

Good News

June 2015

Randolph County Conservation District
308 Camp Road Pocahontas, AR 72455
870-892-3623



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Martin Baltz – Chairman
Eddie Prince – Vice Chairman
Billy Bailey – Secretary/Treasurer
Danny Ellis

RCCD District Staff

Lisa Cagle – District Office Manager
Coy Yasler – Grants to District Technician
Todd Blissenbach – Water Quality Technician
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Staff
Zach Trublood – District Conservationist
Crystal Emmons – Soil Technician

Randolph County Conservation District's "Good News," is published quarterly to provide information to the land users.

All programs and services of the NRCS and RCCD are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.

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If you would like to receive this newsletter by email, send your e-mail address to: lisa.cagle@ar.nacdnet.net

Welcome new employee
Todd Blissenbach, Water Quality Technician



Todd was raised on the family farm near Dalton, AR where they raised commercial cattle and stocker calves. He attended Pocahontas from kindergarten thru the 12th grade. Todd has been on a cattle farm his whole life but has always had a strong desire to learn about row crop farming. When he was 16 he found a job as a farm hand for a local row crop farmer and had a great opportunity to learn quite a bit about row crop and works on row crop farm every chance he gets as well as working on his cattle farm. Todd graduated from Arkansas State University this past May with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, Agricultural Studies and Agricultural Science. Todd currently has his own registered Black Angus cattle operation where he raises breeding stock.

Todd looks forward to working with the many farmers across the district and aiding them in every way possible.

Congratulations

2015 Randolph County Farm Family of the Year

Jim and Linda Lakey



Since 1947, the Arkansas Farm Family of the Year Program has served as a vehicle to recognize outstanding farm families throughout the state. The Farm Family of the Year Program begins each year with a selection of top farm families in each county and culminates in December with the selection of the State Farm Family of the Year. County, district, and state winners all are judged on their farm production, efficiency and management, family life and rural/community leadership and values.

This year Jim and Linda Lakey have been chosen Randolph County's Farm Family for 2015. The Lakey's operate a 400 acre cattle farm and are contract broiler growers for Peco Foods. They have a total of 6 houses and raise five flock per year at 120,000 birds per flock. Jim is the main caretaker of the broilers and cattle, although he does have help from his wife and two daughters, Hannah 20, and Shelby 16 in their spare time. Hannah is a junior at Oklahoma State University, majoring in microbiology/Pre-Pharmacy and Shelby will be a senior at Pocahontas High School in the fall where she is a member of the Lady Redskins basketball team. Linda is a lab director and microbiologist at Five Rivers Medical Center in Pocahontas.

Jim and Linda both grew up on cattle farms located five miles apart in the Dalton community. They married in 1993 and lived in Jonesboro, AR. In 1996 they moved back to the Dalton community and that is where their journey of hard work began in building the farm they have today.

Randolph County Conservation District Donates to 4-H



Each year the Conservation District receives Game and Fish fine money to be used for AGFC conservation education and outdoor recreation. The board has chosen to donate the money to the Randolph County 4-H to be used for sending the youth to educational activities, buy educational material, camps, shooting sports and archery program. Pictured is RCCD board members Bill Bailey, Danny Ellis, Martin Baltz, and Eddie Prince presenting a check in the amount of \$1,821.88 to Mike Andrews, Randolph County Extension Agent.

Attention high school graduating class of 2015-2016!!!!

USA Rice Federation
National Rice Month Scholarship Program
\$8500 in Scholarship Awards

One national grand-prize winner will receive a scholarship award of \$4,000, one second place award of \$3,000 and one third-place award of \$1,500.

The National grand prize will be presented in December at the USA Rice Outlook Conference in New Orleans, LA. Trip expenses for the national grand-prize winner and one chaperone are included.

Submit your entry (video, essay, scrapbook, or other presentation tool) by October 15, 2015. For more information and an entry form, go to www.usarice.com

Pollinator Plant Seed Packets Available

Pollinator Seed Packets Available

In partnership with Department of the Interior and the White House Domestic Policy Council and Pollinator Health Task Force, USDA worked with the W. Atlee Burpee Company to arrange the donation of one million seed packets containing a seed mix for pollinator-friendly vegetation. The seed mix was specifically designed by Burpee, with input from USDA, so that it would be able to be planted across all parts of the country. The donation supports the Federal Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and other Pollinators initiative established by the Presidential Memorandum dated June 20, 2014. It is part of the strategy by the Pollinator Health Task Force to increase citizen engagement, promote planting of pollinator habitats, and creative public-private approach to restore pollinator habitat.

