

# Mini-Cassia Conservation Update

Summer 2019  
Volume No. 2019.2



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

### HELP ERADICATE NOXIOUS WEEDS

A nasty invasive noxious weed that resembles the smothering Kudzu vine of the southern United States is creating difficulties for Idaho landowners. We are seeing the first infestations of White Bryony in this area.

White Bryony is a vigorous perennial climbing vine that poses a major destructive potential to native vegetation. This noxious weed (also known as Western Kudzu) forms dense mats, which shades out all vegetation it creeps upon, eventually killing it. Its rapidly growing vines can reach a length of 50-feet that can literally cover the tops of large trees in a single season. It can be found on power poles, fence rows, trees or anything it can crawl up or along.

White Bryony is a very difficult weed to control and has a large tuberous root system that resembles a beet or turnip. White Bryony is also a poisonous plant (especially the root tuber), so it's very important to wear rubber gloves and other protective clothing when handling this noxious weed.

So far, the best tool is to simply dig

Continued on page 3.

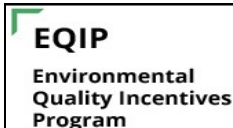


### EQIP

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that can help producers implement conservation practices.

Together, NRCS and producers invest in solutions that conserve natural resources for the future while also improving agricultural operations.

**The EQIP Deadline is in October. If you are interested in applying for an Environmental Quality Incentives Program, contact the NRCS office.**



## 6th Annual SOIL HEALTH WORKSHOP

Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020

Place: Burley, Idaho

Updates and information will be posted on our webpage  
[www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com) as they become available.

*\*Click on the "Direct Seed & Cover Crop" tab,  
then click on "2020 Workshop"*

### TOPICS

- ◆ Seed choices for local success
- ◆ Microbes
- ◆ Power of Diversity
- ◆ Basic Soil Health Education
- ◆ Rangeland & Grazing
- ◆ Dry Farming
- ◆ Regenerative Ag
- ◆ Local Farmer Experiences
- ◆ Pesticide & CCA Credits
- ◆ Lunch & Vendor Fair

### *Speakers:*

- \*Internationally renowned groundcover & soils ecologist,*
- \*Regional Soils Health Agronomist,*
- \*Local landowners sharing experiences and successes.*

*Photo is from last year's  
2019 Soil Health Workshop*

*Information continued  
on page 3*



# District Board of Supervisors

	<u>East Cassia SWCD</u>	<u>West Cassia SWCD</u>	<u>Minidoka SWCD</u>
Chairman.....	Mark Webb.....	Richard Kunau.....	Brian Kossman
Vice-Chair.....	Steve Ward.....	Jordan Searle.....	Russ Suchan
Sec/Treasurer.....	Ken Woodworth.....	Kathy Poulton.....	Dusty Wilkins
Member.....	Brook Holtman.....	Brent Stoker.....	Aaron Firth
Member.....	Jonathan Harper.....	Ken Black.....	Luke Adams
Associate Member.....			Justin Hunter
Associate Member.....			LaNae Nalder

## District Employees

Megan Heward.....Cassia Financial Assistant  
 Sharon H. Wilmot.....Minidoka Administrative Assistant  
 Jessica Anderson.....Cassia Administrative Assistant  
 Doreen McMurray.....Cassia Information & Education Specialist

## Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Personnel

David Mabey.....District Conservationist  
 Carolyn Firth.....ISWCC Ag Program Specialist  
 Dinah Reaney.....Soil Conservationist  
 Connor White.....Range & Wildlife Conservationist  
 Haydn Carson.....Soil Technician  
 Nathan Huber.....Soil Conservationist

## NEWSLETTERS

are available by  
e-mail!

If you are interested in receiving this and future newsletters electronically, send your e-mail address to:

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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 area, contact a current board member or call one of the NRCS offices for information.

