

Subject **eResource - This Week's NACD News Briefs**  
From NACD News <nacdnews@nacdn.net.org>  
Sender NACD News <nacdnews@nacdn.net.org>  
To Temecula-Elsinore- Anza-Murrieta RCD <manager@teamrcd.org>  
Date 2018-06-26 13:00



## The NACD eResource

Weekly news briefs from the National Association of Conservation Districts

### NACD TOURS CARIBBEAN TERRITORIES



This week, leaders and staff from the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) are in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands meeting with conservation districts and government officials to learn more about their resource concerns as well as how the islands are recovering from Hurricane Maria.

On Monday, NACD President **Brent Van Dyke**, Southeast Region Executive Board Member **Jim Harreld**, Director of Projects and Partnerships **Rich Duesterhaus**, Southeast Region Representative **Phylis Vandevere** and Director of Communications **Stephanie Addison** along with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Caribbean Area Director **Edwin Almodovar** visited with conservation district representatives and partners to learn more about some of the specific projects underway in the area. The team also had the opportunity to meet with the Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture Secretary **Carlos Flores Ortega** and representatives from Governor **Ricardo Rossello's** office to further

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#### NACD seeks fall interns



NACD is seeking **internship applicants** for the fall term to assist government affairs and communications staff with advancing the association's legislative agenda. Interns are introduced to the development of natural resources, agricultural and environmental policies. [Click here](#) for full details; applications are due Friday, June 29.

#### 2018 Envirothon just weeks away

discuss the island's ongoing conservation efforts and how they are recovering after Hurricane Maria.

To learn more about Monday's meetings with districts and partners, [click here to read Brent's blog recap](#) of the day.

Today, the team traveled to Hucar, Salinas, where members from the East and Southeast Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) gave presentations on the unique work their districts are doing to help address the issue of farmers being unable to sow their land due to the lack of water. The team also toured two different Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program sites (pictured) the Caribe SWCD is leading. Through a contractor, the folks from Caribe have helped clear out debris and brush to enable water to flow through culverts downstream to stop the flooding occurring in the area.



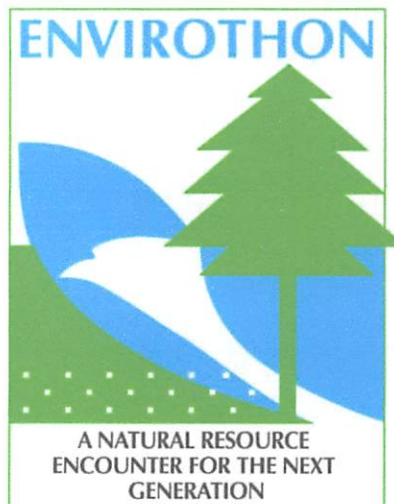
While they still have a long way to go, the island is hard at work addressing the damage. Stay tuned for more updates on [our Flickr page](#), on social media using the hashtag #ConservationInTheCaribbean and on our blog, including [today's update from Jim Harreld](#) discussing the significance of Puerto Rico's membership and how important it is for the territories to take advantage of their seat at the table.

## NACD GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

On Wednesday, June 20, the Senate voted to block the Administration's \$15 billion rescissions proposal. The proposal could have cut millions from the United States Department of Agriculture's Fiscal Year 2018 budget, including \$157 million from the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

The House of Representatives passed their version of the farm bill, the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018 (H.R. 2) on Thursday, June 21. [Click here](#) to read NACD's statement applauding the passage of the farm bill.

On the evening of June 25, the Senate voted to proceed with the Senate's farm bill, The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. Senators are currently preparing amendments to the bill and have already begun floor debate. If the Senate farm bill passes, the



The last state and province Envirothon competitions have concluded and the 2018 international NCF-Envirothon competition is now less than a month away! This time next month students from all over the United States, Canada and China will be gathering on the campus of Idaho State University in Pocatello, Idaho, to compete, network and learn about natural resources over the course of a week. Congratulations to the qualifying teams for your hard work and dedication, and good luck in your preparations for Idaho!

## Call for urban and community conservation webinar presentations

The NACD Urban and Community Resource Policy Group (RPG) is seeking speakers and topics for the urban and community conservation webinar series beginning in October. Held in partnership with The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, these monthly webinars cover a variety of topics with districts and businesses sharing their projects, programs and resources and are held 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. ET on the third Thursday of each month. View a full list of past webinars, as well as links to presentation PDFs and archived webinar recordings on [NACD's website](#).



two chambers of Congress will meet in conference to reconcile the differences between the two farm bills over the next few months before the current farm bill expires at the end of September.

## RECOGNIZE LEADERS IN CONSERVATION

Do you have an outstanding conservation leader in your community? Take this opportunity to show your appreciation for their work and dedication by sending in a nomination for one of the many national conservation awards NACD offers. Deadlines for submissions are quickly approaching.

- The Pollinator Partnership and NACD are seeking nominations for the **2018 Farmer-Rancher Pollinator Conservation Award** recognizing a farmer or rancher who is making a difference for pollinators in the way they manage their operations. Please visit the [Pollinator Partnership website](#) for the nomination form, and submit your nominations by next Friday, July 6.
- The **NACD Friend of Conservation Award** recognizes an individual, business, organization or agency outside the association for outstanding contributions to the conservation of our nation's natural resources. The award recipient will be honored at the 2019 NACD Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, in February. [Click here](#) to learn more and submit your nomination. Nominations are due Aug. 31.
- The **NACD Distinguished Service Award** honors an individual within the association, conservation district or state association that has made significant contributions to the conservation and proper management of our nation's natural resources. The award recipient will be recognized at the 2019 NACD Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas. [Click here](#) to learn more and submit your nomination. Nominations are due Aug. 31.
- The **Olin Sims Conservation Leadership Award** is presented to an up-and-coming leader who demonstrates excellence in promoting and leading voluntary conservation on private lands. Nominations should be submitted in coordination with the state conservationist and state partner leaders and are due Nov. 27. For more information, please [visit the NACD website](#).
- Through the **Hugh Hammond Bennett Excellence in Conservation Award**, the

Please send a brief paragraph describing the programs, projects or speakers you would like to see showcased to [Deb Bogar](#) by June 30.

## Have you checked the NACD Marketplace lately?



Check out the latest merchandise in our [online store](#), including student essentials like farm animal erasers and rulers, pencils and string bags featuring the 2018 Stewardship Week theme "Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home". You'll also find pins, customizable plaques and wearables for your conservation district's employees and award winners. If you have any questions or suggestions, please email us at [stewardship@nacdnet.org](mailto:stewardship@nacdnet.org).

## Share your Facebook page!

Does your district or state association have a Facebook page? Fill out this [short, three-question form](#) to share your page with NACD, and we'll add it to your district or association's contact information on our [interactive maps](#). Is your contact information incorrect? Please contact [NACD Communications Manager Sara Kangas](#).





National Conservation Planning Partnership (NCP) recognizes individuals at the local, state and national level for extraordinary achievements in and contributions to the soil and water conservation movement in the United States. This award will be presented at the 2019 NACD Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, in February. For more information on the process and criteria for nominations, please [visit the NACD website](#).

## TIME IS RUNNING OUT TO REGISTER FOR SUMMER MEETING



The [2018 NACD Conservation Forum and Tour and Southeast Region Meeting](#) is quickly approaching, and there's only a few weeks left to complete your registration and [hotel reservations](#). All arrangements must be made by **Friday, July 13**.

Make sure that your registration includes a ticket to the Hall of Fame luncheon on Monday, Aug. 6. The Hall of Fame luncheon is a staple of the Southeast Region Meeting and features the NACD Southeast Conservation Hall of Fame awards program. The annual awards program recognizes individuals from the nine-state, two-territory region who have made significant contributions to soil and water conservation to help ensure proper management of our nation's natural resources. One individual from each state or territory is inducted each year. If your registration doesn't cover a ticket, you can purchase additional luncheon tickets, or purchase ticket for guests. [Click here](#) to learn more and to review the registration form.

## CALL FOR URBAN AND COMMUNITY CONSERVATION WEBINAR PRESENTATIONS

Since 2012, the NACD Urban and Community Resource Policy Group (RPG) has partnered with The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company in offering monthly urban and community conservation webinars. These webinars cover a variety of topics with districts and businesses sharing their projects, programs and

## Model My Watershed project recognized nationally

On June 21, Amazon Web Services recognized the Stroud Water Research Center as a winner of the City on a Cloud Innovation Challenge. The Stroud Center was one of three winners in the Partners in Innovation category for their Model My Watershed project, featured in [NACD's Urban and Community Conservation webinar in December 2017](#). It is an easy-to-use, professional-grade watershed modeling and data discovery web application that enables citizens, conservation practitioners, municipal decision-makers, educators and students to learn about their watersheds and the impact of stormwater runoff in their neighborhoods.



## Minnesota district hiring farm bill technician

Le Sueur County SWCD in Le Center, Minn., is seeking qualified applicants for a full-time farm bill technician. The technician will promote, coordinate, and assist in implementation of federal farm bill programs including the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). [Click here](#) for more information; the position closes Friday, June 29.



resources and are held 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. ET on the third Thursday of each month. View a full list of past webinars, as well as links to presentation PDFs and archived webinar recordings on [NACD's website](#).

The RPG is now seeking your input for the series beginning in October 2018. Help us design webinars that help you! Please take a moment to:

1. Offer to give a presentation, and/or
2. Tell us the urban and community conservation topics/issues and/or speakers you would like to have covered.

Send a brief paragraph describing the programs, projects or speakers you would like to see showcased to [Deb Bogar](#) by June 30.



