



Spring 2017

THE CONSERVATION VOICE

POLK SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

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

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MANAGER'S MESSAGE



In 2010 the Polk SWCD released its first **Rural Living in Polk County Handbook**, with the intent to give rural landowners access to information they would find helpful in managing their land, provide for the many new people moving into a rural Polk County environment from a urban one, and introduce the many conservation programs the Polk SWCD offers to assist landowners.

Some things have changed at the District and in Polk County since then, and we are proud to announce a second edition, available this April, which has been updated and includes new information regarding Polk County, rural living, and opportunities for conservation.

The handbooks will be available online as a PDF file, or you can get a paper copy in the office for the price of printing (\$5). We will notify our subscribers via email when it is ready, so please sign up at www.polkswcd.com. Thanks!

Polk Soil & Water Conservation District Financial Report Summary July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

Beginning Balance for All funds as of 07/01/2015	\$346,615.53
Plus Income Received for All Funds	
Polk County Property Received	\$262,042.66
Income From Other Agencies	\$203,437.37
Interest Income	\$973.96
Other Income (Native Plant Sale, Claudia Rental, etc.)	<u>\$10,006.66</u>
Total Income Received for all Funds	\$476,460.65
Less Expense for All Funds	
Personnel Services	\$292,943.53
Materials & Services	\$108,651.89
Capital Project	<u>\$15,703.00</u>
Total Expenses for All Funds as of 06/30/2016	\$417,298.42
Ending Balance for All Funds as of 6/30/2016	\$405,777.76

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A public presentation will be give at the *March 8th Board Meeting at 6pm at the main office.*

A private accounting firm performs an official audit of all District funds.

The board approved audit report is available online at www.polkswcd.com or in the Polk SWCD office in Dallas, Oregon.

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.

Successional Farm Planning¹

What is Succession Planning?

Succession planning is the process of formally transitioning management and ownership of an agricultural business from one generation to the next. There is no single plan that every family or every business should use. Some plans involve an outright sale of the family farm to the younger generation (or to a third party). Other plans rely primarily on gifting or on life insurance. Some simply involve the formation of business structures that will help make a transition possible in the future. Others involve expanding a farming operation to help support more families, or dividing a large operation into discrete parts to support different families.

Why is it important? Succession planning is important because it permits a farming family to transfer management and ownership of their business how they want. It also permits the family to address legal, tax, and family relationship issues in advance, rather than being forced to react to those issues after the death of a member of the older generation.

When to start? It is never too early! Increasingly, members of older generations wish to retire at earlier ages, perhaps to pursue other business opportunities, or to just enjoy living without the stress of work on the farm. Many of the younger members of farm families are unwilling to wait until their parents' deaths to take an ownership interest in the farm and prefer to have the security of ownership earlier in life. An effective plan often takes many years to fully implement, and may change as the family and the farm grow and change. A well-designed plan can accommodate this flexibility. The earlier you start, the easier it is to remain flexible.

Who should be involved? A comprehensive succession plan requires the participation of several parties, such as the family members (often including both on-farm and off-farm family members), professional advisors, such as the family's attorney, accountant, and financial and/or business advisor. In some situations, a single group of advisors can effectively represent the entire family. In others, separate representation of the parties will be helpful and will facilitate a smoother transition. Select advisors with experience in agriculture and succession planning.

What does a good succession plan cover? A comprehensive succession plan addresses many different issues, such as:

- Relationships among family members, for example, whether members of the younger generation can work effectively together for the foreseeable future, and whether on-farm and off-farm children should be treated equally, or simply "fairly."
- Legal matters relating to the ownership and transfer of assets.
- Financial matters, such as the income needs of the older generation, and the financial capacity of the younger generation.
- Federal tax matters, such as the impact of any income, gift tax, estate tax, and generation-skipping transfer taxes.
- Issues related to income-tax basis in family assets. Many family farms that have been informally transferred have tremendously complex tax issues.
- Business entity selection and formation.
- Medicaid issues for members of older generations.

