAHO STATE LAND JUDGING EVENT 2022

FFA students from around the state of Idaho gathered together in Cassia County on October 13, 2022 to compete in the 52nd Idaho State FFA & 4-H Land & Soil Evaluation Career Development Event. Students competed in regional contests around the state of Idaho and the top 2 teams at each regional contest came to Burley to compete in the Idaho State Contest. 18 FFA Teams attended the 2022 Idaho State competition.

Continued on page 6.

District Board of Supervisors

East Cassia SWCD

Chairman.....Rob Cottle
 Vice-Chair.....Steve Ward
 Treasurer.....Ken Woodworth
 Member.....Hannah Sanders
 Member.....Mark Webb
 Associate Member.....
 Associate Member.....

West Cassia SWCD

Richard Kunau
 Jordan Searle
 Kathy Poulton
 Brent Stoker
 Ken Black
 Kyle Bowers

Minidoka SWCD

Brian Kossman
 Dusty Wilkins
 Aaron Firth
 Reid Bowen
 Justin Hunter
 Russ Suchan

District Employees

Sharon Hardy.....Minidoka Administrative Assistant
 Rachele Osterhout.....Cassia Administrative Assistant
 Doreen McMurray.....Cassia Information & Education Specialist
 Megan Heward.....Cassia Administrative Assistant
 Melanie Nebeker.....Soil Conservation Technical Assistant

CONTACT OUR OFFICES:

Rupert SWCD Office 208-436-4202
Burley SWCD Office 208-572-3375

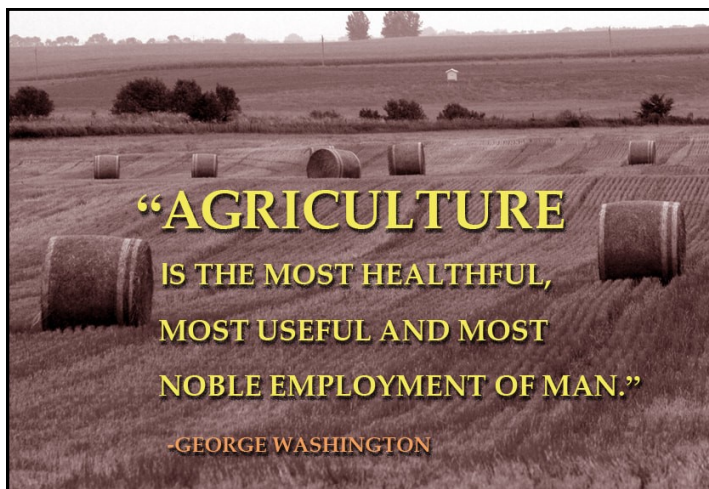
Minidoka email:
minidokaswcd@gmail.com
Cassia email: ewcswcd@gmail.com

Web page: www.minicassiaswcd.com

Spanish translation available upon request.

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

David Mabey.....District Conservationist
 Carolyn Firth.....ISWCC Ag Program Specialist
 Dinah Reaney.....Soil Conservationist
 Trec Reed.....Soil Conservationist
 Brook Morgan.....Pheasants Forever



The "Conservation Update" is published 3 times a year by the East Cassia, West Cassia, & Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation Districts and mailed to approximately 1,000 landowners, and sent by email to several hundred more. The distribution mailing list is maintained by the Information & Education Specialist in Burley, Idaho. Names may be added to or removed from the mailing list for the next publication by calling 208-572-3375.

East Cassia, West Cassia, & Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation Districts are non-profit organizations. All programs and services of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.



NEWSLETTERS are available by e-mail!

To receive this and future newsletters electronically, send your e-mail address to:
[**ewcswcd@gmail.com**](mailto:ewcswcd@gmail.com)

Type "NEWSLETTER" in the subject box.

If you want your name removed from the newsletter mailing list, just let us know.

DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

Supervisors for the Soil and Water Conservation Districts are landowners in Cassia and Minidoka Counties who volunteer their time. They are interested in farming issues and want to make a positive difference in their communities.

Serving as a Supervisor is a great opportunity to learn how to improve your own operation as well as help to make a positive difference within your own community.

