

# Mini-Cassia Conservation Update

Spring 2019  
Volume No. 2019.1



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

### SOIL HEALTH WORKSHOP

The 5th Annual Soil Health Workshop was a great success with over 260 people in attendance. Farmers learned about the biology of the soil and how to implement good practices that will increase both soil health and yields, as well as increase their overall profit. The Minidoka, West



Cassia, and East Cassia Soil & Water Conservation Districts host the workshop as part of their Direct Seed & Cover Crop Project.

Topics addressed at the workshop included Regenerative Agriculture, Building Carbon for Soil Health and Profit, Choosing Cover Crops, Optimum Nutrition from Cover Crops for DAIRY FEED, Nematode Resistant Cover Crop Solutions, and Biofumigation and

Continued on page 13.

### PLANT A WINDBREAK

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 wind velocity and reducing blowing snow and dirt. They also gentle the 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. Trees also provide wildlife habitat. Planting trees increases property value and works well as a sound barrier.

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 3 to 5 rows for maximum benefit but even one row will provide positive results. 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. They also provide the needed protection for evergreens in a windbreak. Many varieties also add beautification as they have blossoms.

Planting a different tree variety in each row provides greatest benefit. Deciduous trees are often used for a middle row in a windbreak. Deciduous trees such as a hybrid or Lombardy poplar are faster growing than ever-

Continued on page 3.



### SCHOLARSHIPS

The Soil & Water Conservation Districts provide several scholarships to students planning to major in Agricultural or natural resource related fields.

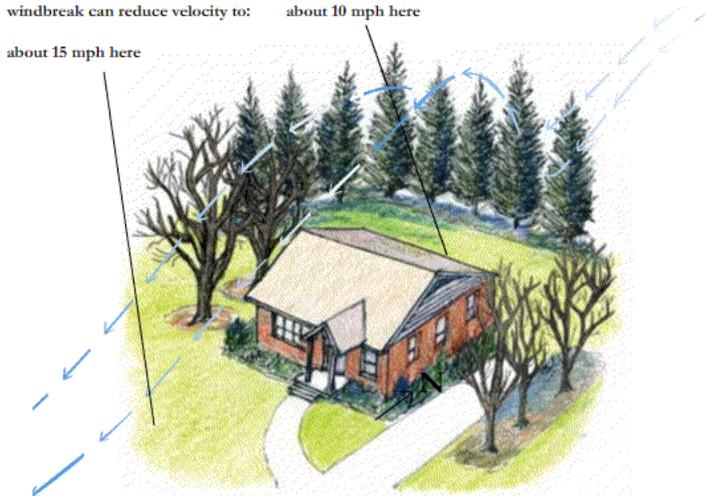
#### Minidoka SWCD Scholarships:

Contact the office for an application. Send e-mail to [minidokaswcd@gmail.com](mailto:minidokaswcd@gmail.com) or Call the office at 208-436-4202 for information.

#### East Cassia & West Cassia SWCD Scholarships:

\$500 scholarships are available from East Cassia and West Cassia Soil Districts. Scholarships are to be used the fall term 2019. Applications are available at the Burley NRCS office at 1361 East 16th Street, by email to [ewcswcd@gmail.com](mailto:ewcswcd@gmail.com), by phone to 208-572-3369, or on our web page at [www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com). Application deadline May 31, 2019.

If open wind is 35 mph, the  
windbreak can reduce velocity to: about 10 mph here  
about 15 mph here



# 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

## 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

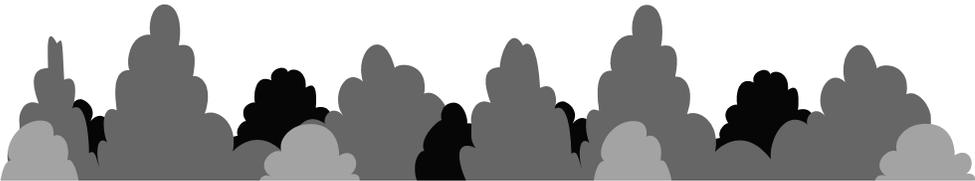
David Mabey.....District Conservationist  
 Carolyn Firth.....ISWCC Ag Program Specialist  
 Dinah Reaney.....Soil Conservationist  
 Connor White.....Range & Wildlife Conservationist  
 Haydn Carson.....Soil Technician  
 Nathan Huber.....Soil Conservationist

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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.

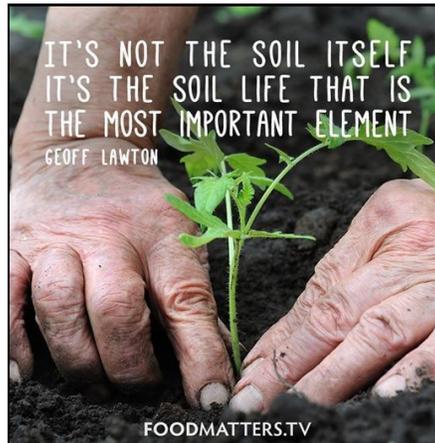
Serving as a Supervisor is a great opportunity to learn how to improve your own operation as well as helping to make a difference within your community.

