

# Mini-Cassia Conservation Update

Volume No. 2023.2



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

### DISTRICT OFFICES

#### Burley Temporary Office

Room # 201  
In the Cassia County Courthouse  
Burley, Idaho  
Monday-Thursday 9:00-2:00  
208-572-3375

#### Minidoka Office Location

85 East Baseline,  
(In the McGregor Building)  
Minidoka County Fairgrounds  
Rupert, Idaho  
Tuesday-Friday 9:00-2:00  
208-436-4202

### AWARDS PRESENTED at the ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET



The 3 Soil & Water Conservation Districts in the Mini-Cassia area joined together to honor landowners, supervisors, and others who have contributed to improving conservation in our area.

District supervisors recognized Kathy Poulton, an active West Cassia Supervisor of 14 years. Kathy served as treasurer for the West Cassia board for 11 years. Kathy passed away on May 27 of this year. She will be missed. Kathy was active in many district projects including educational activities, tree

*Continued on page 4*

### SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2023

College Scholarships were awarded to students planning to attend college this coming fall in an ag related field of study. Winners from all 3 soil districts were announced at the Annual Awards Banquet held on June 8, 2023.

Scholarships for 2024 will be available after the first of the new year in schools and on our website at [www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com).



Congratulations to the students receiving scholarships.

*Continued on page 7*

Conservation  
*Speech Contest*  
October 17, 2023  
Rules and Application  
available on our website at  
[www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com)  
For Students in  
grades 9-12



### LOCALLY LED **WORK GROUP MEETING**

#### CASSIA & MINIDOKA COUNTIES

November 14, 2023  
10:00 am

Minidoka Fairgrounds  
McGregor Building

Lunch Provided

### WEED AWARENESS

**Cogon Grass** - Ranked as the seventh worst weed in the world by USDA-APHIS in 2003. Cogon grass inhabits sites of soil disturbance such as roadsides, mining sites, and borrow pits. It is capable of invading moist to dry upland pine sites. It forms monoculture fields by secreting substance to suppress other plants ability to grow. Flammable oils in this grass increase the intensity and severity of fires.

**Cogon Grass** will grow approximately 2 to 5 feet tall. It is a perennial grass with bright, yellowy-green foliage which rises from the base. The midvein of the leaf blades is clearly offset to one side, and the edges are serrated. The cream-colored rhi-



*Continued on page 4*

# District Board of Supervisors

	<u>East Cassia SWCD</u>	<u>West Cassia SWCD</u>	<u>Minidoka SWCD</u>
Chairman.....	Rob Cottle.....	Richard Kunau.....	Dusty Wilkins.....
Vice-Chair.....	Steve Ward.....	Jordan Searle.....	Reid Bowen.....
Treasurer.....	Ken Woodworth.....	Ken Black.....	Lance Lovell.....
Member.....	Hannah Sanders.....	Brent Stoker.....	Luke Stevenson.....
Member.....	Kurt Heward.....	Chad Searle.....	Jeff Schow.....
Associate Member.....	Mark Webb.....	Kyle Bowers.....	

## District Employees

Sharon Hardy.....Minidoka Administrative Assistant  
 Rachele Osterhout.....Cassia Administrative Assistant  
 Doreen McMurray.....Cassia Information & Education Specialist  
 Megan Heward.....Cassia Administrative Assistant

## Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

*Burley 208-572-3377 / Rupert 208-436-4777*

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

## CONTACT SWCD OFFICES:

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

**Minidoka email:**  
[minidokaswcd@gmail.com](mailto:minidokaswcd@gmail.com)  
**Cassia email:** [ewcswcd@gmail.com](mailto:ewcswcd@gmail.com)

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

*Spanish translation available upon request.*

## 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

**East Cassia SWCD - 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month**  
**West Cassia SWCD - 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month**  
**Minidoka SWCD - 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month**

*Any changes to meeting schedules will be posted in our offices and on our website at [www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com).*

## 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.



*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.*

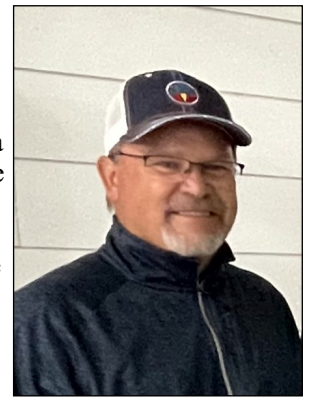


## WELCOME New Minidoka Supervisors - Lance Lovell and Jeff Schow

**Lance Lovell** has been involved in agriculture all of his life. He has always had a love for tractors and farming. He enjoys taking his kids hunting and fishing. He is a graduate of BYU-Idaho with a bachelor's degree in Ag Business and a minor in Spanish. For the last 15 years, he has been involved with sugar beet research. Lance and his wife Erin have 6 children and enjoy living in this beautiful state of Idaho.



