

The Dirt!

February 2020



ASOTIN COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Assisting, protecting, and restoring Asotin County's natural resources.



Election Notice

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the Asotin County Conservation District operates under the laws of the State of Washington applicable to conservation districts.

WHEREAS the District is governed by a five-member board, as set out in RCW Chapter 89.08 and WAC Section 135-110.

It is resolved that a poll site election for an open position on the District Board of Supervisors will be held on Thursday, March 12, 2020 from 10a.m. until 2p.m. at the Asotin County Conservation District's Office.

The elected position whose term is expiring in May 2020 is currently held by Kelsey Crawford. The new term will commence May 2020 and expire May 2023.

Eligible voters are registered voters who reside within the boundaries of the District. The last day and time that voter can request absentee ballots from the District is February 20, 2020 at 4:30pm. Absentee ballots can be requested from Asotin County Conservation District staff located at 720 Sixth Street, Suite B, Clarkston, WA 99403 - Tel: (509)552-8117.

The election supervisor will be Colleen Ozard.

A conservation district supervisor is a public official who serves without compensation and who sets policy and direction for the conservation district. The published election procedures can be viewed at the District office and are available from the Washington State Conservation Commission at <http://scc.wa.gov/>.

Annual Meeting

March 11th 5:30-8pm

It is time once again for the Asotin County Conservation District annual meeting and dinner for Asotin County Landowners and Cooperators.

This year's meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 11th, 5:30 p.m. social, 6-8 p.m. program at the LifeCenter Church at 2377 Appleside Blvd, Clarkston.**

We will share the District's year in review and reveal some exciting things that are coming in 2020 for the District. NRCS and FSA staff will also provide program updates followed by dinner.



by March 5th by phone 509-552-8117 or email info@asotincd.org



18th Annual ACCD Tree Sale

COMING SOON!!

As soon as dates have been finalized announcements will be available via website, mail and e-mail.



FSA Updates

The signup for general CRP that started in December will end on February 28. Producers interested in offering new land for CRP, or re-enrolled land that expired in recent years, or is scheduled to expire this fall, may be offered in this signup. By February 28, at least one eligible producer on the farm must sign the worksheet and contract for the offer to be considered.

FSA is also accepting offers to enroll in the continuous CRP and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Offers to enroll new land can be submitted throughout the year. Offers to re-enroll expired or expiring offers must be submitted in time for NRCS to determine basic eligibility and then the producer to sign the offer worksheet (CRP-2C) and contract (CRP-1), by August 21.

Elections and enrollment for **2019 ARCPLC will be accepted thru March 16, 2020**. Producers are encouraged to contact or visit their County Office **immediately** to enroll or schedule an appointment for enrollment. Please do not miss this important deadline.

Failure to make or agree to a unanimous election in 2019 for a covered commodity results in a default program designation of the current election of the covered commodity on the farm from 2018 and **prohibits any 2019 payments** for the covered commodity. These producers have an option to change the election starting with the 2021 crop year.



Soil Erosion



Erosion removes topsoil, reduces levels of soil organic matter, and contributes to the breakdown of soil structure. This creates a less favorable environment for plant growth. In soils that have restrictions to root growth, erosion decreases rooting depth, which decreases the amount of water, air, and nutrients available to plants. Erosion removes surface soil, which often has the highest biological activity and greatest amount of soil organic matter. This causes a loss in nutrients and often creates a less favorable environment for plant growth. Nutrients removed by erosion are no longer available to support plant growth onsite but can accumulate in water where such problems as algal blooms and lake eutrophication may occur. Deposition of eroded materials can obstruct roadways and fill drainage channels. Sediment can damage fish habitat and degrade water quality in streams, rivers, and lakes.

Soil erosion can be avoided by: maintaining a protective cover on the soil, creating a barrier to the erosive agent, modifying the landscape to control runoff amounts and rates.

Specific practices to avoid water erosion: growing forage crops in rotation or as permanent cover, growing winter cover crops interseeding, protecting the surface with crop residue, shortening the length and steepness of slopes, increasing water infiltration rates, improving aggregate stability.

Specific practices to avoid wind erosion: maintaining a cover of plants or residue, planting shelterbelts, strip cropping, increase surface roughness, cultivating on the contour, maintaining soil aggregates at a size less likely to be carried by wind.

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs142p2_051278.pdf

Important Dates for ACCD, NRCS & FSA

- NRCS CSP Payment Certification deadline is February 14th
- FSA COC meeting on March 4th at 9 a.m.
- ACCD Board meeting on March 5th at 7 p.m. at the District's office
- ACCD annual meeting on March 11th at 5:30 p.m. at the LifeCenter Church
- NRCS CSP Contract Renewal Application deadline is March 20th



Offices
Closed
Monday,
February 17th