

Spring
2010



479-1213

Fairbanks Soil & Water Conservation District

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Check out our webpage:
www.fairbankssoilwater.org

Calendar of Events:

March:
15 Speech & Poster Deadline
16—17 SARE Conference
26—28 Home Show

April:
24th Ryan Garden Bazaar

May:
22nd—Tree Sale



FSWCD Conservation Tree & Shrub Sale

The tree sale will be held this year on **May 22nd**. Brochures for making pre-orders will be available at the end of March at the district office and online. Thank you to everyone who helps make the tree sale a success each year!

The University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service

wants to hear from Alaskans as part of its long-range planning efforts. A short online survey has been posted on Extension's Web site at www.uaf.edu/ces and a paper version made available at district offices across the state. Responses are requested by March 15.

On line survey link location:
<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/>

The Cooperative Marketing Program grant is now open to receive proposals/applications. Please see grant information on the attached announcement. You can find more details, a sample application, budget sheet and application directions online

at: www.dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_grants.htm.

If you have any questions, please contact Patricia O'Neil by email: Patricia.ONeil@alaska.gov or 761-3858. You may fax, 745-7254, mail: 1800 Glenn Hwy Ste. 12; Palmer, AK, 99645, or email your application. Your application does not need to be signed, so it can be emailed in Word format.

FSWCD is proud to announce the 2010 speech and poster contest.

This year's theme is:

Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats

The speech contest is open to all students, public, private and homeschool in grades 7 - 12 within FSWCD boundaries.

There are 6 age categories for poster contests. Categories begin with Kindergarten and continue through 12th grade.

Speech Manuscripts and Posters are due to the FSWCD office by March 15th. Please see our website for more information, contest rules, entry forms and resources.

Please check out our website for more information.

WE'RE SEARCHING FOR AN ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The time has come to say goodbye to Margie & we're looking for someone to fill her shoes. Interested candidates should check out our website for specifics.



Stand Up, Be Counted!

3 Reasons Your Participation in the 2010 Census Matters

1. Every year more than \$300 billion in federal funds are awarded to the states and communities based on census data. That's more than \$3 trillion over a 10-year period.

2. Census data affect your voice in Congress by determining how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives.

3. Census data guide local decision-makers in important community planning efforts, including where to build new roads, hospitals, and schools.

For more information call 459-6809 or visit

www.fnsb.us/2010census.



Cooperator Updates

A woman named Tammy Sue from Ester has about 25 laying chickens. She says they are all healthy and laying right now. She's ready to hand them off to someone else because she's not interested in tending to them anymore. Her number is 457-1441. We're not sure of the breed but the eggs are brown and some green.



Invasive Plant News:

Weed Free Forage The Alaska Association of Conservation Districts, along with the Division of Agriculture, has developed a new weed free forage brochure. See the insert in this newsletter for a copy, or drop by our office to pick up additional copies. Fairbanks Soil & Water Conservation District, along with the Fairbanks Cooperative Weed Management Area, is trying to raise awareness of weed free products to help create a larger market for forage producers. Please let producers, hay and straw buyers, and local feed stores know that you support certified weed free forage!

Weed Wackers Workshop

UAF Summer Sessions is offering a 1 credit course to teach invasive plant curriculum for educators! The curriculum set, Weed Wackers: A K-6 Educators Guide to Invasive Plants of Alaska, was developed by a local mother and daughter team – Chris and Katie Villano. Katie will be teaching the class July 23-25, and everyone who attends will come away with more knowledge and enthusiasm for invasive plant lessons! If you are interested, please register online through UAF summer sessions: www.uaf.edu/summer or contact our office for directions.



Local elementary student learning about the perils of bird vetch.

Fairbanks North Star Borough Updates

There are changes going on at the Fairbanks North Star Borough that may affect you! Please stay up to date on proposed ordinance changes and make your opinion heard! One current ordinance proposal that may affect you is changes to Title 18, specifically 18.56 which relates to nonconforming (grandfathered) structures and uses. A major proposed change is that agricultural uses and buildings will no longer be exempt from nonconforming status. The proposed ordinance change can be found at <http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/meetings/ordinances/2009/2009-26.pdf>. Public hearing will be held at the Assembly meeting on March 25th, but you can contact your assembly members and give your opinion at any time.



