

Crawford County Conservation District

CCCD Newsletter

Crawford County Conservation District Board of Directors

Volume 11, Issue 1
Spring/Summer 2017



Pictured left to right front row; Bob Neidecker, Gene Robertson and James A. Arnold. Back row left to right; Bill Gebhardt and Gary D. Baxter. Crawford County sure has a lot to be proud of especially with this group of directors!!! They offer a variety of backgrounds and expertise in soil and water conservation. Each of them want to leave our land better for future generations and see that vision through being good stewards of this land. Thank you all for your willingness to serve and to be our leaders here in Crawford County.

“Agriculture... just try to live without it!”



**Want to stay in the know on current district programs and conservation activities?? Checkout our Facebook page!!! Just search for us on @ArkansasCCCD and be sure to “Like” our page. That way you’ll easily be able to see up-to-date Crawford County Conservation District news and information.



District Directors:

- Bob Neidecker; Chairman
- Bill Gebhardt, Vice-Chairman
- James A. Arnold, Secretary/
Treasurer
- Gene Robertson, Member
- Gary D. Baxter, Member

District Coordinator:

Sherrie Lech

Phone: (479) 474-2281

E-mail: Sherrie.Lech@ar.nacdn.net

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Monday –Thursday

Office Location:

701 Fayetteville Road

Van Buren, Arkansas 72956

Jessica Cox, Water Quality Technician

NRCS Staff:

Neal Martin, District Conservationist

Jane Lowry, Soil Conservation Tech.

*The Crawford County
District Board Meetings
are held on
the 3rd Wednesday
of each month
at 8:30 a.m.
at the District Office.*

Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts (AACD) State Photo Contest “The Wonders of Arkansas”



Both of our photo contest winners received certificates, ribbons and checks from AACD. Their winning photos are being professionally framed and will be placed on display in the State Office in Little Rock.



Joshua Williams from Alma was selected as the “Youth Division Grand Prize Winner” in the Forest/Plants Category and also took “1st place” in the Waterscape Category.

Sandra McClure from Van Buren won the “Adult Division Grand Prize” for her cardinal bird photo. She also won “1st place” in the Forest/Plants Category, “2nd place” in the Crops Category and received “honorable mention” in the Landscape Category.

Congratulations

Crawford County Winners!!!



Tom and Sue Moore have been selected as our 2017 Crawford County Farm Family of the Year!! The Moore's own M&M Farms in Rudy and raise grass-fed Texas Longhorn cattle and free-range chickens. Each year a farm family is selected from Crawford County and entered into the District Contest. District winners will be selected in June and one State winner will be selected in July. Congratulations on your achievements in agriculture and your value to Arkansas. Best of luck to you!




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PRESIDENT & CEO

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Betty & Gene Bell
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Soil Conservation

We all need to protect our valuable soil resources! It's especially important in the Springtime when our land is most vulnerable. Due to a lack of vegetation which normally protects the soil surface, soil erosion can easily occur with the changing weather temperatures, the unpredictability of rain, it's intensity and duration. That's where your everyday soil conservation practices can play a significant role in your soil health. Practicing good everyday soil conservation practices can save soil and sustain agriculture. Remember Soils are Alive! If you have healthy soils, you get healthy crops which provides food for healthy people. And the better informed we are about conservation, the better people we are. All in all Conservation Matters!!!



FARM BILL FUNDING

Sign up for Farm Bill conservation programs! Technical assistance is available to help private landowners install and maintain conservation practices. Conservation practices can be tailored to the landowner's specific crop production, soil type, water resources and habitat needs. It can also help producers take environmentally-sensitive land out of production, provide cost-share funds for structural improvements in farming and ranching operations as well as create incentives to undertake new management practices. Adopting farming practices that build soil health is the key to stable and resilient agriculture. We need to change from conventional methods that degrade our soil fertility. Consider adding some conservation practices like no-till, composting, cover crops, rotations, etc. which can improve soil fertility. It has been shown that farms who restore their soil health tend to use fewer inputs to produce higher yields, which translates into higher profits. Contact the CCCD for more information on these conservation programs available under EQIP.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANS (NMP)

Get your soil tested! A NMP can help with your soil conservation efforts. We offer a Water Quality Technician who can visit your farm, pull soil samples and prepare a NMP which will help you determine what's best for your soil. This is all available at NO COST to you! Contact the CCCD for more information on NMP's.



