

Mini-Cassia Conservation Update

Volume No. 2021.2



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

Soil Health Resources

There are many online trainings and presentations to help with your continued soil health education.

You can find several links on our website at

www.minicassiaswcd.com

or you can do an online search or a YouTube search for Soil Health.

Our website homepage:



We are planning our
7th Soil Health Workshop
Thursday, February 3, 2021

Check out our website and click on the Soil Health Tab for details.

If you want workshop information to be emailed to you, send an email to ewcswcd@gmail.com

Irrigation Efforts Spotlighthed

Water Conservation & Development was the theme of the Annual Awards Banquet for the East Cassia and West Cassia Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCD). Members of the Burley Irrigation District, Southwest Irrigation District, and the West Cassia Pipeline were honored along with others who have worked to develop more efficient ways to use water in Cassia County.

West Cassia SWCD Board Supervisor Brent Stoker presented the history of the Burley Irrigation District Canal System which brings water from the Minidoka Dam to nearly 48,000 acres of farmland in Cassia County.



Power Turbine delivery 1909

To complete the canal system in the early 1900's, water had to be pumped and lifted 90 feet! Water doesn't flow uphill! So, a series of 3 pump stations were built along the canal route to accommodate the rise in elevation. It was a challenging and arduous project for engineers and manual laborers in those days of harnessed horse and scrapers to accomplish *Continued on page 3*

Soil Health WORKSHOP Planned for February 2022

A Free Workshop & luncheon is being offered by the Soil & Water Conservation Districts in Cassia & Minidoka Counties. Workshop topics will include:

- * A Systems Approach to Soil Health
- * The Search for Balance and Soil Health
- * Cover Crops: A Virtual Tour of the Periodic Table
- * Results Start in the Roots
- * Grazing Cover Crops for Profit
- * Do Cover Crops Use too Much Water?
- * My Journey to Cover Crop Success
- * Cover Crops - One Step at a Time
- * Southern Idaho Cover Crop Seed Ideas
- * Soil Health Basics 101

Continued on page 7.

Minidoka District Presents Awards at Summer Picnic

Minidoka Soil & Water Conservation District presented Conservation and Education Awards at their Summer Family Picnic. Awards included The Stewardship Award, College Scholarships Awards, and Scholarships for Know Your Government students.

Minidoka's Stewardship Award was presented to Ted and Becca Tateoka. Ted & Becca Tateoka farm on the west side of Minidoka County where they raised 4 daughters. Ted farms 900 acres of sugar beets, barley, and beans on the farm that he bought from his father.

Ted was selected to receive the Stewardship Award because of his innovative efforts to improve his farming operation. In 2017, Ted was starting to see *Continued on page 5.*

District Board of Supervisors

East Cassia SWCD

West Cassia SWCD

Minidoka SWCD

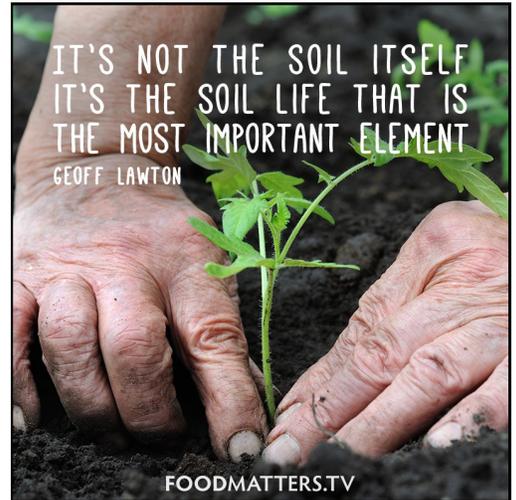
Chairman.....	Mark Webb.....	Richard Kunau.....	Brian Kossman.....
Vice-Chair.....	Steve Ward.....	Jordan Searle.....	Dusty Wilkins.....
Treasurer.....	Ken Woodworth.....	Kathy Poulton.....	Aaron Firth.....
Member.....	Hannah Sanders.....	Brent Stoker.....	Reid Bowen.....
Member.....	Rob Cottle.....	Ken Black.....	
Associate Member.....			Justin Hunter.....
Associate Member.....			Russ Suchan.....

