



THE CONSERVATION VOICE

POLK SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Summer 2017

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Promoting voluntary conservation and the wise use of natural resources in
Polk County, Oregon since 1966!

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District Manager
Karin Stutzman

MANAGER'S MESSAGE

RAIN, RAIN, GO AWAY

I maybe shooting myself in the foot, but this winter has brought so much rain! "This will be the third time in a lifetime of living in the Willamette Valley that it has rained this much", says Sue Reams of the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) here in Dallas, OR. I couldn't agree with her more...

Speaking of rain, as winter turns into spring at my ranch, a herd of 15 beef cattle were eagerly awaiting getting out onto the pasture after five months of being in the barn from Nov 1 to April 1. Pondering what to do because of all this rain, my husband and I needed to come up with a plan that addressed getting them out of the barn, and trying to save the structure of our already overly saturated 3 season soils! I say three seasons because when we looked up our soils on the free NRCS Web Soils Survey website (websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov), I was able to find out just how much tolerance our soil structure would or would not take from the heavy foot load of cow hooves over the course of a grazing season, which where we live is about 3 seasons due to our wet winter climate and our particular soils. So, what to do now? We figured out we have some difficult soil types and moderately steep slopes, but what next? We decided to perform our own makeshift soil survey, using the information we got from the NRCS soils data, our conservation plan, and our own knowledge of the layout of our property. We knew we HAD 74 acres of coastal range pasture to let the cattle out onto, but now, due to all the extra rain, we really only had 30-35 acres to use, probably until June if the weather stayed the same. That's a lot of cows to have grazing over 30 acres of rough, moderately sloped coast range hills. AND we had 6 calves on the way!

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Rural Living in Polk County

A Handbook for Country Living and Land Stewardship
Prepared and Distributed by
Polk Soil and Water Conservation District



New Edition: 2017
Updated **Rural Living in Polk County Handbook**.
Available online for free at
www.polkswcd.com/rural-living-in-polk-county-handbook.html



Oregon Pesticide Fines Quadruple in 2016 as Legislature Considers Tighter Rules

Tracy Loew, Statesman Journal , KGW (April 02, 2017) - tloew@statesmanjournal.com, 503-399-6779 or follow at [Twitter.com/Tracy_Loew](https://twitter.com/Tracy_Loew)



In May 2015, a worker at a Gresham nursery allowed pesticide spray to drift across a road and onto a home. Residents complained they were sickened by the spray, a mixture of four different pesticides. In July 2015, the president of an Albany aerial spraying company used a plane to apply insecticide to a corn field in Eugene. The insecticide drifted onto a neighboring home, sheep pasture and onto a resident who had been working outside. In August 2015, workers at a pear orchard near Hood River sprayed three pesticides onto about 30 acres of fruit trees. The pesticides later were detected in farmworkers' residential areas. The Oregon Department of Agriculture issued fines in connection with all three incidents in 2016, as well as seven more incidents where people, animals or property were harmed by drift from aerial or ground spraying or improper use of pesticides.

In all, ODA investigated 716 potential violations and levied 37 fines, totaling \$85,938, for pesticide violations last year. It also issued 81 notices of violations, which don't come with fines. That's up from 532 investigations, and 23 fines totaling \$18,748, in 2015. The department issued its annual report as the Oregon Legislature considers four bills that would tighten regulations around pesticides. Two of the bills are related to harm caused to people, animals, and property by pesticide drift.

Several highly publicized incidents during the past few years have drawn attention to problems associated with aerial pesticide spraying and pesticide drift. In one case, a residential area was improperly sprayed, sickening residents of an entire neighborhood in Gold Beach. In another, an aerial spraying company failed to take any health or safety precautions for workers, and continued spraying after its license was suspended. That company, Applebee Aviation, and its owner, Michael L. Applebee, were fined a total of \$53,553 in 2016.

Senate Bill 500 would eliminate a requirement that people who think they have been injured by pesticides file a "report of loss" with ODA within 60 days or forfeit their right to sue. Senate Bill 892 would require aerial pesticide applicators to notify the state of planned applications on privately owned forest land and report on them afterward. It also requires the state to maintain an electronic reporting and notification system with free public access.

Two more bills are related to neonicotinoid pesticides, which can harm bees and other pollinators if used improperly. Oregon made headlines in 2013 with the nation's largest mass bee kill. ODA investigators found that a tree service had misapplied neonicotinoid pesticides to linden trees, killing about 50,000 bumblebees in a Wilsonville shopping center parking lot. A similar incident happened in Eugene the following year.

Dale Mitchell, ODA pesticides program manager, said Oregon has not experienced a major bee kill since 2014, when the state banned the application of two neonicotinoid pesticides to linden trees.



Senate Bill 928 would require pesticide products and seed containers that contain neonicotinoids to be clearly labeled. It would deem food misbranded if it is a raw commodity that is a product of soil treated with neonicotinoids unless the container is clearly labeled. Senate Bill 929 would make neonicotinoids "restricted use pesticides," meaning they could be sold only to people with a special license.



