



National Association of
Conservation Districts

National Association of Conservation Districts

Program Updates and Opportunities

Ariel Rivers, PhD

Pacific Region Representative

National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)

OACD Annual Meeting | Redmond, OR | Nov. 6, 2019







National Association of
Conservation Districts

NACD MISSION:

To promote the wise and responsible use of natural resources for all lands by representing locally-led conservation districts and their associations through grassroots advocacy, education and partnerships

www.nacdnet.org



NACD: 30,000' Level

- Established in 1946, NACD serves as the **unified, national voice** for the nearly 3,000 conservation districts across the US
- NACD's **member-driven board of directors selects conservation policy priorities** which are used to develop and review environmental and natural resources legislation
- We work to secure **adequate federal funding** for natural resources conservation programs



National Association of
Conservation Districts

Who We Are: Structure

NACD is a grassroots organization, member-driven by local conservation district boards and governed through a system of graduated representation.

2,959 - Conservation Districts

represented by

58 - State and Territory Associations

which select

116 - NACD Board of Directors

who set policy and elect

**Officers (5 plus CEO), Executive Board (8),
Region Chairs (7)**

Executing policy and manages the association



National Association of
Conservation Districts

Who We Are: Structure



President Tim Palmer
Truro, Iowa



**First Vice President
Michael Crowder**
West Richland, Washington



**Second Vice President
Kim LaFleur**
Plympton, Massachusetts



**Secretary-Treasurer
Ian Cunningham**
Pipestone, Minnesota



**Immediate Past President
Brent Van Dyke**
Hobbs, New Mexico



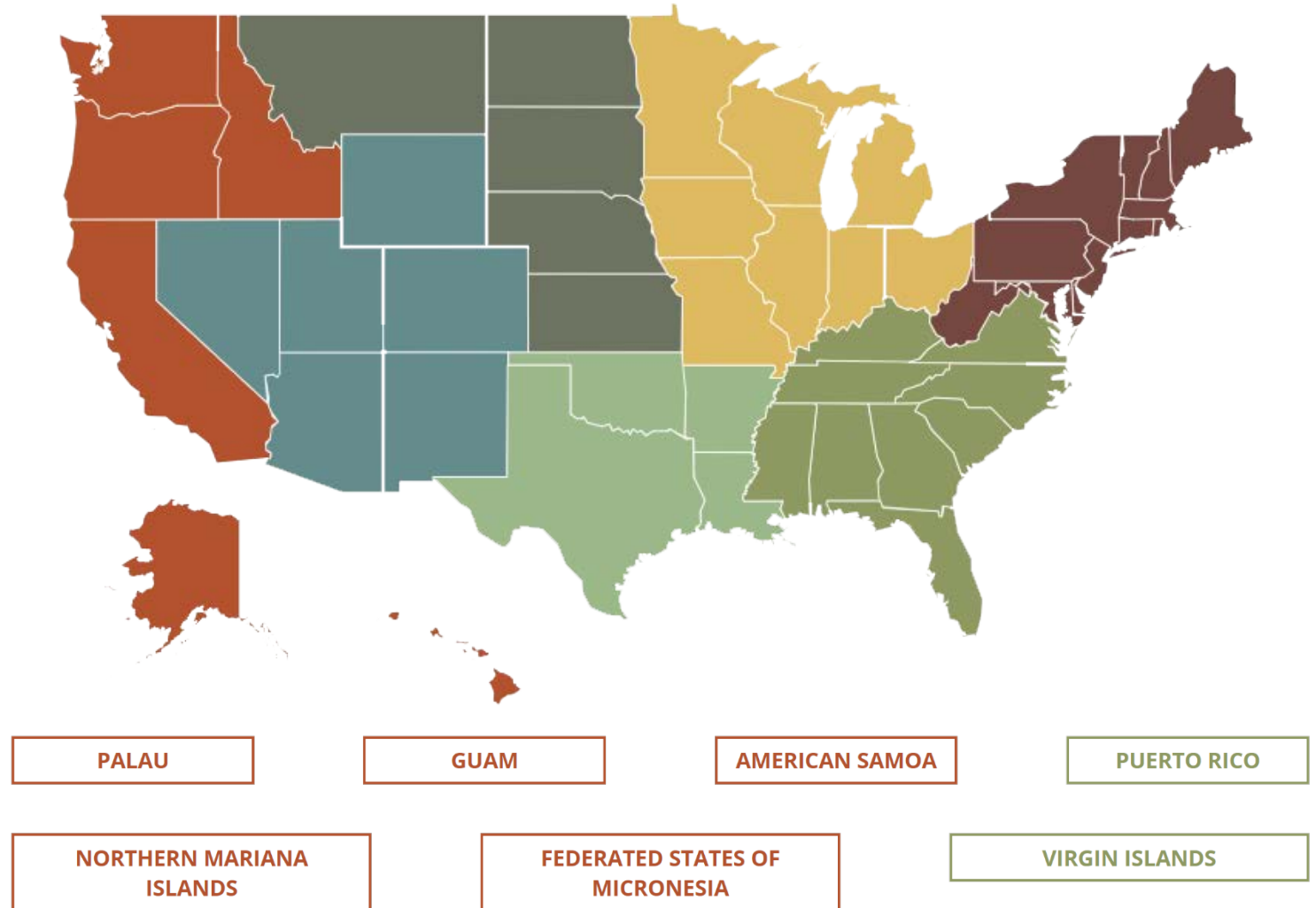
**Chief Executive Officer
Jeremy Peters**
Washington, D.C.