**Jeff Schow** is an employed by Amalgamated Sugar Company where he has worked for 33 years. Currently, Jeff is a Senior Agriculturalist and manages the Paul Factory and **Hynes** receiving stations. He is a lifelong resident of Minidoka County. Jeff received an Associate of Arts degree from CSI and a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics with an emphasis in Agri-business management from Texas A&M University. Since graduating from college, Jeff has worked in the agriculture field.



When a youth, Jeff wanted to be a professional baseball player and he received athletic baseball scholarships while attending college. He was a member of the College of Southern Idaho's only National Championship team in the sport of baseball.

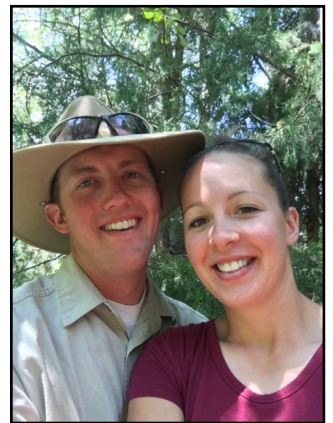
Jeff and his wife Angi have been married for 19 years and have 6 children and 2 grandchildren. He is an avid fisherman and in his spare time, fishes most of Idaho's famous blue-ribbon rivers with his family. Jeff's goal in serving on the Minidoka Soil & Water Conservation District is to give back to our agriculture community "all that Agriculture has given me. Serving on this board will provide this opportunity as well as give me an increased knowledge in conservation."

## WELCOME New West Cassia Supervisor - Chad Searle

**Chad Searle** wants to serve on the Soil & Water Conservation District board because of the opportunity it provides for him to give back to the community. Chad loves Idaho and wants to do his part to protect and preserve the beautiful area where we live here in Southern Idaho. Chad says, "We are surrounded by good people who have helped and blessed me and I want to do the same for others." Chad has seen many good things come from the Soil & Water Conservation District over the years and he is eager to be a part of it. Chad has participated in the Direct Seed and Cover Crop Project and has seen the positive effects of this project throughout the region. He has used the direct seed drill on his own farm and has seen its benefits.

Water is a high priority for Chad. Over the last few years, he has seen just how serious the water situation in our region can become very quickly. "We need to be proactive in our efforts to conserve and ensure that our area continues to have rich soil and water for years into the future. Chad is interested in new programs that promote innovative conservation awareness such as soil moisture monitoring sensors and their impact on water conservation. Chad would like to see continued and increased community awareness and involvement in conservation efforts, both on the farm and off.

Chad is the son of Craig and Beverly Searle. He grew up on the family farm in the View area southeast of Burley where he has lived most of his life. He attended Burley High School where he was very involved in FFA. He even received the West Cassia SWCD college scholarship. He graduated from BYU-Idaho with a bachelors degree in agriculture technology. It was there that he met his wife Shaylona. They have been married for 5 years.



## WELCOME New East Cassia Supervisor - Kurt Heward



**Kurt Heward** is the son of Alan and Melody Heward. He is the middle of 7 kids. Kurt and his wife Zenna have been married for 11 years and have 5 children: Jex 8 years old, Benzi 6 years old, Trave and Kyce 3 years old (twins), and Vince 16 months old.

Kurt graduated from BYU Idaho with a bachelor's degree in Agri-business. He loves guns, basketball, and motor sports. Kurt loves playing music for his kids to dance to - until they all run out of energy so they can go to bed easily.

Kurt is excited to serve on the East Cassia Board. He wants to share with others the principles that will help build Idaho soils and allow soil to take and hold water more easily. He wants to share how these practices can reduce wind and water erosion and improve soil biology. Educating farmers on how to regenerate soils is one of his priorities. Kurt says that he hopes his successes and failure can become an asset to all that are willing to try soil health improvement practices. Kurt hopes he can be a help to all those that ask. Kurt is an open book and loves helping anyone that's willing to try something new to improve soil health.



