



Chairman's Corner

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Spring is the season of rebirth. Wishing you all new days of hope and a beautiful, bright Spring season from the Hereford NRCD!

Greetings from the Hereford NRCD!

I hope everyone is getting back to somewhat normal lives.

The District has been having in-person meetings and telephone hookups with a few of our federal and state partners. We still have a lot of unknowns in what will be the final funding for our NRCS projects but we are hopeful they will be fully funded.

Now is the time we really need to come together in the ranching and farming community. Some of the proposed regulations will set us back thirty years. It already is happening on the immigration policy. The Hereford NRCD is here for you and we will do everything we can for you to be able to continue to enjoy your property, no matter how big or small.

Here's to a green spring and a wet summer.

Regards,
John

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Working Together to Enhance Our Natural Resources

The Value of Our Conservation District Board of Supervisors Represent Cooperator Interests

The District is often asked to provide comments or support letters for federal, state, or county actions as it relates to soil and natural resource conservation issues. The Board of the Hereford Natural Resource Conservation District has the obligation and responsibility to represent the interest of the people and the interest of Hereford Natural Resource District as a whole in economic stability, a sound environment and the general health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the District affecting local Cooperator interests.

Submitted by Lucinda Earven, Board Supervisor

I moved to Cochise County from Tucson four years after graduating from Washington State College of Veterinary Medicine in 1987 and have never left. As my ambulatory equine veterinary practice grew, so did my commitment to and concern for my community and this beautiful part of Arizona. I was very active in the first Earth Day (1970– shows my age!) but environmental activities had taken a back seat to family and career over the years.

My focus has become water issues. When a large commercial size well was being drilled across the street from me in Whetstone, I became very involved in Arizona water laws. And what, as private citizens, we can effectuate. The water from that well was destined to be piped out of our watershed to Rain Valley where a corporation (on whose Board sat former Governor Bruce Babbitt) was planning on building a housing development. That plan was scraped due to the economic downturn in 2008 and the well has been capped and never used. But that concern led me to join the Hereford Natural Resource District in 2011 as a Cooperator and later the HNRCD's representative for the Upper San Pedro Partnership. In 2019 Representative Gail Griffin recommended my appointment to the Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission.



Vice-Chair Lucinda Earven, D.V.M. Working with HNRCD to, "preserve our quality of rural living in Cochise County."



Lucinda and husband Warren taking time out to be silly with grandsons, Chris, Ty, and Ben.

My veterinary practice is agriculture related but I'm not a rancher. My husband was raised on Arizona ranches and my in-laws are presently ranchers on land that my husband's grandparents homesteaded. I have watched them conserve the land that supports their livelihood while protecting their private property rights and responsibilities. I respect that the State's 42 conservation districts were established to address local concerns. I'm now an HNRCD Supervisor and Vice-President. I'm not a "resource expert." I just volunteer my time and experience to an organization that is working to preserve our quality of rural living in Cochise Count

How can YOU get involved?

- ◆ Attend and participate at our regular public meetings.
- ◆ Volunteer and make a difference! Offer your technical experience or professional expertise as an Advisor to the District Board.
- ◆ Participate in the decision-making process.
- ◆ Become a District Cooperator.
- ◆ Vote in conservation District election.
- ◆ Consider running for a Supervisor's seat on the District Board.

Your input to the Conservation District will make a positive impact in
Our community

AN ADJUSTMENT TO GRAZING PATTERNS HUGE RETURNS TO FARMERS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

ADAPTIVE MULTI-Paddock GRAZING

*Adapted and printed by permission from "Ranging Change" by Paul Tullis, Arizona State University Thrive Magazine
Volume 24, Number 1, Winter 2021 asuthrive@asu.edu*

IF there were ways to produce food with improved environmental outcomes, it would be worth doing everything possible, from education to incentives, to help farmers adopt the methods. So believes Peter Byck, professor of practice in the College of Global Futures' School of Sustainability at Arizona State University (ASU). Professor Byck joined the ASU faculty in 2013 and has a dual appointment in the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication. He teaches students to make short documentaries about sustainability. He is an award-winning documentary filmmaker showcasing his film "Carbon Nation" around the world which highlights his climate change solutions.