### NACD Events Calendar

For additional details regarding meetings listed below, [click here](#). Does your district or state association have an upcoming tree sale, state meeting or job vacancy? **Let us know!**

- Northeast Region Meeting - July 15 - 17
- NACD Summer Meeting - Aug. 3 - 8
- NACD South Central Region Meeting - Sept. 4 - 6
- NACD Southwest and Pacific Regions Meeting - Sept. 17 - 20

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The NACD Urban and Community Resource Policy Group (RPG) would like your input for the Urban and Community Conservation Webinar series beginning in October 2018. Help us design webinars that help you! Please take a moment to:

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2. Tell us the urban and community conservation topics/issues and/or speakers you would like to have covered.

Send your proposals and topic/speaker ideas to [Deb Bogar](#) by June 30, 2018.

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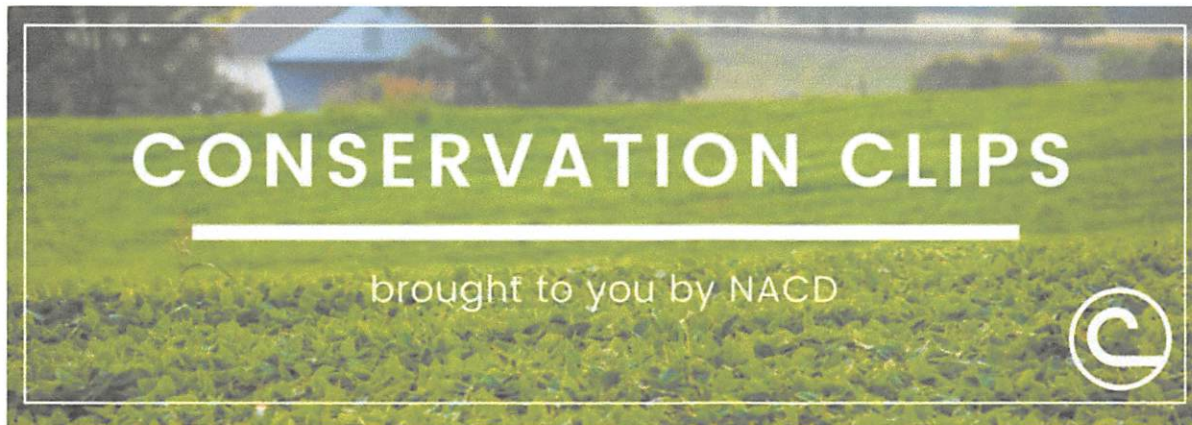
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### **NACD Blog: Conservation in the Caribbean: Part One**

By Brent Van Dyke

06/25/18

This week, leaders and staff from the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) are in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands to meet with conservation districts and government officials to learn more about their resource concerns as well as how the islands are recovering from the hurricanes.

### **NACD Blog: Conservation in the Caribbean: Part Two**

By Jim Harreld

06/26/18

The impacts of Hurricanes Irma and Maria may have disappeared from daily news coverage, but they continue to weigh on millions of Americans—particularly those in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

### **NACD Blog: NACD's Take: The 2018 Senate Farm Bill**

By Coleman Garrison



06/27/18

On Friday, June 8, the Senate Ag Committee released its 2018 Farm Bill (S. 3042), and the legislation passed out of committee on Wednesday, June 13. NACD staff have been busy analyzing the bill to see how our priorities fared.

**NACD Blog: Conservation in the Caribbean: Part Three**

By Edwin Almodóvar

06/27/18

As director, Maria affected me deeply from a technical standpoint but from an emotional aspect as well. Puerto Rico is my home, and the aftermath of Hurricane Maria was hands-down the worst devastation from a natural disaster I have ever experienced.

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**Agri-Pulse: Bipartisan farm bill sails through Senate, 86-11**

By Philip Brasher

06/28/18

A bipartisan farm bill that would protect crop insurance and commodity programs as well as nutrition assistance from cuts passed the Senate by an overwhelming margin, 86-11, clearing the way for negotiations to begin next month with the House.

**Des Moines Register: Farmers are working to reduce nitrate levels, but some factors are out of their control**

By Mike Naig

06/28/18

(Opinion) Accurately measuring what's happening in Iowa's watersheds is complicated. We know – and numerous studies have shown – that many factors, such as soil type, landscape and weather can have a significant impact on surface water and nitrate levels. While farmers and landowners are making great progress in soil conservation, we are just getting started in our quest to reduce nitrogen loss.

**Dakota Farmer: Making poor soils rich again**

By Lon Tonneson

06/25/18

It's estimated that there are as many as 14-20 million acres of sodium or salt-impaired soils in the Dakotas. The wet cycle since the 1990s, the erosion of topsoil and the reduction in small grains and alfalfa in crop rotations are all thought to be part of the problem.

**Agri-Pulse: Opinion: Successful Farming Depends on Risk Management Tools and Protecting Our Natural Resources**

By Rogers Hoyt and Larry Heitman

06/26/18



(Opinion) A strong and reliable safety net for our nation's farmers, as well as our soil and wetlands, is a critical component of the farm bill and the future of agricultural sustainability. The production of our food and fiber supply relies on healthy soils and clean water, and producers understand better than anyone that successful farming goes hand-in-hand with good land stewardship.

**Des Moines Register:** Iowa nitrogen pollution in the water is getting worse, despite hundreds of millions of dollars in spending, study shows

By Donnelle Eller

06/22/18

Nitrogen pollution flowing out of Iowa to the Gulf of Mexico has grown by close to 50 percent over nearly two decades, a new report shows, despite hundreds of millions of dollars spent to stem nutrients entering the state's waterways.

**DTN:** No Farm Bill Veto Threat: Senate Taking up Amendments Wednesday on CRP, Possibly Payment Limits

By Jerry Hagstrom and Chris Clayton

06/27/18

The Senate farm bill raises the cap in the Conservation Reserve Program by 1 million acres for a total of 25 million acres. Thune's amendment also would allow landowners to hay or graze up to one-third of their CRP acreage every year, in exchange for a 25% decline in the rental payment.

**Des Moines Register:** Emerald ash borer has now been found in 61 of Iowa's 99 counties

06/26/18

State agricultural officials said an insect that has killed millions of ash trees has been found in 61 of Iowa's 99 counties.

**The Growler:** Soil Farmers: How A Renewed Focus On The Land Is Building More Resilient Farms

By Brian Kaufenberg

06/26/18

In order to reverse the process of degraded grasslands turning into desert, we must look to the thing we think caused the problem in the first place: livestock. Systematically grazing large herds of livestock for defined periods of time across the land creates the necessary conditions for grasses to grow again.

**The New York Times:** Bumblebees Thrive in the City but Struggle on the Farm

By JoAnna Klein

06/27/18

Oddly, as sprawling cities and vast agricultural fields replace forests and meadows, people have noticed more bumblebees buzzing around cities.

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## The NACD eResource

Weekly news briefs from the National Association of Conservation Districts

### NACD LEARNS ABOUT CONSERVATION IN THE CARIBBEAN



Last week, leaders and staff from the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) traveled to Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands to meet with conservation districts and government officials to learn more about their resource concerns, district structure and projects, and how the islands have recovered from Hurricanes Maria and Irma.

NACD President **Brent Van Dyke**, Southeast Region Executive Board Member **Jim Harreld**, Director of Projects and Partnerships **Rich Duesterhaus**, Southeast Region Representative **Phylis Vandevere** and Director of Communications **Stephanie Addison** along with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Caribbean Area Director **Edwin Almodovar** had the opportunity to meet with conservation district representatives and partners to learn more about some of the specific projects the islands had underway in the area and how the island was affected. To learn

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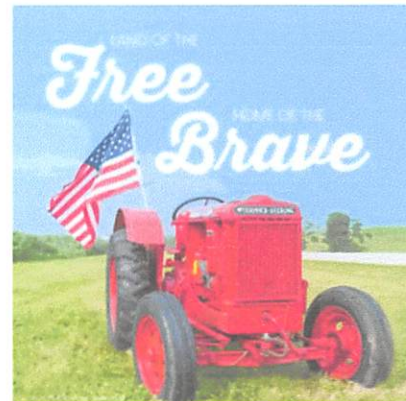
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#### NACD Celebrates Independence Day



NACD will be closed **Wednesday, July 4, 2018**, for Independence Day. We will resume normal business hours July 5.

#### NACD Vice President Crowder Meets with Ag Sec. Perdue



more about the islands main resource concerns and the role NRCS is playing in providing farmers assistance, [check out Almodovar's blog](#). Additionally, the



team had the privilege to meet and hear directly from several of the employees who were hired under NACD's technical assistance grant

program with NRCS. To learn more about technical assistance grants in Puerto Rico and USVI, [read Duesterhaus' blog](#).

NACD meet with some of the territories' most influential agriculture leaders, including Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture Secretary Carlos Flores Ortega and representatives from Governor Ricardo Rossello's office. These leaders are passionate not only about recovering, but about planning for the future and making the islands even more resilient. In fact, Jim Harreld extended a personal invitation to the agriculture secretary to attend NACD's summer meeting in Williamsburg.



On June 28, NACD traveled to St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands to meet with **USVI Commissioner of Agriculture Carlos Robles** to present the islands with two

checks as a part of a \$100,000 technical assistance grant for the island. Later that day, the team met with the **Department of Public Works Commissioner Nelson Petty** and local producers in the area to learn how infrastructure was affected during the hurricanes in addition to the conservation techniques utilized by farmers on the island.

While they still have a long way to go, the island is hard at work addressing the damage. Stay tuned for a full recap later this month on NACD's time in Puerto Rico and the USVI. You can find photos from the trip on [our Flickr page](#), search for posts on social media using the hashtag #ConservationInTheCaribbean, and check out our most recent [blog](#) posts.