NACD: Regions

Pacific – 274 Members

- 7 states:
 - Alaska
 - Washington
 - Idaho
 - California
 - Hawaii
- 5 territories:
 - Guam
 - American Samoa
 - Federated States of Micronesia
 - Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands
 - Palau





National Association of
Conservation Districts

What We Do

GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY

NACD advocates for nearly 3,000 conservation districts across the United States, ensuring federal policy and funding levels reflect the mission and goals of our district members.

NEWS

NACD keeps our members informed of the latest conservation news affecting districts and their customers, newly available tools and resources and NACD's latest activities.

MEMBERSHIP

NACD is your national association working side by side with conservationists nationwide to promote natural resource management at the grassroots level.

EDUCATION

Educating young people about the benefits of conservation helps to ensure the next generation will be wise stewards of America's natural resources.

EVENTS

NACD events provide conservation leaders nationwide with the opportunity to network, discover emerging technologies and services, develop education and outreach strategies and influence national conservation policy.



National Association of
Conservation Districts

Advocacy

NACD advocates for the interests of this nation's nearly 3,000 conservation districts and their state/territory associations on Capitol Hill year-round.



Annual NACD Spring Fly-In

NACD August Recess Guide to Grassroots Engagement

Join conservation districts from across the country to help educate your elected representatives about the benefits of locally-led conservation.

**Resources for grassroots
advocacy**



National Association of Conservation Districts

Advocacy

Natural Resource Policy Groups



Coastal

Conservation Districts and Invasive Species Management

The webinar featured representatives from conservation districts in Hawaii, Oregon and New Mexico discussing innovative, cross-boundary efforts to manage invasive species. The webinar was moderated by **Travis Thomason**, Director – Pacific Islands Area, NRCS. Panelists included **Mae Nakahata**, Director, Maui County Soil and Water Conservation District; **Michelle Delepine**, Invasive Species Program Manager, West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District; **Lindsey Karr**, WeedWise Specialist, Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District; and **Debbie Hughes**, Executive

Conservation Districts and Invasive Species Initiative

WEBINAR SERIES
THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1

Conservation Districts and Invasive Species Management

MODERATOR:
• Travis Thomason, Director – Pacific Islands Area, NRCS

PANELISTS:
• Mae Nakahata, Director, Maui County Soil and Water Conservation District
• Michelle Delepine, Invasive Species Program Manager, West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District
• Lindsey Karr, WeedWise Specialist, Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District
• Debbie Hughes, Executive

Invasive Species



Urban and Community



Tribal Outreach and Partnership



Forestry



Public Lands

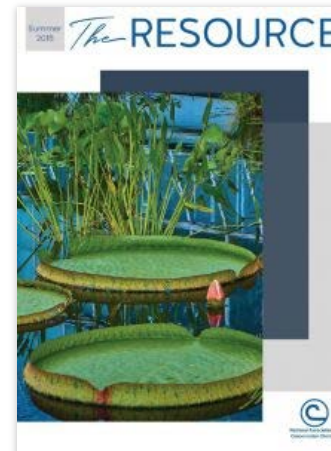


National Association of Conservation Districts

News

eResource

Weekly collaborative newsletter delivered every Tuesday; **13,200 subscribers** with nearly **13,300 subscribers**



The Resource

Electronic and print; quarterly publication delivered electronically and one printed version to 3,000+ districts

Conservation Clips

Weekly conservation news round-up distributed on Friday morning with **over 12,800 subscribers**



Forestry Notes

Monthly publication with **nearly 13,300 subscribers**



National Association of
Conservation Districts

Membership

National Conservation Planning Partnership



Partners: NACD, NRCS, NASCA, NCDEA & NARC&DC

The partnership helps NACD expand programs through:

- Technical Assistance Grant Program
- Urban Agriculture Grant Initiative
- Soil Health Champions Network
- Resource Stewardship Evaluation Tool (RSET)
- NRCS' Conservation Planning Boot Camp
- Bringing conservation planning into 21st Century





National Association of
Conservation Districts

Membership

NRCS' Conservation Planning Boot Camp is a three-week, intensive training course for technical employees that covers current conservation planning policy, procedures and guidelines as outlined in the National Planning Procedures Handbook



