



# Out and About In The Tygarts Valley Conservation District

## **We're Going Green!**

TVCD now offers an "e-newsletter" for anyone who is interested.

If you would prefer to receive an electronic version of our newsletter, our would like to be added to our mailing list, please visit [wvca.us/districts/tvcd.cfm](http://wvca.us/districts/tvcd.cfm) or call our district office at 304-457-3026.

## **Dates to Remember**

- ⇒ TVCD Office Closed New Year's Eve & News Year's Day
- ⇒ January 4th - AgEP Sign-ups Start
- ⇒ January 14th - Transition Planning Eat & Reap Dinner
- ⇒ January 15th - Deadline to Sign-up for AgEP
- ⇒ January 20th - Ag at the Capitol
- ⇒ February 11th - Brush & Weed Control Eat & Reap Dinner
- ⇒ February 16th - Beginning Beekeeping Workshop Begins
- ⇒ March 17th - Pasture Management Eat & Reap Dinner
- ⇒ April 2nd - Orchard Field Day

Winter 2015

## **Spring Agricultural Cost-share Program**

The TVCD will be accepting applications for their Agricultural Enhancement Program beginning January 4, 2016. This program is provided to assist farmers in making important on-farm investments in conservation.

Applications will be available at the District office in Philippi, WV or by going to their website at <http://www.wvca.us/districts/tvcd.cfm>

The Agricultural Enhancement Program supports West Virginia's agriculture community through implementation of cost-share practices to reduce soil erosion, providing alternative water for livestock and improving the productivity of agriculture lands.

**Cost share money is available for invasive species management.**

Through the program, financial and technical

assistance are offered as incentives to implement best management practices.

The program sign-up deadline is Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. For an application or for additional information, contact the Tygarts Valley Conservation District Office at 304-457-3026, or e-mail [hwoofter@wvca.us](mailto:hwoofter@wvca.us).



## **Upcoming Field Day**

An educational field day on Orchard Establishment and Management is planned for Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. With the help of the NRCS, and WVU Extension Service, topics to be discussed include:

- how to establish an orchard
- training trees from the 1<sup>st</sup> year
- pruning
- soil health
- disease/pest management
- pollination

Event check-in will start at 8:30 am at the Hodgesville Community Center. The morning "classroom" session will start at 9:00. The afternoon will feature a fieldtrip to the Bennett Farm for field demonstrations.

If you are interested in attending, please RSVP with the district, no later than March 25<sup>th</sup>. Please note that the event is free for all who attend and a light lunch will be provided.

## Legislative News

The Tygarts Valley CD held their annual legislative dinner on November 5th in Philippi.

This annual event allows for TVCD supervisors and staff to speak one on one with various state and local officials as to what projects the district has completed in the last year, and what goals it has both short and long term.

During the dinner, TVCD gave a short presentation on the services provided by the district and the educational program it offers.



**WV Ag Day**  
WV Ag Day at the Capitol is planned for Wednesday January 20th. Several TVCD supervisors plan to attend the event. They will meet with state legislators to discuss the importance of conservation districts throughout the state and budget allocations for the upcoming fiscal year.

Pictured left: TVCD Chairman, Robert Wolfe and Kathryn Hamner. Kathryn was the winner of the district's poster contest and was awarded a certificate. This year's theme was "Local Heroes- Your Hardworking Pollinators" as chosen by the NACD.

## Beginning Beekeeping Classes

Tygarts Valley CD and the Barbour Co. WVU Ext. Service are sponsoring a Beginning Beekeeping Workshop. The workshop will be a **free** seven week program (1 night per week) that is open to the general public. All classes will be held at the district office in Philippi, and last from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Space is limited, and you must RSVP with the district office by Friday, February 12 if you wish to attend.

### Tentative Itinerary & Topics

- 2/16 - Pollinators: Native Plants & Pollinator Gardens
- 2/23 - Honeybee Biology & Equipment Needed
- 3/1 - Getting Your Bees
- 3/8 - Colony Management, Laws, BMPs & Common Problems/Solutions
- 3/15 - Diseases, Parasites & Pests
- 3/22 - Products of the Hive
- 3/29 - Weather Make-up Day (If needed)

The final class will be held on a Saturday (TBD) and feature a hands on demonstration in a working bee yard.

In junction with the beginning beekeeping classes, TVCD will also be introducing a free "pollinator garden seed program" for district residents who would like to plant/promote pollinator gardens around their home or business. More information on the program will be available this spring.

TVCD  
Wishes You  
A Happy  
New Year!

## Eat & Reap Educational Dinner Meetings

It's that time of the year again! Together with the WVU Extension Service, Tygarts Valley CD will be hosting a series of educational dinner meetings. Dinner will be served at 6:30 PM and the meeting will start at 7:15 PM. There is a \$5.00 charge per person for the dinner, and you must RSVP with the district office in advance. Call 304-457-3026 and ask for Joyce or Hillary. Additionally, anyone wishing to attend the meeting only, will be admitted free of charge.

 **EXTENSION SERVICE**



Date: January 14

Presenter: Jesse Richardson

Topic: Transition Planning

Location: Belington Volunteer Fire Department

Contact: Josh Peplowski, 304-457-3254

Date: February 11

Presenter: Bruce Loyd

Topic: Brush and Weed Control

Location: Camp Pioneer, Beverly, WV

Contact: Ronnie Helmondollar, 304-636-2455

Date: March 17

Presenter: Steve Woodruff

Topic: Pasture Management

Location: Parsons Senior Center

Contact: Jesica Streets, 304-478-2949 x 209

All dinners scheduled to start at 6:30 PM

## District Equipment Rental

TVCD offers the following equipment for rental by district cooperators:

- (2) Four ton lime spreaders
- Five ton litter spreader
- 3 Pt. Hitch Fert. Spreader
- Post driver

Effective January 1, 2016 the new pricing of equipment rental will be as follows:

- 4 Ton Lime Spreader \$60/day
- 5 Ton Litter Spreader \$60/day
- 3 Pt. Hitch Fert. Spreader \$30/day
- Post Driver \$75/day



If you would like to reserve our equipment for your personal use, please call 304-457-3026. We recommend calling at least a week in advance of your desired pick-up date. All rental contracts are subject to an advance deposit of one day's rental fee.



conserving  
natural resources  
*for our future*

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**Visit us online**

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### **District Supervisors**

#### **Barbour County**

Beebob Wolfe, Chairman  
Sigrid Teets

#### **Randolph County**

Joe Gumm  
Tom Warner

#### **Taylor County**

Sheldon Findley  
Joe Shaffer

#### **Tucker County**

James Nester, SR.  
David Bonner

#### **Upshur County**

Rex Reeder, Secretary / Treasurer  
John Sencindiver, Vice Chairman

## **Bluebird Houses Available**



The district is again selling bluebird houses to the public. Each house costs \$10.00 and all proceeds will be used to help fund the district's educational programs. If you would like to purchase a birdhouse, stop by our district office between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Please call the office for more information.

### ***Our Mission:***

*"To provide for an promote the protection and conservation of West Virginia's soil, land, water, and related resources for the health, safety, and general welfare of the state's citizens."*