UGA1334120

## Cogon Grass

*Continued from page 1.*

zomes are hard and scaly with sharply pointed tips. The seed head is white and fuzzy. It forms monoculture fields by secreting substance to suppress other plants' ability to grow. Cogon Grass is native to South Africa and Southeastern Asia. This species was first introduced to the United States accidentally via packing materials sent to Louisiana in 1912. It was intentionally introduced for erosion control and livestock forage in



© 2003 Happenstance Garden



Florida in the 1930s.

It may spread through movement of contaminated soil with small pieces of rhizome or seed. To prevent accidental introductions, learn how to identify Cogon grass and report any sightings. When gardening, always research plants before planting and only purchase seeds from licensed nurseries. Always remove and properly dispose of all seed and plant materials on vehicles, clothing, shoes and pets before you exit or enter outdoor recreational sites. Use care when removing plant materials as parts of the plant are poisonous. Contact your county weed superintendent for eradication options. Cassia County Noxious Weed Control (208) 878-4043.

## **AWARDS PRESENTED at ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET**

*(Continued from page 1)*

sale distribution, the Land & Soil Evaluation Event, financial matters, and personnel support. There will be scholarships awarded in Kathy's name in the Spring of 2024.

Also at the Awards Banquet, Supervisors were honored for years of service volunteering on the Soil District Boards. Supervisors receiving Service Pins were Ken Woodworth for 30 years on East Cassia's board, Ken Black for 10 years on



*West Cassia Chairman Richard Kunau presents 10 year service pin to Ken Black.*



*West Cassia Chairman Richard Kunau presents 5 year service pin to Jordan Searle.*



*East Cassia Chairman Rob Cottle presents 30 year service pin to Ken Woodworth.*

West Cassia's board, Jordan Searle for 5 years on West Cassia's board, and Dusty Wilkins for 10 years service on the Minidoka board. Employee Doreen McMurray was recognized for 30 years working as the Information & Education Specialist for East Cassia and West Cassia Districts.

Four new supervisors were welcomed: Kurt Heward on the East Cassia board

# 2023 STATE FFA DEGREES AWARDED

The Idaho State FFA Degree recognizes Idaho FFA members who set goals in leadership, community service and FFA involvement. This degree signifies that a member has gone above and beyond involvement and stepped forward as a leader. Annually, only 6% of Idaho FFA members will receive the State FFA Degree.

We recognize the efforts put forth by students to attain this Degree while participating in all of the activities and adventures of youth and still maintaining their academic school grades. Some of the requirements of achieving this degree includes 360 hours of agricultural education and at least



Photo shows Sadie Williams and Kolter Mabey from Oakley FFA receiving their State FFA Degree Awards.

## Raft River FFA

Allie Black  
Barbara Briggs  
Haven Hitt  
Reagan Jones  
Brayden Spencer  
Talon Taylor  
Ellie Tingey  
Tanner Tracy

## Burley FFA

David Brower  
Abigail Haymore  
Natalie Kornbau  
Morgan Irsik  
Luke Monroe  
Kymbrie Tegethoff  
Lexie Williams

## Declo FFA

Garrett Darrington  
Ben Gerratt  
Kyle Hill  
Riley Hutchison  
Jace Miller  
Taylor Miller  
Mindy Simkins  
Zoey Stapleman

## Minidoka FFA

Stetson Allen  
Kinsie Burr  
Phoenix Edwards  
Clarabell Evans  
Anavrin Kirst  
Krystal Lee  
Carson Suchan  
Shelby Timmons  
McKinlie Wickel

## Oakley FFA

Kolter Mabey  
Sadie Williams

300 hours over and above scheduled class time. Working to earn this degree demonstrates determination and dedication. Congratulations to the students in the Mini-Cassia area who have earned this honor.

## AWARDS... (Continued from page 4)



Minidoka Vice-Chairman Reid Bowen presents 10 year service pin to Chairman Dusty Wilkins.

and Lance Lovell, Luke Stevenson, and Jeff Schow on the Minidoka board.

Conservation Steward awards were presented to Mark Webb from East Cassia and Derek Maiers from Minidoka. Students who attended Know Your Government Conference in Boise spoke about their experiences and college scholarship winners were recognized.



East Cassia Chairman Rob Cottle (left), and West Cassia Chairman Richard Kunau (right), presented a 30 year recognition to employee Doreen McMurray for 30 years as the Information & Education Specialist.



Photo above: Minidoka Board with 3 new Supervisors. Left to Right: Jeff Schow, Lance Lovell, Luke Stevenson, Minidoka Chairman Dusty Wilkins, and Vice-Chair Reid Bowen.