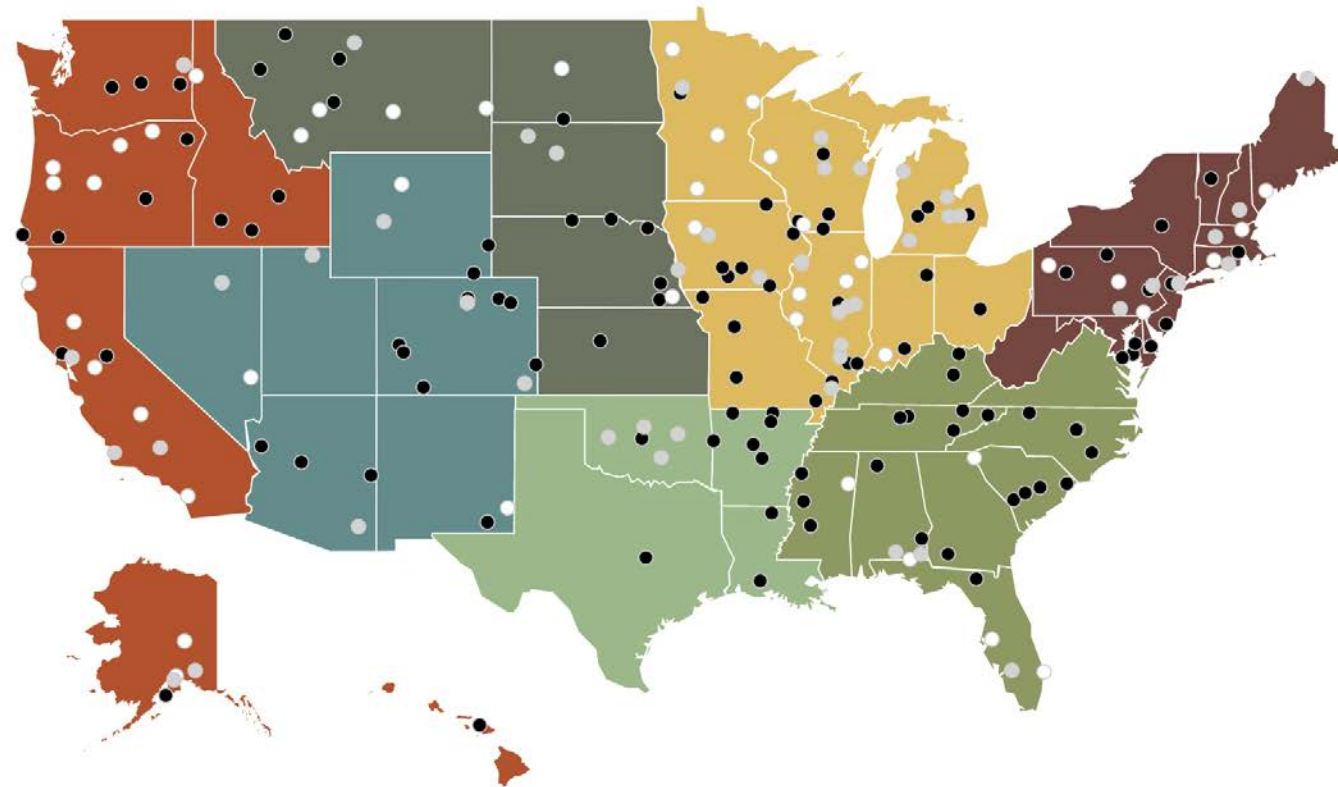
2020 DATES ANNOUNCED MID-NOVEMBER



National Association of
Conservation Districts

Technical Assistance Grants

Since 2018, partnership agreements with NRCS have provided over \$19 million to fund over 300 district employees



GUAM

PUERTO RICO

VIRGIN ISLANDS



Technical Assistance Grants

Positions support such diverse projects as irrigation monitoring, outreach to producers, increasing forest health, strategic planning, and improving client services

2018 (white)

- Deschutes SWCD
- Gilliam SWCD
- Linn SWCD
- Umatilla SWCD
- Upper Willamette SWCD



2019 (black)

- Curry County SWCD
- Harney SWCD
- Jackson SWCD
- Wallowa SWCD



Technical Assistance Grants

PENDING ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ADDITIONAL \$10 MILLION

- *Districts must apply through conservation partnership*
- ***Focus on conservation technical assistance***
 - *Applications likely due Spring 2020*

