

PORTNEUF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

AUGUST 2008

Have a safe and productive harvest season!

As harvest gets under way, it's always good to remind ourselves, our family, and our employees to be as safe as possible. It seems like common sense, but as we get busy and tired it's easy to take short cuts that we may regret.....

Do you have safety procedures on your farm? What about the basics - first aid kit, fire extinguishers in vehicles including trucks, tractors, and combines? Is your fire extinguisher charged and ready to use? Are all your vehicles safe and ready to be out on the roadways?

What about the kids? Children are killed in farm accidents every year. The University of Idaho has a publication to help parents decide age-appropriate activities and jobs for children on the farm. Some older children are capable of handling machinery, but that's only if things are going well—most children are not capable of realizing a sudden danger, and can't or don't know how to react appropriately to situations adults would be able to control. It's very easy to **over** estimate what kids can handle when things go wrong.

www.ag.uidaho.edu/agsafety/ click on publications link, this site has numerous farm safety publications in both English and Spanish.

Do not be in a hurry. Slow down and be safe!!

**Portneuf Soil and Water
Conservation District**
1551 Baldy Ave., Ste. 2
Pocatello, ID 83201
208-237-4628

"We Are All Neighbors"

In 1955, the Portneuf Soil Conservation District in cooperation with the Idaho State Fish and Game Department, Soil Conservation Service, Extension Service, and Idaho State College as consultant, produced a thirty minute color film entitled "We Are All Neighbors." Filmed entirely within the Portneuf District, the film traced the development of the Portneuf Valley, settlement and use of the land, and how the Conservation District was organized to help correct some of the problems caused by misuse of the land. According to news releases at the time, the film took two years to produce; it showed local people doing their everyday work, and stressed the idea that all life is interdependent. Scenes were taken in Pocatello, Lava, Grace, Inkom, Bancroft, Downey, McCammon, and Chesterfield. All types of farming typical in the 1950s were shown, as were most of the important conservation practices of that era, and the native game animals of the District. This is a great opportunity to see what life was like in this area in the 1950s, and to reflect on the things that have changed and those that are the same. Many thanks to Karen Kearns, Head of Special Collections and University Archives at Idaho State University for taking our old 16mm films and converting them to DVD. The 16mm films were donated to ISU by the district in February. Copies of the DVD will be available from the District this fall, call the office for more information.

Baling alfalfa/
grass hay,
September
1955, near
Downey, Idaho

(from PSWCD
photo archives)



Inside This Issue

1955 Film

News

Small Scale Hydro
Information

FSA

EQIP Sign-up
Deadline

Carbon Credits

Farm Safety

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

Portneuf SWCD is an equal opportunity employer

www.pswcd.org

Board of Supervisors

Scott Henderson-Chair
Kit Tillotson-Vice-Chair
Dave Jackson-Treasurer
John McNabb
Kevin Koester

Associates

Morgan Evans
Brad Kent
Kirk Irick
Paul Danielson
John Sigler

District Staff

Administrative Assistant/
Outreach Specialist
Janet Pacioretty

NRCS Staff

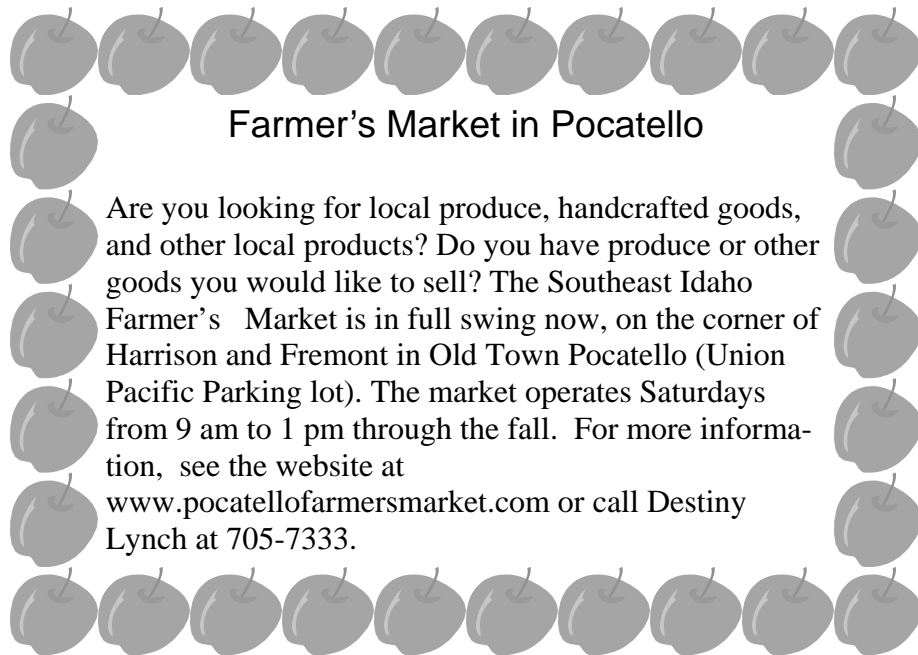
Elliot Traher, District
Conservationist
Ryan Clayton, Soil
Conservationist
Martha Nunez-Hagius,
Engineer

