

Spring
2009



Fairbanks Soil & Water Conservation District

590 University Ave. Suite B Fairbanks, Alaska Margie Lienhardt, District Assistant Main #: 479-1213
Joni Scharfenberg: 479-3159 x 117 George Hitz: 479-3159 x 104 Tami Seekins: 479-3159 x 116

Check out our webpage:
www.fairbankssoilwater.org

Calendar of Events:

March
25-26 – Red Meat Livestock Conference
26-28 – AACD Spring Meeting (Food, Fiber & Energy Theme)

April
17-19 – Outdoor Show
21 – Forestry Workshop
29 – CWMA public meeting 6-8pm, Library

May
5 – Alaska Agriculture Day
11—Tree Planting & Care Workshop—Noel Wien Library. 5:30—6:30(ARE U STILL DOING THIS???)
15 – Tree Sale pre-order deadline
29 – Tree Sale pre-order pick up (3-6pm)
30 – Tree & Shrub sale (10am-4pm)

The Alaska Farmers Co-Op in Delta Junction is offering a 3% discount on fertilizer for those who prepay before March 31st

Informational Meeting for Forestry landowners

The Fairbanks SWCD, Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are going to have an informational meeting/workshop on April 21st from 5:30 to 7:00 pm for landowners with Forestland. Topics will include financial and technical assistance through the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) & Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), the ADNR Forest Stewardship Plans, and the Fairbanks SWCD Woodlot Walk Program.

If you would like more information, please contact Joanne @ 479-3159 ext. 110

Do you have compost or manure you want to get rid of?

OR do you need compost or manure?

Email Darcy at darcyetcherry@gmail.com to be put on the compost swap list. Let her know what type of compost/manure you have or are seeking and how best to contact you.

NRCS to Offer Farm Planning Workshop

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Delta Junction will be hosting a two-day workshop entitled “Basic of Ag Economics and Farm Planning” on April 1-2 at the Delta Junction Community Center. In a time with wildly fluctuating markets and economic uncertainty, this workshop will help to answer some questions that producers may have.

Hal Gordon, NRCS Agricultural Economist from the West National Technology Support Center in Portland, Oregon will be the primary presenter on the first day. His presentation will center around using economic tools to evaluate your farming operation. Topics covered will be alternatives, partial budgeting, cost benefit analysis, and enterprise budgets.

Jeff Curry, Farm Loan Officer with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Palmer, AK will be the primary presenter of the second day. Topics covered will be how to prepare yourself for working with a lender, lending options, balance sheets, and financial statements.

The workshop will conclude with each participant playing the “Wheel of Misfortune” where they each are given a farm to manage for a several year period. The Wheel of Misfortune will determine the commodity prices, weather, and other aspects of farming. Your management decisions will determine if the farm is successful.

The workshop will offer plenty of time for audience examples and participants are encouraged to bring information from their own operation. Suggested items are previous years Schedule F, list of capital, and list of liabilities. You will also want to make sure to bring a calculator and plenty of pencils.

Appointments will be available on Friday morning for participants to meet one-on-one with FSA loan professionals to help evaluate their operation.

Lunch will be provided by the Salcha-Delta Soil & Water Conservation District.

To register for the workshop, please RSVP by March 25 to NRCS at 895-4241 ext. 3.

Cooperator Updates

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Tree & Shrub Sale

The annual tree and shrub sale will be held this year on May 30th from 10am – 4pm. We have 17 varieties available and a few of the new varieties for this year are Scotch Pine, Amur Chokecherry, and Hedge Cotoneaster. Pre-ordering will be available, and order forms will be sent out in March. The deadline for making pre-orders is 5pm on Friday May 15th, and pre-orders can be picked up on May 29th from 3-6pm.

