

# Hereford Natural Resource Conservation District

CONSERVING - PROTECTING - PRACTICING WISE USE



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# April, 2018 Newsletter

## Chairman's Corner

In the dictionary, *success* is defined as: "The fact of succeeded to a HIGH degree of, fortune, good luck, achievement, gain, prosperity, victory, attain progress, completion, triumph, conclusion, accomplishment, advancement, strong, encouraging, leader."

One could pick any of these definitions to describe the life and times of Rachel Thomas. As of March 1<sup>st</sup> 2018, Rachel has stepped down from the board of the Hereford NRCd. She will be greatly missed in many ways. There will be a large void to be filled.

Please read the article within that will give some insight to the SUCCESS of her time in the HNRCD. We all want to THANK her for being a long time friend and giving all of herself for the betterment of this community. Rachel will still get phone calls from me from time to time, asking questions or just to chat.

We as a board have made some great accomplishments with Rachel's help and guidance and we plan on keeping that moving train on the tracks. If you happen to run in to her somewhere, please shake her hand and express your thanks for the many years of giving.

THANK YOU, Rachel!



## Working Together to Enhance Our Natural Resources

## RABIES WARNING AND MEASURES TO PROTECT YOUR FAMILY

News Release from the Arizona Department of Agriculture

Animal Services Division  
1688 W. Adams Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007  
602-542-4290

Rabies is fatal and so proper precautions must be taken to avoid this deadly disease. Recently, a deceased cow in the Pima County area tested positive for the disease.

Arizona citizens are encouraged to be diligent in protecting themselves and their families against rabies.

Rabid animals may show no fear of people, even appearing friendly. Rabid bats typically fall to the ground where they become accessible to children and pets. For more information about rabies call the Arizona Department of Health Services—602-364-3676 or visit their website at [www.azdhs.gov](http://www.azdhs.gov)

“As part of our mission in protecting the public, we want to ensure the public has all the available information to protect themselves, their pets and their families,” said Mark Killian, Director, Arizona Department of Agriculture.

### Preventative Measures for Safety

1. Ensure pets are current on their rabies vaccine and properly tagged. Call your local veterinarian or in Cochise County there are vaccine clinics (including rabies) at: A.R.K. Veterinarian Services—520-456-0029, every Wednesday and Thursday, 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. in Whetstone and Jem's Feed Store—520-378-0057 the first and third Saturday of every month, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in Hereford and C-A-L Ranch Store—520-417-5632 in Sierra Vista. Their days vary—call the store for exact days and times.
2. Discuss rabies vaccination for your livestock, including horses, with your local veterinarian. Any recent unexplained deaths that may have occurred on your farm, ranch or property should be reported to your veterinarian or the State Veterinarian's Office—602-542-4293.
3. Keep pets on a leash when outside a fenced yard. This will keep them safe.
4. Enjoy wildlife from a distance. Do not attempt to feed, approach, or touch wild animals. Do NOT shoot healthy appearing animals merely due to this warning. If you see a wild animal acting abnormally report it to Arizona Game & Fish Department officials—623-237-7201. Hunters should wear rubber gloves when skinning any wild animal, even if the animal appears healthy.
5. Do NOT trap and relocate skunks! This could spread rabies to other areas.
6. If you are bitten by an animal: wash the exposed site immediately with soap and water and seek medical care. Report the bite to the local animal control or public health officials.

## Tombstone High School FFA Shines!



**Above**, L to R: Chris Gaunt, Ryanne Pfrimmer, Shaylinn McCollam, Jason Hawkins **Right**, L to R: Madison Berry, Paige Gaunt, Clay Rodnardt, and Zelia Benites

Students of the Tombstone High School FFA program led by instructor Catherine Swaim won four state titles at the Future Farmers of America state competition. There were a total of



1,035 FFA members competing and Tombstone qualified five teams.

Students not pictured include: Chance Palomo, Nathan Chamberlain, Alex Brazil, Nick Staggs, Kenna Conley, Amethyst Johnson, Jolene Addington, Lisa Nass, Kimberly Hinshaw, and Moxie Dobson,



## Rachel Thomas Retires from Hereford NRCD

Rachel Thomas became a cooperator of the District in 2007. She was then appointed to the Board of Supervisors. She later ran for the supervisor position and was elected. Within the Board she has held the offices of Vice Chairman and Secretary.