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**



**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.*

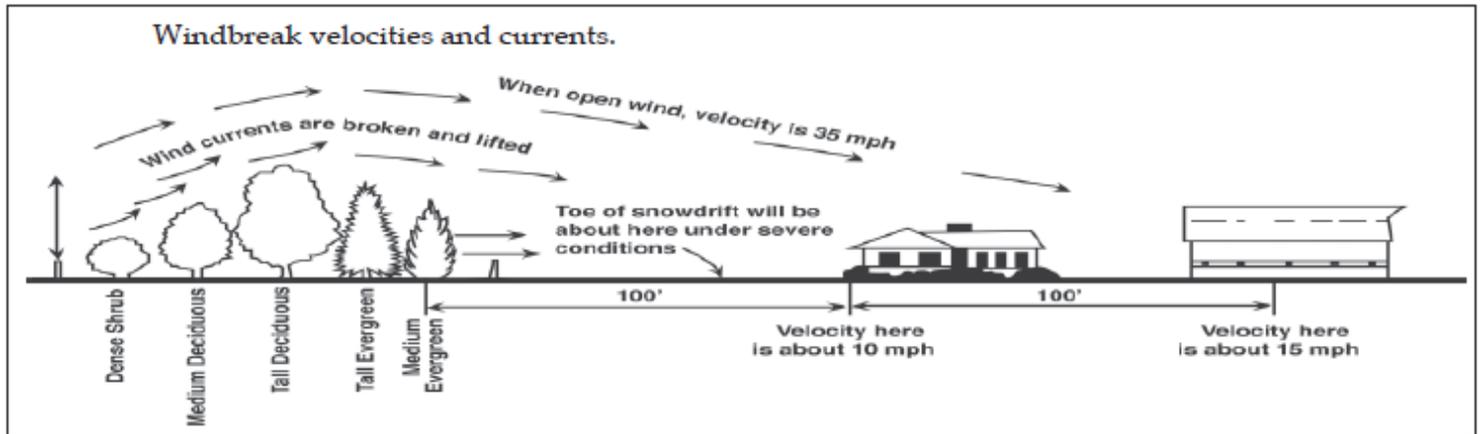
*East Cassia, West Cassia, & Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation Districts are non-profit organizations. All programs and services of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.*

## Plant A Windbreak *Continued from page 1.*

greens 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. Remember that 3-5 rows are best, but you can plant more or less as room allows.

A few things to remember: Do some research, plan your windbreak carefully taking into consideration the greatest benefits from wind and sun. Measure your area and plan appropriate room for trees to grow. Consider irrigation and protection from animals while trees get established. For survival of your trees during planting, take precautions to keep roots damp. The most economical way to get a windbreak growing is to plant seedlings. Their success rate is very good when protection and care are taken.

Seedling Trees are available to **order now** from the Soil & Water Conservation Districts. The seedlings come in bundles of 10 trees per bundle for a cost of \$35 plus tax for each bundle. Pre-order your trees now as supplies are limited. The seedlings will arrive mid to late April. Check out our website at [www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com) where you can see detailed photos and information on the seedlings. You can also get information by coming into the Burley USDA Field Office at 1361 East 16<sup>th</sup> St. or the Minidoka USDA Field Office 98 B South 200 West in Rupert. You can request information and order forms by e-mail at [ewcswcd@gmail.com](mailto:ewcswcd@gmail.com). Order forms, photos, planting instructions, and windbreak info are all available on the web site or in the offices. For more information, call 208-572-3369 or 208-436-4202.



## WHAT DO ALL THOSE ACROMYMS MEAN??

By Sharon H. Wilmot, Minidoka Admin Assistant.



Acronyms make sense to those who use them all the time. We hear them tossed around like we should all know what they mean. Without the definition how do we know if that is something we should be interested in or if we need that-program/product? Here are a few acronyms to assist you.

**LWG** -Local working group: A group of growers, producers, interested citizens who meet to determine needs or items of concern in their respective area. Sponsored through your local SWCD.

**NRCS**- Natural Resources Conservation Service: They assist growers with innovative farming and conservation practices and provide financial and technical assistance.

**SWCD** – Soil and Water Conservation District: There are 3 in the Mini-Cassia area - East Cassia, West Cassia and Minidoka. They are volunteers who seek for ways to improve natural resources in their areas. They manage programs and activities that encourage wise stewardship. They implement educational programs for adults and youth through speech and poster contests, FFA (Future Farm-

ers Association), land and soil evaluation, newsletters, and Soil Health Workshops. They manage the Direct Seed & Cover Crop Project, renting direct seed drills and encouraging cover crop plantings to improve soil health.

**SWCC** – Soil and Water Conservation Commission: They help with determining soil and water quality.

**IASCD** – Idaho Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts: Assist with legislation for conservation. They support and provide information for local Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

**EIA** – Environmental Impact Assessment: Evaluates what your impact will be on what you are doing or planning to do.

**NEPA** – National Environmental Policy Act: Often farming practices and finances are based on this.

**WAG** - (Lake Walcott) Watershed Advisory Group (WAG): To access documents related to the Lake Walcott WAG go to the WAG website at <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/regional-offices-issues/twin-falls/basin-watershed-advisory-groups/lake-walcott-wag/> and press the link for WAG materials.

**LESA** – Low elevation spray application: “Drag hoses” are used along with small dikes constructed in furrows to hold water in place while it soaks into the root zone.

Continued on page 7.