Peonies in Alaska

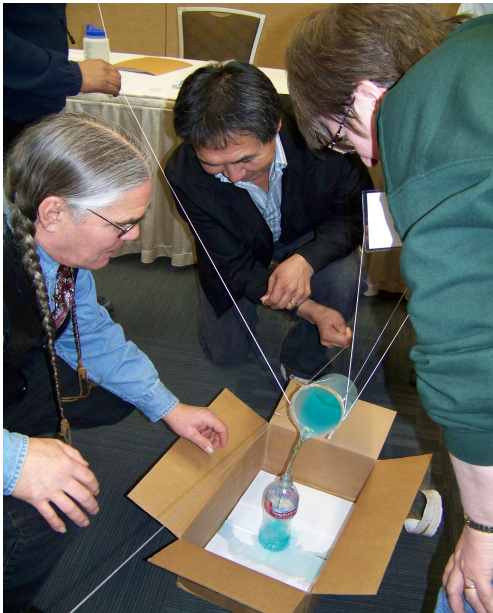
The Alaska Peony Growers Association became an official group last month at the Alaska Peony Growers Conference. The organization was formed to provide support to its members and encourage growing, processing, transporting, and marketing of Alaskan Peonies. The conference was excellent and touched on all aspects of starting a Peony business in Alaska. A highlight of the conference was hearing from the featured speaker, Piet Wierstra from Oregon Perennial Company. He has been involved in the peony industry since 1986. The other highlight was hearing from a group of peony growers from Alaska that toured peony operations of New Zealand and Tasmania in December. They visited numerous



Invasive Weed information booth at Georgeson Botanical Garden in 2008

Project WET Native Waters

At the Alaska Forum on the Environment, FSWCD hosted a Project WET Native Waters workshop. Project WET is K-12 water curriculum and Joni Scharfenberg is the Alaska coordinator of the international program. Native Waters is an outreach program of Project WET that began as a community education initiative by supporting the efforts of Tribal leaders, educators, and students. Native Waters intends to create contemporary, scientifically accurate, and culturally sensitive water education resource programs and networking opportunities for Tribal and non-Tribal educators. To help serve our rural constituents, the district hosted a workshop at the Alaska Forum on the Environment, which is attended by many people from rural Alaska. Scott Frazier, the program director for Native Waters, facilitated the workshop along with Tami Seekins and Darcy Etcheverry. It was an educational experience for all involved, and brought to light all of the wonderful lessons that Project WET has to offer. Please contact Tami Seekins at education@gci.net if you are interested in attending future Project WET workshops held in the Fairbanks area.



Scott Frazier is teaching a group working through the lesson “8-4-1 One for All”. This lesson teaches the value of working together to manage our precious water resources.



Workshop participants demonstrating that everything flows downstream.

590 University Ave, Suite B
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Margie Lienhardt, District Assistant
Main Phone: 479-1213

Fax: 479-6998

Email: fswcd@gci.net

Web page: FAIRBANKSSOILWATER.ORG

Joni Scharfenberg, District Coordinator:
479-3159 ext. 117

George Hitz, Natural Resource/Technical
Advisor: 479-3159 ext. 101

Tami Seekins, Education Assistant:
479-3159 ext. 116

Darcy Etcheverry, Natural Resource Asst.
479-1213

FSWCD Board of Supervisors:

Jerry Norum—Board Chair

Email: jwnorum@alaska.com

Phone: 488-1717

Jennifer McCartney

Email: alaskajen@acsalaska.net

Phone: 490-0114

Duane Ellingson

Email: duanee@ptialaska.net

Phone: 488-9854

Randy Scharfenberg

Phone: 488-9202

Stu Davies

Email: rsdavies@starband.net

Phone: 490-6485

The Division of Agriculture is announcing the Agriculture Direct Marketing Conference. It will be held at the Palmer Train Depot in Palmer on April 15 & 16, 2009.

The guest speaker is Darren Schmall, from www.thepizzafarm.com. We encourage you to see what he has been doing on his farm with direct marketing, agri-tourism and agri-tainment.

Please contact Amy Pettit with any questions that you may have regarding this conference, Amy.Pettit@alaska.gov or 907-761-3864.



FSWCD Welcomes our newest
board members—Jennifer
McCartney & Duane Elling-
son