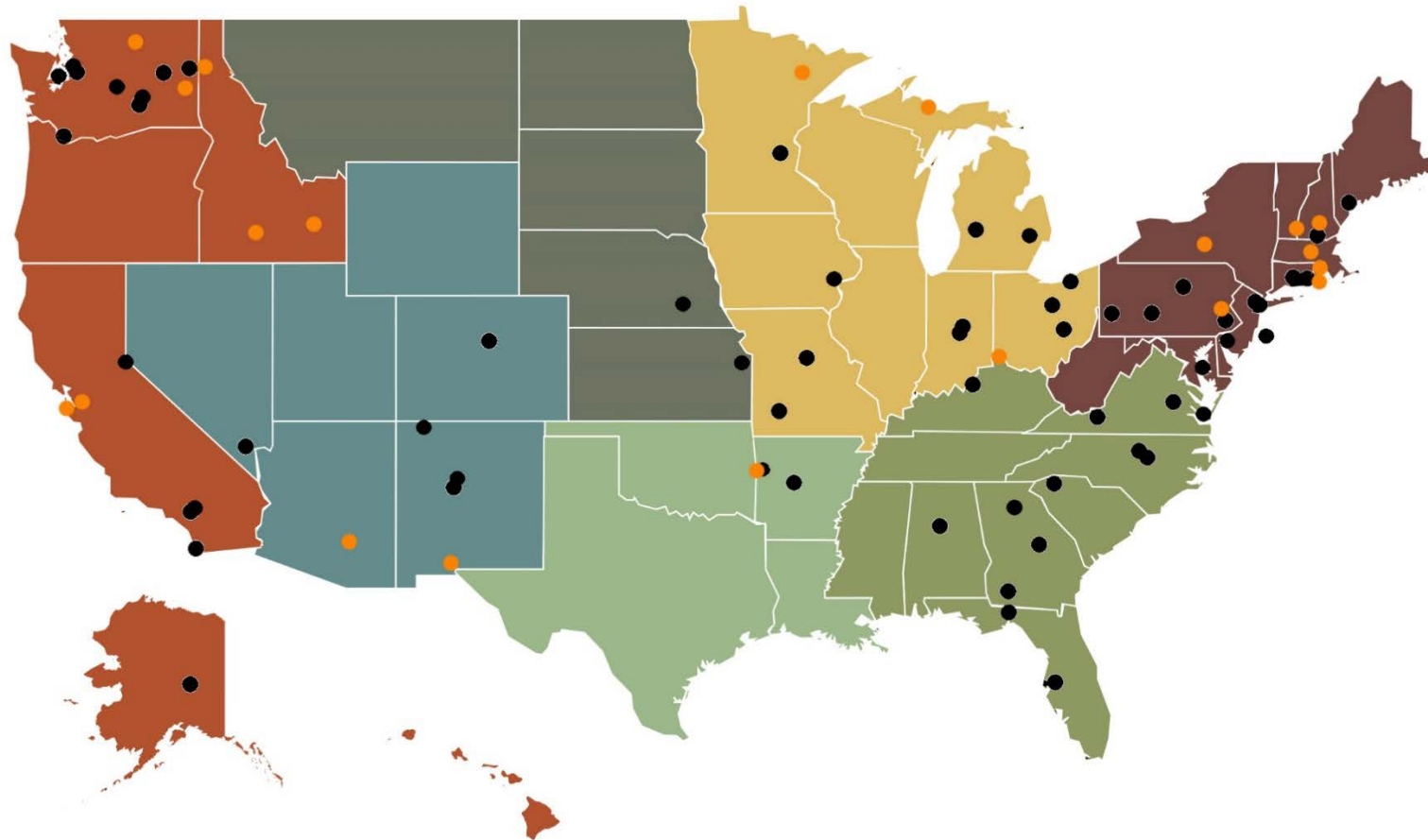
<https://www.nacdnet.org/technical-assistance-grants/>



National Association of
Conservation Districts

Urban Agriculture and Community Grants

Since 2016, \$4 million in grants have been delivered to 81 conservation districts in 34 states





National Association of
Conservation Districts

Urban Agriculture and Community Grants

Grants support urban food security, school gardens, beginning farmer training programs, small livestock (bee) outreach, learning gardens, ***small-scale conservation practices***, etc.



Zion Garden Park Demonstrations,
CD of Southern Nevada
2016 Awardee



Community Soup Night, featuring food made by
the local schools, Nevada Tahoe CD
2017 Awardee



URBAN AND COMMUNITY

When conservation districts were first established in the Dust Bowl era, they mostly worked with farmers, ranchers and forest owners. But landscapes have changed, and districts have adapted.

Like other types of landscapes, urban and suburban communities face natural resource challenges. Water quality and quantity, air quality, non-native species, habitat degradation and reductions in open space all affect land-use management in developed and developing areas.



What We Do

[Soil](#)[Forestry](#)[Federal Policy](#)

Webinars

The third Thursday of every month, NACD features conservation districts and their urban and suburban conservation work through interactive webinars. The presentations are sponsored by The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company and archived by year on [NACD's webinar](#) page.

Resources

Backyard Conservation: Lawns and the Environment Program – This outreach and education program was developed by the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company to help conservation districts team-up with urban and suburban property owners to improve soil and water quality. Among the recommended best management practices (BMPs) for landowners are proper mowing techniques and improved grass clipping and leaf management. The program also provides critical information to communities that need to meet National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II [outreach requirements](#).

Inventory of Conservation Districts' Urban and Community Conservation Activities – This document details the resources and tools districts are using as they work with homeowners, municipalities and developers to put conservation on the ground in urban or urbanizing areas. Topics addressed include soil management, water quality and small acreage/farmland protection.

New Landowners Manual – This manual is a great resource for current and prospective landowners to have on hand. It communicates solutions to a number of land management issues and was compiled by NACD member districts and partners.

[WATER RESOURCES](#)

[SOIL RESOURCES](#)

NACD Urban and Community Conservation Webinars



NACD's Urban and Community Conservation Webinars are held from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. ET on the third Thursday of each month. This webinar series, sponsored by The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, features the projects and programs led by conservation districts and their collaborators, and often imparts strategies for securing funding and structuring urban conservation initiatives.

There is no cost to participate, but space is limited, so please RSVP to NACD Senior Advisor [Debra Bogar](#) to reserve your space. To listen to and view webinar presentations from previous Fiscal Years (FY), click below.

FY 2020

MONTH	TOPIC	PRESENTER(S)
October 17, 2019	Water Quality Outreach Campaigns	Greenville County SWCD, S.C. (Presentation 1) (Presentation 2)
November 14, 2019	Engaging Your State Forestry Agency for Urban and Community Forestry	National Association of State Foresters, D.C. State Forestry Agency, S.D. State Association, S.D.
December 19, 2019	Developing a Successful Community Wildfire Preparedness Program	State Natural Resources Department, Wash. Whidbey Island CD, Wash. Cascadia CD, Wash.
January 16, 2020	Federal Urban Waters Program	Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C. (invited) TBD
February 20, 2020	Outdoor Water Savings Research	Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation

[Issue Papers](#)

[District Job Board](#)

[Technical Assistance Grants](#)

[2018 TA Grants](#)

[2019 TA Grants](#)