## NACD GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE



Today, NACD Vice President **Michael Crowder** attended a breakfast and town hall meeting in Richland, Wash., to hear from **USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue** and **Congressman Dan Newhouse (R-WA)**.

### NAPPC Award Deadline Friday

The Pollinator Partnership and NACD are seeking nominations for the 2018 Farmer-Rancher Pollinator Conservation Award recognizing a farmer or rancher who is making a difference for pollinators in the way they manage their operations. Please visit [the Pollinator Partnership website](#) for the nomination form, and submit your nominations by this **Friday, July 6**.

### NACD July U&C Webinar

The topic for the next NACD Urban and Community Conservation webinar is *Collaborating for Water Quality* which will take place **12:00 p.m -1:00 p.m. EST on July 19**.

Greenwood County, S.C., owns and operates an 11,400-acre reservoir. Lake Greenwood has been working with lake front property owners to address nonpoint source pollution. Along with this, they have developed an integrated aquatic plant management plan. In Nebraska, the Papillion Creek Watershed Partnership was created through an inter-local agreement between nine governmental agencies to proactively deal with the water quality and quantity issues in a 402-square mile watershed that encompasses most of the Omaha metropolitan area.

These popular webinars, held on the third Thursday of each month, are sponsored by The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company in partnership with the NACD Urban and Community Resource Policy Group. There is



On Thursday, June 28, the Senate passed its version of the 2018 farm bill with a vote of 86-11.

Now that both the House and the Senate have passed their respective versions, each Chamber will convene a conference committee where a group of Members will work to settle the two version's differences to send a final bill to the President's desk.

For NACD's take on the Senate farm bill, check out **Director of Government Affairs Coleman Garrison's** [blog](#).

NACD is hopeful that with just under three months before the current farm bill expires, Congress has left itself enough time to work through the conference committee process and pass a new farm bill on time.

## NCPD LISTENING SESSION GARNERS CONSERVATION PLANNING INPUT

On Wednesday, June 27, 2018, nearly 150 participants from NRCS, conservation districts, and state officials provided input to the fifth National Conservation Planning Partnership (NCPD) listening session in Syracuse, N.Y.

**NACD Secretary-Treasurer Kim LaFleur** represented the association and presented the findings of the 2016 surveys of farmers, employee and district officials regarding their ideas on conservation planning. National Leaders from the five organizations making up the NCPD – NACD, NRCS, NCDEA, NARC&DC, and NASCA – all participated and presented segments of the agenda. One important topic from the New York session is how to harmonize state conservation planning requirements with national policies and procedures.

The NCPD Outcomes and Accountability Action Team spent an extra day following the listening session in face to face meetings to further advance their work to adequately measure results and accomplishments of conservation efforts in the nation.

Three remaining listening sessions are scheduled for this year:

- Kearney, Neb. - July 19
- Fayetteville, N.C. - August 23
- Casper, Wyo. - October 16

These sessions are designed to help the NCPD effort ensure conservation planning in the future addresses priority needs such as the types of services needed by farmers, ranchers and others.

no cost to participate, but space is limited. Registration will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. To register, email **Debra Bogar** at [deb-bogar@nacdnat.org](mailto:deb-bogar@nacdnat.org) WITH your name, title, district or business name, state and email address. Information to access the webinar will be sent by email.

### Share your Facebook page!

Does your district or state association have a Facebook page? Fill out this to share your page with NACD, and we'll add it to your district or association's contact information on our [interactive maps](#). Is your contact information incorrect? Please contact [NACD Communications Manager Sara Kangas](#).

### SHI Annual Meeting Registration Closing Soon

Registration for the Soil Health Institute's 3rd Annual Meeting in Albuquerque, N.M., closes **July 11, 2018**. The Meeting will take place Aug. 1-3 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

View the [agenda](#), register [here](#), and reserve [room](#).



### South Dakota NRCS Seeks Public Relations Professional

This [position](#) would work with the state office staff and the state public affairs officer for communications and public relations related to farm bill, resources concerns, conservation of our state's natural resources, and our strategic plan with a focus on healthy soil, water, wildlife and partnerships. Please note July 5 is closing date.

All questions can be directed to [colette.kessler@sd.usda.gov](mailto:colette.kessler@sd.usda.gov).

## ONE MONTH 'TIL SUMMER MEETING



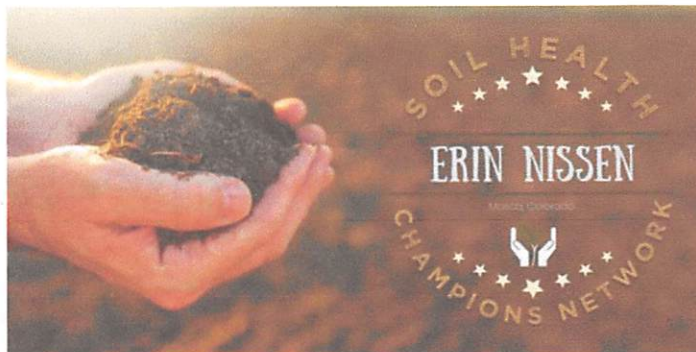
The *2018 NACD Conservation Forum and Tour and Southeast Region Meeting* is quickly approaching, and there's less than two weeks left to complete your registration and [hotel reservations](#). This week is the last week to register by mail and all forms must be received by **Friday, July 6**. Online registration and hotel reservations must be complete by **Friday, July 13**.

Please do not mail or fax registration forms after July 6, 2018. After this date, you must register online or on-site. [Click here](#) to learn more and to review the registration form. A confirmation letter will be sent via email to the email address provided on the registration form. If you do not receive your confirmation, please contact Kimberly Uldricks at 202-547-6223 or [kimberly-uldricks@nacdnet.org](mailto:kimberly-uldricks@nacdnet.org). Your confirmation is your receipt for the meeting, so please keep it for your records.



This meeting is made possible through our sponsors, including **The National Wild Turkey Federation**.

## SOIL HEALTH CHAMPION SPOTLIGHT



**Erin Nissen** is one of NACD's newest Soil Health Champions, residing in Mosca, Colo. Nissen



### NACD Events Calendar

For additional details regarding meetings listed below, [click here](#). Does your district or state association have an upcoming tree sale, state meeting or job vacancy? **Let us know!**

- Northeast Region Meeting - July 15 - 17
- NACD Summer Meeting - Aug. 3 - 8
- NACD South Central Region Meeting - Sept. 4 - 6
- NACD Southwest and Pacific Regions Meeting - Sept. 17 - 20



graduated from Texas Tech University in 2013 with a degree in agricultural and applied economics. Since graduation, she came home to run her family farm alongside her father, Lyle, raising conventional and organic fresh market potatoes, malting barley for Coors and multi-species cover crops for incorporation and feeding their 150 head of cattle.

Always researching ways to improve their operation, the Nissens make it a priority to focus on maintaining healthy soils. In addition, because their operation is located in a high-altitude desert that receives very low precipitation, every decision made also centers on water management.

To read more about the Nissen's farm and how they manage their operation for soil health, be sure to visit [Erin's profile](#) on the NACD website. To hear directly from the Nissens, be sure to check out their [video interview](#) as the 2014 Mosca-Hooper Conservationists of the Year.

If you'd like to learn more about the **NACD Soil Health Champions Network** or know someone who would be a good addition to this network, please be sure to visit the [NACD website](#), download our [one-page information sheet](#), and contact **NACD North Central Region Representative [Beth Mason](#)**.

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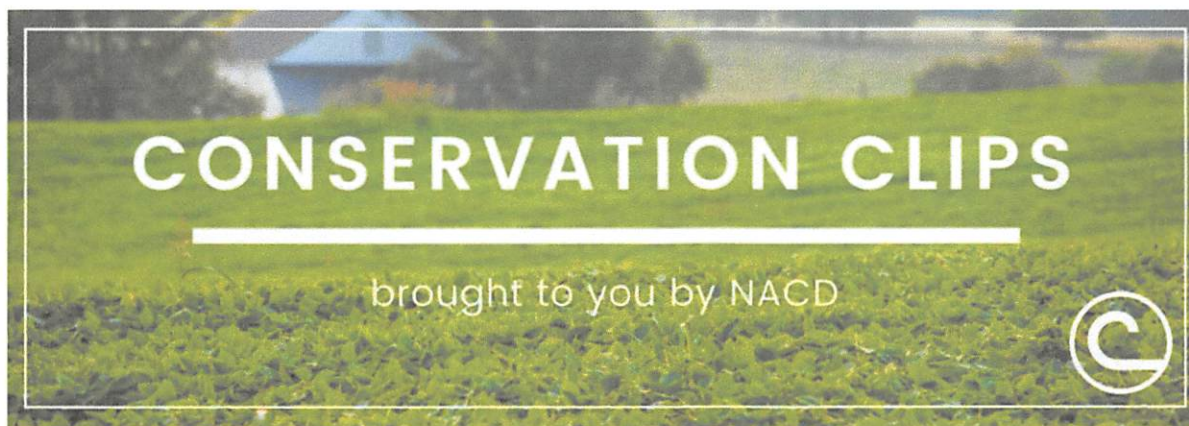
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**NACD Blog: Conservation in the Caribbean: Technical Assistance Grants**  
By Rich Duesterhaus  
07/02/18

After the hurricanes last year, conservation districts and their partners in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) were confronted with heavy workloads and staff shortages to implement conservation practices. Fortunately, NACD in cooperation with NRCS had just begun a technical assistance grant program for districts and their state/territory wide partners.

