



Invasive Species Have You Seen These?

Summer is here and so are those nasty unwanted invasive species. The Fairbanks Cooperative Weed Management Area (FCWMA) along with the FSWCD and other agencies, organizations, and concerned citizens have been meeting on a monthly basis since November of 2005 to address the problem locally. The FCWMA welcomes any interested private landowners, community organizations or local, state, or federal agencies to become a part of the work force and solution.

We have also established a top five list of unwanted invasive species within our Weed Management Area that are of highest concern due to the ecological and economic damage they pose throughout our district. See photos at right.

There are exciting events taking place this summer to help combat these alien invaders.

1. **June 23-30-A state-wide weed pull** takes place targeting the Fairbanks Adopt-a-Highway areas. If you are part of an Adopt-a-Highway group, please get out and pull weeds in your roadside areas. FSWCD will provide bags. Contact Cassidee Hall, George Hitz or Jacquie Goss at 479-1213 or email at nrtech@gci.net

2. **July 8- An invasive species workshop** at the Tanana Valley Fairgrounds on how to identify, prevent, control, and revegetate areas infested with invasive species.

3. **July 8-12-weed pulls at the Tanana Valley Fairgrounds**. This event is a comprehensive invasive species demonstration project for the fairgrounds and the adjoining Creamers Field wildlife refuge.

4. **June-September-inventory and mapping of invasive species** on private lands and road corridors. We need your help in locating these invasive weeds to stop their spread.

FIVE MOST UNWANTED



Bird vetch (*Vicia cracca*)
XID Services photo by Richard Old



Perennial Sowthistle (*Sonchus arvensis*)



Hempnettle (*Galeopsis bifida*, *G. tetrahit*)

USDA Forest Service photos by Tom Heutte



Foxtail Barley (*Hordeum jubatum*)

XID Services photo by Richard Old



**Yellow toadflax/
Butter-and-eggs (*Linaria vulgaris*)**

USDA Forest Service photo by Michael Shephard



The Fairbanks Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors meets on the third Thursday of every month at 5:30 pm.

All meetings are open to the public. Agendas and previous meeting minutes are available for public viewing at the FSWCD office. If you would like any information please stop by or call FSWCD at 479-1213.

Technical Assistance

FSWCD offers new soil testing program

Nine cooperators participated in a pilot program for soil testing the summer of 2005. District employees collected soil samples and prepared them for shipping to Brookside Laboratories in New Knoxville, OH for analysis. It was determined that this lab was the most cost efficient with the quickest turn around time. (usually 3-5 days) Once the analysis was received, they were sent to the UAF Cooperative Extension Service who provided recommendations for each sample. Cooperators paid only for the lab and postage fees. The success of this pilot program has resulted in FSWCD hiring a technician who will provide this service to all of our cooperators. Make your appointment now for spring, summer, or fall testing. If you had your soils tested last year, it is recommended that they be tested around the same time this year. See **Soil Testing** under **Summer Agricultural Programs** for application information.

Weed Cost-Share

Need help with a weed problem?

The FSWCD offers a cost-share program to assist FSWCD cooperators with weed control. Sign-up and a pest scout from the Tanana Valley Cooperative Extension Service will come out to your property, inspect your infestation, and recommend methods of weed control. Bring in your recommendations and your receipts for work completed and we will reimburse your expenses, up to \$250, for costs associated with the recommended methods of control. Weed cost-share applications are available at the FSWCD office and online at: <http://home.gci.net/~fswcd/>. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the FSWCD (see back of newsletter).



FSWCD Purchases Weed Sprayers



McGregor 3-Point Sprayer

Thanks to the efforts of two of our state legislators, Gene Therriault and John Coghill, FSWCD was awarded a \$10,000.00 grant in 2005 to battle invasive weeds. The district purchased three weed sprayers with the funds this winter and they will be available for cooperators use this summer. This program is to insure our cooperators have the sufficient tools to control weeds that don't respond to other methods. Any remaining funds will be used for invasive weed education. See **Weed Sprayers** under **Summer Agricultural Programs** for more information.