## Monthly Board Meetings

(Public Welcome)

**East Cassia SWCD - 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of ea month**  
**West Cassia SWCD - 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of ea month**  
**Minidoka SWCD - 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month**  
 (call the office for details)



**Minidoka e-mail:**  
[minidokaswcd@gmail.com](mailto:minidokaswcd@gmail.com)

**Cassia e-mail:**  
[ewcswcd@pmt.org](mailto:ewcswcd@pmt.org)

**Web page:**  
[www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com)

*Spanish translation is available in the office upon request.*

## CONTACT OUR OFFICES:

**Rupert Field Office 208-436-4202**  
**Burley Field Office 208-572-3369**



*The "Conservation Update" is published quarterly by the East Cassia, West Cassia, & Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation Districts and mailed to approximately 1,000 landowners. 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 208-878-5556.*

*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.*



## **HELP ERADICATE NOXIOUS WEEDS**

*Continued from page 1.*

up this root system; bearing in mind that each fibrous root-hair left behind may develop into a new tuber. Be sure to place the tuber and other parts of the root system that you have dug up into a garbage bag because if you leave it on the ground it can re-root itself.

Please call Cassia County Noxious Weeds Control if you have this weed or eradicate it as soon as possible. (208) 878 4043.



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## **6th Annual SOIL HEALTH WORKSHOP**

*(continued from page 1)*

*Guest Speaker—Dr. Christine Jones*

To the pressing worldwide challenge of restoring topsoil, soil ecologist Dr. Christine Jones offers an accessible, inspiring perspective. Over several decades, Christine has worked with innovative farmers and ranchers to implement regenerative land management practices that enhance biodiversity, productivity, nutrient cycling, carbon sequestration, water quality and community and catchment health. Following a highly respected career in public sector R&D, she founded Amazing Carbon and organized a series of ‘Managing the Carbon Cycle’ forums to promote the benefits of soil carbon.

Christine has gained international recognition as a speaker, presenting on ‘The Fundamentals of Soil’ at workshops, field days, seminars and conferences throughout Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Western Europe, Central America, USA and Canada. Christine is known world-wide for her soil health advocacy and informative, interactive teaching style.

Dr. Christine Jones (*pictured right*) will be the keynote speaker at the 2020 Soil Health Workshop to be held in Burley, Idaho on Thursday, February 6, 2020. The free workshop and luncheon is sponsored by the Mini-Cassia Direct Seed & Cover Crop Project Committee, and Minidoka, West Cassia, and East Cassia Soil & Water Conservation Districts.

**You must RSVP to [ewcswd@gmail.com](mailto:ewcswd@gmail.com) or call 208-572-3369.**



*Dr. Christine Jones, (above) is an Internationally renowned and highly respected groundcover and soils ecologist.*





*L to R West Cassia Chairman Richard Kunau presents vest to West Cassia's Teacher of the Year, Jaysa Fillmore.*

## **West Cassia Teacher of the Year 2019 - Jaysa Fillmore**

Jaysa Fillmore has been selected as West Cassia's Teacher of the Year. Growing up, Jaysa was active in FFA & 4-H. At the State FFA Conference during her Sophomore year in high school, she decided she wanted to be an AG TEACHER. She started taking night classes toward that goal. She graduated Valedictorian from Kimberly High School in 2006. She attended University of Idaho and graduated in 3 years with a BS degree in Ag Education.

Jaysa taught 3 years in Grangeville before moving to Burley to be closer to family. She taught at Burley High School for 2 years and then started the AG Program at Cassia High School where she has worked for 5 years. Jaysa teaches all Applied Science classes at Cassia High School. She applied for a start-up Program Grant, built a greenhouse, and has taught several ag science horticulture classes where students carry out projects and experiments.

Jaysa secured donations for a metal building with heat and air conditioning for students to conduct animal projects. Students assembled rabbit hutches for their projects. Jaysa assists students with rabbit 4-H projects which begin during the school year and she continues to run classes 1-2 times each week throughout the summer. This project helps students gain experience in managing money and teaches them responsibility as they must care for their animals daily. Students sell their rabbits at the County Fair animal sale. Jaysa also runs the "Adopt a Garden" Project where students plan and manage gardens in raised flower beds built by students. Currently, she is managing a CAREER EXPLORATION PROJECT where students can go out into the workplace and experience a variety of career opportunities.