Professor Byck notes one aspect of climate change that people want to talk about is soil health. Many agriculture practices damage soil and release stored carbon, but evidence suggests that alternative practices broadly known as **regenerative agriculture**, can repair and sequester carbon. A strong scientific consensus has emerged that not only must new emissions be curtailed, but current concentrations would be stored underground, where it can't warm the climate or damage ocean habitats.

INSPIRED by bison's grazing patterns, **adaptive multi-paddock grazing** (AMP) mimics bison's activity to improve soil health. For tens of thousands of years, as many as 50 million bison roamed the Great Plains. Herds would graze a small area, move on to a neighboring or nearby pasture and repeat—sometimes not returning to the same grasses for months or years. Their hooves trampled grass helping the soil hold water by protecting it from evaporation while keeping the ground cool and providing habitat for other animals. Bison also kicked up dirt, loosening seeds and enabling them to germinate. Their excrement fertilized soil. There is evidence from researchers in Yellowstone National Park that bison in the wild still naturally graze in a way that provides these benefits.

Ecosystems evolve in response to the conditions they are exposed to, and when something closer to the historical norm is created through **regenerative grazing**, the soil provides more, and more diverse, forage. More forage allows the soil to sequester more carbon, while retaining more water and preventing pollutants from leeching into water supplies and aquatic habitat. Biodiversity also reduces topsoil erosion.

WITH AMP grazing, ranches are divided into small paddocks and cattle are packed densely into one paddock at a time and allowed to graze intensively. At least once a day they are sent into a new field, and the process repeats. On an AMP ranch of 5,000 acres, a paddock might see fewer than 35-days of grazing over a dozen years. The rest of the time, it's growing back. Plant species that take longer to grow get a chance; some of these may be more drought-tolerant. Some are legumes, which fix nitrogen in the soil, reducing the need for fertilizer. Allen Williams, a former faculty member at Louisiana Tech and Mississippi State, and a sixth-generation rancher working with Professor Byck states, "Soil that functions properly, that has high microbial or biological activity, confers a much higher level of disease and pest resistance." This results in less need for chemical pollutants like pesticides and fungicides.

OFFSETTING carbon emissions will be crucial to feeding people without increasing greenhouse gas as the Earth's population is estimated to exceed 9.5 billion by 2050. Professor Byck believes if all U.S. farmers change to the AMP grazing method, it can make a huge impact on the draw down of carbon dioxide annually. AMP grazing seeks to improve degraded soil, not convert forests or wild grasslands to rangeland. These natural areas are absorbing carbon and need to be left undisturbed.

The ranchers associated with Professor Byck who've adopted AMP are convinced that if the principles of soil health and the rules of adaptive stewardship are implemented, it works every time, in every environment, on every continent. To watch Professor Byck collective series on adaptive multi-paddock grazing from across North America go to carboncowboys.org. **Are You Convinced?** Let Us Know. Send Your Thoughts to the Hereford NRCD Board of Supervisors at nrcdhereford@gmail.com

The benefits of AMP

On an adaptive multi-paddock ranch of 5,000 acres, a paddock might see fewer than 35 days of grazing over 12 years. Cattle are packed densely into one paddock at a time and at least once a day are sent to a new field, allowing land to regenerate. AMP eliminates or reduces the need for fertilizer, which in turn, reduces some of the carbon emissions associated with ranching.

CONVENTIONAL

ADAPTIVE MULTI-Paddock

Holds 3 tons more carbon per hectare per year than traditionally grazed land
— PEER-REVIEWED TEXAS STUDY

Increases soil's organic matter, holding 20,000 gallons more water per 1% increase in organic matter. This can help to reverse desertification of overgrazed land.

— PETER BYCK'S RESEARCHERS

FIND COMMON WORDS ASSOCIATED WITH ADAPTIVE MULTI-PADDOCK REGENERATIVE FARMING METHODS AND CIRCLE THEM. WORDS IN THE PUZZEL CAN RUN UP, DOWN, FORWARDS, BACKWARDS, OR DIAGONALLY.