For more information contact the local organizations below:

Marek and Lanker Law Firm

810 SW Madison Avenue Corvallis, OR
97333-4513 541.754.1411
mareklanker.com



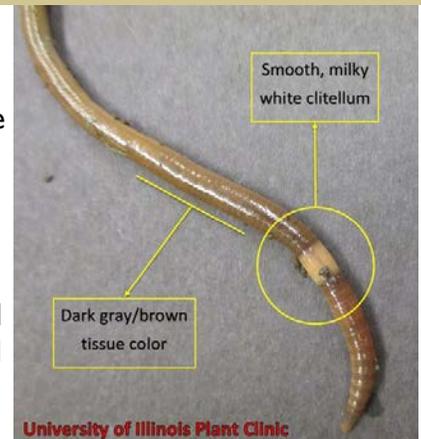
OSU Ties to the Land

109 Richardson Hall
Corvallis OR 97331
541-737-1727
www.tiestotheland.org

Invasive Species Spotlight - Asian Jumping Worm

An exotic species of earthworm, sometimes called "Asian jumping worms" or "Jersey wigglers," have turned up in multiple Oregon locations, officials confirmed Thursday, and the discovery could spell bad news for forests in the Pacific Northwest. Jim Labonte, senior taxonomic entomologist at the Oregon Department of Agriculture, said the worms are distinctive for their behavior, which sets them apart from other more sedentary annelids.

"They don't look very different, other than they are a little more slender," he said. "But these worms can thrash about so violently when they are disturbed that they can get clear off the ground." The critters, also sometimes referred to as "crazy snake worms," also have tiny raised ridges between each of their segments, Labonte noted, though they are hard to detect with just the eye.



Officials have gotten reports of the worms from eastern Oregon in the past, but the two discoveries of the wigglers this year -- one in Grants Pass and another in Clackamas County -- mark a significant proliferation of the species. The worms reproduce asexually -- no mate needed -- so it doesn't take a significant number of them to establish a new population, Labonte said.

Scientifically known as *Amyntas agrestis*, the worms have been on the East Coast for years, Labonte said, and the risk they pose is their diet. As opposed to Oregon's native earthworms, which feed deep in the soil, the new exotic worms feed on the shallow layer of detritus that rests on the forest floor. That layer is crucial to water retention and for forests to regenerate as it provides a bed of nutrients in which seeds germinate.

"Exotics work on the surface and that top layer is really important for forest health," Labonte said, noting that the impact the worms will have in Oregon is yet to be determined. "We don't know what they'll do out here, but in the east they have caused quite a bit of ecological harm."

Beyond their feeding habits, Labonte said the species could potentially crowd out Oregon's native earthworms as they compete for resources. It was unclear exactly how the worms got to the west, though Labonte said they could have hitched a ride on potted plants from Asia, been distributed by fishermen disposing of bait or passed through the hands of composters who often trade worms.

With their potential impact still unknown, the Department of Agriculture is still weighing its options on how to combat the worms. Labonte said nearly 100 exotic species have been discovered in the state since 1997 and, with limited resources, his agency has to pick and choose which problems to tackle.

Of the 250 worm species found in North America, roughly 60 are considered exotic, Labonte said. "We've got a lot of exotic fish to fry, as they say," he said. "A lot of them aren't a problem, but some of them can be major pests, like this one."

That's where the public comes in, Labonte said, calling for a bit of "citizen science." He asked anyone who spots a suspicious worm wriggling about to collect the critter, put it in a jar with some dirt and keep it in a cool space until they can contact the Department of Agriculture to turn over the specimen. He asked the public not to send in dead worms, for obvious reasons. **By [Kale Williams | The Oregonian/OregonLive](#)**

The Polk SWCD Budget Committee will meet on **Wednesday May 17th,**
at **6pm** at the Polk County Fairgrounds Arts and Crafts Building.
The budget hearing is set for **June 14, 2017** at the same location at **5:30pm.**

Oregon's USDA Certified Agricultural Mediation Program²



The **Oregon USDA Certified Agricultural Mediation Program (OCAMP)** is the official United States Department of Agriculture certified agricultural mediation program for Oregon. OCAMP's services are free to the agricultural community on many issues. Mediation is a way to resolve disputes using an impartial person to assist parties negotiate their differences. They provide an opportunity for you to meet face to face and discuss your situation, the circumstances that led to the conflict and any ideas you would like to explore for solutions.