Jaysa and her husband Richard have 2 girls ages 6 and 8. Together, they enjoy camping, gardening, skiing, and are working on their goal to visit all the hot springs in Idaho. Congratulations - West Cassia Teacher of the Year - **Jaysa Fillmore.**



*L to R Ken Black, Kathy Poulton, Richard Kunau (Chairman), and Jordan Searle; West Cassia Supervisors.*

## **Kathy Poulton Receives 10 Year Service Pin**

West Cassia Soil & Water Conservation District honored Kathy Poulton with a 10 year service Pin for her dedicated efforts on the West Cassia Board.

Kathy is a lifelong resident of Cassia County. She and her son Mike run a cow-calf ranching operation south of Oakley. They raise hay and grain for feed. They also own a meadow ranch on Goose Creek where, with the help of NRCS and Soil Conservation funds and expertise, did riparian restoration on 3 miles of creek bank. Through cooperative effort of local, state, federal agencies and Mother Nature, creek banks have healed, water quality improved, sediment flow reduced, and the shallow water table restored.

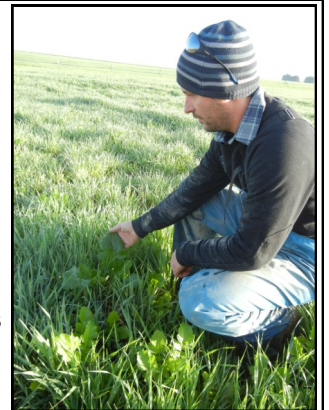
Kathy is a retired teacher having taught 32 years in the Cassia Schools. She is a Master Gardener, a quilter, member of P.E.O. and an active member of the Presbyterian Church. Her favorite activity is being involved in the raising of her 5 grandsons.

Kathy says that being involved with the West Cassia Soil and Water District has been a rewarding learning experience. She serves as treasurer of the board. She enjoys working with other board members and the administrative staff.

## **Justin Hunter Receives 5 Year Service Pin**

Justin Hunter joined the Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation District as an Associate Board Member in 2014 and became a Supervisor in 2015. He is again began serving as an Associate in 2018. Justin has been instrumental in promoting direct seed farming practices, and has participated in renting our drill.

Justin has worked with NRCS on Equipment and Conservation Stewardship programs, and is interested in soil health. He is implementing cover crops into his own farming rotation. Justin was part of the first Cover Crop tour, and very supportive and instrumental in making that tour a success. He has served on the Direct Seed & Cover Crop Project Committee and supports the education of soil health. Justin lives in the Paul area with his wife Kellene and their 2 children. Thanks Justin!



## **Minidoka SWCD Cooperator of the Year**

Minidoka soil & Water Conservation District Chairman Brian Kossman presented their Cooperator of the Year Award to B&H Farms. B&H Farming is a partnership between Randy Bauscher and Tom Haynes. Randy and Tom started farming with nothing in 1989 part-time as a side job raising crops on 400 acres while they were both working at Mart Grain.

Randy and Tom have continued to grow their farming operation, which includes growing seed potatoes in Saskatchewan, Canada, growing commercial potatoes in Hainsworth, Nebraska, and growing commercial beans and alfalfa in Green River, Utah.

They raise around 2,000 acres of potatoes in a joint venture agreement with Lamb Weston, around 600 acres of open potatoes in the Twin Falls area, and 1,000 acres for Gem State Processing in Heyburn, Idaho. They have around 1,200 acres of sugar beets in contracts that go to the Paul and Twin Falls factories. They also raise malt barley, wheat, alfalfa, and corn. Congratulations to Randy Bauscher and Tom Haynes of B&H Farms.