The Comprehensive Plan Advisory Board is in the process of creating land suitability maps for the borough, which will detail areas that have use limitations and development potential based on natural landscape indicators, such as soil classification and slope/aspect. If you are interested in learning more about these maps and how they will be used in the borough's planning process, please contact the planning department: 459-1260 or visit the website, www.co.fairbanks.ak.us

Soil Nutrient Management & Soil Quality Workshop

The FSWCD will be putting on a Soil Nutrient Management/Soil Quality Workshop in late spring. The workshop will cover proper soil sampling techniques, how to interpret soil laboratory tests, pH correction methods, methods for assessing soil quality, etc... More information about the upcoming soils workshop (date, time, location, and agenda) will be posted on the FSWCD website by the end of March. If you have any questions regarding this workshop please call us at (907)479-1213.



Invasive green crabs pose a serious threat to our coastal habitats.

HB 12 - The formation of an Alaska Invasive Species Council

House Bill 12, if passed, would allow for the formation of an Alaska Invasive Species Council. This 14 member board would be housed within the Department of Fish and Game and would be comprised of members from other pertinent State of Alaska departments as well as the general public and concerned agencies. An Invasive Species Council would advise the Governor and other policy makers in the development of a strategic plan to control invasive species, coordinate efforts, prioritize actions, and implement early detection and rapid response plans. Please see our website for a link to more information. If you would like to voice support for this bill, please contact your representatives.

NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) Update

March 12—is the batching period cutoff for EQIP Organic Initiative applications.

NRCS accepts EQIP & WHIP applications on a continuous basis, but ranks the applications for funding purposes at batching period cutoff dates.

New EQIP Pilot Program practice—Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops

Included under EQIP is the new pilot project for farmers to establish high tunnels. The 3-year, 38 state pilot program will be used to verify the benefits of high tunnels. The benefits being looked at are: extending the growing season, improving plant quality, improving soil quality and improving water quality from reduced nutrient and pesticide transport.

High Tunnels under EQIP:

- A seasonal polyethylene covered structure with no electrical, heating, or mechanical ventilation system. They are used to cover crops to extend the growing season.
- Crops are grown either by conventional tillage in the natural soil profile or by installing permanent raised beds. Not intended to be used for crops grown on benches or portable pots.



- Must be at least 6' tall.
- Must be obtained as a pre-fabricated kit directly from the manufacturer or from a supplier. Plastic cover must be, at a minimum, 6-mil greenhouse grade, UV resistant polyethylene. Look for manufacturers that offer kits providing warranties of 4 years for the cover and 10 years for the frame. EQIP regulations require that the system be functional for a minimum of 4 years.

EQIP program regulations allow for contract payments to be made on one or more structures up to a maximum of 2,178 square feet. Structures can be larger, however, contract payment is limited to 2,178 square feet per producer.

Contact the Fairbanks NRCS Field Office at 479-3159 to learn more about the Seasonal Tunnel System for Crops practice and other technical and financial assistance opportunities under EQIP, WHIP and other USDA programs.

The FSWCD and NRCS will be putting together a High Tunnel Question & Answer session for interested cooperators, to help clarify the new EQIP practice. More information about the upcoming High Tunnel Q&A session (i.e. date, time, location) will be posted on the FSWCD website. If you have any questions regarding this session, please call us at (907) 479-1213.

The FSWCD promotes sustainable land development and works with private landowners to address their natural resource needs. By partnering with local, state and federal organizations, the FSWCD provides education and technical assistance to private landowners with issues related to soil, agriculture, water, invasive species, forestry, land development, and other related natural resource issues. Please contact your local legislators to encourage them to support soil & water districts statewide!

**Representative
Jay Ramras**

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**Representative
David Guttenberg**

907-465-4457 or 800-928-4457
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**Representative
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479-3159 ext. 116

Darcy Etcheverry, Technical Asst.
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**FSWCD Welcomes our newest
board member—Jeff Johnson**

FSWCD Board of Supervisors:

Jerry Norum—Board Chair
Email: jwnorum@alaska.com
Phone: 488-1717

Randy Scharfenberg—Vice Chair
Phone: 488-9202

Stu Davies
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Duane Ellingson
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Jeff Johnson
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*Orange
hawkweed
has not yet
been found
in Interior
AK*



Help us go green! Send us your email so we can add you to our email list & email our newsletter instead of printing it! In the subject line - say "ADD ME" and we'll take care of the rest!

[Send email to: fswcd@gci.net](mailto:fswcd@gci.net)



Hats Off!
to Royce Conlon
and PDC consult-
ing Engineers for
their ongoing sup-
port of the Tanana
Valley Watershed
Association.