REGENERATIVE FARMING WORD SEARCH

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D	U	A	A	O	E	S	L	E	A	S	I	E	T
R	E	H	H	F	C	E	T	R	E	A	P	E	E
E	S	C	T	I	I	N	C	E	A	T	S	V	W
C	T	E	L	T	M	I	S	Z	R	Z	N	I	A
O	R	T	A	A	I	S	H	I	L	M	A	T	R
V	A	A	E	B	M	U	M	L	N	A	T	P	D
E	T	M	H	I	P	B	E	I	C	O	U	A	S
R	I	I	L	L	V	I	R	T	R	T	R	D	H
Y	O	L	I	I	G	R	Q	R	Q	R	A	A	I
N	N	C	O	T	H	G	S	E	I	S	L	U	P
V	E	R	S	Y	C	A	A	F	E	P	E	V	I

FERTILIZER
RANCHERS
SOIL HEALTH
STEWARDSHIP
PROFITABILITY
CARBON
AGRIBUSINESS
SEQUESTRATION
LAND RECOVERY
CLIMATE CHANGE
MIMIC
ADAPTIVE
NATURAL

L	S	E	R	I	I	R	P	C	A	R	B	O	N
A	E	G	U	P	R	A	N	C	H	E	R	S	S
N	Q	N	W	R	E	S	R	E	C	C	R	Q	S
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O	R	T	A	A	I	S	H	I	L	M	A	T	R
V	A	A	E	B	M	U	M	L	N	A	T	P	D
E	T	M	H	I	P	B	E	I	C	O	U	A	S
R	I	I	L	L	V	I	R	T	R	T	R	D	H
Y	O	L	I	I	G	R	Q	R	Q	R	A	A	I
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V	E	R	S	Y	C	A	A	F	E	P	E	V	I

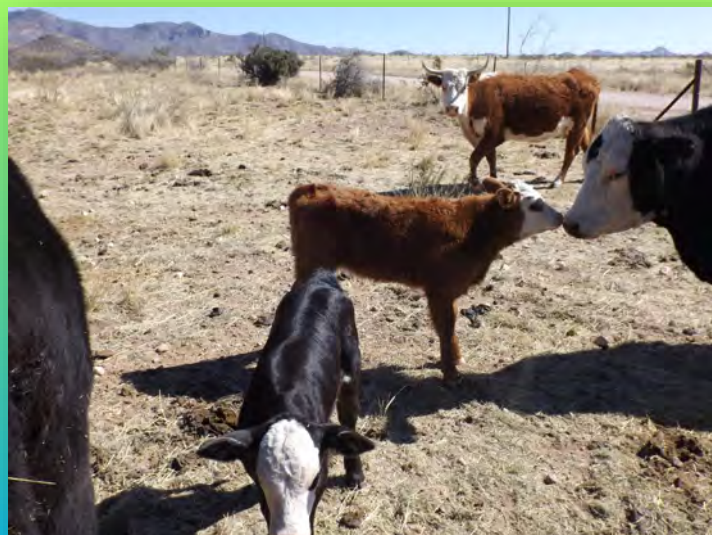


Photo credited to HNRCD

Answer to puzzle or play at <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/20815118/>

District Hellos and Goodbyes

Pat Call

The Hereford NRCD Board of Supervisors may appoint advisory members to the district governing board for the purpose of advising and assisting the board in the accomplishment of the board's duties and goals. An appointment may be made as a general advisor or an advisor for a specific issue.

Help us welcome Pat Call **back** to the Hereford NRCD in an Advisory position. The Board nominated Pat and he accepted the role of the water and land issues Advisor in January 2021.

As a valued past Board Supervisor and Advisor, we believe his familiarity with the Districts' challenges, its partnerships, as well as his expertise in watershed management, will enhance the Board's outreach efforts to small acreage landowners and our participation in rural watershed stewardship.

FROM ALL OF US - WELCOME BACK PAT!

Stefanie Krentz

As you may remember from our Winter newsletter, we welcomed Stefanie Krentz **back** to the Hereford and White Water Draw NRCDs in the contract position of Soil Conservationist. Read on as Stefanie tells a little more about herself and her new position.

Hello everyone, I am glad to take this opportunity to introduce myself and tell you a little bit about how my position will help the conservation districts. I will first give you all a little detail about what I will be doing in this new position and then give you all a bit of background about myself.

I was hired as Soil Conservationist to help Don Decker, NRCS Field Office, with the crop and pastureland workload for both districts. I will basically be doing a lot of field work which will consist of gathering information for new applicants and take the information back to Don. I will also assist Don with any existing contract workload that he would like help with. I will work hard to promote local agriculture and the conservation districts.