District Employees

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

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Personnel

David Mabey.....District Conservationist
 Carolyn Firth.....ISWCC Ag Program Specialist
 Dinah Reaney.....Soil Conservationist



CONTACT OUR OFFICES:

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

Minidoka e-mail: minidokaswcd@gmail.com
Cassia e-mail: ewcswcd@gmail.com
Web page: www.minicassiaswcd.com

Spanish translation is available upon request.

NEWSLETTERS

are available by
e-mail!

To receive this and future newsletters electronically, send your e-mail address to:

ewcswcd@gmail.com

Type "NEWSLETTER"
in the subject box.

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

SUPERVISOR BOARD MEETINGS

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 helping to make a difference within your community.

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



Monthly Board Meetings

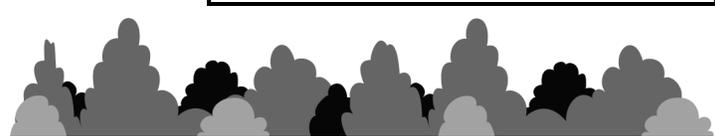
(Public Welcome)

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.

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.



Irrigation Efforts Spotlighted

(continued from page 1)

much of the work.

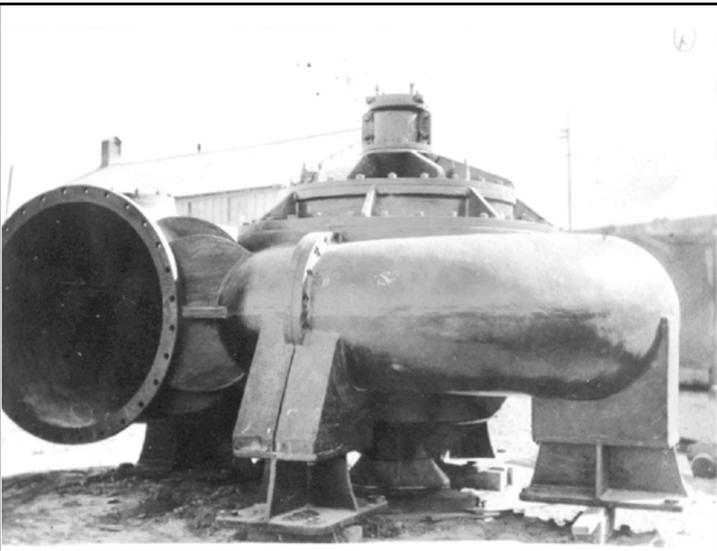
Water has always been a valuable and precious commodity in Southern Idaho's desert climate. Irrigation water provided by this canal system makes agriculture and farming in Cassia County possible. As 2021 has moved into the hot summer months, we are suffering drought conditions and water reductions from most surface sources.

Water rights can be a challenging topic to manage. Idaho water law is determined by "beneficial use", "historic use" or "constitutional" water rights in order to establish a priority date for the use of water. By Idaho law, the oldest priority has the right of 1st use. During drought conditions, junior priority dates are denied water use by law so senior priority dates can obtain water. In July, a local group of water users called Southwest Irrigation District met and wanted to do better than Idaho Law. Priority dates were not their priority! Led by the most senior priority holders to share real water, so damages to junior priority holders was minimized, all in attendance decided to share and help each other. Senior water right holders took a portion of their right, with the remainder of their right going to junior water right holders. Thereby, all farmers will be able to finish their crop during this year of drought. Because of these "higher" efforts, they have helped each other find solutions like not using surface water from Burley Irrigation District canal water, which are senior priority to Southwest Irrigation District rights.

In summary: Drought and lack of water can bring out the worst and the best in people! So far, many people are trying to do their best during some current challenging drought conditions. Early settlers sacrificed to benefit each other and the future - us. So let's all follow their example by conserving water and helping one another during this water-short year!