[District Guides](#)

[NACD Reports](#)

[Webinars](#)

[Annual Awards](#)

[Conservation Planning Boot Camp](#)



National Association of
Conservation Districts

Urban Agriculture and Community Grants

GRANTS OPEN THROUGH JAN. 10, 2020

- *Submit questions/proposals to Deb Bogar
(Deb-Bogar@nacdnet.org)*

<https://www.nacdnet.org/about-nacd/what-we-do/urban-and-community/>



National Association of
Conservation Districts

Friends of NACD



***New grant program
coming soon!***

[https://www.nacdnet.org
/get-involved/friends-of-
nacd/](https://www.nacdnet.org/get-involved/friends-of-nacd/)



Membership: Online Resources

Subscribe

Marketplace

Contact

MEMBERS ONLY SECTION

Welcome to NACD's Members Only section!

Thank you for supporting your national voice for conservation by completing your NACD membership dues payment. Here you'll find an array of timely and relevant resources for conservation districts and state/territory associations to utilize. NACD regularly adds free, easy-to-download content to this page, so make sure to check back frequently.

Are you an NACD Board Member or alternate? Please visit the [NACD Board of Directors secure webpage](#) for additional materials.

DISTRICT JOB BOARD

POST A JOB

CONTENT CATEGORIES

NACD Resources

Outreach

District Operations

NACD Reports

NACD News

NACD District Guides

NAVIGATION

Members Only Section

Board of Directors Page

ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT

Click the Account Management headline above to:

- Update NACD username and password
- Manage subscription preferences
- View store orders
- Manage membership

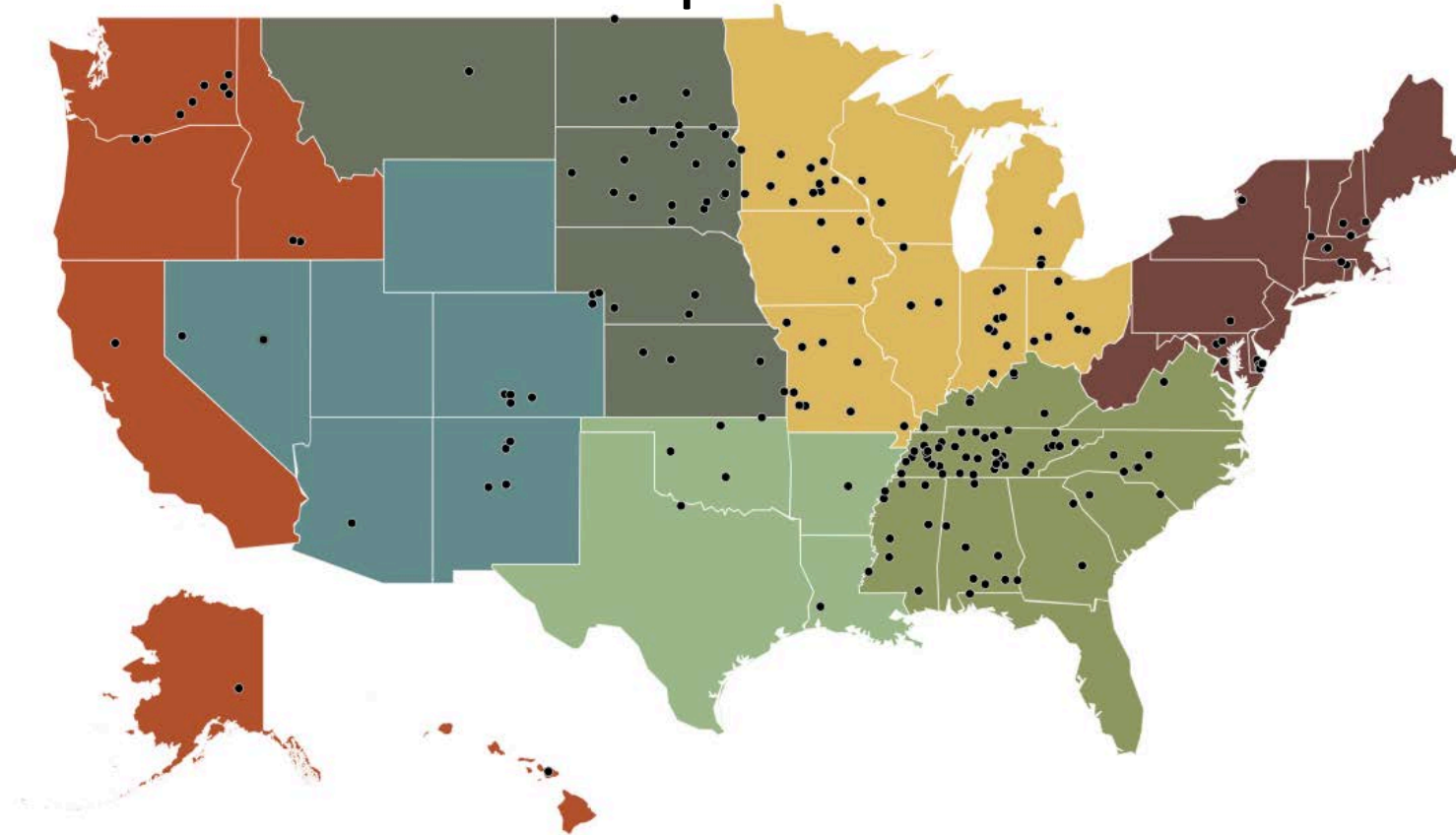


National Association of
Conservation Districts

Soil Health Champions

Over 200 Champions Nationwide

Goal: To increase the adoption of soil health systems by landowners and operators nationwide.