*As many of you know, I worked for the USDA NRCS as a Soil Conservationist for 8 years. I worked in both the Safford and Douglas Field Offices Before working for NRCS, I was employed at New Mexico State University in the **Nematology** lab. I obtained a master's degree in agriculture biology with a minor in Agriculture education from New Mexico State University. I grew up in Las Cruces, New Mexico with a background in farming. Growing up I was involved in 4-H and FFA. I was also a member of the Mesilla Valley Cowbellees and served as the Beef Ambassador for the cattle growers association.*

So, for those of you that have read this far, I will give you a bit of background about myself. I moved to Douglas, Arizona in 2010 after receiving an internship with the

USDA NRCS. This is where I met my now husband. In 2011. I moved to Safford to serve as the Soil Conservationist. I was then able to move back to Douglas in 2015. In 2017 I was finally married to Ben Krentz. I live with him and our daughter on his family's cattle ranch outside of Douglas. I am also currently serving as the secretary for the Douglas rifle and pistol club. I enjoy being outdoors and spending time with my family. I look forward to serving the conservation districts with anything I can and promoting them to the best of my ability. I look forward to meeting you all very soon.



Thanks,
Stefanie Krentz

THANK YOU MEMBERS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

We are off to a good start this year! Many thanks to everyone who have responded to the annual membership renewal notices and who have generously donated additional funds.

Conservation Steward Contributors

Vincent Ogurek

What is nematology?

Answer: Nematology is the scientific study of nematode worms. In general, nematology is divided into three main branches that include; plant nematology, animal parasitology as well as free-living nematology.



Don Decker

The Natural Resources Conservation Service. Who Are We?

Your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office has experienced conservationists that can assist you with balancing your animals with your forage. They can also help you develop a Conservation Plan to solve other problems you have identified on your farm or ranch. There is no charge for their assistance. Simply call your local office at the 520-368-3403 to set up an appointment and they will come to your place. You may also be eligible to receive financial assistance, through a state or federal program. Your NRCS office will explain any programs that are available so you can make the best decision for your operation. All NRCS programs and services are voluntary.

Hello to the Cooperators of the Hereford NRCD

Don Decker-NRCS District Conservationist Douglas Field Office

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is the NRCS program that can provide financial incentives to agricultural producers for implementing conservation practices that address identified natural resource concerns on their lands.

The EQIP timelines for NRCS Arizona Fiscal Year 2021;

- ◆ The application cut off was January 22nd
- ◆ The applicant eligibility deadline was February 26th
- ◆ The applicant ranking and cost estimate deadline is April 30th
- ◆ EQIP Cycle 1 preapprovals are due by May 14th
- ◆ Contract obligation deadlines are due by July 2nd.

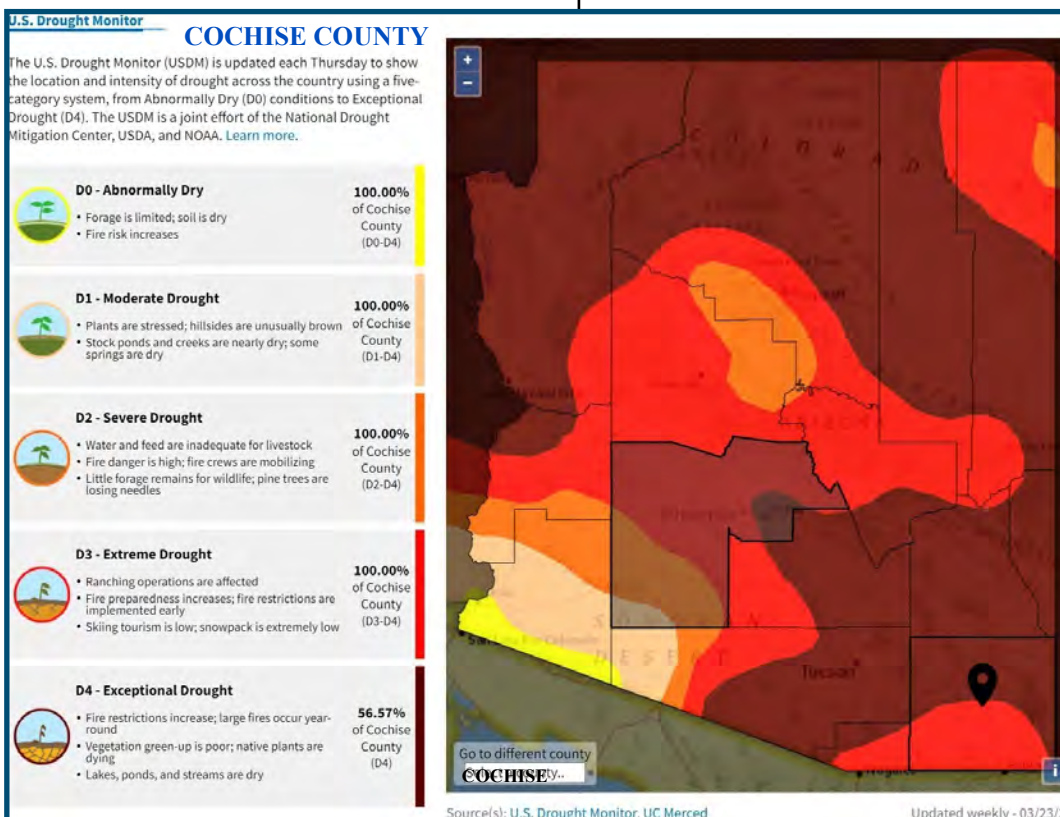
With the EQIP application deadline over, the Hereford NRCD ended up with one wildlife related applicant, one irrigated pasture applicant and nine rangeland applicants. These applications represent a total request amount of \$569,355. While this is encouraging that so many applications are eligible, not all projects can be funded as there are applicants from other Districts vying for the same source of funds.