## **East Cassia - Special Recognition Award - Connor White**



*L to R Steve Ward - East Cassia Vice Chairman, Connor White - Special Recognition Award Winner, and Mark Webb - East Cassia Chairman.*

East Cassia Soil & Water Conservation District honored Connor White for his work on the Burley Landscape Sage Grouse Habitat Restoration Project. Connor is an SGI Range & Wildlife Conservationist with NRCS & Pheasants Forever. Connor has worked tirelessly on the Burley Landscape Sage Grouse Habitat Restoration Project. Much of this work is located in East Cassia District.

The first section of the project included 30,000 acres in an Environmental Assessment 10 year plan. They completed the work in the Fall of 2017 - 3 years ahead of schedule. Connor's responsibilities included collecting bids, hiring contractors, quality control, and overseeing the project. Work was completed using a "lop and scatter" techniques which means manual labor with hand chainsaws. They also used mastication techniques using machines, and cut/pile/and burn procedures. The project has cost 4 million dollars so far with all combined funding sources from partnerships with Pheasants Forever, BLM, NRCS, Fish & Game, and Office of Species Conservation.

Connor has begun work on a new section of the project which includes a 50,000 acre area in both East and West Cassia, and a 20,000 acre area in Goose Creek.

Connor was raised in New Plymouth, Idaho. He earned a degree in Range Land Management from University of Idaho. Connor's hobbies include study of and working with bird dogs, hunting (especially chucker), and he shot his first elk last year! He also enjoys taking videos with his drone. Connor - Thanks for your tireless work on these restoration improvements!



## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Soil & Water Conservation Districts put a high value on education. They provide scholarships to students planning to major in agricultural or natural resource related fields.

2019 Scholarship Winners included:



### **Minidoka SWCD**

William Harrison  
McKenzie Walton

### **East Cassia SWCD**

Luke Gilbert  
Madeline Whitaker

### **West Cassia SWCD**

Cassie Beene  
Zachery Powers



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## SOIL HEALTH PRINCIPLES

1. Keep the soil covered
2. Minimize soil disturbance
3. Increase crop diversity
4. Keep living roots in the soil
5. Integrate livestock

## Why Plant Cover Crops?

- **less soil disturbance,**
- Increased **water holding capacity** in soil,
- Increased **organic matter** in the soil,
- **Decreased wind erosion,**
- **Decreased water erosion,**
- More **soil stability,**
- Natural **Weed control,** and
- **Increased nutrients in the soil** provided by certain cover crop varieties chosen ie: legumes for nitrogen or plants with long tap root systems which pull mobile nutrients and moisture back up to the surface from lower layers of the soil and provide moisture pathways.

**Cover Crops Provide Diverse Benefits to Soil.**

**ASK YOURSELF —**  
**HOW CAN COVER CROPS**  
**HELP ME?**

**What are your goals / resource concerns?** Generally speaking.....

1. The more specific your goals / concerns, the less diverse your cover crop mixes will typically be.
2. The tighter your planting windows, the fewer species will work and thus the less diverse your mixes will be.
3. Minimum of 6-8 weeks of growth necessary to achieve most benefits.

**Soil Moisture Management - What do I need?**

- Increase Infiltration
- Reduce Evaporation
- Remove Excess Moisture
- Terminate while cover crop is vegetative (before peak water use occurs)
- Six weeks of growth to achieve “rotation effect”

**What is your Time Frame? What is your Availability?**

1. Spring—fallow ground / prevent plant or prior to a summer crop
2. Early Summer—Right after small grain hay harvest
3. Late Summer—Delay after wheat harvest
4. Fall—After fall crops.



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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 208-572-3369 for details.*

*Minidoka - 2nd Thursday of each month.*

*Call 208-436-4202 for details.*



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**Minidoka SWCD**  
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[minidokaswcd@gmail.com](mailto:minidokaswcd@gmail.com)

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Both Cassia and Minidoka offices are taking direct seed drill reservations for the 2019 planting season. They will work with you around weather conflicts.