# POSTER CONTEST 2018

5th and 6th grade students in Minidoka and Cassia Counties had the opportunity to participate in the annual Poster Contest. This year's theme was WATERSHEDS - Our Water, Our Home". Student's work was judged on their use of the theme, visual effectiveness, originality, and universal appeal.



**Acequia Elementary Poster Winners:** (above)  
1st Joel, 2nd Kenneth, 3rd Teagan.

**Declo Jr High School Poster Winners:** (right)  
1st Marcelio,  
2nd Alivia, 3rd Etienne. Honorable Mention: Kadence, Krystin, Morgan, and Kelsie.



**Declo Elementary Poster Winners:** (above)  
1st Cooper, 2nd Zenna, 3rd Paige. Honorable Mentions: Sidney, Zoe, Norah, Chase, Kyle, Booklyn, and Cade.



**Dworshak Elementary Poster Winners:** (photo to left)  
1st Zayden, 2nd Melanie, 3rd Lydia.

Honorable Mentions: Hyon Yae, Jakobi, Zander, Melina, Isabel, Eduardo, Anna, Maycelei, and David.



**East Minico Poster Winners:** (left)  
1st Nevaeh, 2nd Jazlyn, 3rd Juliette.

**Heyburn Elem. Poster Winners:** (right)  
1st Lillian, 2nd Jaydon, 3rd Nash.



**John V. Evans Elementary School Poster Winners:** (above)  
1st Adyson, 2nd Ava, 3rd Carly. Honorable Mentions: Dan, Mylee, Jacob, Lacey, Kobe, Olivia, Ali, Emely, and Maelin.



**Mountain View Elementary Poster Winners:** (above)  
1st Ruby, 2nd Benjamin, 3rd Raygan. Honorable Mentions: Jessica, Brooklyn, Alexa, Dora, Chloe, and Skyler.



**Oakley Elementary Poster Winners:** (above)  
 1st Mia, 2nd Sydney, 3rd Brooke. *Honorable Mentions:*  
 Mia, Camila, Taylin, Kadi, Addy, Ella, Justyce, and Porter.



**Paul Elementary Poster Winners:** (above)  
 Nidia 1st place, Tayli 2nd place, Juliana 3rd place.



**St. Nicholas Poster Winners:** (above)  
 1st place Cassy, 2nd place Nevaeh, 3rd place Jeremiah.

**Raft River Elementary Poster Winners:** (right)  
 1st place Lily,  
 2nd place Melinee,  
 3rd place Ryan.  
*Honorable Mentions:*  
 Kynnlee, Naomi, Ren, Faith, Melody, Reigan, and Lillian.



**West Minico Poster Winners:** (above)  
 1st place Shay, 2nd place Nicole, 3rd place Cole.

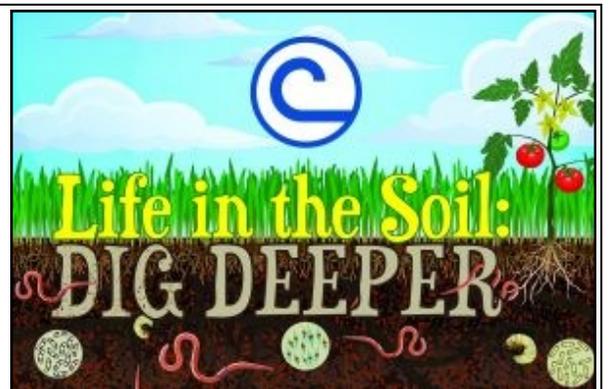


**White Pine Elementary School Poster Winners:** (left)  
 1st place Lillie,  
 2nd place Kaitlyn,  
 3rd place Kaiah.  
*Honorable Mentions:*  
 Alexis, Kaden, Jordyn, Bethany.

2019 **Poster & Speech Contest Theme:**

**“Life in the Soil  
 DIG DEEPER”**

2019 Poster & Speech Contests will be held in September and October 2019. Check our website or call the office for information.



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## WHAT DO ALL THOSE ACROMYMS MEAN??

Continued from page 3.



**LEPA** - low-energy precision application: The LEPA term has been expanded to include bubblers suspended just above the soil surface, oftentimes not using furrow dikes.

**F.S.A.** – Farm Service Agency: They offer low interest loans to local farmers, they also have programs to help subsidize our local farmers which include disaster programs and conservation programs.

**UHEL** - Undetermined Highly Erodible Land.

**HEL** - Highly Erodible Land.



## 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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# Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation District

## 2018 Performance Report

**GENERAL INFORMATION:** The Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation District was organized on July 1 1955 spending the first five years helping farmer's level land, build irrigation structures and develop proper crop rotation. The Districts efforts have evolved over the years, from equipment leases to producers, to education of the area school children and soil health workshops for the area growers.

**MISSION:** Deliver natural resource technology and education, to promote wise use of natural resources and to promote management practices to ensure a sustainable natural resource base for present and future generations of producers/growers in Minidoka County.

**LOCATION:** Minidoka County is in central southern Idaho, with the Snake River forming the southern boundary, Power county to the East, Blaine County at the northern end, with Lincoln and Jerome Counties to the west. The county contains approximately 480,000 acres, of which 42% is in production agriculture. The county has a unique topography and elevation. Its southern portion, which runs along the Snake River, was originally part of the riverbed. Its northern portion runs over a somewhat higher table and is called the North side project. Its extreme northern and eastern boundaries consist of lava flows with large and small areas of arable land. Although the surface structure is varied, there is only 180 feet difference in elevation from the lowest point at the southwest corner, 4180 feet and its highest point in the northeast corner, 4360 feet.