**Capital Press: Districts bring conservation efforts down to earth**  
By Carol Ryan Dumas  
07/05/18

There's a soil-health movement going on, and farmers need the resources and support that conservation districts provide. "Conservation districts played a pivotal role following the Great Depression, and they're as relevant now as they ever have been," Brent Van Dyke, president of the National Association of Conservation Districts, said.



**The New York Times: 'The New Normal': Wildfires Roar Across the West, Again**

By Thomas Fuller and Julie Turkewitz

07/02/18

Wildfires are tearing across California, Colorado, New Mexico and other Western states this week, chewing up bone-dry mountainsides, scorching buildings and forcing hundreds of people to evacuate from their homes. The message across the West is that after a record-breaking 2017 fire season, 2018 is likely to be brutal, too.

**Politico: Farm bill ready for conference committee**

By Christine Haughney

06/29/18

The Senate's easy passage of the farm bill gives Ag Chairman Pat Roberts (R-Kan.) and ranking member Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) momentum heading into conference negotiations.

**Houston Herald: Partnership in the Pasture: Texas County livestock breeders utilize innovative grazing technique**

By Doug Davison

06/27/18

It's like a livestock triple-threat or a grazing trifecta. At BF Farm in Huggins, owners Mark Bengtson and Jodey Fulcher are breeders of Black Hereford cattle, Kiko goats and Kunekune pigs. They use a grazing regimen involving all three species taking turns working over the same space.

**Capital Press: No-till farming can help save water, proponents say**

By Desiree Bergstrom

07/02/18

With much of the West either "abnormally dry" or in drought conditions, no-till farming advocates say that method could be a way to better utilize the water that's available.

**Idaho State Journal: 50 high school teams to participate in NCF Envirothon at Idaho State University**

06/28/18

High school teams from throughout the United States, Canada and the Republic of China will soon be competing on the campus of Idaho State University at the 30th NCF Envirothon competitions. Fifty teams will be spending six days, July 22 through 27, studying Idaho's natural resources and vying for more than \$30,000 in prize money provided by Smithfield Foods.

**USDA Blog: Cooperative Forestry Act Celebrates 40 Years of Helping Private Forest Owners**

By Joyce El Kouarti  
06/28/18

Because forests continue to be threatened by wildfire, attacks by insects and diseases, and conversion to non-forest uses, forty years ago, on July 1, Congress passed the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978. The Act was designed to mitigate these threats by empowering the USDA Forest Service to partner with state forestry agencies, which typically match federal investments 2 to 1, to provide technical forest management assistance to landowners.

**Pilot Tribune:** Farm Bill may be "small step forward" on water quality

By Elijah Decious  
06/29/18

Local experts are cautiously calling the 2018 Farm Bill a "small step forward" for water quality and conservation in Iowa. Grassley said he supports the reforms in the 2018 Farm Bill that should refocus CRP to what he said was its original intent--to idle less productive farm land.

**Los Angeles Times:** Gov. Jerry Brown, California lawmakers announce plans to address growing wildfire problem

By Patrick McGreevy  
07/02/18

Gov. Jerry Brown and legislative leaders on Monday announced plans to improve disaster preparedness and develop policies to better deal with the wildfires that are plaguing California, citing the historic fires that hit the state last year.

**The Detroit News:** Opinion: Improving water quality through compost in Michigan

By Tom Zimnicki and Kerrin O'Brien  
06/30/18

(Opinion) This year I am calling on state agencies, the legislature and stakeholders in the agricultural and urban sectors to embrace a new priority: improving soil health.

**The Denver Post:** As wildfires rage in Colorado high country, authorities try to protect watersheds from contamination

By Monte Whaley  
07/02/18

In what is already a raging wildfire season, forest service and water officials in Colorado are working to protect the state's watersheds from contamination. To reduce that risk, Denver and its partners are spending \$66 million for tree thinning and reforestation above critical watersheds.

Subject **Last week to register: 2018 Conservation Forum and Tour and Southeast Region Meeting**

From NACD <nacdnews@nacdn.net.org>

Sender NACD <nacdnews@nacdn.net.org>

To Temecula-Elsinore- Anza-Murrieta RCD <manager@teamrcd.org>

Date 2018-07-09 13:59



## Last Week to Register, Reserve Your Hotel Room

The [2018 NACD Conservation Forum and Tour and Southeast Region Meeting](#) is just weeks away, and you only have until [this Friday](#) to register under discounted rates. Registering online couldn't be easier - click the *Register Now!* button at the top right of this email and log in to your NACD account.

This year's meeting includes four distinct tour tracks: agricultural, education and coastal topics, urban and forestry, and historical. [Click here](#) to read descriptions of the tour stops. Make sure to select your preferred tour when you register - registrations completed after July 13 cannot be guaranteed a seat.

Friday is also the last day to make reservations at the [Williamsburg Lodge](#), where the summer meeting events will occur. The block rate starts at \$137 per night - [click here](#) for more details, or call 1-800-261-9530 and say you're with the 2018 NACD Summer Leadership Conference.



***Register Now!***

All recipients of this email have an NACD online account - [click here](#) to log in! If you've forgotten your account password, reset it by entering your email address and clicking "Recover Account."

## Thank you to our meeting sponsors

This year's meeting will provide conservation officials, landowners and operators, and agency and industry professionals with the opportunity to network and learn about the region's natural resource issues and mitigation strategies, thanks in part to the support of our sponsors. Interested in gaining exposure for your company's products or services? [Click here](#) to learn about meeting sponsorship and exhibition hall opportunities.



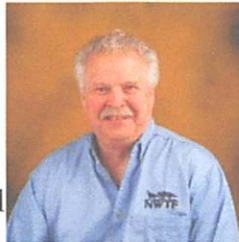
## Keynote Speakers Added to Extensive Lineup

During Monday and Tuesday's Conservation Forum, meeting attendees will have the opportunity to hear from a range of prominent regional and national keynote speakers.

**Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Acting Chief Leonard Jordan** will provide remarks during Tuesday's forum. Jordan previously served as the NRCS associate chief for conservation, as well as the regional conservationist for the Southeast Region, and has nearly four decades of experience with NRCS.



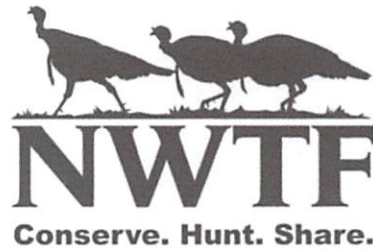
Meeting-goers will also hear from the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) vice president of conservation, **Ross Melinchuk**. Melinchuk has more than four decades of experience in the natural resources field and previously served as director of conservation programs and partnerships for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.



Jordan and Melinchuk are among a lineup of distinguished leaders in conservation, including **USDA Under Secretary Bill Northey**, Virginia Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry **Bettina Ring**, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Director **Clyde Cristman**, Mississippi forest owner and Georgia Association of Conservation Districts program assistant **Vickie Roberts-Ratliff** and Virginia Environmental Endowment Executive Director **Joe Maroon**. [Click here](#) to read speaker bios and to view a list of invited speakers.



**Panasonic**



### Summer Meeting Offers Wide Range of Educational Opportunities

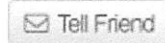
Your time in Williamsburg will be filled with educational opportunities, whether you're learning about the history behind the Revolutionary City or about emerging products and technologies in the conservation exhibition hall.

The 2018 Summer Conservation Forum and Tour and Southeast Region Meeting also boasts a variety of concurrent sessions to provide in-depth information on the issues most important to conservation today. Learn more about how to work with rural landowners to implement voluntary conservation practices, how to implement outdoor educational activities, how Virginia districts who received funds through the NACD and NRCS Urban Agriculture Grant Initiative are faring, and more! [Click here](#) to view a full list of concurrent sessions, descriptions and speakers.

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## The NACD eResource

Weekly news briefs from the National Association of Conservation Districts

### CAMPAIGNING FOR A SOIL HEALTH FOREVER STAMP

Nearly 60 years ago, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) issued a soil conservation stamp emphasizing the importance of soil and water conservation measures. Twenty-five years later, they issued a stamp (pictured) for soil and water conservation districts commemorating 50 years of the SWCD movement in the U.S. In the years since, there have been stamps about farming and wildlife conservation, but there has not been a stamp that focuses on the one unifying piece that makes it all possible, our soil.



The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) is leading the campaign to create a new soil health forever stamp, promoting the growing movement across the nation. If your organization or district would like to submit a letter of support, [click here](#) to be redirected to NACD's website, where you can view a

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#### Conservation in the Caribbean: Spanish blog translations available



During the last week of June, members of NACD staff and leadership visited the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico to meet with conservation districts and government officials and learn more about the territories' resource concerns, district structure and projects. They witnessed firsthand the devastating effects of last year's Hurricane Maria and Hurricane Irma as well as the territories' recovery and mitigation efforts.

Thanks to assistance from NRCS staffers Israel Matos and Jose

template letter and the letter NACD submitted. Individuals can also lend their support for this stamp by [visiting this link](#) and signing on to the ISDA general letter.

Letters of support should be sent to [Meg Leader](#), ISDA director of soil health, by **July 15**. All submissions should be addressed to the USPS Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee.

## REGISTRATION, HOTEL RESERVATION DEADLINE FRIDAY



The [2018 NACD Conservation Forum and Tour and Southeast Region Meeting](#) is just weeks away, and you only have until this Friday to register under discounted, early registration prices and [hotel reservations](#). All arrangements must be made by this **Friday, July 13**.

This year's meeting includes four distinct tour tracks: agricultural, education and coastal topics, urban and forestry, and historical. [Click here](#) to read descriptions of the tour stops. Make sure to select your preferred tour when you register - registrations completed after July 13 cannot be guaranteed a seat.