...Continued from Pg. 2

The Committee on Environment and Natural Resources held public hearings on all four bills in late March. Supporters of the pesticide drift bills said they need more protection from aerial pesticide sprays. “Rural people like me need your help to feel safe on our property,” said Kathryn Rickard, one of the Gold Beach residents whose property was sprayed in 2013. And the 60-day deadline to file a report does not allow them to wait for a state investigation to be complete, they said. Neither Washington nor Idaho have such a requirement. Backers of stricter regulations for neonicotinoids pointed to growing research about the pesticide’s risks. “While not the only driver in pollinator decline, neonicotinoids are part of the problem and their risks must be mitigated if we are to help both native and managed bee populations,” said Aimee Code, pesticide program director for the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation.

The Oregon Farm Bureau, Oregonians for Food and Shelter, and Oregon Association of Nurseries testified against all four bills, saying current regulations already are sufficient. The two high-profile bee die-offs should not be taken as evidence of a wider problem with neonicotinoid pesticides, they said. Providing notification of the exact date of spraying would make it difficult for pesticide applicators to remain flexible in the face of changing weather conditions, they said. And eliminating the timeline to file a report would encourage “he said/she said” disputes, they said.

“OFB supports the ability to seek damages for any losses from illegal pesticide use,” Oregon Farm Bureau state public policy director Jenny Dresler said. “However, it must be on a level playing field that does not encourage frivolous litigation, where both parties have the chance to conduct an investigation – and benefit from the state’s investigation – before a lawsuit is filed.”

The 2015 Legislature beefed up ODA’s pesticide program, allocating it new money raised by a tax on pesticides. That allowed the program to add four new pesticide investigators, an additional case reviewer, a new citizen’s advocate position, and a telephone hotline staffed around the clock. That has helped reduce ODA’s response time to complaints, and helped it to process more cases, said Mitchell, the pesticides program manager.



Polk SWCD Annual Meeting and Budget Update



Due to regulations now enforced by the Oregon Department of Agriculture, all SWCD’s must wait until after their audit for the previous fiscal year is completed and filed with the ODA before they can have an annual meeting to present the information to the public. **This means that our annual meeting will not be held until January of 2018**, when we will be able to present the audit for FY 2016-17. Winter weather dictates we need to be inside, and are currently looking for venues that hold 80 people with tables and chairs. If you know of space that might be appropriate (and inexpensive), contact Tom at clerk@polkswcd.com or 503-623-9680.



The **Polk SWCD Budget Committee** will hold a public hearing on the budget for FY 2017-18 on June 14, 2017 at 5:30 PM. Public participation is encouraged. The meeting will be in the Arts and Crafts Building of the Polk County Fairgrounds.

Polk SWCD is an equal opportunity provider and employer and prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information should contact the district office at 503-623-9680.

Clean, Drain, and Dry = Protecting Oregon's Waterways¹

Learn to recognize these species and report any you find to the toll-free **Invasive Species hotline, 1-866-INVADER.**

INVASIVE AQUATIC PLANTS AND ANIMALS



Brazilian Elodea (*Egeria densa*)

- Also sold as: anacharis, egeria, common waterweed
- Historically a popular aquarium plant but is extremely invasive and is now prohibited in Idaho
- Wild populations under eradication in Boise and Moscow.
- Alternatives:
 - Canada elodea (*Eloдея canadensis*)
 - Coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*)



Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*)

- Nationally prohibited for sale.
- Extremely aggressive Federally listed noxious weed
- Former aquarium plant.
- Population currently under eradication in Owyhee County



Parrotfeather Milfoil (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)

- Historically a popular ornamental pond plant but is extremely invasive and is now prohibited in Idaho.
- Wild populations under eradication in Boise and Emmett
- Alternatives:
 - Mare's Tail (*Hippuris vulgaris*)
 - Coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*)
 - Canada elodea (*Eloдея canadensis*)



Zebra / Quagga Mussels (*Dreissena spp.*)

- Extremely invasive fresh water mussel.
- Mussels adhere to everything, clog pipes, ruin boat motors and destroy aquatic ecosystems.
- Mussels are easily transported in water, on boats or on aquatic plants.
- If mussels of any kind are detected in or on aquatic plants please contact ISDA immediately.



Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*)

- Historically a popular ornamental floating pond plant.
- It is extremely invasive across the nation and is now prohibited in Idaho.
- Alternatives:
 - Fragrant Waterlily Cultivars (*Nymphaea*)
 - Water Shield (*Brasenia schreberi*)
 - Spatterdock (*Nuphar polysepalum*)



New Zealand Mudsnails (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*)

- Aggressive invasive snail that can easily hide on aquatic plants.
- Snails are easily transported on plant material or in mud or sediment.
- Look for snails attached to aquatic plants or on the sides of tanks.



Eurasian Watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

- Nationally prohibited for sale, prohibited in Idaho.
- Former aquarium plant.
- Currently infests waterbodies of Idaho.
- Aggressive eradication efforts underway.