National Association of
Conservation Districts

Soil Health Champions



Noah Williams

Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District

A peer-to-peer network
of ranchers and
foresters who apply and
promote the use of soil
health practices



Soil Health Champions

Responsibilities:

- Conduct soil health outreach in their communities
- Report their outreach activities to NACD

Benefits:

- Peer-to-peer exchange
- Access to new technologies, services, resources, research
- Efforts and message will get broader, national recognition

What role does NACD play?

- Provides exclusive access to offers, technologies and information specific to soil health and conservation, including a quarterly bulletin



National Association of Conservation Districts

Soil Health Champions

Soil Health Champion Network Bulletins

Summer 2015	Fall 2015	Winter 2015	Spring 2016	Summer 2016
Fall 2016	Winter 2016	Spring 2017	Summer 2017	RSET Special Edition
Fall 2017	Spring 2018	Summer 2018	Fall 2018	Spring 2019

Soil Health Champion Network Webinars

Farm Finance and Conservation, Does it Pay?

Alan Grafton, principal of *K-Coe Isom*, hosts this webinar, where three growers let us dig into their books. We will take a look at several aspects of conservation, and how they can impact the bottom line. These practices not only involve the grower, but some of their key partners in the value chain. This study resulted in a report released Sept. 2018, entitled "How on-farm conservation can generate financial value".

ARCHIVED WEBINARS



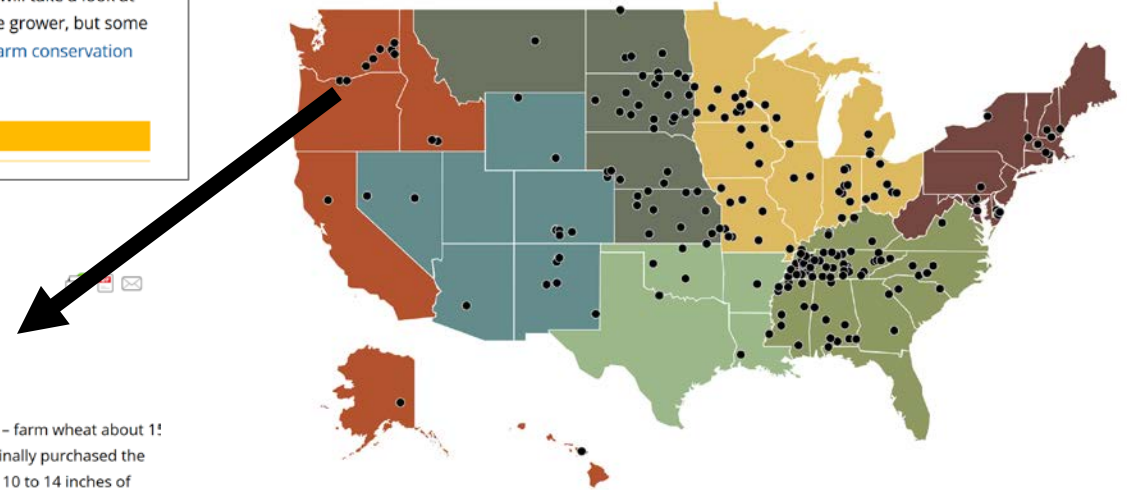
Noah Williams

Wasco, Oregon

Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District

Noah Williams and his wife – an employee of the Sherman Soil and Water Conservation District – farm wheat about 11 miles east of The Dalles in Wasco County, as well as in neighboring Sherman County. Noah originally purchased the main farm in Wasco from his grandfather 11 years ago. There, he told NACD, he receives about 10 to 14 inches of annual rainfall – 85 percent of which falls as rain or snow in October through March.

After getting out of the Coast Guard in 1997, Noah started farming in the Columbia River Gorge basin where the soil is a fragile, wind-blown silt and slopes range from 5 to 45 percent. "I get lots of wind in my area, mainly from mid-spring to mid-fall, with short breaks in between that we take advantage of to spray," Noah said. "In 2004, I purchased my first air drill and started direct seeding into chemically fallowed ground, which has worked wonders for me. I have been able to rid my fields of morning glory – as we call it – or bind weed, raising my yields by 20 bushels per acre by conserving more moisture and actually being able to fight



<https://www.nacdnet.org/get-involved/soil-health-champions-network/>



Soil Health Champions

Status Update:

Still recruiting at over 240 members!

- Some states not covered
- Diversity in climate, land use and practices needed

Exploring more member benefits

- More resources and opportunities
- More peer-to-peer networking opportunities
- Funding for special opportunities for members – STIPEND TO ATTEND NACD'S ANNUAL MEETINGS

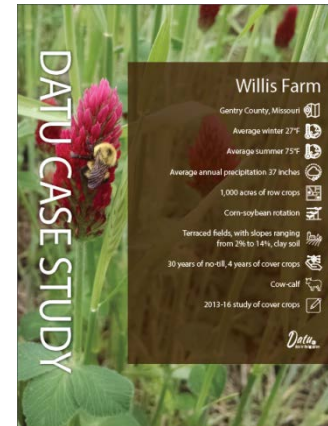
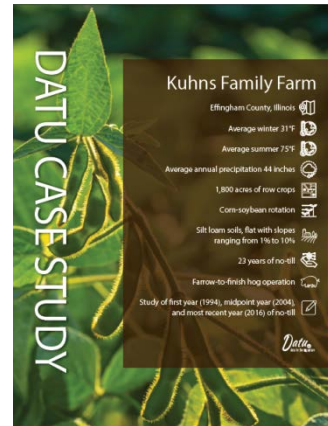
What's next? Taking suggestions!