IASCD/ISCC Staff

Justin Krajewski, Range and
Riparian Specialist
Ben Evans, Water Quality
Resource Conservationist
Flint Raben, Water Quality
Monitoring

PSWCD Office:

1551 Baldy Ave., Ste. 2
Pocatello, ID 83201
208-237-4628 x111
portneufswcd@pswcd.org



Farmer's Market in Pocatello

Are you looking for local produce, handcrafted goods, and other local products? Do you have produce or other goods you would like to sell? The Southeast Idaho Farmer's Market is in full swing now, on the corner of Harrison and Fremont in Old Town Pocatello (Union Pacific Parking lot). The market operates Saturdays from 9 am to 1 pm through the fall. For more information, see the website at www.pocatellofarmersmarket.com or call Destiny Lynch at 705-7333.

2009 NACD Poster Contest

The 2009 Poster Contest theme is "Dig It! The Secrets of Soil." NACD (National Association of Soil Conservation Districts) is using the **Dig It!** theme in partnership with the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History and the Soil Science Society of America. This collaboration will complement the Smithsonian ["Dig It! The Secrets of Soil," exhibition](#), which is running through January 3, 2010 at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C.

It has been several years since the District has sponsored a poster contest, and we would like to offer this opportunity to area 4th-6th graders this year. The District will be contacting area schools with more information soon. See the NACD website at www.nacdnet.org for additional information, or call the District office.

New Crop Residue Burning Program

Beginning in early September, growers will be allowed to burn crop residue under a new program instituted by Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Growers will need to register their fields 30 days prior to burning, pay a \$2/acre fee, and obtain approval from DEQ. Growers will also need to have completed field burning training within the past five years. DEQ provides no-cost training at several sites in SE Idaho.

For more details, visit DEQ's website at www.deq.idaho.gov/crop_residue_burning.cfm or call the Pocatello DEQ office at 208-236-6160.

Election Year for Three PSWCD Supervisor positions

- Three District Board Supervisor positions are up for re-election this year:
- Scott Henderson, the current Board chairman, is running for re-election. Scott is from Swan Lake, and has served on the board since 2001.
- Kevin Koester is running for re-election; he has served on the board since 1987 and is from the Lava Hot Springs area.
- John McNabb is running for re-election; he has served on the Board since 1984 and is from the Inkom area.
- Declaration of Candidacy forms are available at the District office or from the Bannock County Clerk, these forms are due September 2 to the District office if an individual is interested in running for any of these positions.
- Write in nominations are due 25 days before general elections. The elections this year are November 4, 2008. For more information contact the District office.

It's Never Too Late to Get Carbon Credit Applications into RC&D

Three Rivers RC&D Council is still accepting private rangeland carbon credit applications. The latest portfolio of acres in SE Idaho was sent to the National Carbon Offset Coalition (NCOC) on August 15, 2008. NCOC will market the acres to the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX) for carbon credits.

If you didn't get your applications into Three Rivers for this portfolio, that's okay. A portfolio will most likely be approved for this fall and with another one planned for April 2009.

Carbon is removed from the atmosphere and sequestered into soils through growth of the grasses and other plants. When left undisturbed, soils can accumulate carbon for several decades. The carbon your rangeland collects is worth something to industry that is releasing the harmful carbon into our atmosphere. Check out the CCX website (www.chicagoclimatex.com) or the NCOC website (www.ncoc.us) for more information on carbon sequestration and the going rate for rangeland credits.

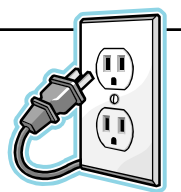
For more information on this project and how carbon credits can pay you for the land you own or operate, visit the RC&D website, www.3riversrcd.org or call Kevin Koester at 251-3091.