In support and partnership, NRCS has been provided seed packets to be distributed for the purpose of building citizen stewardship for the conservation of pollinators by planting home based pollinator gardens.

Pollinator Conservation

Three Easy Steps to Help Bees and Butterflies

Pollinators are vital for both wildflowers and crops. Without them, about 85% of plants would be unable to produce seeds or fruit.

Changes in our landscapes have contributed to declines in both managed honeybees and wild native bees.

There are simple steps that you can take to support bees and other pollinators wherever you live.

Three Steps to Help Pollinators

Protecting, enhancing, or providing habitat is the best way to conserve pollinators. Whether you tend a small flower box in the city or maintain a large rural garden, there are practical steps you can take to improve the health, abundance, and diversity of your local pollinators.

Create a Diversity of Bloom

Bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects need abundant nectar and pollen sources throughout the growing season. Select native plants wherever possible. Cultivate a landscape with diverse flower colors, shapes, and bloom times. Try to provide blooming plants from early spring to fall, with at least three species of flower in bloom each season. Note that some ornamental plants have been selected for traits that are attractive to people, rather than pollinators. Avoid pollen less cultivars and double-petaled varieties of ornamental flowers.

Protect Nests and Egg-Laying Sites

Native bees are untidy areas of the garden to nest such as open sandy ground, bush piles, and old tree stumps and snags. Consider leaving some of these for wildlife habitat. Supplement nesting opportunities with mason bee houses or bundles of hollow plant stems.

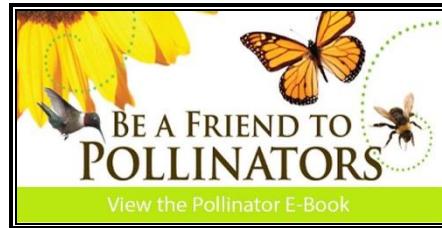
Butterflies often need specific host plants to feed on during their caterpillar stage. For example the caterpillars of monarch butterflies feed exclusively on the leaves of various milkweeds. Protect or plant the host plants of butterflies native to your area.

Don't Use Pesticides

Pesticides can be important tools for protecting crops and controlling invasive species; however most lawn and garden pest problems can be solved without such chemicals. Keep in mind that even "organic-approved" insecticides can harm pollinators and other wildlife.

Herbicides, while usually not directly lethal to insects, can reduce plant diversity, including the diversity of weedy, noninvasive wildflowers that provide essential pollen and nectar for bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds.

Seed Packets can be picked up at the Randolph County Conservation Office, 308 Camp Rd, Pocahontas, AR between 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



Pollinators by Numbers

Three-fourths of the world's flowering plants and about 35 percent of the world's food crops depend on animal pollinators to reproduce. More than 3,500 species of native bees help increase crop yields. Some scientists estimate that one out of every three bites of food we eat exists because of animal pollinators like bees, butterflies, moths, birds, bats, beetles, and other insects.

How Animal Pollination Works

Pollinators visit flowers in their search for food (nectar and pollen). During a flower visit, a pollinator may accidentally brush against the flower's reproductive parts, unknowingly depositing pollen from a different flower. The plant then uses the pollen to produce a fruit or seed. Many plants cannot reproduce without pollen carried to them by foraging pollinators.

Pollinators Are in Trouble

You may have heard that bees are disappearing and bats are dying. These and other animal pollinators face many challenges in the modern world. Habitat loss, disease, parasites, and environmental contaminants have all contributed to the decline of many species of pollinators.

- [Conservation Work for Honey Bees](#)
- [Backyard Conservation](#)
- [Backyard Conservation: Patio Plants for Birds and Butterflies](#)
- [Pollinators Habitat in Pastures](#)
- [Plant Materials Publications Relating to Insects & Pollinators](#)
- [PLANTS Database: NRCS Pollinator Documents](#)
- [Be a Friend to Pollinators video](#)

- See more at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>

Programs offered by NRCS:

EQIP - Environmental Quality Incentive Program is a voluntary conservation program that provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers who face threats to soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. This program helps producers to implement conservation practices that addresses environmental natural resource problems; furthermore, providing assistance for private and Tribal Land to develop or improve high quality habitat that support fish and wildlife. NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to landowners and others to develop upland, wetland, aquatic, and other types of wildlife habitat on their property.

CSP – Conservation Stewardship Program is a voluntary program that encourages agricultural and forestry producers to address resource concerns by (1) undertaking additional conservation activities and (2) improving and maintaining existing conservation systems. CSP provides financial and technical assistance to help land steward conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. CSP pays participants for conservation performance-the higher the performance, the higher the payment.