With adjustments, due to the Covid-19 environment, **NRCS is open** for business. For further information on this and all NRCS programs contact Don at, donald.decker@usda.gov or 520-368-3403.

U.S. Drought Monitor—Drought Conditions for Cochise County

Eighty—seven percent of Arizona is in **Exceptional Drought**. This data can be accessed online at <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/drought-update-intermountain-west-1>. Intermountain West states include Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming. This data is updated every 5 days, with a delay of 4 to 5 days to allow for data collection and quality control.

- ◆ February 2021 is the driest February in over 127 years
- ◆ To date, 2021 is the driest year in 127 years



“In the southwestern U.S. we can all look like geniuses in years with enough well-timed precipitation. It certainly takes more experience and skill to ranch when and where it doesn’t rain. The better we have planned for a drought, the more benefit we will derive from rain when it occurs.”

Douglas R. Tolleson, January 2017 in, *An Easy to Use System for Developing a Drought Management Contingency Plan*

Hereford NRCDC Conservation Education Center News
Jim Lindsey Education Center Supervisor

San Pedro Spirits 4-H Club

Submitted by Kim Fox

All photos credited to San Pedro Spirits 4-H Club

The Hereford NRCDC Board believes in a diversified use of its education funds as best use of our public money and for future funding opportunities. As such, Supervisor Steve Boice reached out to Ms. Kim Fox of the San Pedro Spirits 4-H Club to discuss how the District may be able to assist the youth in 4-H.

The San Pedro Spirits 4-H Club serves the communities of Sierra Vista, Whetstone, Hereford, and Palominas and has continuously produced members who have been recognized at the county, state, and national level for their achievements, hard work, and dedication to Agriculture and Leadership. Consistently, members have excelled at the Cochise County Fair, the main local event for this club, in all large and small livestock projects.

Arizona 4-H supports eight 4-H Participation Pathways for youth engagement which includes;

- Agriculture ▪ Camping ▪ Civic Engagement ▪ Community Service ▪ Cultural Understanding ▪ Healthy Living ▪ Leadership. ▪ Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

A proposal was submitted to the Board to seek assistance in obtaining supplies for the livestock projects. The costs associated with raising and producing quality livestock are daunting to many small operations. So, as a club, San Pedro Spirits is looking for assistance in obtaining a few of the commonly required, yet expensive items which would benefit a majority of the members. The pieces of equipment requested will contribute to the safety of the Club's youth and their livestock by allowing them to be safely weighed, groomed, tracked, and handled during procedures. The Board expects there will be student involvement through fundraising events to match District funds as a component of the Club receiving District financial support.