Feathered Mosquitofern (*Azolla pinnata*)

- Federally listed noxious weed.
- Found as a contaminant at an ornamental pond plant retailer in Boise in 2007. Population destroyed.
- Look for mosquito fern floating in tanks with ornamental pond plants or stuck to plant roots.

Aquatic Contaminants: Invasive aquatic plants and animals can be spread through contaminated nursery stock. ISDA requests the assistance of nursery growers, distributors and retailers to help identify contaminants and help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

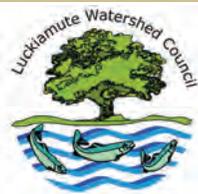
CLEAN all aquatic plants, animals and mud from your boat, motor or trailer and discard in the trash. Rinse, scrub or pressure wash, as appropriate away from storm drains, ditches or waterways. Lawns, gravel pads, or self-serve car washes are best.

DRAIN your motor, live well, bilge and internal compartments on land before leaving the waterbody. For paddle boats, drain by inverting or tilting the craft, opening compartments and removing seats if necessary. Rinse or flush under flooring, at inflation chamber joints or other areas that can trap mud and debris.

DRY your boat between uses if possible. Leave compartments open and sponge out standing water. Find a place that will allow the anchor line to dry.

ALSO: Empty your bait bucket on land before leaving the waterbody. Never release live bait into a waterbody, or release aquatic animals from one waterbody into another. **NOTE:** The fine for releasing live fish into a waterbody they did NOT come from is now a \$125,000 fine or the cost of restoring the waterway!

Luckiamute Watershed Council Update



Do you have a concern or project idea that you would like to share? Would you like assistance or ideas about stream bank stabilization, invasive weeds or native plants on your property? Join the LWC every second Thursday of the month, and make sure to sign up at www.LuckiamuteLWC.org to get monthly reminders as well as updates about what is happening in your watershed.

Be a Grand Parade Volunteer! <http://www.luckiamutelwc.org/grand-parade-volunteer.html>

Help keep trash out of our waterways by volunteering to be a part of the "rear detachment" during the annual Monmouth-Independence Rotary Club Grand Parade. Your mission will include riding our truck or walking beside Claudia -- a 14-foot tall Chinook Salmon -- holding up signs, and helping to collect trash along the parade route. Don't miss this unique opportunity to keep our waterways clean, and interact with the cheering public as part of a well-loved Fourth of July tradition!

The Rotary Club Grand Parade route is approximately 3.3 miles long, beginning at Western Oregon University in Monmouth and traveling through Monmouth and Independence on Main and Monmouth Streets to Riverview Park where it ends. We've broken up the 3-mile route into three shorter sections. Volunteers can sign up to join in for just one or two segments, or the whole parade route.

Non-profit Fundraising Training

Date: July 6, 2017

Time: 4:00 - 8:30pm

Cost \$10 per participant (dinner is included)

You are invited to participate in this unique opportunity to learn the tips and techniques for a successful fundraising campaign! If you want to help strengthen the impact of the Luckiamute Watershed Council or another non-profit organization you support, you won't want to miss this training led by professional fundraising guru, James Phelps! Tickets are limited, so make sure to get the details and RSVP as soon as possible at <http://www.luckiamutelwc.org/non-profit-fundraising-training.html>. We look forward to seeing you there!

NEW NRCS District Conservationist Evelyn Conrad!

"I am passionate about my agricultural heritage. I strive to make a difference, am self directed and conscientious about the projects I invest myself in. It is important to me that my work provides value".



Natural Resources Conservationist at USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - February 2014 - May 2017

I provide assistance to NRCS field office staff in 10 central Oregon counties for strategic planning, training, quality assurance and technical adequacy. Training and oversight is provided to 15-20 NRCS employees. I am also a member of the state Quality Assurance review team that conducts field office reviews and develops solutions to improve the delivery of government programs. Natural resources conservation work is carried out on private lands through the delivery of USDA Farm Bill programs.

SW Basin Team Leader at USDA-NRCS - January 2011 - February 2014

Supervised 8 NRCS technical and administrative field office staff to carry out natural resource conservation work on private agricultural lands through the delivery of USDA Farm Bill programs. Area managed includes three field offices, covering five counties in SW Oregon. Coordinate NRCS conservation efforts with other natural resource partners to achieve landscape scale results by strategically leveraging funding and technical expertise.

Ms. Conrad will begin her work at the Polk USDA/NRCS office on **June 5, 2017**.

Welcome to Polk County Evelyn ! We're glad to have your expertise!

CREP - Assistance for Landowners with Seasonal and Permanent Streams on their Property.

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is available in Polk County; CREP is a USDA program administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) while on the ground technical support is provided by the Polk SWCD.