Photo Left: Kurt Heward welcomed as a new East Cassia Supervisor by Chairman Rob Cottle.

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# COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

*Continued from page 1.*

## East Cassia Scholarship Winners

**Treg Whitaker** is the son of Travis and Jennifer Whitaker of Malta. Treg is a graduate of Raft River High School where he has been active in 4-H, FFA, and his church. He participated in the Lunch Buddies Program, coached Little League basketball, and helped lead the annual blood drive. Treg was the National Honor Society President his Senior year and Football Team Captain. Treg wants to become a Diesel Mechanic and plans to attend Bridgerland Technical College in Logan, Utah this fall. He loves all tractors and farm equipment and wants to return to Southern Idaho to work as a mechanic.

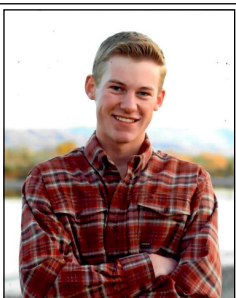
**Victoria Gularte** is the daughter of Amy Medina of Declo. Victoria is a graduate of Declo High School where she has been active in Soccer, Jazz Band, Concert Band, Leo's Club, and FFA – serving as the FFA Reporter for 2 years, the FFA President this past year, and East Magic Valley District FFA Secretary. Victoria will attend Utah State University this fall majoring in Environmental Engineering hoping to focus on water and waste water management.



*East Cassia Chairman Rob Cottle presents scholarships to Victoria Gularte and Treg Whitaker.*

## Minidoka Scholarship Winners

**Cooper Beene** received scholarships from *both* Minidoka SWCD and West Cassia SWCD. Cooper is the son of Britt & Andrea Beene of Rupert. He was home educated with Ag Class instruction at Burley High School. Cooper has been active in 4-H and FFA participating in many activities and events, and earning many awards. Cooper earned the Idaho State FFA Degree. Cooper plans to attend Montana State University this fall majoring in Agriculture Business.



**Carson Suchan** is the son of Russell and Cheyenne Suchan of Paul. Carson earned the State FFA Degree and the award for District Star Farmer for agricultural placement. Carson was selected to serve as the FFA Idaho Association Vice President for the upcoming year. Carson served as the Minico FFA chapter president and maintained his honor student status while taking dual-credit classes, which gained him 50 college credits. He played high school football, and enjoys hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, dirt bik-



ing, and snowboarding. Carson enjoys just driving through the mountains or hanging out at a lake with friends and family. Caron plans to attend either Boise State or the University of Idaho.

## West Cassia Scholarship Winners

**Sadie Williams** is the daughter of Karen and Jason Williams of Oakley. Sadie is a graduate of Oakley High School and has been active in Youth Government, National Honor Society, and has held Youth Church leadership positions. She was active in track and volleyball, and was the Student Body Secretary. Sadie worked in the FFA serving as FFA Chapter secretary, Chapter President, and FFA District Reporter. Sadie plans to attend Brigham Young University this fall majoring in Agriculture Policy and minoring in Animal Science.



*West Cassia Chairman Richard Kunau presents scholarship to Sadie Williams.*

**Kelcee Burton** is the daughter of Shawn & Carrie Burton of Burley. Kelcee is a graduate of Declo High School and was active in band, cheerleading, choir, FCCLA, National Honor Society, and participated in 4-H for 12 years. Kelcee plans to attend Utah State University in the fall majoring in Food Science with a minor in Nutrition.



**Falon Bedke** is the daughter of Will & Susanne Beke of Oakley. Falon is a graduate of Oakley High School and was active in school volleyball, basketball, and Rodeo Club. She was a member of the National Honor Society and was Class Salutatorian. Falon plans to attend the College of Southern Idaho this fall majoring in Ag Business and minoring in Finance.



# CONSERVATION FARMERS of the YEAR

## Minidoka Conservation Farmer of the Year

Derrick Maier is a 3rd generation farmer in Minidoka County. He grew up working on the farm with his Dad—Steve and Grandpa Otto. In 2018, Derrick took over the farm operation when Steve retired. Derrick currently farms hay, sugar beets, and grain with the help of his family. He feels privileged to continue the tradition of passing on his farming knowledge to his two sons Kendrick and Derren. When he can get away from farming, Derrick enjoys camping and riding motorcycles.

