

Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts
Activity Report
May 19, 2010

Mississippi River Basin Initiative

AACD hosted several partnership meetings to encourage participation in this project. AACD and the districts currently have the following proposals submitted:

- Little River Ditches Nutrient Loss Reduction MRBI/CCPI Pilot Project
- Lower St. Francis River Nutrient Loss Reduction MRBI/CCPI Project
- Point Remove Wetlands Reclamation & Irrigation District
- Future Solutions Now to Restore the Health of the L'Anguille River
- Larkin Creek Proposal
- Assessing the Impact of the MRBI program in Arkansas
- An Interactive Outreach Program for the MRBI in Arkansas

AACD – Youth Conservation Workshop (agenda attached)

We currently have 44 students signed up for the youth workshop. It is scheduled for June 27 – July 2, 2010 at Camp Clearfork near Mt. Ida. It was scheduled a little later this year due to schools dismissing school late this year due to ice/snow. This workshop will have four coordinators:

Gina Wilson, ANRC staff

Brandy Gardner, Poinsett County District Employee

Carolyn Holcomb, Jackson County District Employee

Cindy Thornberry, Asst. Member of the Madison County CD

The workshop will start on Sunday afternoon with a fish fry to kick it off.

Herbicide Resistance Conference

Arkansas will host a conference dedicated to the issue of herbicide resistance on August 9 – 11, 2010 at the Holiday Inn – Presidential Hotel in Little Rock. The conference will include scientists, NRCS, NACD staffers and others with the hopes of developing a “white paper” for use by NRCS and NACD

Monroe R. Samuel Natural Resources Clinic

The districts requested that we add Land Judging to the state clinic thus the name was changed to “Natural Resources” instead of just forestry. We hosted 17 teams at the Little River Demonstration Forest in Ashdown. The winners were:

- 1st Place – Mena Team #1
- 2nd Place – Hermitage Team #1
- 3rd Place – Umpire Team #1

With students, coaches and volunteers we hosted 160+ folks for this meeting.

Southern Regional Woodlands Clinic

Arkansas was the host state for the 2010 regional clinic. We hosted 111 students from AR, LA, OK and TX and 50+ volunteers from ANRC, NRCS, AFC, US. Army Corps of Engineers, district employees and district directors. The clinic was held at the Arlie Moore Pavilion on Lake DeGray in Arkadelphia. There were 21 FFA and 4-H teams from Arkansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Texas at the regional clinic.

- The top four FFA teams were:
- 1st place Weston FFA, LA
 - 2nd place Mena FFA Team #2, AR
 - 3rd place Warren FFA, Texas
 - 4th place East Beauregard FFA, LA

- The top three 4-H teams were:
- 1st place Hope 4-H, Texas
 - 2nd place Hermitage 4-H, Arkansas
 - 3rd place Ft. Towson, Oklahoma

High Point Individual Zac Anderlee, Mena, Arkansas

Area Meetings

District Director Training will be done on Personnel Policies, what they should include, help them understand what they are committing the district to financially within that policy and how often it should be reviewed and updated.

May 27, 2010	NE Area	Wynne, AR
June 8, 2010	West Central Area	Russellville
June 17, 2010	SE Area	Monticello
July 22, 2010	SW Area	DeQueen
August 3, 2010	NW Area	Harrison
August 12, 2010	Central Area	Conway
August 26, 2010	East Central Area	Batesville

NACD Board of Directors Meeting and Summer Leadership Conference

Members of the AACD Executive Board will attend the NACD Board of Directors Meeting and Summer Leadership Conference on July 16 – 21, 2010 in Washington, DC. They will make congressional office visits while there. Those attending are:

- Sonny Jones – NACD Executive Board Member for South Central
- James Mitchell – NACD Board Member
- Andrew Wargo III – NACD Alternate Board Member
- Charles Glover – AACD 2nd Vice President
- Debbie Moreland – AACD Program Administrator

NACD Executive Director's Retreat

Debbie will be attending a 3 day training conference in Seattle, WA focusing on the role of the Executive Director for each state association. She will also report on some of our success stories and district director training. Many states are still struggling to determine how they can get their district directors trained. Arkansas was already ahead of the vast majority of states with regards to training and many still do no training at all.

AACD 2010 Annual Meeting

The 2010 Annual Meeting will be held at the Wyndham Hotel in North Little Rock on December 7 – 8, 2010

Arkansas Agricultural Energy Conservation Program Grant Proposal

AACD is partnering with other local, state and federal agencies and organizations on a CCPI grant which focuses on reducing fossil fuel derived energy consumption and to deploy commercially available energy efficient and renewable production devices broadly throughout Arkansas' agricultural producers. If awarded it will:

- Develop 730 agricultural energy management plans
- Install energy efficient lighting in 5,300 poultry houses
- Improve 600 fossil fuel combustion systems

The goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 46,000 tons annually and reduce energy consumption on farms by 339 billion BTUs annually. The funding amount requested is \$4.4 million for a 3 year period.