For those who may just now be hearing about this program, CREP was established in 1998 by the USDA in partnership with the State of Oregon. Its purpose is to establish riparian vegetation along agricultural land along streams, protecting water quality, preventing erosion, and restoring fish and wildlife habitat, especially sensitive ground nesting bird habitat. The FSA builds an agreement with the landowner to provide not only cost share establishing these buffers, but also time incentive payments, as well as an annual rental rate paid to the landowner to maintain these buffers for wildlife use. Preparing, planting, and maintaining riparian zones is not an easy job; the Polk SWCD district staff is ready to help assist landowners with technical assistance through site assessments, outlining property management goals with the landowner, and developing a restoration plan that fits with the landowners goals and the CREP program requirements.

Eligibility:

Landowners who are interested in CREP must have owned the area they wish to enroll for more than twelve months. The land itself must have a stream, and have been cropped or pastured for four of the last six years and must not be in an optimal wildlife habitat condition already. Buffers must maintain a minimum of 35 feet in width from the top of the stream bank but can extend out in a great number of ways to accommodate dynamic landscapes, farming operations, stream crossings and other immovable features if necessary.

The most common CREP practices landowners will implement include: riparian forest buffers, wetland restoration, filter strips, stream crossings, off-stream watering facilities, and fencing. Typically the area enrolled in CREP is managed for a reduction in weed species vegetation, planted with a variety of appropriate native shrubs for example: rose, cascara, spirea, as well as trees like Oregon ash, willows, Douglas fir and Willamette valley ponderosa pines. Fencing, available with CREP funded cost share, will be installed for landowners with pasturing animals to prevent them from accessing the enrolled buffer. The Polk SWCD CREP technician will provide the landowner with guidance and develop a planting plan specifically for your buffer with technical resources from NRCS and the Oregon Department of Forestry.



Land can be enrolled at any point in the year, no rigid sign up dates or windows to wait for. If you are interested let us know at your earliest convenience. If the land you are considering enrolling is within Polk County, please contact Marc Bell the Polk SWCD CREP technician at 503 623-9680 x 103, marc.bell@polkswcd.com or Bev Schmidt at the Marion-Polk County FSA at 971 273-4801. If it is outside Polk County, don't hesitate to contact us to make sure you get to the right technician and FSA representative!



Marc Bell



Preparing for Wildfire Season

It's that time of year for spring yard cleaning! Spring here in the valley was very wet, until the middle of May when we suddenly catapulted in to sunny days over 80 degrees. As everyone in town flocks to local stores to spruce up their garden beds and finally dust off their lawn mowers, suburban and rural residents should spend some time focusing on wildland fire prevention. As you go out to work in your yard, ask yourself a few questions. Do you live in a wildfire prone area? Do you have trees all around your house? Do you live outside a city fire department normal response area? Do you have a long, single lane driveway?



If you answered yes to any of these questions, you probably live in what is called the **wildland urban interface (WUI)**. This zone surrounds suburban communities and occurs when rural areas become populated. Areas such as Reuben Boise Road, Pioneer Road, James Howe Road, Oakdale Road, Falls City, Pedee, and the Eola Hills of West Salem are all communities of this type in Polk County.

High soil moisture and sunny days in late May have caused grasses and small shrubs to grow very quickly and thickly. Once these dense areas of brush start to dry out, they will be especially susceptible to wildfire. County residents living in the wildland urban interface should take extra care while running any power machinery during yard and property maintenance as we move into higher temperatures and lower moisture levels.

The Polk SWCD encourages people living in the wildland urban interface to protect their home from wildland fire by practicing safe backyard burning, by being smart about power equipment use, and by creating defensible space around the home perimeter. For more information on these concepts, visit

<http://keeporegongreen.org/prevent-wildfires/at-home/> and
<http://firewise.org/wildfire-preparedness/be-firewise/home-and-landscape.aspx>.

Here is a list of projects to get you started towards a fire-resistant home and landscape:

- Can you see your home's address number from the street? If not, trim overgrown vegetation covering or blocking the numbers.
- Remove items stored under decks and porches and relocate it to a storage shed, garage, or basement.
- On mature trees, use hand pruners and loppers to remove low-hanging branches up to a height of 4-6 feet from the ground.
- Collect downed tree limbs and broken branches and take them to a disposal site.
- Get out your measuring tape and see how close wood piles are located to the home. If closer than 30 feet, they need to be relocated and moved at least 30 feet away from structures.
- Thoroughly clear roofs and gutters of needles, leaves, moss and debris.
- Sweep porches and decks clearing them of leaves and pine needles. Rake under decks, porches, sheds and play structures and dispose of debris.
- Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire screening no larger than 1/8" mesh to help keep embers out during a fire.
- Mow grasses to a height of four inches or less.
- Rake and remove pine needles, dry leaves and dried grass clippings within a minimum of 5 feet of a home's foundation. As time permits – continue up to a 30 foot distance around the home. Dispose of collected debris in appropriate trash receptacles.
- Develop and practice a home evacuation plan - <https://www.ready.gov/>
- Join forces with neighbors and pool your resources to pay for a chipper service to remove brush.
- Work with neighbors to develop a phone/text tree that can be used to alert everyone about a fire or evacuation.