There were many difficulties encountered in 2020 for the teaching community because of SARS-CoV-2 restrictions. Many events and activities were postponed or canceled. However, the Cochise County Fair Junior Livestock show and auction was held in September. San Pedro Spirits 4-H members were able to enter and show their small livestock (Photos 1, 2). These individuals worked hard through the pandemic to grow successful projects and develop products that are now, more than ever, an important contribution to today's society. Over the past months we have seen food shortages and mass hoarding of our agricultural products that our country often took for granted during abundant times. These agricultural youth are a vital part of the sustainability of our country (Mike Zamudio, Cochise County Fair Junior Livestock Committee 2020).



Photo 1. Natalie Colburn, Jolene Addington, Meadow Mikrut, Pygmy Goat Showmanship



Photo 3. Skill-A-Thon Grain ID



Photo 2. Macie Michaels, Jolene Addington, Natalie Colburn, Market Goat Showmanship

Graham County also hosted a Skill-A-Thon competition where San Pedro Spirits had two representatives from Cochise County participate and both took top honors. Makenzie Mazzanti for High Point Junior and Skyler Mazzanti for High Point Senior (first place). A Skill-A-Thon demonstrates the members knowledge in breeds of large livestock, equipment ID, general questions (Photo 3), meats judging, and livestock judging in which the 4-H member must give oral reasons on why they placed a particular class the way they did. This is great practice for public speaking—a life skill closely tied to self confidence and a primary medium for presenting and selling products and ideas.

Hereford NRCDC Conservation Education Center News
Jim Lindsey Education Center Supervisor

Tombstone High School Agriculture Program

AgriScience in the time of COVID-19: How Tombstone FFA is creating meaningful experiences during the pandemic

Submitted by Amber Ford, Agricultural Educator and FFA Advisor

All photos credited to Tombstone FFA and Tombstone HS

Tombstone High School has been enduring the COVID-19 pandemic like the rest of the world: doing the best we can do with what we are able to do. Despite the challenges that the delays and distancing have created, the students in the Tombstone Agricultural Education Program and FFA have still had the opportunity to experience hands on learning to apply the knowledge they've gained in the classroom.

Last fall, students in the AgriScience III class, which is for upper level students and focuses on plant based sciences, got to experience a lot of firsts in the Tombstone Agricultural Education program. This AgriScience III course featured our first dual enrollment opportunity with Cochise College for AGR 102 (Introduction to Agriculture). We had three students complete this dual enrollment opportunity this fall. This course also experienced our inaugural welding unit, which has been in the works for the past few semesters. Students learned basic skills in arc (stick) welding, learning how to set the machine, draw a bead, and identify areas of improvement in their welds. Other hands-on opportunities in this class include using microscopes to examine plant cells, performing a seed dissection to learn seed anatomy, and creating models of flower anatomy.

This course is followed this spring by AgriScience IV, which follows AgriScience III and focuses on animal based sciences. This semester's cohort is also the first to be able to take this course for college credit with AGR 208 (Animal Science) from Cochise College. In this course we are continuing welding with more practice with arc (stick) welding as well as introducing basic oxyacetylene welding. Students will learn how to properly prepare the torch set up, adjust the gasses, set different flames, and draw a bead with the torch, among other skills. Students in this course also dissect a variety of different animals, such as birds, fish, amphibians, and mammals, to compare the variances in animal anatomy. This course also had every student competing in an FFA competition. We received a 5th place in state in the Ag Business competition.

Our AgriScience II students focus on learning basic biological principles through the lens of agriculture. In this course, students are able to earn their Biology credit in addition to their Career & Technical Education (CTE) credit. This semester, they have gotten to compare bacterial, plant, and animal cells using microscopes, isolate their own DNA, and are revamping the current FFA garden to better suit their vision. Later in the semester they will be performing dissections on ethically sourced fetal pigs to learn about internal anatomy. This course also had every student competing in an FFA competition. At state we received 10th place in Forestry, 10th place in Meat Evaluation, and 7th place in Range Management.



Practicing Arrangements for Floriculture Competition

Our introductory level course, AgriScience I, introduces students to a variety of different agricultural disciplines and FFA, showing them the opportunities available to them in the agricultural field. Students in this course this semester are working with the AgriScience II students in revamping the garden and have learned about the scientific method through hands on experimental design, they have explored different agricultural issues and controversies through research projects, and will be practicing different food processing techniques in class later this semester. We had two teams compete in FFA competitions from this class. They received 6th place in Food Science at state.