**WATER:** Water stored in reservoirs created by dams on the Snake River provides the means of irrigation for the diversified farming on the original Minidoka Project. Water was first delivered to the Minidoka Project in 1907 with the completion of Minidoka Dam. The old project consists of 72,221 acres. Deep wells provide the water for the new Governmental Homestead Project consisting of 89,000 acres. Additional acres have been developed by private enterprise since the first Veteran Homestead drawing in 1953. Today there is approximately 160,000 acres of rich sagebrush land under irrigation by pumping. Irrigated farmland covers the southern part of the county, while lava beds cover the northern portion. The elevation is generally in the range of 4,200 feet (1,300 m) to 4,500 feet (1,400 m). The Irrigated farmland covers the southern part of the county, while lava beds cover the northern portion. The elevation is generally in the range of 4,200 feet (1,300 m) to 4,500 feet (1,400 m).

### LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 27 FY 2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Minidoka, East Cassia and West Cassia Soil Conservation Districts jointly sponsored the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Soil Health Workshop with over 300 attendees listening to veteran Cover Crop expert Gabe Brown. We also held an evening with Gabe for the area FFA students to participate in a forum with him on the future of agriculture for our youth.



The District participated with the local NRCS in providing education field days for students 3-6 grades. One event held at Minidoka Dam the other at the county Fair Grounds the presentation for each sub-group of youth was an apple cut into smaller and smaller slices representing the earth and the useable portions of the earth with the final piece being a portion of the peel as sustainable soil for providing the worlds food. It was a powerful visual demonstration for them.

The District partnered with the local FSA and NRCS offices to provide a farmer appreciation day, and give handouts on the benefits of the Direct Seed Drill.



The Direct Seed Drill went out into the fields early this year – in February and stayed busy until the end of October. Planting oats, pasture mix, spring wheat, crp, fescue radish, barley, tricale, and various mixes of cover crops. The smallest planting was 1.6 acres with the largest being 348.1 acres at a time. We put on 1741.9 acres. The Drill has a total of 5617.2 acres on it and is starting to show some wear. We will be providing replacement of the most worn parts so that it can be maintained in premium condition while promoting the benefits of cover crops.

The District applied for and received a small grant to purchase pollinator seeds in bulk to package and label. These were handed out during events that the District attended such as School Field Days, Customer appreciation days at various businesses, The County Fair, RC&D meeting and the IDEA meeting.

### FUTURE PLANS AND PROJECTS:

- \* Continue the education for cover crops, along with the benefits of the Direct Seed Drill.
- \* Provide training and help with water quality through use of cover crops thus diminishing the need for as much chemicals and quantity of water.
- \* Participate in continuing education for area school children.



# East Cassia

## Soil and Water Conservation District

2018  
Performance  
Report



### Top Priorities and Resource Concerns

- 1. Water Resource**  
Encouraging good conservation practices which save water and reduce soil erosion, conversion to sprinkler systems, promote benefits of crop residue, conservation tillage, and cross slope farming practices.
- 2. Rangeland**  
Education and encouragement of brush control, range seeding, pest control, fire control practices, drought concerns, stock water improvements, and planned grazing systems.
- 3. Direct Seed and Cover Crops**  
Encouraging farmers and landowners to implement new and innovative farm practices. Educate landowners on the benefits of such practices.
- 4. Education**  
Education is a huge benefactor to the districts. The by product of educating children is that information is then passed on to the their parents.

### Board/Business Meetings

Supervisors and district employees attended the Spring Division IV meeting hosted by Camas Soil and Water Conservation District. Employees and Supervisors attended the Fall Division IV meetings. The annual IASCD conference was held in Post Falls, Idaho on November 13-16<sup>th</sup>. A district employee attended the conference as reported back to the board on conference activities and meetings. The employee also attended the conference in preparation for upcoming conference hosted by Division IV. The board reviewed their yearly budgets and financial statements in board meetings. All district financial information and documents were/are available for public review.

### Education and Outreach

The following donations were given in FY2018 in support of education; \$50.00 to the state Envirothon, \$152.00 to poster contest winners, and \$750.00 in college scholarships. A \$150.00 scholarship was given to help one student attend Know Your Government. One student attended Natural Resources Camp and was awarded a 100.00 scholarship. \$150.00 to Idaho Ag in the Classroom. FFA and 4H students from around the state participated in the State Land and Soil Evaluation Event held on October 10, 2018. East Cassia Supervisors volunteered time to help with the event. Together, East and West Cassia had a booth display at the local fair educating patrons on the benefits of windbreaks, the annual seedling tree sale, and information on the Mini-Cassia Direct Seed Project and drill rental.

### Projects

The three districts in the Mini Cassia area have been working jointing to promote the Direct Seed Drill program. The grant was completed in August 2017, but the districts have continued promoting cover crop programs and continue to rent their direct seed drills. In conjunction with the drill rentals, they sponsor an annual Soil Health workshop. Special keynote guest speaker was Gabe Brown. Other presenters included; Marlin Winger, NRCS Regional Agronomist, Shane Holt, Dairy Nutritionist, and Brian Kossman, District Supervisor, who educated the audience about the cover crop program. This workshop has been available FREE to patrons and also offers FREE pesticide credits.