Lucas Hunt

Contact Lucas Hunt at the Polk SWCD at 503-623-9680 x 104 if you have questions or want to learn more about living in the WUI.

Continued from Page 1 - Manager's Message

We decided to create a map of our property using the same website (Green (START WSS) button and follow the 4 steps), then walked the ground with the printed map (called ground truthing) to make sure the soil descriptions and slopes generally compared to the map. (see right)

After completing this survey, we began designing our pastures, knowing it was important not only to look at the quality of drainage and clay content of our soils, but also the slope of the ground. We

live in the foothills of the Coast Range, on moderately sloped mixed oak and conifer woodland and upland prairie, so 1,000lbs of hooved body weight can wreak a lot of damage on a sloped surface, where more sloughing can occur.

We then shaped several small pastures with a pencil on the map, picking areas on our property with the least slope and best soil qualities, like: moderately to very deep, well drained soils (Bellpine and Jory) and NOT deep, somewhat poorly drained or clayey soil (Suver or Dayton). We have a majority of Suver and Dayton soils across our 74 acres and because these soils have poor drainage qualities and a heavy clay structure, it basically renders them useless in the rainy winter months. This year in particular, with extreme soil saturation persisting through April-May, they were still exhibiting these poor qualities. That meant that we could only use about half of our pasture until the rains slowed down.

After the business of pasture design was complete, we needed borders for the pastures. We wanted to make sure we could move the fences around to help proportion out grazing preference, and to allow some flexibility to create more temporary pastures in the future. So we looked into buying an affordable electric fence set up, to add to our existing perimeter fencing. Turns out, a reel, handles, a roll of moveable black & white polywire, and pigtail metal stem posts, does the trick (About \$300).

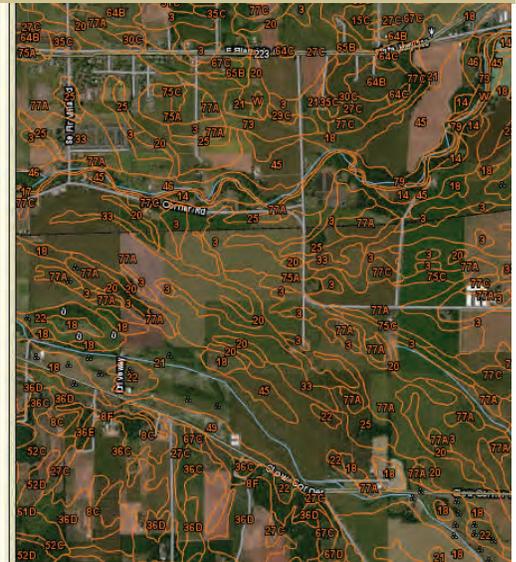
So far this methodology has been successful. Although there is some over grazing (less than 5 inch stubble height), this was the best solution we came up with to help protect the majority of our pasture and get the cows out of the barn. Also, to ease some grazing pressure on the acreage, we have been feeding hay in the mornings and evenings.

An interesting tie in, and something to be aware of that may help explain why we are getting so much rain; climate modeling studies generated by the 2014 National Climate Assessment, provide clues to predicted changes in U.S. rainfall. It might be worth it to read up on the topic.

Try Starting here:

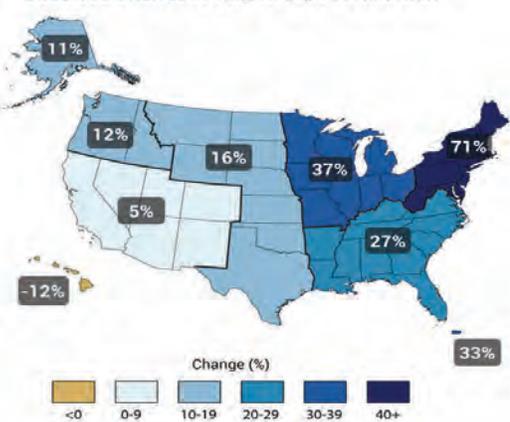
<http://nca2014.globalchange.gov/report/our-changing-climate/heavy-downpours-increasing#intro-section-2>

Polk County, Oregon (OR053)				
Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI	
1A	Abiqua silty clay loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	519.0	1.3%	
1B	Abiqua silty clay loam, 3 to 5 percent slopes	23.9	0.1%	
2	Abiqua silty clay loam, occasionally flooded, 0 to 3 percent slopes	298.4	0.7%	
3	Amity silt loam	3,460.2	8.6%	
6A	Bashaw silty clay loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	601.2	1.5%	
6C	Bashaw silty clay, 3 to 12 percent slopes	159.2	0.4%	
7	Bashaw clay, 0 to 3 percent slopes	1,296.4	3.2%	
8C	Bellpine silty clay loam, 3 to 12 percent slopes	718.9	1.8%	
8D	Bellpine silty clay loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes	316.3	0.8%	
8E	Bellpine silty clay loam, 20 to 30 percent slopes	74.9	0.2%	