Equipment Rental

- 2 - 10ft Haybuster No-Till Pasture Drill - \$10.00 per acre; minimum charge \$100.00 per day; \$250 deposit required.
 - Pull-type 300 gallon boomless pasture sprayer - \$40.00 per day; \$100 deposit required
 - Bermuda King Grass Sprigger - \$3.00 per acre; minimum charge \$25.00 per day; \$100 deposit required.
 - Spinning Jenny - \$20.00 deposit required; 1st three days free, after three days \$5.00 per day; \$25 deposit required.
 - Vicon Seeder - \$25.00 per day; \$50.00 deposit required
 - Fence Dawg - \$60.00 per day; \$120.00 deposit required
-

Materials for Sale

Filter Fabric	Flags	Marking Tape
15'x 15' - \$55.00	Bundle of 100 \$7.00	\$1.50 per roll

Help Support Your Conservation District



For \$35.00 you can have one of these beautifully designed, specialty license plates! The best part is you will be helping your local conservation district. For each plate bought, the conservation district will receive \$20.00. Visit your local revenue office to buy yours today.

TAX INCENTIVES AVAILABLE

Tax incentives are available under the Water Resource Conservation and Development Incentive Act. The purpose of this program is to encourage water users to invest in:

- (1) The construction of impoundments to use available surface water thereby reducing their dependence on ground water;
- (2) The conversion from ground water use to surface water use; and
- (3) Land leveling to reduce agricultural irrigation water use.

Applications will be made through RCCD, then submitted to Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC) and **approved before a taxpayer may begin construction of a project and claim credits**. An application fee will apply.

AGRICULTURAL WATER QUALITY LOAN PROGRAM

The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, in conjunction with conservation districts and participating banks, provides low-interest loan money to agricultural land owners for installation of conservation practices that reduce nonpoint source pollution impacts to water quality.

Eligible practices for these loans are:

- Construction of tail water recovery systems
- Construction of irrigation reservoirs
- Purchase of no-till drills
- Construction of stacking sheds
- Construction of ponds and fencing for livestock
- Land-leveling

Application can be picked up at the RCCD office. Once a completed application has been returned to the conservation district and endorsed by the conservation district, the applicant is eligible to receive a low-interest loan of up to \$100,000 from any participating bank so long as the applicant is approved by the bank.

The participating bank shall determine the interest rate in conjunction with the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC). The participating bank shall determine the loan terms, but in no case will such a term exceed ten years.

All applicants shall agree to maintain the project for the term of the loan and to allow site inspections by NRCS during the duration of the loan agreement.

Come by the conservation district at 308 Camp Road or call 870-892-3623 ext. 3 for more information on the tax incentive and loan program.

NEWSLETTER SPONSORS

James Farms	Northeast Arkansas Pro-Lix Molasses based 35% protein liquid supplement for cattle Bill Bailey – 870-892-4324	Farm Service, Inc. Tony Anderson 911 Townsend Drive 870-892-5284 Pocahontas, AR 72455
Baltz Feed Company Baltz/Ace Hardware 828 Hwy 67 north Pocahontas, AR 72455 870-892-4591	AgHeritage® Farm Credit Services 1105 Pace Road Pocahontas, AR 72455 870-892-4579 800-689-6976	Integrity First Bank 1 Bank Plaza 1608 Hwy 67 S Pocahontas, AR 870-892-5286 www.goifb.com
Black Farms Randolph & Greene Counties Jim & Betty Black	Randolph County Farm Bureau Charles S. Petty Joey pfeffer, Brent Massey 870-892-4584	Joe E. Pace Certified Public Accountant Offering Accounting and Tax Services to Farmers 202 W. Broadway Pocahontas, AR 72455
River Bank Savings & Loan 1700 Old County Rd. Pocahontas, AR 870-892-2265 520 West 2 nd Street Corning, AR 870-857-6370	Red Pearcy & Sons Oil Co. 2108 Industrial Drive Pocahontas, AR 870-892-2265	Advertise with us Space available
Advertise with us Space available	Advertise with us Space available	Advertise with us Space available

Thank You Newsletter Sponsors

The RCCD board meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 a.m. @ 166 Café. The public is welcome to attend.
RCCD Hours are 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Monday – Friday NRCS hours are 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday – Friday

Randolph County Conservation District
308 Camp Road
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Address Correction Requested

An Equal Opportunity Employer