*Photo: Sara and Derrick Maier presented with the Conservation Farmer award by Minidoka Chairman Dusty Wilkins.*



## East Cassia Conservation Steward of the Year

Mark Webb has always been interested in soil and water conservation. Mark has served on the East Cassia Soil & Water Conservation District Board for 17 years. He has participated in many conservation projects both through the conservation district and on his own. Soil Health is very important to Mark. There are field samples taken on Mark's land for The Division IV "Soil Your Undies" research project each year. Mark serves on the Mini-Cassia Direct Seed & Cover Crop Project as a Committee Member and has participated in Cover Crop Field Tours – showing progressive cover crop plantings on his fields. Mark has actively supported conservation projects sponsored by the soil districts including digging the pits for the state 4-H & FFA soils contests, judging conservation speech contests for high school students, and bagging seedling trees for windbreaks.

Mark has been a business owner and partner in an electric company, a feed lot, a calf ranch, a sod company, dairy operations, and more. Mark and his brothers started the first Robotic Dairy and robotic supplier business in Idaho. Mark's work in these companies have now been passed on to the next generation. He is now **"the employee"** – working

for his Sons in their businesses and helping wherever he can. His favorite assignment is moving DIRT!

Mark is a great example of being a good steward of the land. His work with soil health has been a positive influence on others. Mark loves the life of a farmer. He also loves this area in which he and his wife Cathi have raised 4 children. Mark is a proud Grandpa and enjoys spending time with his wife and doing family activities. He is active in church service and especially loves working with the youth. Mark says his favorite 3 things are: Spending time with Cathi, Moving dirt on his loader and paddle scraper, and Golfing.



*Left: Part of the East Cassia & West Cassia SWCD display at the Cassia County Fair 2023. Above: Minidoka SWCD Fair Display Booth at the Minidoka County Fair 2023.*



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Minidoka office: 208-436-4202

Cassia office: 208-572-3375

Info on our website: [www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com)



## Division IV Soil Health Project

For the past five years the East and West Cassia and the Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) have been actively involved in a multi-county soil health project in cooperation with the University of Idaho Extension (UI), the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC), and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). This 5-year project has several objectives: 1) Evaluate the health of the soils in our area by testing their chemical, physical, and biological properties. 2) Assess the effects of various agricultural practices on soil health, such as planting cover crops, using no-till or reduced tillage, integration of livestock, using manure or compost in addition to or in place of commercial fertilizer, and other practices. 3) Educate producers about the importance of soil health. 4) Track our progress in improving the health of our soils over a 5-year period.

To make the project more appealing and interesting to producers, the UI personnel introduced the “Soil Your Undies” campaign. This involved burying a pair of cotton men’s briefs six inches deep at each soil sampling site for a period of at least 8 weeks, and then digging up the underwear to evaluate the amount of biological degradation that had occurred during the time of burial. The assumption was that the greater the amount of degradation, the higher the biological activity, reflecting a healthier soil. In addition to the underwear buried at the soil sampling site, farmers were given the opportunity to choose an alternate site to bury an additional pair of underwear. This alternate site could be a field with different soils, or in permanent pasture, or operated with different practices or cropping scenarios. The following pictures show underwear buried in a corn field and a sugar beet field, and then the state of the underwear after being buried for 10 weeks.



*District employee Rachel Osterhout taking a soil sample in a mustard field in Cassia County.*



The three SWCDs paid the costs of the soil sampling. The district and the cooperating agencies (UI, ISWCC, and NRCS) sampled the same fields each summer, this summer being the last year of the project. Crops grown included sugar beets, potatoes, barley, wheat, alfalfa, beans, corn, grass, and mustard (for seed). Soil samples were collected in the latter part of June each year after the crops were up. They were tested for standard attributes (nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium, organic matter, etc.) as well as soil health attributes such as microbial biomass, carbon to nitrogen ratio, and microbial functional groups. Carolyn Firth, ISWCC

*Left: Underwear recovered from Minidoka 3 after being buried for 10 weeks. Notice that the cotton is almost completely gone. All that remains is the nylon waist band and the elastic around the leg openings. This producer routinely uses cover crops and when possible, he practices no-till or reduced tillage. This underwear was some of the most degraded underwear in all the counties participating in this project. That would indicate high biological activity of this soil, and a healthy soil as well.*



# LOCALLY LED **WORK GROUP MEETING**

CASSIA & MINIDOKA COUNTIES

November 14, 2023

10:00 am

Minidoka Fairgrounds  
McGregor Building

Lunch Provided

## You're invited to:

- \* Review performance of past year's projects
- \* Help shape plans and priorities for the future
- \* Connect with partners and new audiences to seek opportunities to leverage partnership funds
- \* Learn about other NRCS programs that may be beneficial to you.

