



May 2024 Newsletter

**Annual Meeting Announcement! Save the Date !
Every Acre Counts ! Urban and Rural Conservation**

Nevada Association of Conservation Districts and Nevada Weed Management Association announce Annual Meeting Partnership !
We are pleased to announce that our annual meetings will be taking place in the same location and during the same time frame.



SAVE THE DATES!

November 19-20th



Grand Sierra Resort and Casino in Reno, Nevada



In partnership with



Nevada Association of Conservation Districts
&
Nevada Weed Management Association
Annual Conference & Trade Show
"Every Acre Counts-Urban to Rural Conservation"

Pesticide CEUs from:
California, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Arizona



Please join us! Stay tuned for more details on this exciting Nevada partnership meeting!

Funding Announcement

Seeking projects which will benefit Sage-grouse
and Sage-grouse habitat.



Work with your local Conservation District to implement meaningful changes for Sage grouse and their sagebrush habitat ecosystems. We are seeking projects and project partners throughout the State to work with our Conservation Districts.

Map of State with Sage grouse habitat highlighted, and CD boundaries shown.



Please reach out to your local Conservation District, or to one of our Conservation District Program Staff Specialists to work on your proposals today! **Due June 30th, 2024**

Marlee Jenkins: Western region Mjenkins@dcnr.nv.gov
Gerry Miller: Elko region Gerald.miller@dcnr.nv.gov
Lauren Williams: Ely region Lawilliams@dcnr.nv.gov
Melany Aten: Central region Maten@dcnr.nv.gov

More information about the grant opportunity can be found at
[Conservation Districts Grant Opportunities | DCNR \(nv.gov\)](#)

**NvACD, Fish and Wildlife Service Partners
Program and NV. CD Program Holds Low Tech
Restoration Workshop in Winnemucca, Nevada !**



ANABRANCH SOLUTIONS

Anabran Solutions helped to pioneer the use of low-tech structures, namely beaver dam analogs (BDAs) and post-assisted log structures (PALS) to initiate the processes that use the power of flowing water to do the bulk of the work for stream restoration.



Jesse Braatz with Humboldt Ranch describes how their grazing management helps to maintain healthy streams and riparian habitats.



Day one classroom topics included examples of successful restoration projects, site selection, techniques for installation and permitting.



An instructor describes how a Post Assisted Log Structure can slow water flow and assist in sediment deposition to improve riparian areas.



Attendees constructed structures in the parking lot to learn techniques used in field applications.



Workshop attendees walked upstream on Jakes Creek to see active beaver dams and how vegetation increases which keeps water on the land longer, ultimately benefitting livestock and wildlife.

Update on the NRCS and NvACD Capacity Building Agreement

NRCS and NvACD are currently working to amend the existing agreement which will clarify and simplify the methods in which funds will be allocated to support the hiring of individuals to support NRCS field offices with conservation programs and practices.

NvACD and NRCS Capacity Building Agreement

Growing Natural Resources Projects for Landowners in Nevada!

March 2024

To Nevada Conservation Districts:

The Nevada Association of Conservation Districts (NvACD) in collaboration with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has established an agreement that will fund Conservation Districts (CDs) to assist their local NRCS field offices that are experiencing staffing capacity issues which hinders their ability to process applications and contracts for conservation programs and practices.

Through this agreement, we will facilitate the hiring of technicians, planners, engineers, administration, and other support personnel, as deemed necessary, to increase the implementation of NRCS program funds.

We encourage interested Conservation Districts to first contact their local NRCS field office to determine if there is a concern with staffing capacity in their office. If the need for additional staffing is determined, the interested CD will submit this information to the NvACD.

- NvACD will work with the CD to determine if the Conservation District can manage the funds.
- If the Conservation District shows to NvACD and NRCS that it can manage the hiring of an individual, then NvACD will contract directly with the Conservation District to provide funding for the position and NvACD, the CD, and NRCS will work together to manage the agreement stipulations.
- We will discuss contracting specifics and funding amounts with each interested Conservation District based on identified staffing needs and funds.

There is a limited amount of funding that will be allocated this fiscal year to Conservation Districts to assist with these capacity building positions. Funding will be based on the need within each NRCS Field Office and the Conservation District's capabilities to administer the contract and funding.

For further information on the agreement, please refer to the NvACD website or contact Kevin Piper, Executive Director for NvACD at kevinpiper@nvacd.org.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Program and Initiative Sign Ups



Save the Date: NRCS Nevada State Technical Committee Meeting 6/11/24

NRCS Nevada will be holding its State Technical Committee Meeting Tuesday, June 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The meeting will be a hybrid meeting with virtual and in person options. Final details and an agenda will be sent out the week of May 28.