Schedule of Events

- **June 24-30-** 2006 Invasive Weed Pull
- **July 18-27-** Drop off your hay bales @ FSWCD for the "Bucks for Bales" contest.
- **July 22-** Calypso Farm Open House: 1—4pm
- **August 4—12-** Tanana Valley State Fair
- **August 5-** AK Grown Day at the Tanana Valley State Fair
 - ~Taste of Alaska
 - ~Hands on Projects for kids
 - ~ Farm and Garden Displays
 - ~ Soil Tunnel
- **August 20-** Renewable Energy Fair at Chena Hotsprings Resort: 10am—7pm

FSWCD Welcomes George Hitz



Meet George Hitz, our Recourse Conservation Technical Specialist. George is originally from Woodburn, Oregon and received his B.S. in Crop and Soil Science from Oregon State University. George has a farming background and has previously worked for the USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service as a Soil Scientist. He will be heading up our soil testing and herbicide sprayer programs. If you have any questions or would like to make an appointment, you can contact George at: **374-6966** or nrtech@gci.net

Woodlot Walks

By Cassidee Hall

ATTENTION WOOD LOT OWNERS....

The FSWCD will be offering woodlot walks for private land owners to discuss issues and opportunities related to your forest property including your home site.

Forested areas are a key factor in protecting our soil and water resources. We can assist you with concerns related to fire prevention, revegetation of disturbed areas (fire, construction, etc), timber stand improvement, forest health issues (invasive insects, dis-

eases, plants), stream bank stabilization, wildlife habitat improvement, and any other questions you may have.

This program will work only if **YOU** contact the Conservation District (**479-1213** or nrtech@gci.net or fswcd@gci.net) to set up a time to walk with you through your woodlot and address your concerns. Once we address your questions we will prepare an official project report with a recommendation for you.

The Conservation District is here to assist the private land owners of the Tanana Valley. Our programs work because of the interest and participation on **YOUR** part. Please take advantage of this opportunity.



Summer Agricultural Programs

Forage Inspection Available

Some public lands require weed free forage, bedding, and mulch. The FSWCD is offering to inspect our cooperators' forage and grain fields for weed free forage certification. Through this inspection, we can verify that there are no propagative plant parts of noxious and invasive weeds in your field. This is an important step in preventing the spread of noxious weeds and will increase the value of your product. Producers can schedule an inspection through the FSWCD. All inspections must be scheduled within 10 days of harvest (cutting). After harvest, producers must notify the inspector of the date of harvest and bale count. When this is received, a "Certificate of Inspection" will be awarded. To sign-up, just fill out a "Weed Free Forage Certification Inspection Request Form" available at our office or online at:

<http://home.gci.net/~fswcd/>

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact FSWCD at 479-1213.

Weed Sprayer Lending

FSWCD HAS WEED SPRAYERS TO LEND

There are two 3-point sprayers which can be driven by a tractor, one skid mounted that can be put on the back of a pickup or pulled, and one ATV liquid herbicide sprayer that can be pulled or put on an ATV rack. All have booms and handguns available for use. Scheduling will be done through the FSWCD office. All sprayers can be checked-out for 3 day time slots. If more time is needed, contact the FSWCD; if there are no succeeding reservations, an extension may be made. However, if there are succeeding reservations, the equipment must be returned on time and the cooperator(s) will have to reschedule for the next available time slot. A Spray Equipment Use Agreement (available at the FSWCD office) must be filled out in order to borrow any equipment. As part of the agreement, we ask that you make a refundable damage deposit, as well as follow the provided instructions for cleaning the sprayer after each use.

Sign-up early at nrtech@gci.net.

Soil Testing

Time to have your soil tested! Soil tests help to determine the level of nutrients in your soil as well as what fertilizer you should use to further enrich your land. FSWCD offers cooperators a **free** service to collect soil samples from your farm or garden. Our natural resources technician will collect samples, send them for analysis, and work with the UAF Cooperative Extension Service who will provide recommendations to increase the productivity and health of your crop. The only cost to you is the lab analysis fee of \$22.00 per sample. If you have more than 10 samples, ask about cost share.