In addition to educational opportunities during Tuesday's tours, the conservation exhibition hall and the wide range of concurrent sessions offered on Monday, meeting attendees will have the opportunity to hear from a range of [prominent regional and national keynote speakers](#) during the Conservation Forum.

**Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Acting Chief Leonard Jordan** will provide remarks during Tuesday's forum. Jordan previously served as the NRCS associate chief for conservation, as well as the regional conservationist for the Southeast Region, and has nearly four decades of experience with NRCS.



Meeting-goers will also hear from the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) vice president of conservation, **Ross Melinchuk**. Melinchuk has more than four decades of experience in the natural

Jimenez, NACD has posted Spanish translations of [President Brent Van Dyke](#) and [Southeast Region Executive Board Member Jim Harreld](#)'s blogs on our website. [Click here](#) to read their blogs in English.

## Important ANNOUNCEMENTS

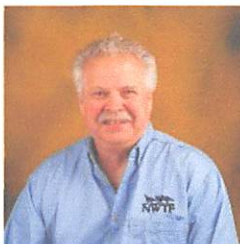
### Registration now open for Southwest/Pacific Regions Meeting

Registration for the **2018 Southwest-Pacific joint regions meeting**, held Sept. 17-19 in Kennewick, Wash., is now open! Hosted by the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD), the event will feature meetings of the Tribal Outreach and Partnership Resource Policy Group (RPG) and NRCS State Conservationists from the West, a panel of state conservation partners to discuss potential strategies to increase long-term funding and support for conservation districts.

The meeting will also feature a tour of the Barker Ranch, owned by NACD **Second Vice President Michael Crowder**. Topics on the tour include talks about the local geology, early Kennewick Man, the Hanford Nuclear Reactor facility and local natural resource issues. After the ranch tour, participants will venture over to the Red Mountain Vineyard and Winery to learn about grape cultivation and wine production followed by sampling of their local award-winning wines.



resources field and previously served as director of conservation programs and partnerships for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.



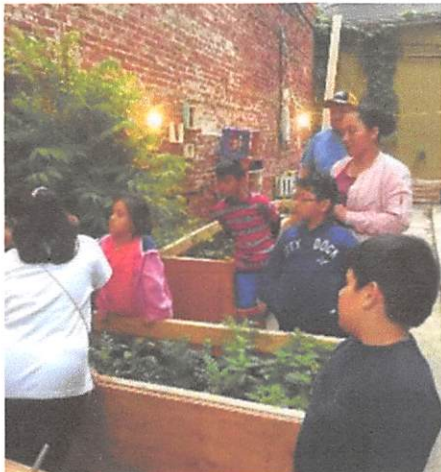
You won't want to miss out on this action-packed agenda - [click here](#) to review the summer meeting webpage and [click here](#) to save your seat.



## MONTGOMERY COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

In 2016, NACD and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) awarded the Montgomery County Conservation District (MCCD) in Pennsylvania with funding to support technical assistance through the Urban Agriculture Conservation Grant Initiative. MCCD's project increased support for urban gardens through information dissemination, creation and maintenance of partnerships, and development and distribution of an educational guide.

Meaningful partnerships were established among community organizations including Norristown Community Garden, Edible Forest, Opportunities Industrialization Center, ACLAMO Family Centers, Center for Cultural Art, Training and Education, MOSAIC Community Land Trust gardens and two school districts.



[Click here](#) for more information or contact NACD Western Issues Specialist Jeff Burwell at [jeff-burwell@nacdnet.org](mailto:jeff-burwell@nacdnet.org).

## NRCS soil health webpage launched

NRCS has launched a new [soil health resources webpage](#) to educate landowners, operators and the general public on the principles of soil health. The page also features best practices for working lands and a tool to help locate your service center.

## Stock up for summer with NACD Marketplace wearables



With summer here to stay, you'll need to make sure you're properly equipped in the field to stay cool. Check out the latest merchandise in our [online store](#), including lightweight, moisture-wicking polos and brimmed hats to keep the sun off your face. All of the apparel in the NACD Marketplace can be customized with a number of logos - [click here](#) to learn more. If you have any questions or suggestions, please email us at [stewardship@nacdnet.org](mailto:stewardship@nacdnet.org).



## SHI seeks soil health liaison



Norristown and Pottstown represent two of the most urban areas in the county in terms of density and population, and were selected based on their classification as low-income and low-access to supermarkets and fresh food.

One highlight of the project was the distribution of composting bins and rain barrels to urban gardens, including several school gardens. These two conservation measures also served as educational tools to teach garden users about soil and water conservation and stormwater management.



In addition to these on-the-ground conservation efforts, MCCD, in partnership with GreenTreks Network, created an electronic [Urban Ag Conservation Resource Guide](#). This digital guide includes interactive garden models and resources, as well as video documentary filmed in Pottstown's gardens. It is intended for use by any community organization, municipality and others interested in starting an urban garden. The document provides guidance for site selection, finding funding, gathering community support, styles of gardens and technical information on planting and managing a garden.

The Soil Health Institute (SHI), a non-profit organization created to safeguard and enhance the vitality and productivity of soil through scientific research and advancement, is seeking a Soil Health Liaison based out of Research Triangle Park in North Carolina. This part-time position will serve as a central SHI liaison to numerous stakeholder Action Teams who volunteer their time and expertise to advance soil health. [Click here](#) for more information; applications must be completed by July 15.



### NACD Events Calendar

For additional details regarding meetings listed below, [click here](#). Does your district or state association have an upcoming tree sale, state meeting or job vacancy? **Let us know!**

- Northeast Region Meeting - July 15 - 17
- NACD Summer Meeting - Aug. 3 - 8
- NACD South Central Region Meeting - Sept. 4 - 6
- NACD Southwest and Pacific Regions Meeting - Sept. 17 - 20

NACD | 509 Capitol Court NE | Washington, DC 20002 | (202) 547-6223  
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## NACD TOURS CARIBBEAN, LEARNS ABOUT CONSERVATION OBSTACLES, SUCCESSES

During the last week of June, members of NACD staff and leadership traveled to Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) to meet with conservation districts and government officials. During their time in the Caribbean, they learned more about the territories' resource concerns, district structure and projects, how the islands were impacted by and are recovering from last year's Hurricanes Maria and Irma, and how they are planning for the future.



(Pictured from left to right) NACD President **Brent Van Dyke**, Director of Projects and Partnerships **Rich Duesterhaus**, Director of Communications **Stephanie Addison**, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Caribbean Area Director **Edwin Almodovar**, Southeast Region Executive Board Member **Jim Harreld** and Southeast Region Representative **Phylis**

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Puerto Rico Agriculture Secretary **Carlos Flores** and USDA-NRCS Caribbean Director **Edwin Almodovar** sign an agreement to fund cooperative efforts between the two entities in the presence of NACD leaders and staff as well as the site visit team.





**Vandevere** had the opportunity to meet with conservation district representatives and partners to learn more about some of the specific projects the islands had underway in the area and how the islands were affected.

## President Brent Van Dyke - Partnership and Dedication

NACD's trip to the Caribbean provided our leaders with a better understanding of some of the issues and obstacles the territories' leaders are facing on a day-to-day basis. We met with leaders from state, local and federal governments and our discussions are provoking thoughtful, long-term solutions to the unique resource concerns and circumstances these folks are facing. Despite the tragedy, they've remained committed to sustainability efforts. It's important to us as a national association to reach out, cultivate and maintain relationships with our members, especially during times of need.

Although they still have a long way to go, the work already being done on the islands to address the damage is inspiring. Hearing from those who lived through the devastating storms and listening to the ways preventative measures and recovery efforts for future storms can be improved has been extremely helpful. These representatives educated our team on the unique initiatives they have underway and the drive they have to do more. I applaud Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands for continuing to carry out the conservation mission despite all the hurdles they are currently facing. They aren't going to quit, they aren't giving up, they will recover—and conservation districts are at the forefront of those efforts.

[Click here](#) to read the entirety of Brent's blog and [click here](#) to read a Spanish translation.

## Southeast Region Executive Board Member Jim Harreld - The Strength in Membership

The impacts of Hurricanes Irma and Maria may have disappeared from daily news coverage, but they continue to weigh on millions of Americans—particularly those in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. And while the island is continuously worried another storm could devastate the island again, conservation districts and their partners have not lost sight of the future. When NACD received a membership contribution from Puerto Rico last

NACD President Van Dyke and Southeast Region Representative **Phylis Vandevere** presented the United States Virgin Islands Commissioner of Agriculture **Carlos Robles** with two checks as a part of a \$100,000 technical assistance grant made possible through NACD and NRCS.



## Social Media Spotlight



**f** - Most liked Facebook post of the week. [Follow NACD on Facebook.](#)



[Click here](#) to read the rest of Jim's blog and [click here](#) to read a Spanish translation.

**NRCS Caribbean Area Director**  
**Edwin Almodovar**

As director, Maria affected me deeply from a technical standpoint but from an emotional aspect as well. Puerto Rico is my home, and the aftermath of Hurricane Maria was hands-down the worst devastation from a natural disaster I have ever experienced. I lived through these storms, and while it's easy to get overwhelmed by the destruction and the time it takes for the island to heal, I am so proud of the work we've been able to do. Our conservation districts and partners have never lost sight of the future and have continued to push forward. Day by day, they are making a difference on the island and contributing to Puerto Rico's recovery. But more importantly, they are changing lives, and it's an honor to be a part of it.

[Click here](#) to read Edwin's blog.