We currently have 98 students enrolled in the Agricultural Education program this year. Each student has an SAE, which is a Supervised Agricultural Experience. These SAEs are independent, student run projects completed outside of class time where students are able to practice the agricultural skills they learn in class and focus on the facets of agriculture that interest them the most and may want to follow as a career. Some of the SAEs students are doing include shadowing dog and horse trainers, rebuilding a motorized go cart, making and canning jams and jellies, learning how to weld, and creating a garden.

COVID may have changed the way that we do things, both in and out of school, but the Tombstone Agricultural Education and FFA program is still finding ways to get kids involved in agriculture.

Arizona Community Foundation Award

The Hereford NRCD is the recipient of a grant for \$1000.00 through the Arizona Community Fund of Cochise, a component fund of Arizona Community Foundation. The award is for general support and recommended by former Board Supervisor, current Board Advisor and District Cooperator Jack Ladd and his wife Marguerite.

The following is taken directly from the Foundation webpage.

<https://www.azfoundation.org/About/Putting-Arizona-First>

The Arizona Community Foundation and its Affiliates steward the gifts placed in their care with an eye toward permanence and growth, and from the investment earnings on the endowment, award millions of dollars in grants and scholarships every year.

Funding is awarded year-round to nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and educational institutions for a variety of uses, including general operating support, programmatic support and capacity building. While most grants are made in Arizona, grants may be made nationally as well.

Hereford NRCD A Look Back

Unforeseen challenges that we saw in 2020 are still plaguing us and our partners in 2021 but we are continuing to work towards long-term efforts with the support of our Cooperators and Partners.

- ◆ The Board of Supervisors have kept abreast of local programs by attending meetings of organizations such as Arizona Association of Conservation Districts (AACD), Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape Restoration Partnership (SLRP), Upper San Pedro Partnership, (USPP), and Cochise Conservation and Recharge Network (CCRN).
- ◆ In addition, representatives from various government agencies attend our regular monthly meetings to keep us up-to-date on their activities. These include: Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), United States Forest Service (USFS), Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), and Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). Programs available for landowner assistance change regularly, as do the required qualifications necessary to obtain assistance. Cooperators contact us with help or require information on how to apply for programs.
- ◆ In 2020, one of our biggest endeavors was to reach out to the non-producing property owners with smaller acreages to ascertain their conservation resource concerns. The aim of the Board is to not only find out the concerns and needs, but also to reach out to multiple agencies in hopes of finding funding assistance for projects.

Arizona Association of Conservation Districts: Conserving Natural Resources and Agriculture Since 1944

October 2020 kicked-off an exciting project between the Arizona Association of Conservation Districts (AACD), the Arizona and National Wildlife Federations (AWF and NWF), and the Arizona Association of Environmental Education (AAEE). A two-year, \$100,000 Environmental Education grant from the Environmental Protection Agency awarded to the AACD laid the foundation for this effort to promote conservation and environmental education across the state, cultivating our future stewards of the land. Notable project supporters include the Arizona Department of Agriculture, the Arizona Food Bank Network, General Motors, and Kroger.

Twelve schools (grades K-12) are enrolled in the project and will be supported by the AACD, AAEE, and AWF in this journey. Working with the AWF, AAEE, and District Conservation Education Centers, schoolteachers will use curriculum modeled after the NWF's Eco-School's USA 12 Pathways to Sustainability. Participating teachers are also encouraged to pursue Environmental Education Certification with the AAEE and engage in the leadership summits and professional development opportunities hosted by the AAEE. Additionally, 10 Conservation Districts (Hereford being one of them) will support adult conservation education efforts for agricultural professionals around important topics concerning water, soil health, etc.

The project has already seen success at the Fountain Hills Charter School (FHCS). FHCS teacher and AAEE Board Member Lisa Ristuccia has made great strides towards implementing Eco-Schools Pathways and gaining certification. First, students formed a Green Eco-Action plan and chose which Pathways they wanted to focus on: Biodiversity, Consumption & Waste, Healthy Living, Schoolyard Habitats, Sustainable Food, and Watersheds. Students have engaged in outdoor learning via field trips and activities including planting an organic garden, creating a schoolyard wildlife habitat, completing nature research journals, implementing a community composting, picking up litter, and conducting water quality tests. FHCS's accomplishments show how well this program can flourish and its positive impacts on students, schools, and communities.