The agenda and other documents will be posted to the Nevada STAC website by June 3. <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-state/nevada/technical-committee>

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Chris Rose, NRCS NV Partnership Coordinator, at christopher.rose@usda.gov.

Third sign up added for EQIP-IRA Funding for 2024. Applications are due by May 31

Approximately \$8 million is still available through the program for this year.
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/nrcs-nevada-announces-additional-eqip-signup-for-2024-ira-funding>

NRCS accepting proposals through its Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) until May 26

\$22 million available

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/usda-seeks-partnerships-to-expand-conservation-on-grazing-lands-0>

RCPP News release- Application period closes 7/2

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/usda-makes-15-billion-available-to-help-farmers-advance-conservation-and-climate-smart>

RCPP website

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/rcpp-regional-conservation-partnership-program>

RCPP How to Apply- also has info on webinars coming up for applicants you might be interested in.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/rcpp-regional-conservation-partnership-program/how-to-apply>

NRCS Job Openings

Hydrologist (Snow Survey)

Open to public

Closes 5/7

Location: Reno

<https://www.usajobs.gov/job/788043000>

State Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) Meeting

NRCS State Technical Committee Meeting (STAC) scheduled for June 11. Agenda and other information will be posted to the website when it becomes available.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-state/nevada/technical-committee>

Update on NRCS Agreements

NVACD- Identified an additional \$200k+ that can be added to the agreement. Following up with NRCS HQ about funding request and how to add it to the agreement amendment since it is from a different fund pool.

Drafting an agreement with the Duck Valley Tribe to provide a full time technician for three years.

We were able to fill all vacancies under our Pheasants Forever agreement and will be adding partner biologists in Elko, Ely, Winnemucca and Yerington.

Submitted by:

Chris Rose

Partnership Coordinator

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Office (Mon, Wed, Friday AM): 775-834-0890

Telework (Tues, Thurs, Friday PM): 775-386-7407

christopher.rose@usda.gov

Conservation Districts Spotlight !



Northeast Elko Conservation District

Check out this great video! [Northeast Elko Conservation District](#) (link to their website)

Against the Herd (2024) Webmix

click here: [Cottonwood Ranch Video](#)

Starr Valley Conservation District

Congratulations to the Lotspeich Family Farm!

The Nevada Division of Tourism

Travel Nevada is excited to support tourism small businesses in Nevada! As part of this year's **#RuralRoundup**, we hosted our first-ever Rural Tourism Entrepreneurship Competition, and one small business walked away with \$20,000 to help build their tourism enterprise.

Congratulations to our winner, **Lotspeich Family Farm**, who will be driving local tourism in northeastern NV this Fall through on-farm agritourism activities, including a brand new pumpkin patch!



Southern Nye Conservation District

Southern Nye County Conservation District Beatty Narrows Project

The Beatty Narrows site comprises a 10-acre fenced portion of riparian river bottom that has been a focus for non-native tamarisk removal, screwbean mesquite study, and riparian vegetation restoration. NDOW, USFWS, and TNC have performed extensive restoration work at this site. This project contributed to the development of critical habitat for the Amargosa toad, Oasis Valley speckled dace, and many migratory and resident bird species.

A mini-excavator was used to remove trees with intact roots and to dig holes for replanting them at the translocation site.



Maintenance

A ten-acre fence has been installed around the planting area to protect transplants from "girdling" and new growth browsing by burros. The Beatty Narrows site will be monitored for weeds and tamarisk which will be treated with an appropriate herbicide such as Garlon-4. Additionally, photo points will be utilized to assess growth and survival over time.

Join the new Nevada Food Systems Contributor Database

In many rooms, meetings, conversations, and other spaces food systems and agriculture folks keep saying that it would be helpful to know who everyone is, where they are at, and what they are working on. In order to address this need, we have initiated an effort to create a database of food systems contributors around the state. Help us by completing the form and sharing with folks that you are connected with!

<https://forms.gle/o2Yg9gm9nfN1UJqPA>



NEVADA FOOD SYSTEMS

DATABASE



Add your name to the new
Nevada Food Systems
Database



NEVADA FARM NETWORK

ABOUT

The Nevada Farm Network is a NEW and FREE online hub combining a community-based networking platform for Nevada farmers to connect and share information along with a budding, online resource library to help aggregate Nevada's existing agriculture resources all in one place.



PURPOSE

The Nevada Farm Network unites the state's farming community to enhance farm efficiency, economic return, resource conservation, and overall agricultural viability. Building on a legacy of farmer cooperation and innovation, the network aims to support thriving farm communities for future generations. Initially concentrating on specialty crop farming, it plans to expand its scope to encompass the diverse range of Nevada agriculture in the long term.