Sample Web Sample of Polk County

Observed Change in Very Heavy Precipitation



2014 National Climate Assessment Map Figure 2.18

Manure Management Options: Manure Compost Pile

Farmers have applied livestock manure to crop fields for thousands of years. Manuring enhances productivity with the slow, steady release of nutrients to plants and increases soil water storage capacity. Unmanaged manure can become a smelly and unsightly nuisance, increase parasite breakouts, and pollute water supplies. The Agriculture Water Quality Area Rules under Oregon Senate Bill 1010 prohibit pollution of surface and groundwater supplies, but it's up to landowners to determine the solution that works best for their operation. **The Polk Soil and Water Conservation District can assist livestock managers in designing a plan to achieve their goals. This is the second of a four-part series on manure management systems, stay tuned to learn more!**

Manure compost piles and rows work well when regular cleaning of the stalls is practiced. After stall areas are cleaned, the manure and used bedding are stored in a pile or row. Protecting the compost from the weather is recommended to keep the correct moisture content and prevent runoff of pollutants. Siting the compost on a concrete pad will facilitate management activities and significantly reduce the risk of pollution. Turning the pile at least twice a week is recommended to promote composting processes. A tractor with a bucket and multiple storage bays can greatly facilitate this turning. **Figure 1**, below, features an example of a manure storage building with multiple bays designed for turning with a bucket on a tractor or skid steer. If you don't have a tractor or the time to turn as often as needed, an aeration system can improve composting. Under an aeration system, turning the pile at least once during the winter is recommended to speed up the composting process. **Figure 2** features an example of an aerated compost system.

The keys to success in a manure compost pile are: (1) start off with the right mix of materials, (2) monitor the pile for moisture, temperature and odor, and (3) make appropriate adjustments based on your monitoring information.

A manure compost pile that is the correct temperature, moisture and mix of materials and regularly aerated will yield a high quality material that can be used as a soil conditioner, a fertilizer, or sold if properly processed and packaged. **See the table below for more information.**

The Polk Soil and Water Conservation District can provide assistance to landowners in determining the needed size for a manure compost building, determining the right mix of materials for composting, creating a monitoring plan, and applying for financial assistance in constructing a manure storage building. For more information on manure management systems, contact :



Figure 1. Manure storage building

Stacey Garrison at
rc1@polkswcd.com or
503-623-9680
extension 101.



Stacey Garrison



Figure 2. An aerated system for manure compost.

Compost pile component	Component range or value
Mix of materials	2:1 browns to green. Browns include straw, wood chips and leaves. Greens include manure, grass clippings, and fruit/veggie waste.
Moisture	40% to 65%
Temperature	50°F to 150°F. At 131°F, most pathogens and parasites are killed. At 145°F, most weed seeds are killed.

Upcoming Events

DEQ OFFERS FREE WELL TESTS



The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality is offering free well testing in the Mid-Willamette Valley as part of a groundwater resource study. If you own a well in this study area and want to participate, please contact us.



Why this study area?

The DEQ Statewide Groundwater Monitoring Program seeks to identify areas of the state that are vulnerable to groundwater contamination, update our understanding of the status and trends of groundwater quality throughout Oregon, determine emerging groundwater quality problems and inform groundwater users of potential risks from contamination. DEQ selected the Mid-Willamette Valley as a study area using data on vulnerable aquifers, information on geology and soils, data from historical Real Estate Transactions, gpgs in available water quality data, and input from local stakeholders.

Groundwater can be vulnerable to contamination from land management activities that don't properly treat and dispose of contaminants as well as sub-surface pollution sources such as improperly designed or managed septic systems. Contaminated groundwater may pose a health risk to those who rely on it for drinking water. Public water suppliers are required to test their water on a regular basis. However, homeowners who rely on wells for water are not required to test their wells unless they transfer the property. Federal or state drinking water standards do not apply to private wells unless you plan to sell the property. DEQ is looking for volunteers who are interested in having their drinking well water tested, at no cost to the homeowner.

What will DEQ test?

DEQ will collect well water before any treatment or filtration and then analyze the samples for chemicals that pose a potential health risk as well as several common water quality indicators shown in the table on the right. Samples will be collected by DEQ staff from an outdoor, active spigot as close to the well as possible. Sampling staff will flush the system by hooking up a hose to the spigot and running the water for several minutes before taking the sample. The whole process should take 30-45 minutes and the homeowner does not need to be present as long as they provide clear directions on where to sample. DEQ will send test results to well owners and residents at the property. Property owners could then decide what, if any, actions to take.

Tests
Nitrate/nitrite
Arsenic
Pesticides and herbicides (legacy and current use)
Hardness (ion concentrations)
Selected metals
Coliform Bacteria and <i>E. coli</i>
Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products
Volatile Organic Chemicals

Will results be public?

All DEQ sample results are public record. However, addresses and names are not included in the database available to the public, only the latitude and longitude of the well.

How can I participate?