Rachel has been a major player on the Board since her inception. She's been involved in nearly every project the District has taken on.

She is most proud of what has been accomplished with the coordination between the local government (districts) and US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Coordination started with her as an advisor to the Winkelman NRCD in their coordination with USFWS on the Sonoran Desert Tortises and BLM on Sunzia. Hereford NRCD then entered into coordination with USFWS on Spikedance and Loach Minnow and the BLM on The San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA) Resource Management Plan (RMP). She also organized two coordination training workshops presented by American Stewarts of Liberty.

Rachel was notably involved in the Horseshoe Draw Flood and Erosion Control, Water Quality Improvement, and Water Recharge Project. The Board began discussing the idea in 2010—it took until 2017 to accomplish the “paperwork” and just 88 days for the actual construction. She handled all the grant requirements for the two grants—Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and The Howard Buffett Foundation.

She worked on nearly every workshop the District has hosted, including: 2010 Tree Planting at the Cochise County Fairgrounds, 2011 NRCD/NRCS Mexican Ranch Tour, 2011 Erosion Control Workshop, and 2015 Range Management Workshop, as well as four sessions on Plant Identification. The District hosted a two day workshop for the Arizona legislators. A personal invitation was sent to each legislator and the state agency director with about a dozen attending. A bus was provided from Phoenix. The agenda started with a meeting on Fort Huachuca with fort personnel; with the second day being a tour of the US/Mexican border wall west of Naco and the reclamation and soil remediation work being done by Freeport-McMoRan. The attendees were then bused back to Phoenix.

Rachel worked on the HNRCD booth at the Cochise County Fair and she was very involved with the organization of the Arizona Association of Conservation Districts (AACD) Summer Conference of 2013 held in Sierra Vista. The two day event included touring the Walnut Gulch Experimental Watershed Project, the San Pedro River, and Brown Canyon Ranch. She produced many of the District's comment letters on federal actions as well as HNRCD resolutions. Rachel was involved with the Tombstone High School FFA antelope project and she developed the HNRCD website, [www.herefordnrcd.com](http://www.herefordnrcd.com). She was part of the team who prepared the Hereford Natural Resource Conservation District Conservation Strategy 2015.



*Rachel cutting on Peavy's Leo*

In the AACD Rachel was Chairman of the Water Committee and Chairman of the Coordinating Committee. She was the HNRCD representative for the Coronado RC&D and San Pedro Targeted Watershed E. coli Reduction Improvement Plan.

Rachel received an award for the Horseshoe Draw Project and from the Coronado RC&D.

Rachel said she worked with great people and many supervisors over the years. When asked why she was leaving the District she smiled and said, “It's time.”

## Skunk Tests Positive for Rabies Virus

Mar 25, 2018

The Cochise County Sheriff's Office was advised of a skunk-versus-dog incident on March 16 in Mescal.

The dog owner informed the sheriff's office that her two dogs were in the backyard when a skunk came inside the fence. One of the dogs was sprayed while the second dog attacked the skunk and bit it repeatedly.

The skunk was still alive upon arrival by Animal Control, who subsequently prepared it for testing at the state lab. The testing process indicated a positive result for the rabies virus, and **both dogs are quarantined due to not having current rabies vaccinations.**

The sheriff's office advises pet owners to make sure their animals are vaccinated.

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**BOARD MEETINGS**  
**Third Wednesday of every month**  
**9:30 AM**  
**Sierra Vista Cochise County**  
**Complex Conference Room**  
**Hwy 92 and Foothills Drive, Sierra Vista**

Note: Date, location and time is subject to change.  
 We invite District Cooperators and the general public's attendance and participation.

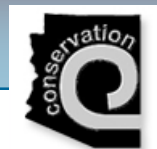
**Hereford NRCD**  
**is on the World Wide Web!**  
**[www.herefordnrcd.com](http://www.herefordnrcd.com)**

**Classified Ads: \$5.00 per item per issue**  
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**Email: [hereford\\_nrcd@juno.com](mailto:hereford_nrcd@juno.com)**

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**HEREFORD NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
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All programs of the Hereford NRCD are offered on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, national origin, age, sex, religion, political belief, marital or familial status or handicap.