Mediation Process:

This process includes an informal review to look at Statutory and Regulatory requirements. Local officials will listen to your concerns, however, they do not have the power to overrule laws and regulations. You will be allowed to explain how you view the problems and how your situation is applicable to resolution. Both you and your local officials will participate in forming an agreement that works for both of you.

Types of Cases Include:

- Adverse Decisions from USDA agencies
- Compliance Issues with USDA Farm and Conservation Programs
- Farm and Rural Development Loans
- Farm Credit/Debt Issues
- Wetlands Determinations
- Crop Insurance
- Pesticide Issues
- Conflicting Agricultural Practices
- Organic Certification Disputes



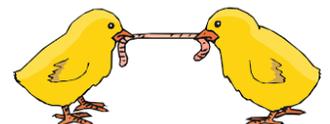
What Is The Cost?

OCAMP provides free mediation services to the agricultural community in Oregon on the issues listed above. For other agricultural issues, OCAMP will provide the mediation services free of charge when other funding sources are available. In some cases, OCAMP may ask parties to pay based on a sliding scale.

Steps in Requesting Mediation Through OCAMP

1. Request mediation in one of three ways:
 - Mail: Oregon Certified Agricultural Mediation Program: PO Box 1594, Hood River, OR 97031
 - Email: office@6rivers.org
 - Phone: 888-628-4101
2. OCAMP staff will confirm that the other party (or parties) is willing to participate in the mediation.
3. OCAMP mediators will conduct one-on-one confidential interviews with each party to learn background information about the dispute. Discussion of new information and potential solutions may occur throughout the mediation process.
4. OCAMP will assign mediator(s) from the OCAMP Agricultural Mediation Roster or internal staff based on subject matter expertise, geography, and availability.
5. The mediator will contact the parties to arrange a date, time and location for the mediation session.
6. Mediation sessions occur throughout Oregon. Locations are determined collaboratively based on the individuals and agencies involved.

² <http://www.6rivers.org/oregon-agricultural-mediation-program.html>



Manure Management: Bedded pack

They say one man's trash is another man's treasure, and the same goes for livestock manure. Properly handled, manure and other byproducts of livestock production can be valuable additions to pasture, cropland, and backyard gardens. If ignored, manure can contribute to nutrient and bacteria pollution of our surface and groundwater supplies, as well as be an unsightly and smelly nuisance. The **Polk Soil and Water Conservation District** can assist landowners in determining the solution that works best for their goals and constraints. This is the first of a four-part series on manure management systems, stay tuned to learn more about aerated static piles, slurry systems, and calculating your application rate!



Figure 1. A bedded pack system in a hoop-style barn. Photo courtesy of University of Minnesota Extension.

Bedded pack

This system is best used for cattle or swine where a turn-out area is desired. Livestock are kept in a covered barn with a concrete floor, and sawdust, wood shavings and other fine bedding materials are spread on the ground. As manure and urine accumulate, more bedding is added and the material is stirred on a regular schedule to mix in the new bedding, and encourage airflow for aerobic microbial activity. The manure and bedding composts in-place, providing a warm, comfortable environment for the livestock. Under this management system, cows are able to move around more freely than they can in tie-stalls, reducing stress and improving health. An added benefit is the decreased handling time of manure during the winter. When livestock are moved out into summer pastures, the material is mixed, and chopped if needed, before being applied at an agronomic rate to pasture or cropland. For more information on manure management systems, **contact Stacey Garrison at rc1@polkswcd.com or 503-623-9680 extension 101.**