Six Simple Steps To Better Soil

1. Call or email for an appointment (479-1213, nrtech@gci.net)
2. FSWCD technician collects samples
3. Samples sent to lab
4. Soil analysis returned and evaluated
5. FSWCD technician notifies you of recommendations
6. **YOU** apply proper nutrients



Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District

CONSERVATION • DEVELOPMENT • SELF-GOVERNMENT

**FAIRBANKS SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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Web page: <http://home.gci.net/~fswcd>

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5



**Diamonds are Fair-Ever
Tanana Valley State Fair
August 4—12**



FSWCD is offering discounted season fair passes to cooperators and families. There is a limit of 4 passes per family.

Children & Senior passes: 10\$ Adult passes: \$20

Supply is limited. Purchase your tickets at the FSWCD office. 590 University Ave
July 24—28 Hours: 9am—3pm

For verified cooperators only. New cooperators are accepted with a 1—2 day confirmation process. Cooperators are private landowners who agree to manage their natural resources utilizing wise conservation practices.

The Tanana Valley State Fair is Coming: Here Are Some Fun Events You Won't Want to Miss!



ALASKA GROWN DAY



Join us at the fair for **Alaska Grown Day on Saturday, August 5!** There will be contests, events, demonstrations, and informational displays that highlight Alaskan agricultural products. Don't forget to stop buy our "Taste of Alaskan Grown" table in the Agricultural Hall where you can try free samples of Alaskan Grown products! Events will be held from 12:00 -5:00pm

Alaska Grown Day is sponsored by: FSWCD, Division of Agriculture and the TVSFA

FARM AND GARDEN DISPLAY CONTEST

Showoff your produce and creativity with a fun display! The FSWCD is sponsoring the very popular "Farm and Garden Display" contest. There are both Adult and Junior divisions so it will be a fun event for the whole family! Props (farm implements, etc.) may be used as part of the exhibit. The **Judging criteria** will be based on the quality and variety of Alaskan Grown Products.



Awards: Blue: \$30
Red: \$20,
White \$10

This lot will not be judged for class champion.

See page 27 of the Tanana Valley Fair Exhibitors Guide for more information.

WIN FAME AND FORTUNE! \$200 Awarded to First Place

The Fairbanks Soil & Water Conservation District is sponsoring the "**Bucks for Bales**" contest for farmers who wish to enter their products.

FSWCD staff will judge the bales and send samples to Palmer for nutrient analysis. Cash and bragging rights will be awarded to the farmers with the best hay. Bales will be on display in the Kiwanis Ag Hall for the duration of the fair.

How to Enter: Drop off your best bale (45 - 65 lbs) at FSWCD between July 18 and July 22 between the hours of 9am—3pm. Call ahead for other arrangements.

The Rural Development National Office is soliciting applications to provide technical assistance to **Minority Producers in rural areas (with populations under 25,000)**! Applications must be submitted by **July 28th** to their office. Maximum award is \$200,000. Contact John Brugger at (509) 924-7350 EXT.114 or by email at: john.brugger@wa.usda.gov for more information.



Judging Criteria:

1. Moisture content
2. Visual appearance (*color, leaf retention, texture, maturity*)
3. Impurities (*dust, mold, weeds*)
4. Nutrient analysis
Finalists Only!

Categories:

1. Grass
2. Legume & grain mix

Prizes:

First Place: \$200
Second Place: \$100
Third Place: \$75



GIANT CABBAGE CONTEST

Sponsored by FSWCD

Giant Cabbage Weigh in—All ages
Saturday August 5th
4pm—7pm at the
Kiwanis Agricultural Hall

See the TVSFA Exhibitors guide for more information

For More Information on any of these events, contact the Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation at: 479-1213; fswcd@gci.net; or come by our office at 590 University Ave