If you are interested in serving on the Soil & Water Conservation District Board in your county, contact a current board member or call one of the NRCS offices for information.

Monthly Board Meetings

(Public Welcome)

East Cassia SWCD - 1st Tuesday of each month
West Cassia SWCD - 2nd Tuesday of each month
Minidoka SWCD - 2nd Thursday of each month

Any changes to meeting schedules will be posted in our offices and on our website at www.minicassiaswcd.com.

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET HELD

East Cassia Soil & Water Conservation District was the host as all 3 districts in the Mini-Cassia area all joined together for their Awards Banquet in July. The districts each honored farmers who have shown exemplary conservation efforts and spotlighted Supervisors and students receiving scholarships.



Minidoka Stewardship Award to Dean Stevenson presented by Brian Kossman (Minidoka Chair).



East Cassia Conservation Farmer Award to Todd Gerratt for work on the Raft River Re-charge Project presented by Mark Webb.



West Cassia Conservation Farmer Award to Michelle & Paul Marchant for their High Tunnel Project presented by Kathy Poulton.



Aaron Firth received 5 Year Service Pin as Supervisor on Minidoka Board, Presented by Brian Kossman.



West Cassia Supervisor Brent Stoker (right) Welcomes new Associate Supervisor Kyle Bowers (left).



Natural Resource Camp Scholarships to Drew Neibaur, Payson Suchan, and Clayton Seymour.



Minidoka College Scholarship to Courtney Beene, Clay Stapleman, and Rylie Ann Nalder.



West Cassia College Scholarship to Kaylee Whiteley.



East Cassia College Scholarship to Melissa Spurgeon.



Know Your Government Scholarships Brooke Mabey and Brooklyn Greenwalt.

Fair Booth Display at Minidoka County Fair.



Fair Booth Display at Cassia County Fair.



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ARBOR DAY

Arbor Day is celebrating 150 years! Go to their website and watch their video and search other resources for tree care and ways to celebrate.
<https://www.arborday.org/>

SOIL TESTING

Learn about soil health properties and about testing soil at <https://www.uidaho.edu/extension/nutrient-management/soil>.

WINDBREAKS

Windbreak benefits and management information available at <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308521X20308933>.

KNOW WHAT'S BELOW

Call before you dig. April is National Safe Digging Month. If you are ready to start digging, call 811 and find out what is below!

LOOK UP!

Look up before you plant trees. Make sure the air is clear! Plant away from power lines. Small seedlings need room to grow up, down, and out!

GARDENS & LANDSCAPES

Answers to general landscape and gardening questions can be found at <https://www.uidaho.edu/homegard.aspx>.

CONSERVATION AT WORK

Conservation at Work Video Series can be found at <https://www.farmers.gov/conservation/conservation-at-work>.

NO-TILL DRILLS

There are 2 drills available for rent from the Soil & Water Conservation Districts.

The drills are perfect for direct seeding into grain stubble or for no-till plantings of oats, barley, pasture mix, alfalfa, forage mix, orchard grass, crested wheat, or any blend of cover crops.

Contact the Soil & Water Conservation Districts to reserve a drill.

Minidoka office: 208-436-4202
Cassia office: 208-572-3375

Information is on our website at
www.minicassiaswcd.com.

East Cassia Board Elects New Chairman

East Cassia Soil & Water Conservation District Board Members elected Rob Cottle as the new Board Chairman.

Rob began serving on the East Cassia board in the Spring of 2020. Rob was raised on a small cattle ranch in Malta. After a year in college, he joined the United States Army. After 24 years of military service, Rob moved back to Malta to be the 3rd generation to run the family cattle ranch with his wife Sheryl and their 3 children. Upon returning to Idaho, Rob soon learned that "I had a lot to learn. No matter how good a plan I thought I had, nothing ever went as planned. Things break down, water doesn't go far enough, cattle get out, and the wind never stops blowing. Thankfully my wife and kids keep me focused and moving forward."

Besides ranching and Soil & Water Conservation service, Rob also works on the Raft River Flood Board (2014 - Present) and sits on the advisory board for Cassia 43C Water District (2018 - Present). Rob enjoys serving on the SWCD board and works to keep farming and ranching alive for future generations.