Channel excavation 1905



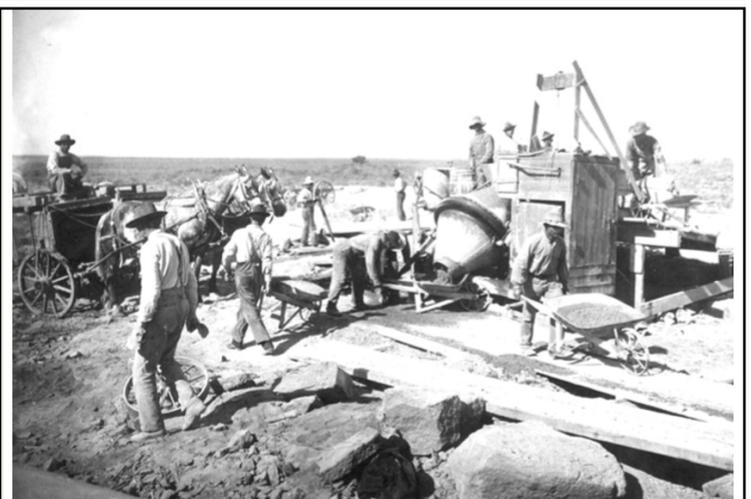
Pump assembled Second Lift 1909



First Lift Station Spring 1910



Second Lift Station and Houses 1914



One of the concrete mixers.

East Cassia & West Cassia Awards Banquet

East & West Cassia Soil & Water Conservation Districts held their Annual Awards Banquet honoring Irrigation efforts in Cassia County along with 3 District personnel recognition awards.

Brent Stoker (pictured right with West Cassia Chairman Richard Kunau) was awarded a 20-year Service Pin for his dedicated work on the West Cassia Soil & Water Conservation District Board. Brent is dedicated to serving community, family, and church. He is involved with recycling resources to increase their value to the soil and the environment. Besides being a Supervisor for the West Cassia Soil District, Brent also serves on the Cassia County Groundwater Quality Advisory Committee, is a board member of the Mini Cassia Commerce Authority.



Mark Webb (left pictured with Steve Ward, East Cassia Vice-Chairman) was honored for 15 years of service on the East Cassia Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors, with the last 5 years serving as chairman. Mark has always been interested in soil and water conservation. He loves the life of a farmer and loves Cassia County. His priorities include education, soil and water conservation improvements, and passing this knowledge on to the next generation.

Rachelle Osterhout (pictured right with Richard Kunau, West Cassia Chairman and Mark Webb, East Cassia Chairman) is the new Administrative Assistant for East Cassia and West Cassia Soil

& Water Conservation Districts. The district Supervisors officially welcomed Rachelle at their Annual Awards Banquet. Rachelle brings a valuable skill-set to her new job. She enjoys learning new things and she loves the variety of projects and activities provided by the Soil & Water Conservation Districts.



CASSIA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are offered each year by the Soil & Water Conservation Districts to students attending College. For information on upcoming Scholarships, see our website at www.minicassiaswcd.com. Click on the Education tab.

East Cassia SWCD scholarship was presented to Agustina Gularte from Declo. Agustina graduated from Declo High School where she was active in FFA and 4-H and worked as a Veterinary Assistant. She will be attending Utah State University this fall with a major in Veterinary Science and a minor in Business.

West Cassia SWCD presented college scholarships to Melissa Hardy and Ben Geary. Melissa is a graduate of Oakley High School where she was active in sports, farming, church, and community. She will be attending College of Southern Idaho majoring in Animal Science and minoring in mathematics. Ben Geary plans to continue his studies at Brigham Young University with a major in Environmental Science and a minor in Chemistry. Ben has been active in sports, FFA, and has worked has been engaged in agricultural research in the research laboratory at BYU. Ben spent the past summer working on a research project at a local Agronomics company.



Photo Left: East Cassia Scholarship winner Agustina Gularte and East Cassia Supervisor Hannah Sanders.

Photo Right: West Cassia Scholarship winners Melissa Hardy and Ben Geary with West Cassia Chairman Richard Kunau.



Minidoka Soil & Water Conservation District

Presents AWARDS at Summer Picnic *(continued from page 1)*

some problems in his beets caused by a short crop rotation. This is when he decided to try cover-crops to strengthen his rotation. After the cover crops were established, he was approached to see if he would be willing to have the crop grazed off. This led to direct seeding in his beets and incorporating livestock for added soil improvements. Because of these new farming techniques and practices, Ted's soil health is improving and he also has the added benefit of wind protection.

Ted has compared the 2 farming methods, seeking soil health improvements in sugar beet production fields. He tried direct-seed planting into some sugar beets, and used conventional beet plantings with no cover crops in other fields to see which would do better. The direct seed plantings faired much better. Ted has proven for himself that you can improve soil health in sugar beet production by using cover crops and livestock grazing.