### Mission Statement

*To encourage responsible natural resource management and to implement conservation goals which improve air, soil, and water quality while improving wildlife habitat.*

*To educate both youth and adults about our local conservation practices and needs.*

### District Operations & Accomplishments

#### Seedling Tree Sale

In early spring, East Cassia, Minidoka, and West Cassia SWCD's held their annual Tree Sale. This year the districts sold over 2,500 seedlings of eleven different varieties. This is a great opportunity for the districts to reach out to the community and promote good conservation practices. This year each district profited \$1,759.67. This additional income the districts receive from this sale helps to further incorporate good conservation practices and helps with student awards such as; college scholarships, Know Your Government scholarships, Natural Resources Camp scholarships, speech and poster contest prizes.

#### Awards Banquet

Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Minidoka and Cassia County held their annual Awards Banquet in March 2018. Highlights of the banquet included their Cooperator of the Year Awards, as well as presentations for students who received a Know Your Government scholarship from the districts. .

#### Summer Picnic

In July, East Cassia, West Cassia, and Minidoka SWCD's, held a Summer Picnic and invited County Commissioners and Legislators to attend. College Scholarships were awarded, NRC camp scholarship recipients reported on camp activities.

#### Operations

In February, board supervisors met with elected Cassia County Commissioners to review the proposed budget and activities as a basis for requesting county funding. The county awarded a \$5,000.00 allocation to the district. This funding helps the district immensely with personnel costs, scholarships and awards, and daily district activities. The districts also completed yearly reports due to ISWCC and completed and submitted a proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2019.



2018 Speech & Poster Theme.

## **REBATES AVAILABLE for COVER CROP SEEDS**

Seed rebates are available to landowners who have rented one of the Soil District's no-till drills and have planted a minimum 3-seed cover crop mix (See office for complete details). The direct seed/no-till drills can be used for any planting but are excellent for **Direct Seeding** into stubble from the previous harvest. Assistance with seed recommendations is available by contacting the NRCS offices.

Minidoka and Cassia Soil & Water Conservation Districts work together to help educate farmers on soil health issues including the benefits of planting cover crops. Supervisors from the 3 local Soil Districts donate their time to serve on the **Direct Seed/Cover Crop Project** Committee to supervise the project which provides education to landowners, seed reimbursements, and access and rental use of direct seed drills for cover crop plantings.

Contact either office for details:  
Burley (208-572-3369) Rupert (208-436-4202)

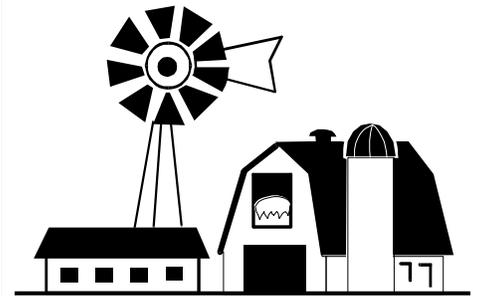


## **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

*Keeping weeds at bay is an ongoing issue. Spraying weeds is the common cure to our problem - or so we think. Spraying without a plan for the future leads to the same treatment, spraying more herbicide.*

*The objective of cover crops is to build soil health which reduces the need for toxic inputs such as herbicide and synthetic fertilizers.*

*In other words, in farming, as in life, if we keep doing the same thing over and over while expecting different results, that is insanity. Change the farming/gardening practice and the situation will change also.*



## **TIRED OF THE WIND?** *By Doreen McMurray, I&E Specialist for East & West Cassia SWCD*

Are you tired of the wind? Then plant a row of trees this Spring. Trees make a beautiful natural windbreak and protect your home or property from the severity of our Idaho wind. Start your planning **now**.

Study and research the best location for your windbreak.

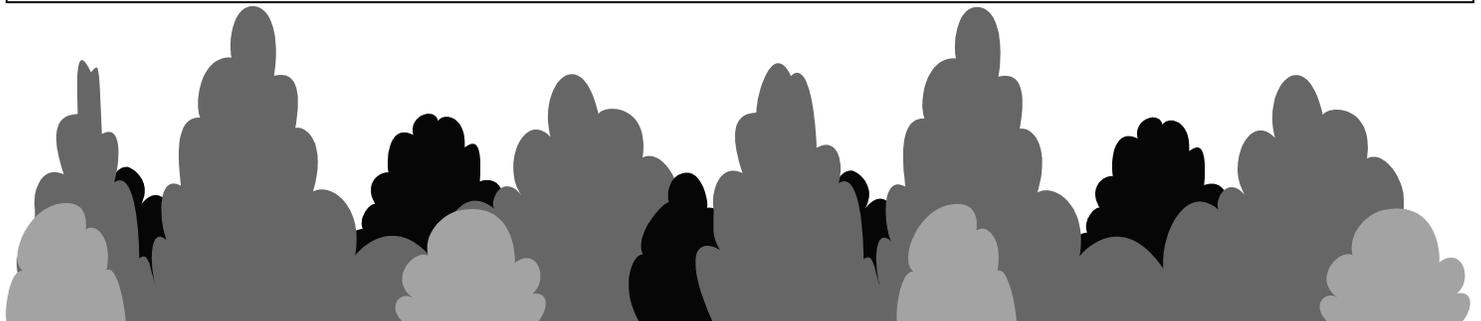
Measure the desired area, deciding upon one row or a multiple row windbreak.