At times like these it helps to recall there have always been times like these...
Paul Harvey

Small Scale Hydro Project Workshop

The Caribou and Portneuf SWCDs recently cosponsored a small-scale hydro power workshop in Grace. Thomas McCauley from Little Mac Power Services discussed design requirements, feasibility determination, state and federal regulations and other aspects of generating your own electricity. The group went to several locations to look at the potential for small scale power generation. Mr. McCauley can be reached at 208-308-5050.

Small scale or micro hydro projects have been used for years, and are making a comeback in some areas due to low cost and minimal environmental impacts. If you have a consistent water source, even an irrigation ditch with enough minimum flow, you can potentially generate electricity. These are typically "run of the river systems," as in they do not require damming of the water source. There are regulations and site considerations, so, like with most projects, some homework is involved. The internet has all sorts of small scale or micro hydro information, some sources are www.realgoods.com, and



DCP Sign-up Underway at FSA

With the passage of the Farm Bill, we are at last able to start taking sign-ups for the 2008 crop year DCP (Direct Counter-Cyclical Payments) Program. This program will be almost identical to the DCP program we've administered for the past 7 years. All participants will be paid on 85% of their crop bases while the payment rates will remain unchanged from last year. The deadline to sign up for this year is September 30, 2008, so please call our office for an appointment soon! After the new fiscal year begins October 1st, producers will see some real changes in the programs offered by FSA. We hope to complete training on these changes early this fall so the Bannock County staff will be able to assist farmers and ranchers with any questions you might have. Please remember too, the importance of notifying our office with any changes in your farming operation. This includes purchase of land, sale of land, change in entity, etc. Payments cannot be paid to any farming operation that is not up to date on all records pertaining to that farm. If you have any questions, please contact us at 237-3435, ext. 2. All the best for a productive and successful harvest in 2008!

Steve Myler
County Executive Director
Bannock County FSA

EQIP Sign-Up Deadline Extended

The NRCS announced the deadline for signing up for the fiscal year 2009 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) has been extended. All eligible applications received before the close of business **October 31, 2008**, will be evaluated and ranked. Contact the NRCS office at 237-4628 for more information or to request an application.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Portneuf SWCD Board Meetings:

September 10, 2008

October 8, 2008

Local events:
SE Idaho Farmers Market, Saturdays 9 am-1 pm on North Union Pacific Avenue in Historic Old Town Pocatello, local food, produce, crafts.

Soil Judging Competition for High Schools, September 26 in Pocatello

Other events:
Eastern Idaho State Fair, August 30 - September 6, 2008 Blackfoot, Idaho

Are you interested in advertising in our bi-monthly newsletter? Our rates are \$25.00 per newsletter for a 2.250 x 2.5 ad or 6 newsletter adds for \$125.00. Call the PSWCD office for more information.

New Tool for Integrated Pest Management

Treasure Valley/Pacific Northwest Pest Alert Network is a free web and email-based service provided through the University of Idaho and Oregon State University. It covers the Treasure and Magic Valley areas as well as SE Idaho. Email alerts regarding confirmed pest and pathogen outbreaks for a variety of crops including potatoes, wheat, alfalfa, and grazing lands are emailed to those signed up. Pest alert items can also be submitted to the website. The website also contains a great deal of crop and pest information in addition to the alerts. The network highly encourages all people involved in the agricultural industry to participate to keep the information as up to date as possible. This is another tool in integrated pest management that helps growers make informed pest management decisions in. For more information or to sign up, visit their website at <http://www.tvpestalert.net>.

NRCS District Office News From Elliot Traher

I wanted to take a moment to let you know that I am leaving my position as District Conservationist of Bannock County. I will be starting a new position as the DC of Cassia and Minidoka County on September 2, 2008.

I have enjoyed my time here and I appreciate having had the opportunity to work with you. Thank you for the support, guidance, and encouragement you have provided me during my time in Bannock County. Even though I will miss my colleagues and the county, I am looking forward to this new challenge and to starting a new phase of my career.

You all are a great group of people that made my time here unforgettable! My most valuable lessons have been learned through experience and not in a classroom. I continue to believe that the heart of good teamwork is sharing successes as well as failures and I am a better person for having been here in Bannock County. I'm taking a little bit of the best of all of you to my next journey. Please keep in touch, and thanks again for everything.

Sincerely,
Elliot Traher

Many thanks to Elliot for all his support and assistance to the District, we will miss you!