To RSVP or for information:

ewcswcd@gmail.com

208-572-3375

minidokaswcd@gmail.com

Locally led work group meetings are a valuable part of the NRCS planning process, providing an opportunity for local land managers to be a part of a collaborative effort to improve natural resources within our counties.

RSVP: [ewcswcd@gmail.com](mailto:ewcswcd@gmail.com) 208-572-3375 or [minidokaswcd@gmail.com](mailto:minidokaswcd@gmail.com) 208-436-4202

Call one of our offices to rent a direct seed drill.



### LEARN MORE!

#### ARBOR DAY

Check their website and watch their videos. 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

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#### LOOK UP!

Look up before you plant trees. 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>.

2023 Conservation  
Speech & Poster Contest

THEME: "One Water"



Poster Contest for 5th & 6th grade students  
Speech Contest for 9-12 grade students

Details on our website at  
[www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com)

## Coming Soon: Soil Monitoring Partnerships

A new soil monitoring program will be starting in 2024. The Soil & Water Conservation Districts are looking for landowners who are interested in participating in the project. Watch for details in the next newsletter and on our website at [www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com).

## Committee Changes Name/Purpose

The Mini-Cassia Direct Seed & Cover Crop Project Committee represents the 3 Soil & Water Conservation Districts in the Mini-Cassia area. They have focused on soil health for the past 9 years providing education, cover crop information, workshops, tours, drill rentals, seed rebates, and more.

The focus of the committee is expanding and they have changed their name to:

### **The Tri-District Project Committee**

The committee is made up of 2 supervisors from each of the 3 participating soil districts (East Cassia, Minidoka, and West Cassia). They will continue to address soil health needs but will expand their projects to include other natural resource concerns.



## SEEDLING TREE SALE

**The Annual Seedling Tree Sale will officially begin on February 1, 2024.**

For a successful planting, start planning NOW.

1. Decide location and space available.
2. Determine the number of rows you will need.
3. Do your research - determine which tree and/or shrub varieties will best suit your needs.
1. Plan for irrigation.
2. Order early. Special orders will be considered. Contact our office for details.

Suggestions and helps are available on our website at [www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com).



East Cassia, West Cassia, & Minidoka  
Soil & Water Conservation Districts  
1361 East 16th Street  
Burley, ID 83318

NONPROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
BURLEY, ID  
PERMIT NO. 9

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 Wednesday of each month.*  
*Call 208-436-4202 for details.*

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

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

Call our office to get your  
name on the list to  
rent one of our  
**Direct Seed Drills**

**In this issue:**

- \* Weed Awareness
- \* Banquet Awards
- \* State FFA Degree Recipients
- \* Scholarship Winners
- \* New Supervisor spotlights
- \* Local Work Group
- \* Speech & Poster Contests
- \* Division IV Soil Health Project
- \* and more....



Get involved  
in local  
conservation  
efforts

LOCALLY LED  
**WORK  
GROUP  
MEETING**

CASSIA & MINIDOKA COUNTIES  
November 14, 2023  
10:00 am

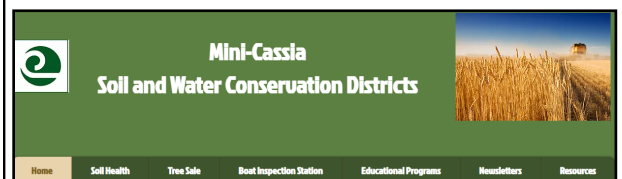
Minidoka Fairgrounds  
McGregor Building

Lunch Provided

Locally led work group meetings are a valuable part of the NRCS planning process, providing an opportunity for local land managers to be a part of a collaborative effort to improve natural resources within our counties.

RSVP to:  
[ewcswcd@gmail.com](mailto:ewcswcd@gmail.com) 208-572-3375  
[minidokaswcd@gmail.com](mailto:minidokaswcd@gmail.com) 208-436-4202

Visit Our **WEBSITE**  
**[www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com)**



*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*  
**Educational Programs**  
**Land & Soil Evaluation Event**  
*Poster & Speech Contests*  
*Scholarships*  
**Newsletters**  
*Announcements, Events, Awards, & much more.....*