Plan the distance between trees and how you will provide regular irrigation.

Order your seedlings.

The Seedling Tree Sale is provided by the Cassia and Minidoka Soil & Water Conservation Districts. Photos, descriptions, and order forms are available -

- ◆ Online at: [www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com)
- ◆ By email to [ewcswcd@gmail.com](mailto:ewcswcd@gmail.com) or [minidokaswcd@gmail.com](mailto:minidokaswcd@gmail.com)
- ◆ At the NRCS offices in Burley (1361 East 16th Street) or in Rupert (98 B South 200 West),
- ◆ or by Calling 208-572-3369 or 208-436-4202. **Leave a clear, detailed message.**





# West Cassia

## Soil and Water Conservation District

2018  
Performance Report



### Mission Statement

*To encourage responsible natural resource management and to implement conservation goals which improve air, soil, and water quality while improving wildlife habitat.*

*To educate both youth and adults about our local conservation practices and needs.*

### District Operations Accomplishments

#### Seedling Tree Sale

In early spring, Mini Cassia Districts held their annual Tree Sale. This year the three districts sold over 2,500 seedlings of eleven different varieties. This is a great opportunity for the districts to reach out to the community and promote good conservation practices. This year each district profited \$ 1,759.67. This additional income the districts receive from this sale helps to further incorporate good conservation practices and helps with student awards such as; college scholarships, Know Your Government scholarships, Natural Resources Camp scholarships, speech and poster contest prizes.

#### Awards Banquet

Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Minidoka and Cassia County held their annual Awards Banquet in March 2018. Highlights of the banquet included their Cooperator of the Year Awards, as well as presentations for students who received a Know Your Government scholarship from the districts.

#### Summer Picnic

In July, East Cassia, West Cassia, and Minidoka SWCD's, held a Summer Picnic and invited County Commissioners and Legislators to attend. College Scholarships were awarded, NRC camp scholarship recipients reported on camp activities.

#### Cotterel Boat Station

West Cassia partnered with Idaho State Department of Agriculture to run the Cotterel Watercraft Inspection Station, under the Idaho Invasive Species program. The station was open February-November. Idaho State Police helped immensely in keeping employees safe and turning around boaters that bypassed the station. The district was responsible for day to day operations at the station, managing employees, finances and payroll, and any needed improvements to the station.



### Top Priorities and Resource Concerns

#### 1. Water Resource

Encouraging good conservation practices which save water and reduce soil erosion such as conversion to sprinkler systems, promoting benefits of crop residue, conservation tillage, and cross slope farming practices. Make efforts to improve the groundwater within the March Creek Nitrate Priority Area.

#### 2. Rangeland

Education and encouragement of practices such as brush control, range seeding, pest control, and fire control practices. Address drought concerns through stock water improvements and planned grazing systems.

#### 3. Direct Seed and Cover Crops

Encouraging farmers and landowners to implement new and innovative farm practices. Educate landowners on the benefits of such practices. Have available a Direct Seed drill for landowners to use to run test plots.

#### 4. Education

Education is a huge benefactor to the districts. By educating students while young, it helps them to understand the importance of being good stewards of the land. Another byproduct of educating children is that information is then passed on to their parents.

### Board/Business Meetings

Supervisors and district employees attended the Spring Division IV meeting hosted by Camas Soil and Water Conservation District. Supervisors and employees also attended the Fall Division meeting hosted by Wood River SWCD. Richard Kunau, chairman of West Cassia SWCD, is also currently the Division IV Director. The annual IASCD conference was held in Post Falls, Idaho on November 13-16<sup>th</sup>. District supervisor and district employees attended the conference and reported back to the board on conference activities and meetings. This was also a good opportunity to get ideas for the upcoming conference that will be hosted by Division IV in two years. The board reviewed their yearly budgets and financial statements in board meetings. All district financial information and documents were/are available for public review during meetings.



*Top Row L to R: Dusty Wilkins, Brian Kossman, Richard Kunau, Russ Suchan (Minidoka and West Cassia Supervisors).  
Front: Sharon Wilmot and Doreen McMurray at IASCD State Conference.*

### Education and Outreach

West Cassia awarded two college scholarship totaling \$1,500.00. Additional donations were given in support of education; \$125.00 Poster Contest awards, \$50.00 Forestry Contest, \$50.00 Envirothon, \$125.00 Idaho Ag in the Classroom, \$150.00 for Know Your Government participants. West Cassia Supervisors volunteered time to help with the Land and Soil Evaluation Event held on October 10<sup>th</sup> this year. Together, East and West Cassia had a booth display at the local fair educating patrons on the benefits of windbreaks, the annual seedling tree sale, and information on the Mini-Cassia Direct Seed Project and drill rental.

# Cotterell Boat Inspection Station

West Cassia SWCD has taken on the responsibility to manage and run the Cotterell Invasive Species Boat Inspection Station on I-84 Northbound. Workers at the inspection station ensure all watercraft are clean, drained, dry, and free of invasive mussels, snails, clams, and weeds.

Quagga and Zebra mussels present a significant threat to the waters of Idaho and the region due to their environmental and economic impact.