HOW TO JOIN

The Nevada Farm Network needs you and it's easy to join!! Please go to NevadaFarmNetwork.com or follow the link in the QR code.



The funding for Nevada Farm Network was made possible by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service through grant [21SCBPNV1042-00]. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the USDA.

Nevada Farm Network launches to support Nevada agricultural producers University and USDA lend support to grower-led initiative that aims to provide online resources and networking to bolster Nevada agricultural production
RENO, Nev. – After nearly a year in the works, a grower-led initiative has launched the Nevada Farm Network, a new online hub where Nevada agricultural producers can connect and share information with one another, as well as find resources to help them increase farm efficiency and economic return, while using best practices to sustain their businesses and our natural resources. The **University of Nevada, Reno's** Desert Farming Initiative is coordinating the project with funding provided by the Nevada Department of Agriculture from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service.

"Ag technology is accelerating and resources are available to help support our agriculture industry, but producers often don't have the time to conduct research or connect with one another said Jill Moe, director of the University's **Desert Farming Initiative**, which is part of

the **Experiment Station** unit of the **College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources**. “The intent of the Nevada Farm Network is to make it easier for producers to connect and find the resources they need. We want to harness and make accessible information to bolster Nevada agriculture.”

The Network is open to all Nevada agricultural producers, as well as those supporting the producers in some way. Using the Network is free, but individuals must **create an online account**. Organizers are focusing on providing information to boost specialty crop farming during this phase, with the grant fund being administered by the Nevada Department of Agriculture’s Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. But, they really want to provide, and encourage producers to provide, information to help support the whole Nevada agriculture sector in the long term. The Network aims to build on the legacy of farmer cooperation and innovation in the state, by helping them connect and find resources online.

“We want to help farms and farm communities thrive for years to come,” Moe said. “Helping to get this Network off the ground fits perfectly into the Desert Farming Initiative’s mission of advancing climate-smart farming and food systems in our state’s desert climate.”

According to data provided by the Nevada Department of Agriculture, the economic output of the food and agriculture sector in Nevada was \$4.71 billion in 2020, with agriculture (ranching and farming) being \$787.8 million, and food and beverage manufacturing being \$3.925 billion. State officials have identified it as a significant economic driver in the state that has potential for future growth, but producers need support to connect and to access current technologies and resources in order to sustain and grow their operations. The Network is a grassroots way to provide that support.

“As producers, with how large our state is and the distance between us all, we sometimes struggle to be able to just get together and share what’s working, what’s not, or new methods or technologies we’ve discovered,” said Rodney Mehring of Blue Lizard Farms, one of the producers on the Network’s Leadership Committee, who has been one of the driving forces behind establishing the Network. “We want to help each other – that’s what we do as producers here in Nevada. But, we need a better way of communicating to help each other out. This new online Network should really help us help each other.”

To learn more, visit <https://naes.unr.edu/farm-network/>. Funding for the Nevada Farm Network was made possible by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service through a grant [21SCBPNV1042-00] to the University of Nevada, Reno. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors, and do not necessarily represent the views of the USDA.

- @unevadareno -

A RANCHER'S GUIDE

Participation in the NEPA process

NEVADA



*Learn what NEPA is, how it works and how
to participate in the process*



LINK: [Nevada Landowner Guide to NEPA](#)

Property & Environment Research Center (PERC)

Report from PERC: **Groundwater Conservation Easements: Evaluating an innovative new tool for aquifer sustainability.** This report explains how groundwater conservation easements work and describes the conditions necessary for their successful implementation. It then evaluates the legal frameworks of several western states, including Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, and Wyoming, to identify potential opportunities and reforms to facilitate more widespread use of groundwater

conservation easements.

LINK: [Groundwater Conservation Easements](#)

This year, **University of Nevada, Reno Extension's Living With Fire Program** along with local, state and federal firefighting agencies and community members will launch its **Nevada Wildfire Awareness Campaign**, an annual commemoration of the National Wildfire Awareness Month, with a series of educational events and contests to empower Nevadans to minimize the risks of wildfires in their homes and communities.

Nevada Living With Fire LINK



Photo Cutline: The Hogan Fire, which started on July 1, 2018, approximately 25 miles southeast of Wells, Nevada, burned more than 10,000 acres before it was fully contained on July 19, 2018. Photo courtesy of Nevada Bureau of Land Management.

Partner Links




Visit the Nevada Department of Agriculture webpage !

National Association of Conservation Districts

Click on the link: [NACDNET](#)



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Nevada Association of Conservation Districts | 901 S. Stewart St., Suite 1003 Carson City,
NV 89701 | Carson City, NV 89701 US

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