Above: Minidoka Supervisor Reid Bowen presents Stewardship Award to Ted & Becca Tateoka.

MINIDOKA SCHOLARSHIPS

Minidoka SWCD presented COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS to Mason Wilkins and Hana Pfeiffer at their Summer Picnic.

Mason Wilkins is an energetic young man having participated on the swim team and tennis team serving as varsity captain of both. He earned his Eagle Scout award, carried 25 dual college credits, and was Valedictorian of his graduating class. Mason loves woodworking and was the lead designer on the Tiny House built through Minico High School. He is an accomplished carpenter with great cabinetry skills. Besides all of that, he helps on the family farm. Congratulations Mason and good luck as you continue your education.

Hana Pfeiffer has been active in 4-H and politics. She served as a Page for the Idaho State Legislature and was assigned to the Senate Resources and Environment Committee and the Agricultural Affairs committee. She has served as Young Republican s Club President and was asked to be on the State Livestock Judging Team for the Easter Idaho State Fair. She is very active in sports. In college, Hana plans to study law.



Photo Above: Scholarship winner Mason Wilkins with Minidoka SWCD Vice-Chair Dusty Wilkins.

Minidoka Sponsors Two Youth to Know Your Government Conference

Minidoka Soil & Water Conservation District provided scholarships for Brian Patterson and Courtney Beene to attend the annual Know Your Government Conference in Boise. This was Brian's 3rd year attending KYG and Courtney's 4th year to attend the conference. Courtney helped with KYG organization and some of the online zoom presentations associated with the 2021 KYG Conference.



Photo Below: Scholarship winner Hana Pfeiffer with Minidoka SWCD Vice-Chair Dusty Wilkins.

5 Principles of Soil Health

1. **Soil Armor** - Keep soil covered to control weeds, reduce evaporation, maintain soil temperatures, reduce compaction, and more.
2. **Minimize Soil Disturbance** - This allows soil aggregates to rebuild, increases pore spaces, and improves soil productivity.
3. **Plant Diversity** - use crop rotation and cover crops to provide biodiversity and nutrient cycling, improves water infiltration, and reduces disease and pests.

4. **Continual Live Plant/Root** - Plant cover crops during dormant periods and after harvest. Benefits include building soil aggregates, controlling erosion, increasing moisture holding capacity, nutrient management, livestock integration, and more.....
5. **Livestock Integration** - recycles nutrients, minerals, vitamins, and carbon, provides higher nutritional diet for livestock, reduces livestock waste, and controls crop residues.

Winter Seedling Tree Care

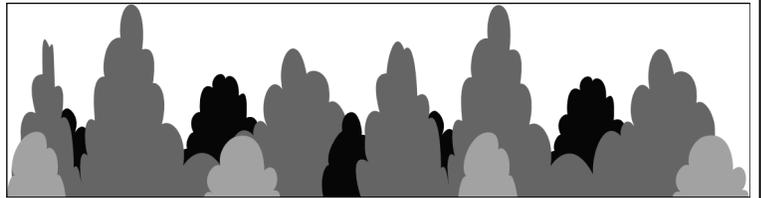
It has been a long dry summer and we are heading into a cold windy Idaho winter. Don't forget about those baby seedlings. Do some research online and take steps to enhance your tree's survival.

Here are a few ideas to get you started:

<https://www.nh.gov/nhnursery/seedling-survival-tips/index.htm>

<https://extension.umn.edu/planting-and-growing-guides/protecting-trees-and-shrubs-winter>

<https://www.houzz.com/discussions/2809306/helping-baby-trees-through-their-first-winter>



If you'd like to be involved in the LOCAL WORK GROUP meeting, contact one of our offices....

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

Soil Districts Display Projects and Activities at the Minidoka and Cassia County Fairs



FREE

7th SOIL HEALTH WORKSHOP



Mini-Cassia Direct Seed & Cover Crop

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

Limited Seating
Please RSVP

February 3, 2022

7:45 am Registration & Continental Breakfast
8:30 am - 3:30 pm Workshop Sessions

Best Western Burley Inn & Convention Center
800 North Overland Ave. Burley, Idaho (just off I-84 exit 208)

Workshop Topics:

- A Systems Approach to Soil Health
- The Search for Balance
- Cover Crops & the Periodic Table
- The 5 Principles of Soil Health
- Results Start in the Roots
- Seed Choices for Local Success
- And more.....