It is estimated that if introduced to Idaho, these mussels would cost more than \$94 million annually in direct and indirect impacts to infrastructure, facilities, agriculture, and recreation.

This ISDA Program has been going strong for 10 years and has been very successful in the prevention of Aquatic Invasive Species into Idaho waters. Over this time 218 mussel-fouled boats have been intercepted.



The Cotterell Boat Inspection Station has been selected for 24 hour operation. This requires increased inspection station manpower and cooperation with the Idaho State Patrol, ITD Cotterell Port of Entry, and Cassia County Sheriff's Department. West Cassia Supervisors feel that protecting Idaho's water is a priority.

There are 20 roadside inspection stations around Idaho's borders and other critical areas. These stations are Idaho's first defense against these invasive mussels. In 2018 they inspected a total of 110,285 boats; 50 were mussel-fouled. Two stations found the majority of these mussel-fouled boats:

Cotterell inspected **4,959** boats in 2018; **10** were mussel-fouled. Cedars Station (northern panhandle) inspected **13,219** in 2018; **13** were mussel-fouled

As you can see – these statistics show that the Cotterell Inspection Station is coming in contact with more high-risk boats than any other station. We inspected half as many boats as the leading fouled station, yet found almost the same number of mussel-fouled craft.



Lake Cleveland

We want to thank the Cassia County Sheriff's Department in their cooperation in helping to provide coverage for by-passers. We believe it is because of their department that our compliance improved so drastically from 2017 to 2018. We are hopeful that Cassia County will continue to see the importance in the work that is done with this program and will continue to provide this support for the 2019 season.

**Idaho Water is Worth Protecting!**



Goose Creek Reservoir

Idaho has more than 3,500 miles of rivers famous for fishing and water sports. Idaho is an amazing place where water can be used and enjoyed. Aquatic invasive species (AIS) pose a serious threat to Idaho's valuable water resources. AIS clog and disrupt water delivery, interfere with power generation and recreation, and damage fisheries. It is every citizen's responsibility to protect and safeguard our water by making prevention a priority.



## Soil Health Workshop *Continued from page 1.*



### 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

Tremblay Consulting, Vantage NW, and Minidoka, West Cassia, and East Cassia Soil & Water Conservation Districts.

Planning for the 2020 Soil Health Workshop has already begun. If you are interested in receiving information as it becomes available, contact our offices at 208-572-3369 or 208-436-4202 or check out our website at [www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com).

pest control.

National and local Speakers included Jay Fuhrer-Soil Specialist, Keith Berns-Cover Crop Specialist, Brian Kossman-Farmer, Rob Giesbrecht-Farmer, Luke Adams-Farmer, Joel Packham-County Agent, Shane Holt-Dairy Nutrition Consultant, and Kent Whittig-Seed & Crop Specialist.

The workshop included large group presentations on Regenerative Agriculture and The Economy of the Soil. The afternoon included local farmers sharing their experiences with cover crops, and break out sessions on pest control, Dairy Feed, Cover Crops, and Soil Health.

Businesses and vendors provided displays and door prizes. Thanks to our financial supporters and vendors: DL Evans Bank, Mid-Snake RC&D, Twin Falls SWCD, Snake River SWCD, Balanced Rock SWCD, and North Side Soil & Water Conservation Districts, AgriTerre Seed, NRCS, AgriService, AgriSource, Hawkes Fieldworks, ISU Research, Idaho Soil Water Conservation Commission, Monsanto/Bayer, Simplot Growers,



Jay Fuhrer speaks to over 260 people about soil health.

### Thanks to our Workshop Sponsors



#### Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Minidoka SWCD  
West Cassia SWCD  
East Cassia SWCD  
Balanced Rock SWCD  
North Side SWCD  
Snake River SWCD  
Twin Falls SWCD



## **2019 SEEDLING TREE SALE**

### **Cassia and Minidoka Soil & Water Conservation Districts**

**NORWAY POPLAR – 40 to 60', Zone 3.** Fast growing tree used for windbreaks and riparian plantings. Requires moist soil but can tolerate dry soil. 40'-60' tall 20'-35' spread

**LOMBARDY POPLAR-60 to 80', Zone 2.** A perfect choice for a fast growing privacy screen or wind break. Wonderful columnar habit with grayish-green foliage that provides a gorgeous backdrop for smaller trees and shrubs. Plant in rows about 8 ft. apart for screening. Hardy to -40°F.

**COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE – 30 to 50', Zones 3-7.** Gorgeous, brilliant, stately. The Colorado Blue Spruce is a pyramidal shaped evergreen with steel blue foliage. It prefers heavier soils, full sun, and clean cultivation. Will reach a height of six feet in eight years on a good site. The Colorado Blue Spruce is probably the most drought tolerant of all spruce. It is widely used in windbreaks or as an ornamental yard tree.

**BLACK HILLS SPRUCE – 20 to 40', Zones 3-8.** Popular for its dense, pyramidal shape, this tree is a favorite among spruce lovers in zones 2-6. A cousin of the White Spruce, the Black Hills Spruce is often called "ornamentally superior" because of its thick uniform shape. The Black Hills Spruce can also grow in dry or wet soils and is truly cold adapted tree and is very resistant to winter injury.