To be considered for this study, please email Groundwater.Monitoring@deq.state.or.us or call 503-693-5736 to provide your well address. DEQ will send you a form with questions about your well. DEQ will select participants based on location and well characteristics. A well log can provide some of this information, but is not required to participate in the study. Participants must have spigot access to their well water before any treatment or filtration occurs.



The Greater Yamhill Watershed Council is conducting a community needs assessment to gather vital information for updating their next Five-Year Strategic Plan.

Please consider taking this short, 10-15 minute survey to help the Council consider as many perspectives from the community as possible. Your participation is greatly appreciated and extremely helpful to them in this process!

<http://tinyurl.com/GYWCpublic>

Polk County Fairgrounds & Event Center



520 S. Pacific Hwy • Rickreall, OR



503-623-3048

Polk Co. Fair ~ August 10 - 12, 2017

“Moo at the Moon”

June 2017

- 6 – Greater Yamhill Watershed Council Board Meeting: 6pm McMinnville Library.
- 8 - Luckiamute WC Board Meeting: 7pm Monmouth Volunteer Hall. Call 503-837-0237 for more info
- 13 - Glen Gibson WC Board Meeting: 5pm Salemtowne Breezeway Room call 503-623-9680
- 14 - **Polk SWCD Budget Hearing and Board Meeting: 5:30 pm Polk County Fairground**
- 29 - Rickreall WC Board Meeting: 1pm Delbert Hunter Arboretum, Dallas call 503-623-9680

July 2017

- TBD – Greater Yamhill Watershed Council Board Meeting: 6pm McMinnville Library.
- 11 - Glen Gibson WC Board Meeting: 5pm Salemtowne Breezeway Room call 503-623-9680
- 12 - **Polk SWCD Board Meeting: 6pm NRCS Meeting Room**
- *27 - Luckiamute WC Board Meeting: 7pm Pedee Women's Club, 12491 Kings Valley Hwy, call 503-837-0237 for more info
- 27 - Rickreall WC Board Meeting: 1pm Delbert Hunter Arboretum, Dallas call 503-623-9680

Aug 2017

- 1 – Greater Yamhill Watershed Council Board Meeting: 6pm McMinnville Library.
 - 8 - Glen Gibson WC Board Meeting: 5pm Salemtowne Breezeway Room call 503-623-9680
 - 9 - **Polk SWCD Board Meeting: 6pm NRCS Meeting Room**
 - 10-12 - **Polk County Fair**
 - 24 - Rickreall WC Board Meeting: 1pm Delbert Hunter Arboretum, Dallas call 503-623-9680
- *Please note that this specially scheduled meeting is taking place in lieu of our regularly scheduled second Thursday meetings in July and August!*

For more information on these events please contact Polk SWCD or the appropriate agency/council.

PSWCD — Polk Soil & Water Conservation District: **503-623-9680**

NRCS—Natural Resource Conservation Service **503-623-3693**

GGWC — Glenn-Gibson Watershed Council: **503-623-9680 x 104**

LWC — Luckiamute Watershed Council: **503-837-0237**

RWC — Rickreall Watershed Council: **503-623-9680 x 104**

GYWC — Greater Yamhill Watershed Council: **503-474-1047**

Polk SWCD Board of Directors



Directors (left to right): Simmons, Woods, Dalton, Wilson, Crawford, McKibben and Pender

Matt Crawford
Zone 1
polkswcd.zone1director@gmail.com

David Simmons
Zone 2 / Chair
david.simmons@polkswcd.com

Chad Woods
At-Large / Vice Chair
chad.woods@polkswcd.com

Frank Pender
At-Large / Secretary
frank.pender@polkswcd.com

David McKibben
Zone 3
polkswcd.zone3director@gmail.com

Jock Dalton
Zone 4 / Treasurer
polkswcd4@gmail.com

Mike Wilson
Zone 5
polkswcd5@gmail.com

Directors Emeriti
Tom Thomson
Jim Clawson
Brian Sparks
Terry Lamers
Lois Loop

Associate Directors
Rachel Walker
Judy Beebe
Mel Chase

Polk SWCD is an Oregon Special District administered by seven locally elected directors who serve without pay for four year terms. Five directors represent land managers from each of the 5 geographic zones outlined in the map of the county to the right, and two at large directors represent the entire district. Directors meet monthly to administer the business of the Polk SWCD. The Directors donate hundreds of hours on behalf of the residents of Polk County and its natural resources.