Workshop Speakers:

Jimmy Emmons, An experienced Leader in the Soil Health Movement (pictured left)
David Little, International Speaker and experienced Agronomist (pictured right)
Marlon Winger, Regional Soils Health Specialist
Joel Packham, U of I Extension Educator
Luke & Sara Adams, Farmers, Business Owners
Brian Kossman, Local Farmer, Farm Manager
Hannah Sanders, Local Farmer
Cameron Williams, Grain Farmer



RSVP

Phone: 208-572-3375
E-mail: ewcswcd@gmail.com
www.minicassiaswcd.com

To register for the workshop online, go to our website at
www.minicassiaswcd.com

You may also register by email to ewcswcd@gmail.com
Or by phone 208-572-3375



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.

Testing Your Soil at Home - THE MASON JAR SOIL TEST

From Preparednessmama website

Knowing the structure of your soil will help you determine how much water and fertilizer your plants will need, and what [soil amendments](#) to make. Your soil is a mass of mineral particles, water, air, and dead organic matter. The size and form of those particles make up the basic soil structure. An understanding of your soil is perhaps the most important aspect of gardening and will give you the best success.

There are three soil components – Clay, Sand, and Silt

Clay is the smallest mineral component. These tiny flat particles fit closely together to create the greatest surface area of all soil types. Clay soil contains needed nutrients and also stores water well. So well in fact, that drainage is slow in clay soil. It is also the slowest to warm in the spring.

Sand makes up the largest particles in soil structure. These are rounded, rather than flat and allows for larger space between the particles. Water drains quickly from the soil that has a lot of sand and the nutrients drain faster too. If your soil is mostly sand the plants will need more water and fertilizer.

Silt represents the middle size pieces. It is made up of rock and mineral particles that are larger than clay but smaller than sand. Individual silt particles are so small that they are difficult to see. To be classified as silt, a particle must be less than .005 centimeters (.002 inches) across.

The combination of these three particles is called loam and is considered the ideal garden soil. Knowing how close (or far) you are from loam will help you decide what amendments to make this spring planting season.

The Mason Jar Soil Test

1. Use a clear, clean, empty jar with a tight lid. A pint or quart Mason jar works fabulously.
2. Fill the jar about half full of garden soil. You can use soil from different areas of the garden to get an overall view or make a test for each garden bed.
3. Fill the jar nearly to the top with water. Leave room for shaking.
4. Tighten the lid and shake the jar for several minutes so that all the particles are in suspension.

Set your mason jar soil test aside for several hours, so the particles have a chance to settle. They will separate into clay, silt, and sand layers.

Read the Results of your Mason Jar Soil Test

- The bottom layer will be the heavier particles, sand, and rocks.
- The next layer will be the silt particles.
- Above that there're the clay particles.
- Organic matter may be floating on the surface of the water.

The color of the soil gives a clue to its character – light colors usually have less organic content than dark soil and dark soil warms faster in the spring.



Healthy Forests / Healthy Communities is the theme for our Educational Speech and Poster Contests. These contests are great ways for our youth to speak out about caring for our natural resources.

The Speech Contest is for high school students in grades 9-12 and will be held on Tuesday, October 19th. For applications, rules, and details, go to our website at www.minicassia.com and click on the Educational Programs tab.

The Poster Contest is for 5th and 6th grade students. Posters are due on October 8th. Rules and information can be found on our website at www.minicassia.com and click on the Educational Programs tab.

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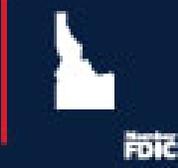


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Soil District Board Meetings: Public is welcome.

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

Soil Health Workshop

Coming February
2022

Details inside....

Do You Know What's On Our WEBSITE?

District Supervisor Boards & Meeting information

Direct Seed & Cover Crop Information

Soil Health Workshops

Drill Rental information

*Seedling **TREE SALE** photos & info*

Cotterel Invasive Species Boat Inspection Station

Educational Programs

Envirothon

Know Your Government

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Scholarships

Newsletters

Announcements, Events, & Awards

And much more.....

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