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN JUNIPER – 30 to 40', Zones 3-8.** Rugged, pyramidal tree with silvery-blue green foliage. The foliage is dense and pleasantly aromatic. The fruits are fleshy berrylike spherical cones – they are bright blue with a whitish bloom and sweet tasting, with thin skins (edible and best after the second fall). Survives well in hot dry summers of the western U.S.

**GOLDEN CURRANT – 6 to 8', Zone 4.** Thorn-less, loosely-branched, irregularly-shaped, deciduous shrub which grows to 6-8" tall and spreads suckers. Round, medium, bluish-green leaves that turn dull yellow in fall. Golden yellow flowers appear in the spring and emit a strong, clove-like fragrance. Fruit is edible - black berry which can be used in jellies, preserves and pies.

**REDOSIER DOGWOOD – 6 to 8', Zones 3-8.** Colorful all year. Grows rapidly to medium sized multi-stem shrub. Stems are dark to bright red, white fruit clusters are taken rapidly by birds. Dark green leaves turn an attractive reddish purple in the autumn. Can hedge. Ideal for holding soil on steep banks.

**CRANBERRY BUSH- 8 to 12', Zone 2.** Cranberry Bush is unusually beautiful with its soft maple-like leaves, producing white lacecap flowers mid-May to mid-June, followed by bunches of shiny bright red berries (edible) by August, which can be harvested in autumn. 8' to 12' tall equal spread.

**RUSSIAN ALMOND- 3 to 5', All Zones.** Russian Almond is a low suckering shrub which bears white, pink or red flowers in May depending on whether the species or a cultivar is grown. The flowers are 3/4 inch across and the fruit is a red cherry most ornamental in summer. 3' tall by 5' wide.

**BLUE ARTIC WILLOW- 3 to 5', Zones 4-8.** The Blue Artic Willow is a compact, rounded, deciduous shrub which typically grows to 5' tall and features attractive purple stems. Often best grown as a 2-3' tall, clipped shrub. Very narrow, blue-green leaves (to 4" long). Grayish-white flowering catkins (1 inch) bloom in early spring before the foliage. Slender and supple twigs can be used to make baskets. Full sun only.

Cassia and Minidoka Soil & Water Conservation Districts  
**2019 SEEDLING TREE SALE**

VARIETY	SIZE	PRICE PER BUNDLE	TOTAL # OF BUNDLES	TOTAL DUE
NORWAY POPLAR (Similar to Hybrid Poplar)	3'-4'	\$35.00 (10 PER BUNDLE)		
LOMBARDY POPLAR	3'-4'	\$35.00 (10 PER BUNDLE)		
COLORADO SPRUCE	7"-15"	\$35.00 (10 PER BUNDLE)		
BLACK HILLS SPRUCE	7"-15"	\$35.00 (10 PER BUNDLE)		
ROCKY MOUNTAIN JUNIPER	8"-15"	\$35.00 (10 PER BUNDLE)		
GOLDEN CURRANT	18"-24"	\$35.00 (10 PER BUNDLE)		
REDOSIER DOGWOOD	3'-4'	\$35.00 (10 PER BUNDLE)		
CRANBERRY BUSH	2'-3'	\$35.00 (10 PER BUNDLE)		
RUSSIAN ALMOND	18"-24"	\$35.00 (10 PER BUNDLE)		
BLUE ARTIC WILLOW	2'-3'	\$35.00 (10 PER BUNDLE)		

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SUBTOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TAX (sub x 0.06): \_\_\_\_\_

FINAL TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

CASH: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: HOME \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK# \_\_\_\_\_

CELL \_\_\_\_\_

Make Payment To:  
**EAST CASSIA SWCD**

WORK \_\_\_\_\_

Turn in your order and payment to either SWCD office:

East Cassia SWCD  
 1361 E 16<sup>th</sup> St  
 Burley, ID 83318

Minidoka SWCD  
 98 B South 200 West  
 Rupert, ID 83350

**\*PAYMENT IN FULL MUST BE MADE AT TIME OF ORDER. ORDERS WILL ARRIVE MID-TO-LATE APRIL.  
 You will be contacted for pickup once the trees arrive.**

For Questions call: 208-572-3369 or 208-436-4202.

Please **LEAVE A MESSAGE** if no one is available to answer at that time. Your phone call will be returned promptly.

NOTE: We reserve the right to substitute one size either up or down depending on what our supplier sends us. Please be aware that these are bare root seedling trees/shrubs.

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 208-572-3369 for details.*

*Minidoka - 2nd Thursday of each month.*

*Call 208-436-4202 for details.*



## **RESERVE Direct Seed DRILLS**

Renting a Direct-Seed/No-Till Drill is a great way to try out direct seeding and cover crop practices on your farm. The benefits are many. Drill rental information is available in both the Burley and Rupert NRCS offices and on our web page at [www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com). Seed rebates are available.

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

### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

Seedling Tree Sale Information - Workshop Review - Scholarships  
Poster winners - District Performance Reports - Windbreak Ideas  
Cover Crop Questions to Consider - Boat Inspection Station

**Minidoka SWCD**  
98B South 200 West Rupert  
Phone: 208-436-4202  
[minidokaswcd@gmail.com](mailto:minidokaswcd@gmail.com)

**East & West Cassia**  
1361 East 16th Street Burley  
Phone: 208-572-3369  
[ewcsxcd@gmail.com](mailto:ewcsxcd@gmail.com)

[www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com)