West Cassia SWCD Welcomes New Board Member

Kyle Bowers was appointed to the West Cassia Board in March of 2022 as an Associate Supervisor.

Kyle grew up farming in Cassia County. After receiving an Ag Business Degree, he started farming on his own, acquiring his first property in 2012.

Kyle has continued to purchase land and now has 400 acres. He grows sugar beets, beans, wheat and alfalfa.

When asked why he has chosen to serve on the board, he said that Brent Stoker kept asking... And, his wife Amanda encourages his community service. Kyle is interested in no-till and strip tilling practices to promote better soil health.

About his family, Kyle says, "4 kids and wife: pretty good life!" Kyle, welcome aboard as a West Cassia Board Associate Supervisor.



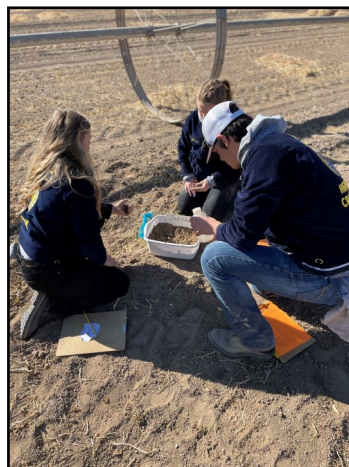
STUDENTS EVALUATE the SOIL at the IDAHO STATE LAND JUDGING EVENT 2022

Continued from page 1.

Students have prepared to “evaluate” the soil. They have learned to recognize soil factors which identify specific soil characteristics. This training helps students make wise decisions in managing and using soil and land resources. Preparing and competing in this competition can help participants understand basic soil properties and how these properties affect areas of crop growth. Students learn why various soils respond differently to a variety of management practices and how soil properties may be used as a basis for selecting a construction or home site.

Soil & Water Conservation District employees and Supervisors, NRCS employees, and Earth Team Volunteers provided equipment and labor to prepare the testing site. Over 30 workers and volunteers assisted with the preparation and event activities, including Soil Scientist specialists, Soil District Supervisors, and Cassia County Commissioners. We appreciate the many individuals and businesses who support this contest through time and financial donations. Thanks to the landowner, Mark Hobson, the Mid-Snake Resource & Conservation & Development, U of I Endowment Fund, Butte Irrigation, D.L. Evans Bank, Kloepper Concrete, United Electric Co-Op, Timm Adams Farms, and Soil & Water Conservation Districts and businesses throughout the state.

Top winners for the 52nd Annual Land & Soil Evaluation Event 2022 include: Rigby FFA taking 1st place, and Kuna FFA placing 2nd. The top 2 teams will receive scholarship money to assist with their travel to attend and compete at the National Land & Soil Evaluation Event to be held in Oklahoma City next spring.



Start Planning Your Windbreak NOW! Here's How:

By Doreen McMurray
East & West Cassia Soil & Water Conservation District I & E Specialist

Windbreaks provide protection from blowing wind and snow, habitat for wildlife, and add beauty for increased property value. Windbreaks around your home or livestock feeding areas can make a difference in reducing not only wind velocity, but reducing blowing snow and dirt. They also gentle temperatures by reducing wind chill during cold seasons, or by providing shade in the summer. A windbreak properly placed near a roadway reduces the need for plowing snow and increases visibility. Windbreak trees also provide wildlife habitat. Planting trees increases property value and works well as a sound barrier.

1) **The first step is to make a plan.** Consider **where** a windbreak is needed or where you would like trees to be planted. For a windbreak, it is recommended to have at least 3 to 5 rows for maximum benefit but, even one row will provide some positive results.

2) **Measure** the width of your area and determine how many rows you want or have room for. Decide **which variety** of tree would be best in each row. A windbreak needs to be dense near the ground, so select a bushy, dense deciduous shrub for the windward or outside row. Shrubs make ideal single row or double row low windbreaks around yards and gardens. They are often used for living snow fences and provide excellent wildlife habitat. Shrubs also provide the needed protection for evergreens in a windbreak. Many varieties also add beautification as they have blossoms.

