

# POLK COUNTY GRAZIER

May 16, 2023



*An eNewsletter by the Rich Mountain  
Conservation District*

## **Meet Your Local Conservation District**

### **Get to know the Rich Mountain Conservation District:**

Across the United States, nearly 3,000 conservation districts—almost one in every county—are helping local people to conserve land, water, forests, wildlife and related natural resources. The Rich Mountain Conservation District serves Polk County, Arkansas. Known in various parts of the country as “soil and water conservation districts,” “resource conservation districts,” “natural resource districts,” “land conservation committees” and similar names, they share a single mission: to coordinate assistance from all available sources—public and private, local, state and federal—in an effort to retain decision-making over local natural resources at the local level as much as possible.

As a result of the devastation of the Dust Bowl of the 1930s, President Franklin D. Roosevelt wrote all the state governors recommending

legislation that would allow local landowners to form soil conservation districts. Congress unanimously passed legislation declaring soil and water conservation a national policy and priority. Arkansas was the first state in the nation to pass legislation authorizing formation of local conservation districts in 1937. The Rich Mountain Conservation District was formed nearly 80 years ago in July 1941 and the first board meeting of local farmers occurred on October 13th, 1941 in Mena. More than 17,000 citizens nationwide serve in elected or appointed positions on conservation districts' governing boards. The Rich Mountain Conservation District has a board comprised of five local directors who serve without pay and meet monthly. The board of directors members representing the conservation efforts of Polk County farmers and land managers are:

- [Mark Duggan](#)
- [Mitch Sikes](#)
- [James Watkins](#)
- [Duane Webb](#)
- [Mike Hendricks](#)

**Among other things, the Rich Mountain Conservation District's goals are to:**

- . Work with farmers to develop conservation plans that reduce soil erosion and sediment and other pollutants from entering waterbodies.
- . Work with poultry producers and other land managers to develop Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs) on their land.
- . Register poultry operations to comply with state laws.
- . Provide information to farmers and land managers about technical and financial assistance programs offered by USDA and other agencies.
- . Conduct conservation education and outreach programs for land managers such as workshops, field days, and newsletters.
- . Administer the local beaver and feral swine control programs.
- . Support youth by providing conservation education activities such as forestry/land judging contest, coloring contest, and conservation camps.
- . Provide rental equipment for specialized conservation measures such as the pasture (no-till) drills and feral hog trap.
- . Provide scholarships and internships for local students interested in an agriculture or other natural resource related field of work.

- . Maintain and improve existing agricultural working lands such as pasture, hayland and forestland for future generations.
- . Cooperate with other organizations and agencies in a partnership effort to achieve similar conservation goals.

**The staff of the Rich Mountain Conservation District are:**

- Deanna Wright – District Manager
- Jacob Richardson – Water Quality Technician
- Pate Taylor – District Technician (intern)

Please feel free to contact the Rich Mountain Conservation District office at:

Phone- (479)437-6054

Email- [richmountainconservation@gmail.com](mailto:richmountainconservation@gmail.com)

Address- 508 7th St, Mena, AR 71953

---

*"A true conservationist is a man who knows that the world is not given by his fathers, but borrowed from his children." — John James Audubon*

---

*The Rich Mtn Conservation District is currently taking applications for 2 positions:*

# Water Quality Technician (full-time)

## General Position Summary:

This is a full-time, at will position serving the citizens of Polk and Montgomery County as a staff member of the Rich Mountain Conservation District. This position is for a Water Quality Technician that will also be a source of education and outreach for the public, on natural resource issues. It has no regulatory authority.

## Essential Functions/Major Duties:

- The function of this position is to assist poultry producers in Polk and Montgomery County with implementing nutrient management conservation planning by preparing Nutrient Management Plans.
- The Water Quality Technician will be working on water quality-related management practices on farms producing/utilizing waste from confined animal raising as well as:*
- Preparation of animal waste management/utilization plans and assisting land users in implementing the animal waste/utilization plans utilizing soil test information.
- Making follow-up reviews of implemented animal waste/nutrition management plans.
- Participate in and implement water quality-related district information/education programs throughout the year.
- Prepare quarterly Newsletter to be sent out to producers.
- Prepares Nutrient Management Plans or Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans at land users request, with a goal of preparing the number required by ANRD per year.
- Assist land users in implementing Nutrient Management Plans and Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan.
- Make follow-up visit/review of implemented Nutrient Management Plans and Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans.
- Provide additional assistance for land users with NMPs and CNMPs.
- Perform work involved in disseminating information about district water quality programs to the public by utilizing news media, newsletter, power point programs and talks.
- Attend District Board meeting regularly, provide written and verbal WQT reports.
- Directly communicates with the District Directors on a continuing basis.
- Attends Area and State meetings and training sessions as deemed appropriate by the District Board.
- May also work on regional and statewide committees that further the mission of the district.
- May be assigned other duties by the District Board and/or District Manager.
- Follow Natural Resource Conservation Service standards and specifications when providing technical assistance in planning, consulting, or applying conservation plans or practices.