⇒ **Mark your calendars and plan to join us on Tuesday, August 22nd as we host a "Conservation Grazing Field Day". We plan to have a variety of conservation partners on hand to discuss conservation practices such as fence-line weening, grass and water quality, soil health issues, as well as sustainability in agriculture. Watch for more information on this exciting upcoming field day.**

 <p>Mike Jeremiah Store Manager</p> <p>2211 Industrial Park Road • P. O. Box 1640 • Van Buren, AR 72957</p> <p>Van Buren Feed Store Toll Free: 800-495-3333 479-474-8051 Fax: 479-474-0400</p> <p>E-MAIL: mike@farmercoop.com Cell Phone: 479-629-4714</p>	 <p>FARM BUREAU MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF ARKANSAS, INC. SOUTHERN FARM BUREAU CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY SOUTHERN FARM BUREAU LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY</p> <p>James F. McGhee Agency Manager Arkansas Insurance Producers License Number 48029</p> <p>P.O. Box 627 Van Buren, AR 72957 james.mcgee@afbic.com</p> <p>Office: (479)474-5229 ext. 10 Mobile: (479)414-4567 Fax: (479)471-5458</p>  <p><small>Solicitor agent for Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield. Not authorized to issue policies.</small></p>	 <p>Landon Watkins Cattle - Equine Territory Business Manager Arkansas 7780 Highway 282 Alma, AR 72921 M 501-733-3233 E landon.watkins@zoetis.com</p>
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<p>"Wheat Straw * Hay"</p> <h2>Jerry Gill</h2> <p>2004 New Town Rd Alma, AR</p> <p><i>Custom Hay Baling Round or Square</i></p> <p>479-632-3619 / 479-651-4733 Cell</p>	 <p>FARM CREDIT OF WESTERN ARKANSAS</p> <p>James Crabtree Assistant Vice President NMLS# 476669</p> <p>479-474-4040 Toll Free 800-501-3710 Fax 479-434-4175 Cell 479-806-0417 Alma Office 479-430-7287</p> <p>12907 Hwy 71 South Fort Smith, AR 72916 james.crabtree@farmcredit.com www.myaglender.com</p>	 <p>BREEDEN</p> <p>Breedden Dodge Chrysler Jeep 5900 Hwy 71 South • Fort Smith, AR 479 646 4731 or 1 800 NEW DODGE</p> <p>  </p>
<p>Alma Farm Supply, Inc.</p>  <p>Growing With Crawford County P.O. Box 820 428 Hwy. 64 East Next to Alma Post Office 632-3194</p>	 <p>Crawford County Cattlemen's Association</p> <p>President: Bill Gebhardt (479) 228-0052</p>	<p>Moore Dental Care</p> <p><i>Smile with Style</i> W. Wesley Moore, D.D.S.</p> <p>2913 South 74th Street Fort Smith, AR 72903 (479) 484-5050 www.mooredentalcare.com</p>

Conservation License Plates



CCCD receives \$20.00 for each plate issued in Crawford County. Show your support for conservation and purchase one of these license plates for your vehicle at the local DMV. Any motor vehicle owner may apply for these conservation license plates.

Beaver Control Program



Because beavers can cause a lot of damage, CCCD participates in the State Beaver Control Program. If you have problems with beaver on your property or would like to be added to our list of Crawford County Beaver Trappers, please contact the Crawford County Conservation District.

Plat Books & Wall Maps

Pick up your copy of the 2015 Crawford County Plat Book for only \$45 at the CCCD office. These books are the most recent printed property ownership books available for Crawford County. They can provide you with current property owners and other valuable information on properties located in Crawford County. Wall Maps are \$60.