Glenn-Gibson WC Update: Volunteers Restore Eola Ridge Park

The City of Salem recently installed a paved walking path and pedestrian bridge at Eola Ridge Park in West Salem. Formerly a grass field with an impromptu soft trail, the park now sports a state-of-the-art storm water treatment basin. Future plans for the park include a nature play area, playground equipment, and possibly even a small sports field. As part of this park upgrade, the City reached out to the Glenn-Gibson Watershed Council for assistance removing invasive blackberry and restoring native trees and shrubs along Turnage Brook, which flows through the park. The watershed council worked with Polk County Soil & Water Conservation District to secure funding for the work through an Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board grant. Work has been accomplished through an existing relationship between the City and the non-profit, Friends of Trees.

Friends of Trees was formed in 1989 by a Portland resident who believed volunteers were vital to enhancing urban tree cover. Work at Eola Ridge Park is made possible by one of their three programs, Neighborhood Tree Planting. Friends of Trees staff organize the planting dates, deliver the trees, supply the tools, and provide team leaders, so volunteers can just sign up, show up, and get to know their neighbors while making their neighborhood more beautiful. Two planting events have been held at the park, with close to 100 volunteers showing up for the last one!



The plantings are just a few of many events in support of the Year of the Tree campaign, celebrating Salem's 40th year as a Tree City USA. A tree care day for mulching is being planned for April 2017. If you are interested in planting and caring for trees in Salem, please visit the FOT website,

<http://www.friendsoftrees.org/volunteering/volunteer-in-salem>.

Geese, Slugs, & Voles: Biocontrol Options

Date and time: March 9 2017, 9 AM to 3 PM, check-in starts at 8:30 AM

Location: Western Oregon University Hamersley Library, Room 107
345 Monmouth Ave N Monmouth OR 97361

Agenda:

08:30 AM: Check-in

09:00 AM: The Willamette Valley Goose-Slug-Vole-Seed Nexus

9:30 AM: Integrated Pest Management

10:30 AM: Break

10:40 AM: Open Fields Program for Goose Management

11:20 AM: Biocontrol for Slugs

12:00 PM-Lunch (pre-registered attendees may select a buffet lunch on-site)

01:00 PM: Birds of Prey for Pest Control

01:30 PM: Diagnostics, Monitoring, and Pest ID

02:00 PM: Interactive Booths

03:00 PM: End of Workshop

Cost: \$5 without lunch, \$10 with lunch. Lunch is a baked potato bar with choice of regular or sweet potato, and served with all the fixings, steamed veggies, bread, and salad. Pre-registration is required for lunch. An application for CEUs for pesticide applicators has been submitted to the Oregon Department of Agriculture. **To register call 503-623-9680 x 101, email rci@polkswcd.com, or go online to <http://www.polkswcd.com/biocontrol.html>**



Upcoming Events

March 2017

- 7 – Greater Yamhill Watershed Council Board Meeting: 6pm McMinnville Library.
- 8 - Polk SWCD Board Meeting: 6pm NRCS Meeting Room
- 9 – Geese/Slug/Vole Control Workshop: WOU 9a-3p
- 9 - Luckiamute WC Board Meeting: 7pm TBD call 503-837-0237 for more info
- 15 - Glen Gibson WC Board Meeting: 5pm Salemtowne Breezeway Room call 503-623-9680
- 23 - Rickreall WC Board Meeting: 1pm Delbert Hunter Arboretum, Dallas call 503-623-9680

April 2017

- 4 – Greater Yamhill Watershed Council Board Meeting: 6pm McMinnville Library.
- 12 - Polk SWCD Board Meeting: 6pm NRCS Meeting Room
- 13 - Luckiamute WC Board Meeting: 7pm TBD call 503-837-0237 for more info
- 19 - Glen Gibson WC Board Meeting: 5pm Salemtowne Breezeway Room call 503-623-9680
- 27 - Rickreall WC Board Meeting: 1pm Delbert Hunter Arboretum, Dallas call 503-623-9680