Contact Us

Polk SWCD

Phone: 503-623-9680
580 Main St. Suite A, Dallas, OR 97338

Karin Stutzman— District Manager
manager@polkswcd.com Ext. 110

Marc Bell—Resource Conservationist
marc.bell@polkswcd.com Ext. 103

Lucas Hunt — Stewardship Forester
lucas.hunt@polkswcd.com Ext. 104

Stacey Garrison—Resource Conservationist
rc1@polkswcd.com Ext. 101

Tom Wilson — Office Administrator
clerk@polkswcd.com Ext. 108

NRCS

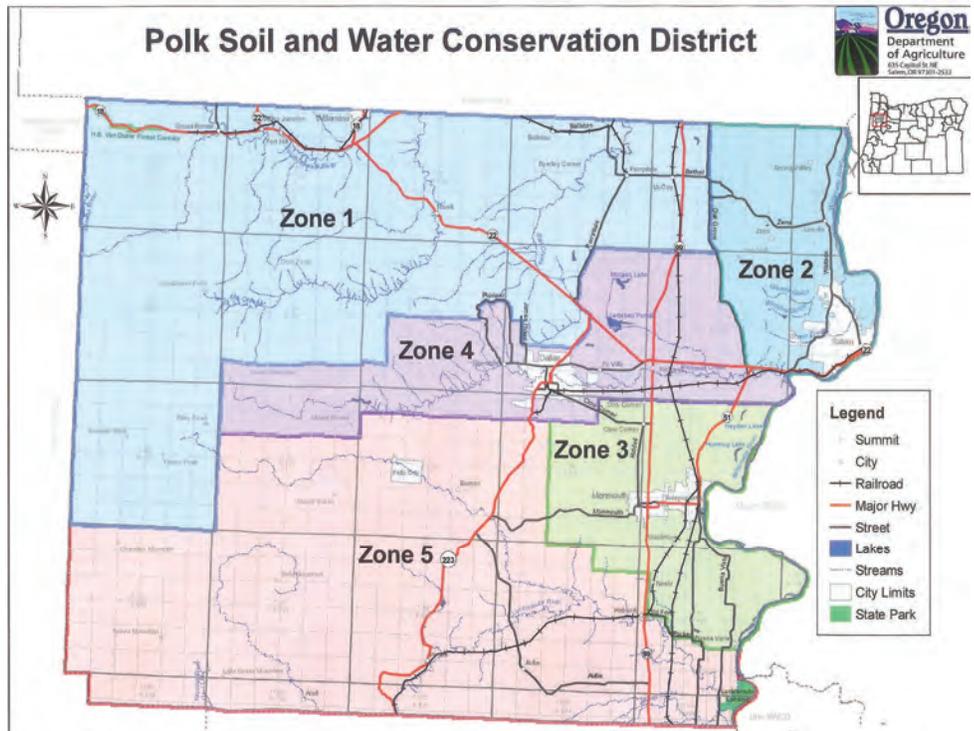
Please note new direct lines!

Fax: 1-855-651-8930
580 Main St. Suite A, Dallas, OR 97338

Evylyn Conrad - District Conservationist
Evylyn.conrad@or.usda.gov 503-837-3689

Sue Reams — Soil Conservationist
sue.reams@or.usda.gov 503-837-3693

Dannelle Aleshire — Wetlands Specialist
dannelle.aleshire@or.usda.gov 503-837-3694



Marion-Polk County FSA
Farm Service Agency has a New Phone Number!

Phone: 971-273-4822
650 Hawthorne Ave. SE, St 130,
Salem, OR, 97301

Janelle Huserik— County Executive Director
janelle.huserik@or.usda.gov Ext. 4807

Debbie Pothetes — Program Technician
debbie.pothetes@or.usda.gov Ext. 4810

Beverly Schmidt — Program Technician
beverly.schmidt@or.usda.gov Ext. 4801

Scott Nieman — Farm Loan Manager
Scott.nieman@or.usda.gov

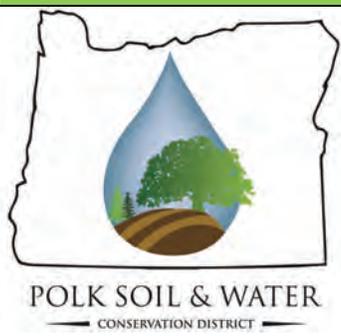
Stuart Butsch — Farm Loan Officer
Stuart.butsch@or.usda.gov

Lora Surmeyer — Farm Loan Program Tech.
Lora.surmeyer@or.usda.gov

The Polk SWCD is a local public source of information and education on natural resources. We provide a number of free services to help with responsible land and stewardship such as:

- **Technical Assistance** - Plant ID assistance, soil and water information, invasive species controls, improvements and protection of wildlife habitat and water quality, manure management, and conservation practices.
- **Land Management** - Assistance in developing forestry, range, farm, wildlife, wetland, and small acreage management plans.
- **Funding Opportunities** - Grants, government programs, and coordinated efforts with other agencies are available to assist with habitat restoration and other natural resource related projects. Cost share programs are available to provide assistance with irrigation system improvements, forest stand improvement, and small farm assistance.

We have started replacing the road signs on the highways entering Polk County (pictured 99W at Benton County Line). Look for more to come in the future!!!



580 MAIN STREET, SUITE A,
 DALLAS, OR 97338
 503-623-9680
 WWW.POLKSWCD.COM

*Your local source of
 assistance in the wise use of
 natural resources and
 conservation in Polk
 County since 1966!*