National Association of
Conservation Districts

Soil Health Education

NACD released case studies that found cover crops and/or no-till can add more than \$100 per acre to a farm's bottom line



According to the three-year study, these practices:

- Cut fertilizer costs by up to \$50 per acre;
- Cut erosion repair costs by up to \$16 per acre; and
- Increased yields by up to \$76 per acre.



Soil Health Education



Soil Health and Weather Extremes

NACD Soil Health Champions from across the nation discuss how soil health practices have impacted their operations in the face of extreme weather patterns.

INTRODUCTION

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) conducted two focus groups in February 2019 to gain insights from agricultural producers who use soil health practices on the topic: "Exploring whether soil health practices mitigate extreme and variable weather events."

A total of 22 producers from NACD's Soil Health Champion Network participated. They represented six of NACD's seven regions as follows: North Central, 7; Northeast, 2; Northern Plains, 2; South Central, 4; Southeast, 4; Southwest, 3. Fifteen states were represented.

Producers reported a range of farming operations, including: 11 reported row cropping with a diversity of crops including corn, cotton, dry peas, flax, forage, milo, peanuts, rye, sunflower, wheat. Cover crops and no-till were incorporated into their operations. Eight producers grazed cattle, four said they had incorporated cattle grazing into row-crop systems. Two operated dairy farms, one of them an organic, grass-based system. One producer who grazed cattle did so as part of a prairie/longleaf pine system in Louisiana. Cover crops across the spectrum included a wide range of varieties dominated by rye. One producer intentionally planted pollinator crops and native species. No-till adoption among crop farmers ranged from a few years to several decades.

Producers were asked a range of questions relating to soil health practices and climate. A list of questions is available at the end of this report. The questions led to wide-ranging discussions about extreme weather events and how they and their neighbors are responding. The discussion also focused on social resistance to adopting soil health practices and the lack of support in conversion to soil health practices from land-grant universities, and in some cases agronomists and conservation delivery system staff. Producer responses are collected below, following an Executive Summary highlighting key points that emerged from the focus group discussions.



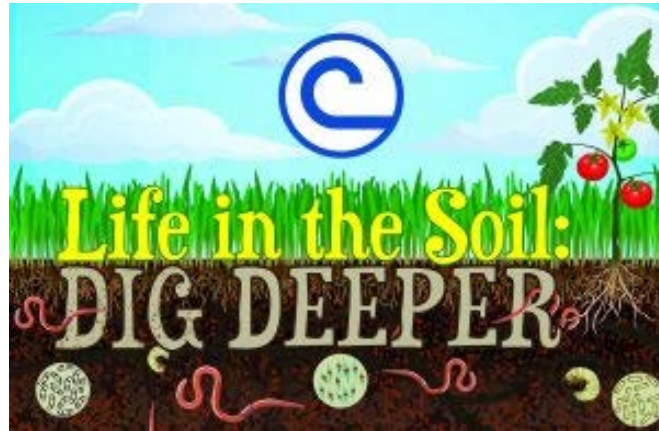
National Association of
Conservation Districts

Youth Education

*NACD members can access **stewardship & education materials free of charge***

2019: Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper

2020: Where would we BEE without Pollinators?



Free materials and print on demand services available at an affordable price!



National Association of Conservation Districts

Future Leaders

CONSERVATION CAREERS WORKSHOP

Applications due: Dec. 1



CHRISTINE CHARLES
PURDUE UNIVERSITY



DORIANN DAMERAU
SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY



ASHLEY DITTMAN
PURDUE UNIVERSITY



ANNA FISHER
CLEMSON UNIVERSITY



FRIDA ISAKSEN-SWENSEN
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

CONSERVATION CAREERS PARTICIPANTS 2019



National Association of Conservation Districts

The Conservation Careers Program offers current undergraduate college students an opportunity to learn about conservation careers from experienced professionals. These students were selected through a competitive application process and will participate in the workshop during the 2019 NACD Annual Meeting.



CHRISTINE KREBS
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA



HOLLY PUMMELL
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



MIKAYLA SMOLENSKY
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



KRTI TALLAM
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT U-C



KATRINA VAITKUS
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND



National Association of
Conservation Districts

Future Leaders



National Conservation Foundation

LeadershipInstitute

#**NCF**NextGen



National Association of
Conservation Districts

What We Do: Events

Opportunities for Networking, Educational Breakout Sessions, Skill-Building Seminars, etc.



2020 NACD Summer Conservation Forum and Tour:

Bismarck, North Dakota | July 17-22, 2020

2020 Pacific and Southwest Region Meeting:

Maui, Hawaii | Sept. 2020



National Association of
Conservation Districts

NACD MEMBERSHIP

Membership Incentives

[Click here](#) to learn more about NACD's dues structure.