**Director of Projects and Partnerships Rich Duesterhaus - Technical Assistance Grants**

After the hurricanes last year, conservation districts and their partners in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) were confronted with heavy workloads and staff shortages to implement conservation practices. NACD in cooperation with NRCS had just begun a technical assistance grant program for districts and their state/territory wide partners. Two Puerto Rican districts, along with their territory leadership, submitted an application to participate in the program with an application from the USVI not far behind.

[Click here](#) to read Rich's blog and learn more about the technical assistance positions funded by NACD and NRCS.

**Southeast Region Representative  
Phylis Vandevere - Emergency  
Watershed Protection**



 - Most liked Tweet of the week. [Follow NACD on Twitter.](#)



Photos from the team's week in the Caribbean are available on NACD's Flickr page. [Click here to view the album.](#)

## Conservation in the Caribbean: Getting It Back Together

During NACD's visit to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, they stopped at **Charles Leonard's** operation to hear firsthand from local producers how they were impacted by the hurricanes.



Before the hurricanes, he had 120 beehives on his operation—after Irma, he has five. He said one of the hardest things about recovering from the storms was



Just days after Hurricanes Irma and Maria, a team of 16 NRCS employees from across the country traveled to the Caribbean to assess watershed damages and imminent threats to life and property. Of the roughly 1,000 sites the team visited, over half qualified for USDA Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) funding. [Click here](#) to read Phylis's blog and to learn more about EWP implementation in the Caribbean.

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access to resources and supplies to rebuild. For example, producers had to have the money upfront to borrow equipment and materials to mend their fences. Because so many of the farmers couldn't afford to pay upfront, the invasive white tail deer were able to maul their crops. [Click here](#) to learn more about Leonard's operation and how islanders are adjusting to recovery efforts.

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## Registration Extended Until July 17!

Dear Conservation Leader,

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (VASWCD) are extending the deadline to register and reserve hotel rooms for this year's Summer Conservation Forum and Tour and Southeast Region meeting.

Meeting registration and hotel reservations will be available until next **Tuesday, July 17**. The meeting will be held at the Williamsburg Lodge in Williamsburg, Va., August 3 - 8, 2018.

- Register for this year's summer meeting online or call (202) 547-6223 for assistance.
- Make a hotel registration online or call 1-800-261-9530 and say you're with the 2018 NACD Summer Leadership Conference.

You won't want to miss out on this year's tour selections and speaker lineup, including **USDA Under Secretary Bill Northey**.

See you in Virginia...Where Leaders Meet!

Your NACD Team



Click the button above to log in to your NACD account (click the Recover Account button to reset your password) and register today!

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 Tell Friend



National Association of  
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Dear District Official,

By now Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD will have received a final invoice for NACD's 2018 Fiscal Year. We ask that you submit a membership dues payment now to show support for your national association. Your support ensures NACD can continue to represent districts' priorities in federal policy making, work to secure funding for conservation programs and districts, and provide tools and guides to help districts accomplish their missions.

## Advocacy Success

**SAM/DUNS Removal** — For several years, removing the System for Award Management (SAM)/Data Universal Numbers System (DUNS) requirements has been a top priority for NACD and districts. The lifting of these burdensome reporting requirements for landowners and operators is a huge success for the future of conservation delivery.

**NRCS Hiring Freeze Lifted** — For months NACD has advocated on the importance of funding Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) positions in field offices across the country. By ensuring adequate staff are in place to get conservation on the ground, conservation districts are better equipped to support the nation's ability to produce food, fuel and fiber as well as protect our valuable soil and water resources for future generations.

## Resources for Districts

**District Funding** — NACD, in partnership with NRCS, awarded \$9 million in Technical Assistance funding. These awards will provide for more than 200 positions to deliver technical assistance to landowners in 45 states and territories, including islands that were affected by last summer's devastating hurricanes.

**Promotional Videos** — Looking for a new way to promote your district and tell your community what you do? NACD premiered three promotional videos earlier this year ranging from 30 seconds to two minutes. These videos are FREE for district use and showcase all the resources conservation districts provide people

across the country, just visit <http://www.nacdnet.org/newsroom/nacd-promotional-videos/>.

**NACD App** — Last year, NACD began working on a mobile application to increase members' communication user experience. The app was released in January and became fully functional over the past few weeks. The app enables our team to send push notifications regarding NACD updates such as press releases, blogs and important legislative actions. The app will also provide members with real time information during NACD gatherings, meetings, etc. The app mirrors our website in a mobile-friendly format to give members access to resources needed while on-the-go.

### Don't Miss Out!

Northeast Region Meeting	July 15 – 18	Lancaster, Pa.
NACD 2018 Conservation Forum and Tour and Southeast Region Meeting	Aug. 3 – 7	Williamsburg, Va.
South Central Region Meeting	Sept. 4 - 6	San Marcos, Texas
Southwest and Pacific Regions Meeting	Sept. 17 – 20	Kennewick, Wash.
NACD 2019 Annual Meeting	Feb. 2 – 6	San Antonio, Texas

Also, don't forget to **sign up for NACD's electronic publications and follow us on Facebook and Twitter!** Feel free to reach out to your NACD Board Member, Officer, Executive Board Member or one of our staff members to hear more about what NACD does for our members across the nation.

Sincerely,



Kim LaFleur

Secretary-Treasurer

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## The NACD eResource

Weekly news briefs from the National Association of Conservation Districts



### TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR SUMMER MEETING

NACD and the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (VASWCD) have extended the registration and hotel reservation deadline for the [2018 NACD Conservation Forum and Tour and Southeast Region Meeting](#) to the end of the day today, **July 17**.

[Complete your registration online](#) – click the "Recover Account" button if you've forgotten your password. [Book your stay at the Williamsburg Lodge online](#) or call 1-800-261-9530 and say you're with the NACD Summer Leadership Conference. Today is your last chance to reserve your spot!



Make sure your registration includes a ticket to Sunday's Welcome Reception. Join us from 6:00 p.m.

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#### Take this quick urban forestry survey

NACD and the Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition (SUFC) are tracking urban forestry projects across the country in an attempt to gain insight on common partnerships and project locations. The final results will be mapped and available for viewing. We encourage conservation districts engaged in urban forestry projects to [take this short, three minute survey](#).

The SUFC is an assembly of national organizations working to advance a unified urban forest agenda for our nation's communities. NACD is one of 35 national partners.

#### NACD comments on congressional ESA modernization



– 8:00 p.m. on the Virginia Lawn to experience life as it was in the 18th century. Entertainment, including authentic Revolutionary reenactors ([click the video](#) above for a taste of what you'll have in store), will be provided by the **Chowning Traveling Band of 18th Century Performers**, and it wouldn't be an evening on the Chesapeake Bay without some crab! Reception attendees will have the opportunity to sample Virginia culinary specialties and beverages, learn more about Virginia's conservation partners while strolling through the exhibit hall, view the Northern Neck SWCD soil trailer and exhibition, and explore the Spotsylvania Environmental Education Development mobile education platform. Save \$25 by purchasing your ticket today!

## NACD DEBUTS APP

Last year, NACD began working on a mobile application to increase members' communication user experience. The free "NACD." app was released on both iTunes and the Google Play store in January and became fully functional over the past few weeks.



The app enables our team to send push notifications regarding NACD updates such as press releases, blogs and important legislative actions. The app will also provide members with real time information during NACD gatherings and meetings, making it an ideal resource for your time in Williamsburg at the Conservation Forum and Tour and Southeast Region Meeting. The app mirrors our website in a mobile-friendly format to give members access to resources needed while on-the-go. Download the NACD app today!

## NACD MEETS WITH KACD LEADERS ON 75TH ANNIVERSARY

On July 12, NACD staff and interns attended the Congressional Western Caucus legislative forum, where the caucus rolled out its legislative package to modernize the Endangered Species Act (ESA). **NACD President Brent Van Dyke sent a letter of support** to Chairman Gosar emphasizing the needs of communities impacted by listings and the need to focus on scientific consensus rather than a politically-driven agenda.

The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works held a legislative hearing on July 17 to discuss the ESA Amendments of 2018. Van Dyke **sent a letter** to Chairman Barrasso supporting the committee's work. The ESA Amendments Act strengthens states' rights and states' input on species management throughout the listing and delisting process.

## Good luck to NCF-Envirothon teams!

Next week, on July 22, more than 50 teams from across the globe will meet in Pocatello, Idaho, for the 2018 international NCF-Envirothon. Nearly 500 students, teachers, advisers, volunteers and sponsors will congregate on Idaho State University's campus for the week-long event, where the top three placing teams will compete for cash prizes from Canon International. Good luck to all the qualifying teams! Stay tuned to future editions of eResource for updates.

## ICYMI: NACD publishes blogs

**Wasco County's White River Irrigation Efficiency and Stream Flow Restoration Project** - NACD Intern Katrina Vaitkus explores the success of Wasco County SWCD's RCPP project in Oregon.



The Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts (KACD) held its 75th anniversary annual meeting July 8-10 in Owensboro, Ky. **NACD CEO Jeremy Peters** provided an update to the 200 conservation leaders in attendance on NACD's current program activities, including the Soil Health Champions Network, the Urban Agriculture Conservation Initiative and the Technical Assistance Grants Program. Peters also spoke about NACD's advocacy efforts on behalf of the nation's 3,000 conservation districts, including an update on current farm bill negotiations.



Peters also recognized the life and leadership of former **KACD President Billy Joe Miles** at the KACD Banquet on Tuesday, July 10. Miles passed away earlier in 2018 and left a legacy donation to NACD, which will be utilized to fund programs to develop next generation conservation leaders. Pictured above are members of Miles' family, who attended the KACD meeting to honor his significant contributions to conservation, both in the state and across the country.