3) **Do your research.** A variety of shrubs and trees provide the greatest benefit. Deciduous trees are often used for a middle row in a windbreak. They are generally faster growing than evergreens and thus provide earlier protection. Evergreen trees are an important part of a windbreak because they provide excellent protection year-round. They should be included in a windbreak whenever possible. You can plant one or two evergreen rows on the leeward side of the windbreak. The final row could be another shrub row. Bear in mind that 3-5 rows are best, but you can plant more or less rows as room allows.

4) **Consider cost.** The most economical way to get a windbreak growing is to plant seedlings. Their success rate is very good. Seedling Trees are available to order from the Soil & Water Conservation Districts starting February 1st. This year, the seedlings will come in bundles of 5 trees per bundle for a cost of \$25 plus tax for each bundle. Pre-order your trees early as supplies are limited. The seedlings will arrive mid to late April.

A few things to remember:

- Do some research, plan your windbreak carefully take into consideration the greatest benefits from wind and sun.
- Measure your area and plan appropriate room for trees to grow to maturity.
- Consider irrigation options.
- Plan for protection from animals while trees get established.
- Keep roots damp before and during plating.
- Order your seedlings early while supplies are available.

Check out the Mini-Cassia Soil & Water Conservation District's website at www.minicassiaswcd.com where you can see detailed photos and planting information. You can also request information and order forms by e-mail at ewcswcd@gmail.com. For more information, call 208-572-3375 or 208-436-4202.

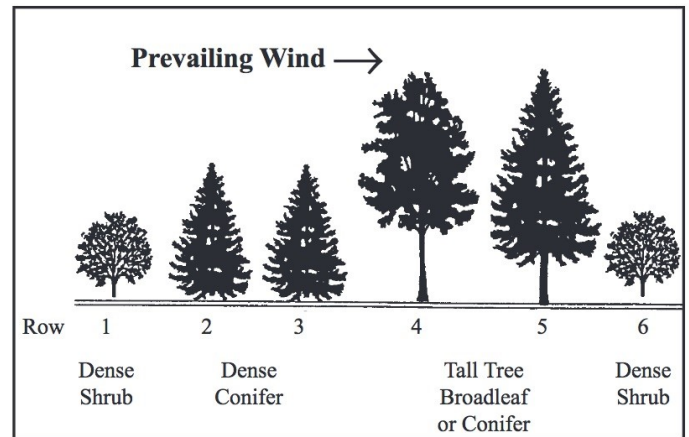


Figure 1. Typical windbreak profile.



East Cassia, West Cassia, & Minidoka
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Return Service Requested

Soil District Board Meetings: Public is welcome.

East Cassia - 1st Tuesday of each month.

West Cassia - 2nd Tuesday of each month.

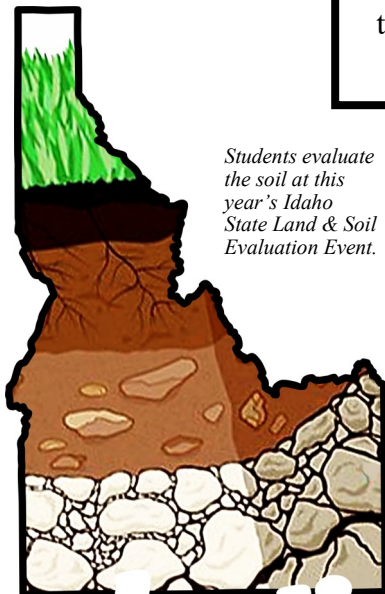
Call 208-572-3375 for details.

Minidoka - 2nd Thursday of each month.

Call 208-436-4202 for details.

Minidoka SWCD
Phone: 208-436-4202
minidokaswcd@gmail.com

East & West Cassia
Phone: 208-572-3375
ewcswcd@gmail.com



*Students evaluate
the soil at this
year's Idaho
State Land & Soil
Evaluation Event.*



Soil Health Resources

Online trainings and presentations
on a variety of soil health topics
are available on YouTube and
through internet searches.

You can find several informational
training links on our website at
www.minicassiaswcd.com

Do You Know What's On Our WEBSITE?



District Supervisor Boards & Meeting information
Direct Seed & Cover Crop Information
Workshop information & Sign-ups
Drill Rental information
*Seedling **TREE SALE** photos & info*
Invasive Species Watercraft Inspection Station
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