## The ideal candidate will demonstrate:

- High productivity and intrinsic motivation to provide natural resource stewardship opportunities to the public, agencies, and organizations within the district's boundaries.
- Well-developed and adaptive writing skills for preparing both high-level technical and funding documents, as well as information to be digested by the public.
- Knowledge of RMCD's, city, county, and state and federal agencies/organizations pertaining to management of Arkansas natural resources.
- Ability to work with private landowners and partners to complete projects.
- Skills in marketing, customer service, public speaking, and media relations.
- Skill in facilitation or dealing with conflicts.
- High proficiency with Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint.
- Cultural and social sensitivity and awareness.
- A valid driver license and safe driving record.

**Education and/or Experience (including but not limited to):**

- High School diploma with work experience in livestock/poultry production required
- Computer Skills to efficiently use programs and applications
- Demonstrated proficiency in communication skills and technology.
- Demonstrated ability to be an effective member of a team.
- Experience in developing, implementing, and monitoring a work plan that achieves the desired results.
- Strong Understanding of agricultural nutrient management planning
- Strong understanding of agricultural crop and livestock-poultry production
- Strong written and verbal communications skills including ability to talk one-on-one with producers
- Must maintain consistent and reliable attendance record
- Must have physical ability to maneuver rough and steep terrain on foot. Must be able to lift 50 pounds
- Must be able to pass a written Federal security exam and a federal government background check and cannot have any type of criminal conviction.
- Must obtain State certification in Nutrient Management Planning within 90 days of hire date.

**Job Conditions:**

To perform the duties of this position, this employee must serve as incidental motor vehicle operator. This position requires a combination of office and fieldwork. Office work involves regular use of computers and prolonged sitting or standing at meetings. Field work requires walking over rough or uneven terrain, sometimes in inclement weather, and carrying objects such as measuring tools and supplies. This position involves periodic travel to meetings, field tours, conferences, workshops, training sessions, and landowner properties throughout the county and state, as well as outside of the state, as needed. This position will perform in accordance with all applicable state and federal laws for equal employment and other requirements of civil rights statutes.

## Conservation Technician Aid (part-time internship)

Rich Mountain Conservation District seeks a part-time intern. This position is ideal for current conservation, agriculture, forestry, environmental science, and natural resource college students who are looking to get some experience while obtaining their degree. Work duties include but are not limited to assisting landowners with installation of conservation practices and programs, work with GPS equipment and computers. Conservation Technician position provides technical support to help carry out coordinated programs of soil and water conservation. Serves as a vital part of the planning process to aid NRCS employees in their planning efforts to implement resource management system planning. Work involves outside jobs and some office duties.

**The ideal candidate will demonstrate:**

- Must be able to be flexible and work independently while meeting deadlines and supporting the efforts of an overall team.
- Experience with computer skills including word processing, email, spreadsheets, and use of the Internet.
- must be self-motivated and dependable with a strong work ethic and attention to detail.
- excellent organizational, interpersonal, and problem-solving skills.
- ability to communicate successfully and professionally (both written and verbal).

**Basic Qualifications:**

- High school diploma or GED.
- Valid driver's license.
- At least 18 years old.
- Proficient in use of smartphone technology, digital cameras, and GPS devices

- Comfortable working in brush, undergrowth, and thickly forested areas
- Able to take direction and communicate (via phone and email) with team members
- Organized and attentive to detail
- Able to manage their time effectively
- Can work alone efficiently
- Lift and carry up to 50 lbs.
- Stand, walk, and sit for prolonged periods of time.
- Work exposed to outside temperatures.
- Frequent bending, kneeling, and reaching.

Bring resume for either position to Deanna at 508 7<sup>th</sup> Street Mena AR 71953 or email it to [Deanna.wright2@usda.gov](mailto:Deanna.wright2@usda.gov)

RMCD prohibits discrimination in its programs based on race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) RMCD is an equal opportunity employer.

---

## **Rich Mountain Conservation District**

Email:

[richmountainconservation@gmail.com](mailto:richmountainconservation@gmail.com)

*Web:* [www.rmcd.org](http://www.rmcd.org)

Phone: (479)437-6054

Mail: 508 7th Street, Mena, AR 71953

Sent on behalf of the Rich Mtn Conservation District.  
Thanks for your interest in conservation,

**Steve Swall**  
District Conservationist

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Mena Service Center (Polk & Montgomery Counties)  
(479)437-6054

Know someone who would enjoy receiving this newsletter?

Please feel free to forward it to them and have them contact our office to be on the mailing list in the future!

*Please reply to unsubscribe if you do not wish to receive this newsletter.*