## ARIZONA ASSOCIATION HOSTS SUCCESSFUL SUMMER MEETING

On July 10-12, 120 board members and district managers from Arizona's 42 Natural Resource Conservation Districts (NRCs) met in Litchfield, Ariz., for the state association's annual meeting. The general session included presentations from a variety of state and federal conservation partners including **NACD President Brent Van Dyke**. The meeting also included presentations on district authorities and training on NRC public records and fiduciary responsibilities.

**Sussex CD RCPP Project Tackles Watershed Restoration** - **NACD Intern Meghan Selip** interviewed Sussex CD's Director of Agricultural Programs Debbie Absher about the district's experiences with RCPP projects.

**Oklahoma RCPP Project Promotes Healthy Soils** - **NACD Intern Katrina Vaitkus** explores the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts' Healthy Soils RCPP project.

**Conservation in the Caribbean: Emergency Watershed Protection** - **NACD Southeast Region Representative Phylis Vandevere** describes her experience in the Caribbean learning about the islands' implementation of Emergency Watershed Protection projects.

**Conservation in the Caribbean: Getting It Back Together** - The NACD team describes their interactions with local landowners and operators in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and how they were impacted firsthand by Hurricanes Maria and Irma.



### NACD Events Calendar

For additional details regarding meetings listed below, [click here](#). Does your district or state association have an upcoming tree sale, state meeting or job vacancy? **Let us know!**

- Northeast Region Meeting - July 15 - 17
- NACD Summer Meeting - Aug. 3 - 8

**NACD Western Issues Specialist Jeff Burwell** provided updates on the farm bill, NACD's Technical Assistance Grant program, soil health and wild horse and burro management. The Arizona Association of Conservation Districts' (AACD) **executive director Steve Barker** reviewed AACD's strategic plan and held a working lunch to develop a financial plan to successfully implement their strategic plan. The association held elections for their board, with **Frank Krentz** succeeding Bill Dunn as AACD president and **Mark Kuetchel** as the new AACD vice president.

- NACD South Central Region Meeting - Sept. 4 - 6
  - NACD Southwest and Pacific Regions Meeting - Sept. 17 - 20
- 

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Dear Conservation Officials,

NACD and the Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition (SUFC) are tracking urban forestry projects across the country in an attempt to gain insight on common partnerships and project locations. The final results will be mapped and available for viewing. We encourage conservation districts engaged in urban forestry projects to **take this short, three minute survey** by July 26.

The SUFC is an assembly of national organizations working to advance a unified urban forest agenda for our nation's communities. NACD is one of 35 national partners.

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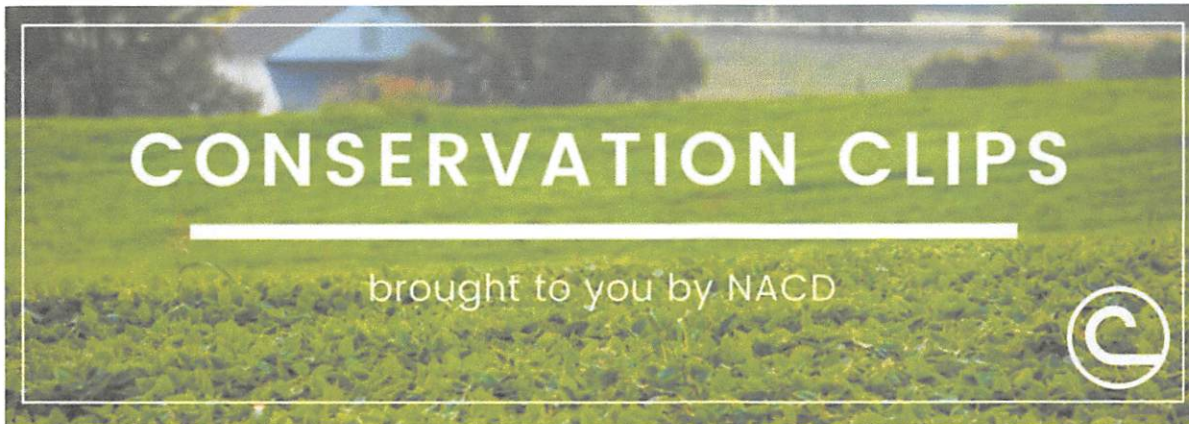
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***Conservation Clips is a weekly collection of articles distributed by NACD that provides our members and partners with the latest news in what's driving conservation. These articles are not indicative of NACD policy and are the opinions of their authors, unless otherwise noted. If you have a relevant submission or need assistance with accessing articles, please contact NACD Communications Manager Sara Kangas.***

### **NACD Blog: Congressional Efforts on ESA Modernization**

By Adam Pugh  
07/17/18

On July 12, the Congressional Western Caucus rolled out its legislative package to modernize the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Bringing the ESA into the 21st century is crucial to improving species recovery and essential to increasing the state and local government's authority to lead on conservation efforts.

### **The Hill: House completes first half of 2019 spending bills**

By Niv Elis, Timothy Cama and Naomi Jagoda  
07/19/18

The House on Thursday passed a package of two 2019 appropriations bills, marking the halfway point in its quest to pass the 12 annual spending bills needed to fund the government. Totaling \$58.7 billion, the Financial Services bill and the Interior and Environment bills fund agencies including the IRS and various financial regulators, as well as the Environmental



Protection Agency (EPA), the Interior Department and a series of popular arts programs.

**Agri-Pulse:** USDA announces almost \$2 billion in hurricane, wildfire disaster assistance

By Spencer Chase

07/16/18

The Department of Agriculture is making available just under \$2 billion for producers affected by hurricanes and wildfires in 2017.

**The New York Times:** Interior Department Proposes a Vast Reworking of the Endangered Species Act

By Lisa Friedman, Kendra Pierre-Louis and Livia Albeck-Ripka

07/19/18

The Interior Department on Thursday proposed the most sweeping set of changes in decades to the Endangered Species Act.

**Politico:** Farm bill conference has 47 members and counting

By Catherine Boudreau

07/19/18

House Speaker Paul Ryan and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi on Wednesday appointed dozens of lawmakers to the farm bill conference committee after the chamber agreed to head to conference. The Senate still has to vote on a motion to go to conference as well as name its conferees, and Agriculture Chairman Pat Roberts (R-Kan.) has said that may happen as soon as next week.

**Agri-Pulse:** Lawmakers review grazing on federal lands

By Corryn La Rue

07/12/18

A House Natural Resources subcommittee held an oversight hearing in which experts argued for and against livestock grazing on federal lands and reviewed the role of ranchers in regulating the practice.

**MPR News:** Minnesota sweetens the pot to shift cropland into conservation

By Dan Gunderson

07/09/18

Under the program, landowners enroll land in the federal Conservation Reserve Program for 15 years. But they also sign up for the Reinvest in Minnesota program, and agree to a permanent easement, a legal document stipulating the land must always be managed for conservation.

**The New York Times:** California Is Preparing for Extreme Weather. It's Time to Plant Some Trees.

By Henry Fountain

07/15/18

"There's always an opportunity to use vegetation and this green infrastructure to lower flood risk — move the water where it will do the most good and redirect it from places that will do the most harm," she said. "And you can do that in a way that is durable and sustainable over time."

**Statesman Journal:** 80 percent of Oregon now in drought, highest since 2015

By Zach Urness

07/19/18

Eighty-percent of Oregon is now in moderate drought, the most since the historically dry 2015 season, according to a new report from the U.S. Drought Monitor.

**The Baltimore Sun:** Halfway to cleanup deadline, Chesapeake Bay hits goals for phosphorus, sediment, but misses nitrogen target

By Scott Dance

07/17/18

Halfway to a 2025 cleanup deadline, the Chesapeake Bay is on track to meet goals for reduced phosphorus and sediment pollution, but has missed a target for nitrogen contamination.

**Scientific American:** To Feed the World Sustainably, Repair the Soil

By David R. Montgomery

07/16/18

New technologies and genetically modified crops are usually invoked as the key to feeding the world's growing population. But a widely overlooked opportunity lies in reversing the soil degradation that has already taken something like a third of global farmland out of production.

**The New York Times:** Restoring the West's Burned Rangeland, With Seeds and a Pasta Machine

By Kirk Johnson

07/17/18

The seeds — coated with a cloak of botanical trickery to hold moisture or delay germination — are ready for planting on the mostly treeless open-range landscapes that have been scorched by fire.

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## The NACD eResource

Weekly news briefs from the National Association of Conservation Districts

### NACD ANNOUNCES 2019 ANNUAL MEETING THEME, CALL FOR BREAKOUT SESSIONS

NACD and the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts (ATSWCD) are pleased to announce the theme for the [2019 Annual Meeting](#) in San Antonio, Texas, is "**Mission Focused: Fulfilling Our Legacy.**" The 73rd Annual Meeting will be held Feb. 2-6 at the San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter.

NACD is now [accepting applications for breakout sessions](#) for the 2019 Annual Meeting. Applications must be submitted to **NACD Northeast Region Representative and Policy Specialist Eric Hansen** at [eric-hansen@nacdnet.org](mailto:eric-hansen@nacdnet.org) by Friday, September 14.

NACD offers a number of informational breakout sessions during the Annual Meeting, focusing on the work of districts and their partners across the country. Sessions typically are 60-90 minutes long and in most cases, showcase several speakers at 20-30 minutes each. Once again this year, NACD is seeking proposals that fit in one of four themes: Communications; district operations, member services and partnerships; natural resources policy and protection; and stewardship and education.

NACD's breakout sessions are some of the most popular activities among attendees at the meeting. Please help us spread the word about this opportunity and [consider submitting a proposal](#).