AACD looks forward to kicking this off in the Hereford District soon!

Legislative News
Let Your House and Senate Members Hear From You!

Arizona Legislative Lawn Day

For the second year in a row, the annual Arizona Legislative Lawn Day has been canceled due to SARS-CoV-2 related issues. This event provides an opportunity for the Conservation District representatives to meet with and discuss local ranching and farming concerns with all Arizona Legislators. As noted in the Chairman's Corner letter, ***“now is the time we really need to come together in the ranching and farming community.”***

How do changes in estate and capital gain tax laws, now being discussed in Congress, affect you, your day to day operations, or your ability to pass down your farm or ranch to future generations?

How does President Biden's sweeping Executive Order addressing global climate change, signed in January, affect your ability to recreate, graze cattle, and otherwise have access to public land resources? This order goals to have at least 30% of all land in the U.S. to be permanently set aside and maintained in a natural state. Read the De-

partment of Interior Fact Sheet for more information at <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/fact-sheet-president-biden-take-action-uphold-commitment-restore-balance-public-lands>.

These are only a couple of examples of topics in review at the State and Federal levels that could, may, and will affect the future of successful family farms. Family farms accounted for almost 98% of U.S. farms in 2019, the most recent data tracked by USDA Economic Research Service. However, it is predicated the gross cash farm income will fall 1.8% in 2021, after increasing 4.6% in 2020. Did gross cash farm income benefit from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017? If yes, how does U.S. House and Senate introduced legislation (today) affect your family-run business?

While the Hereford NRCD Board of Supervisors have not taken an official stance on these, and other issues, the Board does urge our Cooperators to stay involved and take private action. You, the Board, and the public are not restricted to an annual Legislative Lawn Day to have contact with our representatives.

Stay Involved. Let Your Voice Be Heard. Contact Your Representatives Today!

HEREFORD NRCD ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES

House of Representative Legislative District 14

Gail Griffin, GGriffin@azleg.gov, 602-926-5895

Becky Nutt, bnutt@azleg.gov, 602-926-4852

David Gowan, DGowan@azleg.gov, (602) 926-5154

Congressional District 2

Ann Kirkpatrick, <https://kirkpatrick.house.gov/contact/email-me/>, 520-459-3115

Phone calls and “face-face” meetings are the best ways to get your representatives to listen to your concerns.

ARIZONA U.S. SENATORS

Mark Kelly, <https://www.kelly.senate.gov/>, 520-475-5177

Krysten Sinema, <https://www.sinema.senate.gov/contact-kyrsten>, 520- 639-7080

COOPERATOR MEMBERSHIP AND DONATIONS

The Cooperator annual membership renewal is due each January. Don't lose access to the wealth of knowledge and experience through our Board of Supervisors and its' Advisors, or the networking opportunities through the HNRCD Partnerships. **Renew or join now** and preserve these great assets. We are here to help you with your natural resource conservation questions and concerns. We want to hear from you.

If you have additional questions regarding your renewal, donation, or new membership please contact Board Clerk Joanne Roberts at nrcdhereford@gmail.com.

The Hereford Natural Resource District is an independent, non-profit, semi-governmental entity. Your Cooperator fees and additional donation (s) are tax-deductible.

Membership Level: New Renewal

_____ \$50.00 membership renewal with sign _____ (12" x 18" metal HNRCD sign to post on my property identifying me as an HNRCD member) without sign _____

_____ \$35.00 to renew my annual membership

_____ I wish to provide an additional contribution toward the District's resource activities

- \$25 Student \$50 Organization \$100 Commercial \$200 Conservation Steward
- \$500 Conservation Patron \$1,000 Lifetime Conservation Champion

**Return with Check Payable to Hereford NRCD
PO Box 3361
Sierra Vista, AZ 85636**



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BOARD MEETINGS

Third Wednesday of every month

**Check <http://www.herefordnrcd.com/HNRCD-DOCUMENTS-AND-INFORMATION.html>
for up to date time and location**

**Meetings may be held in person, telephonically or
virtually depending on SARS-CoV-2 restrictions.**

**COOPERATOR and PUBLIC PARTICIPATION WEL-
COMED**

Visit Us At

**Hereford NRCD Webpage
<http://www.herefordnrcd.com/>**

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HEREFORD NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**PO Box 3361
Sierra Vista, AZ 85636**



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.