May 2017

- 2 – Greater Yamhill Watershed Council Board Meeting: 6pm McMinnville Library.
- 10 - Polk SWCD Board Meeting: 6pm NRCS Meeting Room
- 11 - Luckiamute WC Board Meeting: 7pm TBD call 503-837-0237 for more info
- 17 - Polk SWCD Budget Committee Meeting: 6-8pm Polk County Fairgrounds
- 17 - Glen Gibson WC Board Meeting: 5pm Salemtowne Breezeway Room call 503-623-9680
- 25 - Rickreall WC Board Meeting: 1pm Delbert Hunter Arboretum, Dallas call 503-623-9680

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
rcl@polkswcd.com

Ext. 101

Tom Wilson — Office Administrator
clerk@polkswcd.com

Ext. 108

NRCS

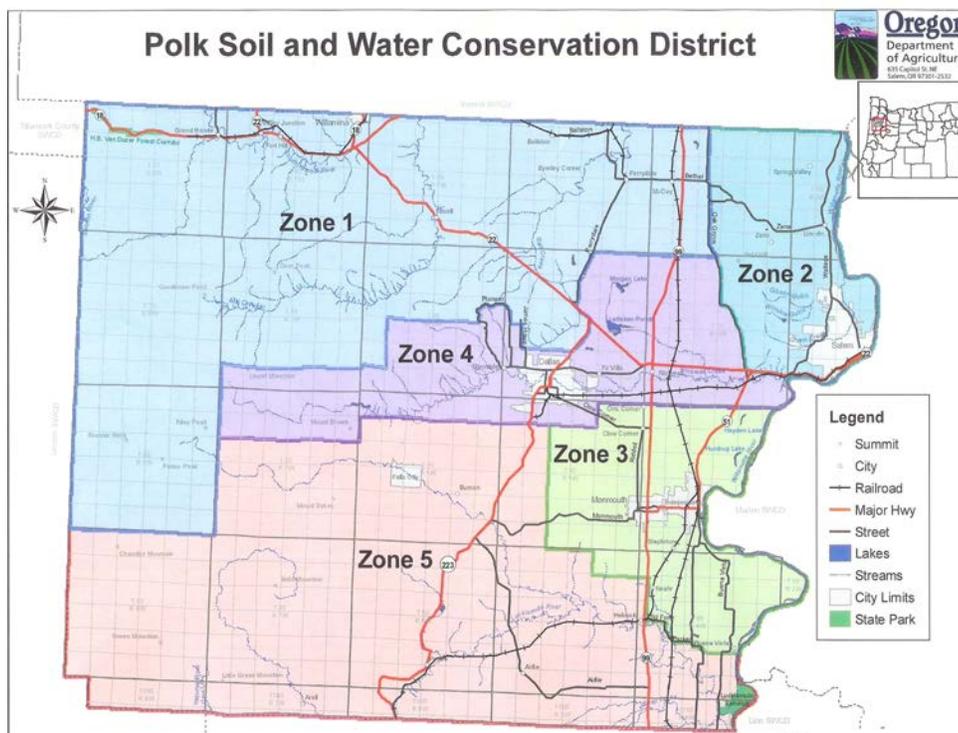
Please note new direct lines!

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

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

Billy Burr — Accounting Specialist
billy.burr@wdc.usda.gov 503-837-3691

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

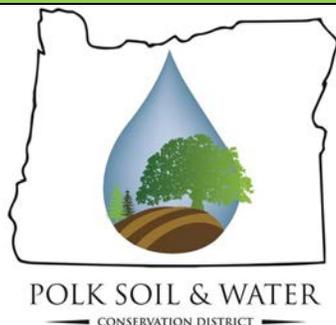
Stuart Butsch — Farm Loan Officer
Stuart.butsch@or.usda.gov

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 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.

The Local Work Group met on Friday, Jan 27 2017 at the Polk County Extension Service Office. Based on the feedback received from those who attended, the Polk SWCD and NRCS will be exploring options for surface and groundwater storage in Polk County. If you have any questions or comments regarding this process, please contact Karin Stutzman, District Manager, at manager@polkswcd.com.



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*Your local source of
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