PLATINUM LEVEL: \$3,001+

- 2nd registration free to NACD Annual Meeting
- 2 invitations to NACD President's Reception at NACD Annual Meeting
- 20% off a single purchase of \$100 or more from the NACD Marketplace (excluding sale/clearance items)
- Recognition in the NACD Annual Report

DIAMOND LEVEL: \$1,776 - \$3,000

- 2nd registration half-price to NACD Annual Meeting
- 1 invitation to NACD President's Reception at NACD Annual Meeting
- 15% off a single purchase of \$100 or more from the NACD Marketplace (excluding sale/clearance items)
- Recognition in the NACD Annual Report

GOLD LEVEL: \$775 - \$1,775

- 10% off a single purchase of \$100 or more from the NACD Marketplace (excluding sale/clearance items)

To learn more about your district's NACD membership or how you can be a part of NACD's unified voice on conservation, contact NACD Director of Membership [Kimberly Uldricks](#).



Oregon Membership: FY19

- Members paid a total of **\$14,801** in dues to NACD during FY 2019
 - Average of \$548.19 per member
- Dues increased by a total of \$1,049 in FY 2019
- 27 of 46 members (58.7% of Oregon members) – *up 2 members from FY 2018*



National Association of
Conservation Districts

<https://www.nacdnet.org/nacd-staff/>



Ariel Rivers

925-290-8925

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California

Ariel-Rivers@nacdnnet.org

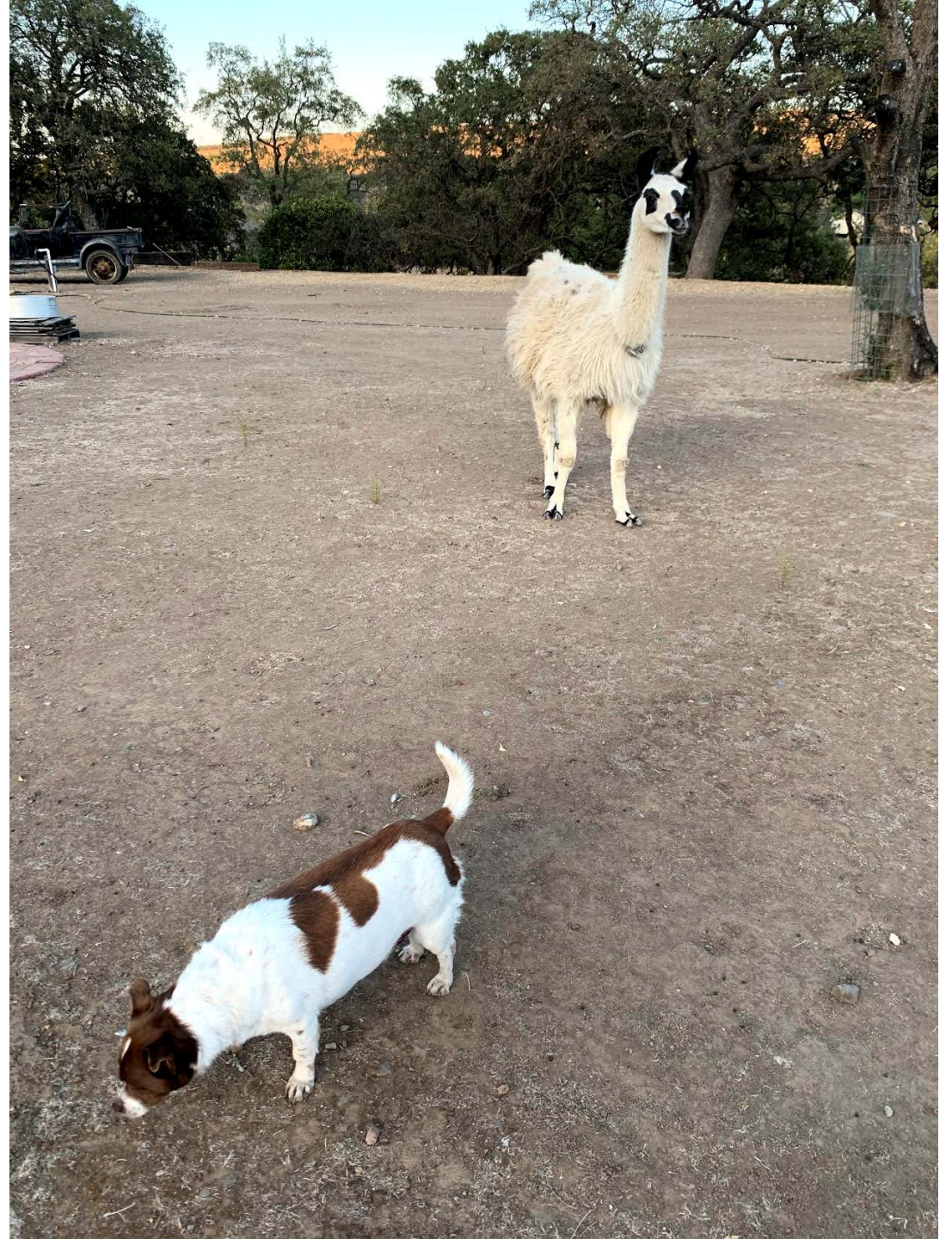


Kimberly Uldricks

202-547-6223

Director of Membership | Washington, D.C.

Kimberly-Uldricks@nacdnnet.org





National Association of
Conservation Districts



Every acre,



every American,



every day.