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#### NACD celebrates anniversary

On July 25, 1946, 18 representatives met in Chicago to form the National Association of Soil Conservation District Governing Officials, later the National Association of Conservation Districts. Together, they added fresh vitality to American democracy and launched an enduring campaign to elevate concern for the nation's resources.



This week, we celebrate the 72 years of NACD and the vision of its creators to protect the land and its resources for our future. Show your support of NACD and the conservation movement by

## NCF-ENVIROTHON COMPETITION IN FULL SWING

The 2018 NCF-Envirothon Competition is officially underway in Pocatello, Idaho. Students from across the United States, Canada and China arrived on the campus of Idaho State University on Sunday, July 22. The week-long competition will test their knowledge on the five subject areas: Forestry, Soils, Wildlife, Aquatic Ecology and this year's current issue, Western Rangelands.



The NCF-Envirothon Competition concludes this Friday, July 27, with a closing ceremony that will honor the Top 10 overall team scores, as well as top station awards. The teams finishing in the Top 3 will receive cash awards from **Smithfield Foods**, while fourth through tenth place will receive cash awards from **Canon Inc.**



*Editor's note: Last week's eResource misattributed the cash awards for the top three placing teams to Canon Inc. Canon Inc will provide cash prizes for the fourth through tenth place teams, and Smithfield Foods will provide cash prizes for the top three overall teams. Thank you to both companies for your generous support of the 2018 NCF-Envirothon competition.*

## NORTHEAST REGION MEETS IN HEART OF AMISH COUNTRY

Conservationists from across the Northeast gathered in Lancaster, Pa., last week for NACD's Northeast

becoming a Friend of NACD  
today!

**Important  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### South Central Region Meeting registration now open

Registration is now open for the **2018 NACD South Central Region Meeting**, hosted by the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts Sept. 4 – 6 at the Hilton Garden Inn in San Marcos, Texas.

The meeting will feature a full day of touring local conservation projects and include presentations on water quality research conducted by Texas State University at The Meadows Center.

### Take this quick urban forestry survey

NACD and the Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition (SUFC) are tracking urban forestry projects across the country in an attempt to gain insight on common partnerships and project locations. The final results will be mapped and available for viewing. We encourage conservation districts engaged in urban forestry projects to **take this short, three minute survey**.

### NACD attends soil health day in Oklahoma

On Thursday, July 19, NACD South Central Region Representative **Keith Owen** (pictured) attended a single-day soil health workshop in Clinton,



Region meeting. **NACD Secretary-Treasurer Kim LaFleur** (pictured) delivered a keynote address on NACD's current initiatives, including the technical assistance grants. **Eric Hansen**, NACD's Northeast Region Representative and Policy Specialist, gave an update on the Northeast Region Capacity Building Pilot Project and led a work session for the project.



Attendees had the opportunity to learn about the full breadth of conservation in the Northeast. Tours and breakout sessions focused on stormwater management; Pennsylvania's Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road Maintenance Program; on-farm soil health; and the role of the Amish community in conservation. The Northeast Region meeting was held in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts' annual meeting and the Pennsylvania State Conservation Commission meeting. The 2019 meeting will be held in Connecticut.

## BENTON CD HOSTS NATIONAL LEADERS FOR CONSERVATION ROUNDTABLE, TOURS

On Friday, July 20, **USDA Under Secretary Bill Northey** and **U.S. Representative Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.)** visited with the Benton Conservation District (BCD) in Washington state for a conservation roundtable and tour of local operations.

The day began with a roundtable discussion of BCD's priorities, including irrigation, riparian and wildlife issues, water quality, NRCS staffing levels in the state and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) caps and rental rates.

Okla. The workshop was sponsored by the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) and the Oklahoma Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).



Owen presented on NACD's involvement with soil health projects, including the Soil Health Champions Network and the soil health case studies with Datu Research. Additional presentations covered the soil health benefits to the economic structure of agriculture operations, integrating grazing into soil health practices, and the recovery of farm, rangeland and wildlife habitats after catastrophic wildfire.

## NACD app available for download



The "NACD." app is available for free download in the iTunes Store and Google Play store and enables our team to send push notifications regarding NACD updates such as press releases, blogs and important legislative actions. The app will also provide members with real time information during NACD gatherings and meetings, making it an ideal resource for your time in Williamsburg at the





The tour included a stop in West Richland, Wash., at **NACD Second Vice President Michael Crowder's** Barker Ranch, where the group discussed the significance of water to the region. Crowder described the importance of conservation districts, the state association, NACD and other conservation partners, and also discussed interactions and collaborations with tribes. The day concluded with a stop at Berg Farms in Prosser, Wash. Pictured above from left to right: Under Secretary Northey, NACD Second Vice President Crowder, Congressman Newhouse, and **Washington State Department of Agriculture Director Derek Sandison.**

## NEW TOOLS FOR PROMOTING SOIL HEALTH AVAILABLE

The Soil Health Institute (SHI) is a non-profit organization that utilizes the input and collaboration of partnering organizations, including NACD, to further their goal of supporting soil stewardship and advancing soil health.

**NACD North Central Region Representative Beth Mason** serves as co-chair of the SHI Communications and Education Action Team, a group of professionals from various organizations, agencies, institutions and related industry. The team has spent time over the past year developing two tools for SHI that will assist in the promotion of soil health: an [online catalog of soil health educational resources](#) and a [soil health events calendar](#).

The online catalog of soil health educational resources guides users to different materials and information on soil health to assist in educating children as well as adults. While this catalog is extensive, you may [go online and submit additional resources](#) for possible inclusion in the catalog.

Conservation Forum and Tour and Southeast Region Meeting. The app mirrors our website in a mobile-friendly format to give members access to resources needed while on-the-go.

## 2019 Stewardship Week theme t-shirts available in Williamsburg

NACD's Stewardship and Education Committee will be selling 2019 Stewardship Week t-shirts for \$20 during the Summer Conservation Forum and Tour and Southeast Region Meeting in Williamsburg next week. Be among the first to sport the "**Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper**" t-shirts! Simply stop by the Stewardship and Education Booth during the exhibit hall hours to pick up your shirt.



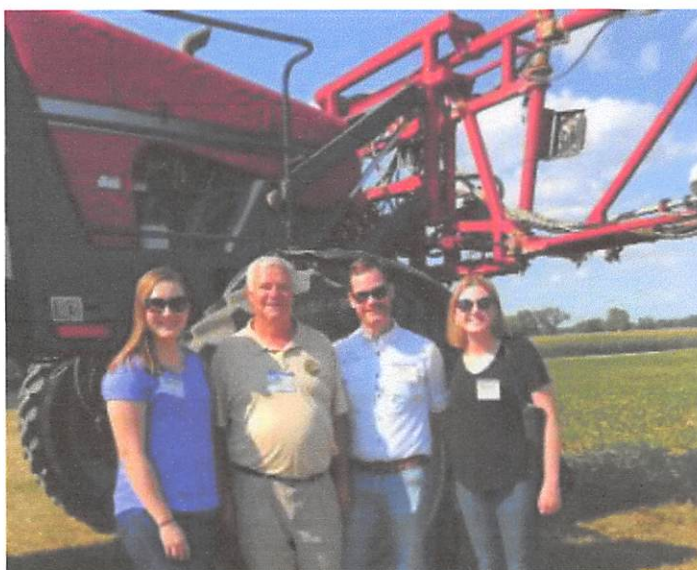
**Upcoming  
EVENTS!**



The [Soil Health Events Calendar](#) helps promote soil health events around the country. Additionally, you can search the calendar for the next soil health event in your area. Anyone with an upcoming soil health event open to the public is encouraged to submit details online to add to the calendar. Events can range from local field tours to state, regional and national conferences.

## NACD ATTENDS CTIC TOUR OF CHESAPEAKE

The Conservation Technology Information Center's (CTIC) 11th Annual Conservation in Action Tour (CIAT) kicked off with a networking event and social on Tuesday, July 10 in Annapolis, Md. Every year, the tour is held at a different location, and this year's tour titled, "Bringing Back the Bay," focused on the Chesapeake Bay and its unique natural resource concerns.



NACD Past President **Lee McDaniel**, Northeast Region Representative and Policy Specialist **Eric Hansen** and summer interns **Katrina Vaitkus** and **Meghan Selip** (pictured) attended the tour.

For the first stop, three buses of conservationists headed over to the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center, where panelists discussed the Oyster Recovery Program. The next stop was at Councell Farms, a 2,000-acre farm of corn, soybeans, wheat, fresh market vegetables and timber, where tenth-generation farmer **Chip Councell** discussed his farm's nutrient management plan, including soil pits, cover crops and no-till.

The tour's third stop, Hutchison Farms, addressed their successfully-implemented practices in improving

## Exploring soil health and its relation to human health

The Soil Health Institute (SHI) is holding a conference on "Connections between Soil Health and Human Health," Oct. 16–17 in Silver Spring, Md. This conference will explore relationships between soil health and food safety, human health and nutrition, as well as explore opportunities for research. Attendees from both the soil health field and the human health field with an interest in this area are encouraged to attend. For more information and to register, [please visit the SHI website](#).



## NACD Events Calendar

For additional details regarding meetings listed below, [click here](#). Does your district or state association have an upcoming tree sale, state meeting or job vacancy? **[Let us know!](#)**

- NACD Summer Meeting - Aug. 3 - 8
- NACD South Central Region Meeting - Sept. 4 - 6
- NACD Southwest and Pacific Regions Meeting - Sept. 17 - 20
- NACD 2019 Annual Meeting - Feb. 2 - 6

the water quality of the Tuckahoe River, located right next to the farm. The CIAT concluded at Triple Creek Winery with an explanation of their rotational grazing, hydroponic cucumbers and a look at their beautiful vineyards.

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