

POLK COUNTY GRAZIER

A newsletter brought to you by Rich Mountain Conservation District

JUNE 15, 2021



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:

- Allen Stewart
- Mark Duggan
- Mitch Sikes
- James Watkins
- Duane Webb

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
- Jessica Beck – Water Quality Technician
- Brendon Catlett – District Technician (intern)

Please feel free to contact the Rich Mountain Conservation District office at:
Phone- (479)437-6054
Email- richmountainconservation@gmail.com
Address- 508 7th St, Mena, AR 71953

Free Online Pasture Seminars

Date	Topic	Presenter
June 1, 2021 1:00 PM CST Only	Pasture Feature Plants	Presenter: Clay Whitehead, AR NRCS, NW Area Grassland Specialist
June 8, 2021 1:00 PM CST Only	Part II: Grazing Impact Demonstration of Cereal Rye and Ryegrass	Presenter: Jeremy Huff, AR NRCS State Grazing Lands Specialist
June 15, 2021 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM CST	Tree Tank Installation	Presenter: Tony & Leona Lohman, NRCS Technician and District Conservationist
June 22, 2021 1:00 PM CST Only	Silvopasture	Presenter: Josh Smith, AR NRCS Forester - South Area
June 29, 2021 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM CST	Economics of Grazing	Presenter: Wesley Tucker, Field Specialist in Ag Business, University of Missouri

You are invited to attend the weekly grazing training sessions by Jeremy Huff, the USDA/ NRCS state grazing specialist. He offers these training sessions as a Zoom meeting and the instructions for logging in are included in attached flyer. If you have the Zoom app on your phone you can just scan the QR code on the flyer. If you want to see it on your computer there is a link included in the attachment. Everyone is welcome to login and participate but please be sure to mute your device when you get logged in to reduce background noise.

The first couple of sessions for June have already occurred, but they are planned weekly for the rest of the month and hope-

fully next month. There are sessions normally every Tuesday, some at 1pm, some at 7pm, and some at both times so see the attached flyer.

Rich Mountain Conservation District

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Did you Know?

- ⇒ Lactating beef cows can drink 25-35 gallons on a hot day.