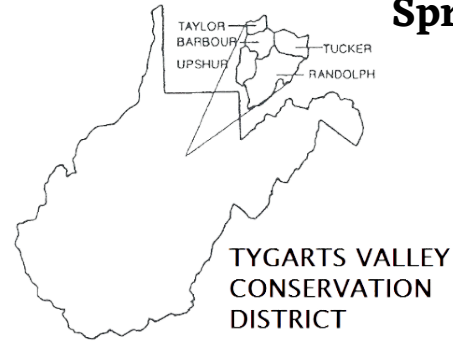


Tygarts Valley Conservation District

Spring 2023



Agricultural Enhancement Program Deadline April 14, 2023

To participate in AgEP FY23 cost-share programs, submit all relevant paperwork and receipts by April 14th. This includes Heavy Use Protection Areas, Lime, Pollination Habitats, Roof Runoff Management, Urban and Community Agriculture.

Honey Bee Nucleus Colony completion deadline is June 2, 2023.

Failure to complete your practice and submit paid receipts will result in cancellation of your contract and forfeiting any payments. If you have any questions, please contact the office during normal business hours.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

AGEP SIGN UPS APRIL 17– MAY 19

AGEP COMPLETION DEADLINE APRIL 14

MEMORIAL DAY MAY 29 OFFICE CLOSED

AGEP PRACTICE COMPLETION DEADLINE
HONEYBEE NUCS JUNE 2

WV DAY JUNE 20 WVCA OFFICE CLOSED

INDEPENDENCE DAY JULY 4 OFFICE CLOSED

Rental Equipment

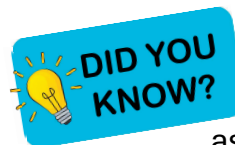


* Lime Spreader \$100.00/Day

* Litter Spreader \$100.00/Day

With the busy season coming up please call at least a week in advance to schedule equipment rentals.

Equipment must be cleaned and greased before returning. Any equipment returned that has not cleaned properly will result in a cleaning fee of \$60.00.



Conservation districts implement a variety of programs, and provide assistance for a range of issues unique to their communities.

Go
Green

WE ARE GOING GREEN!

TVCD Newsletter is now available in digital format!

To receive an electronic version of TVCD's newsletter or to be added to the mailing list, you can visit wvca.us/districts/tvcd.cfm, email tvcd@wvca.us or call the district office at 304-457-3026.



Agricultural Enhancement (AgEP) Program

The Tygarts Valley Conservation District receives state funding annually to help local farmers implement conservation practices on their land. The Agricultural Enhancement Program offers technical and financial assistance as an incentive to implement conservation best management practices. Overall program primary objectives include the reduction of nutrients and sediment from entering the waters within the State and increasing farm profitability and sustainability.

ALL APPLICANTS MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE

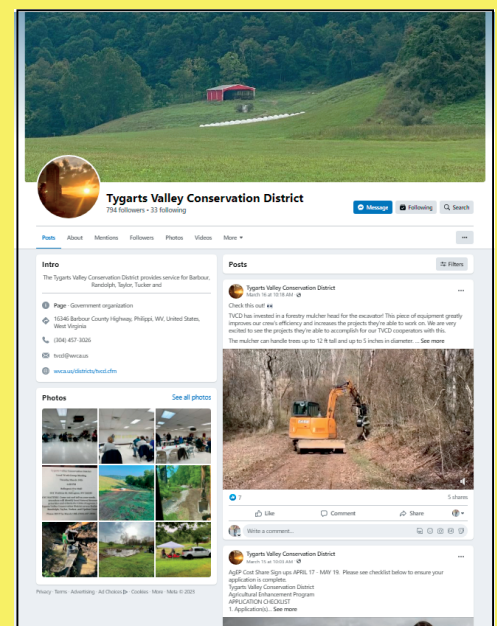
- Must be a district cooperator
- Provide an FSA map that includes the following: farm number, tract number, field numbers and proposed acres. Farm map is not required for Urban Agricultural Practice.
- Current soil test within 3 years. Any soil test taken prior to July 1, 2020, will not be accepted.
- A W9 tax form is required with application for District tax purposes.
- If property is leased you must include one of the following, a copy of your lease agreement, FSA acreage report or Producer Information Form. This must be completed each year.
- Only completed applications will be accepted.
- You may only apply for two practices per cooperator.
- Cooperators with a past due (more than 30 days) account with Tygarts Valley Conservation District will not be eligible to participate in the Ag Enhancement Program until each past due bill is paid in full.
- If you did not complete your approved practices from last year you are ineligible to apply this year. However you will be able to apply again next year.

**Applications will be
accepted for these practices
April 17 – May 19, 2023.**



**Do you follow us on Facebook? Give us
a like and keep up with the latest news,
see our "work crew in action" videos.**

Scan this QR Code with
your cell phone camera to
take you to our page!



Best Management Practices

Pasture Division Fence

Shall construct a barrier for animals. Not to exceed 1,1818 Ft. No Boundary or Roadway Fences. Cost share up to \$5,000.00

Completion Deadline: January 5, 2024.

Water Exclusion Fence

Control water access to reduce erosion to improve water quality. Not to exceed 1,1818 feet. No Boundary or Roadway Fences. Cost share up to \$5,000.00

Completion Deadline: January 5, 2024.

Invasive Species Management

Management of Invasive Species on pasture, hayland, and woodland. Cost share 50% on chemicals and 75% on mechanical removal. Cost share up to \$2,000.00

Completion Deadline June 7, 2024.

Lime

Maintenance of pasture, cropland and/or hay land. Not to exceed 50 acres. Cost share up to \$2,000.00

Completion Deadline January 5, 2024.

A solitary bee nesting house is a conservation effort because it provides a safe and suitable habitat for solitary bees to nest and lay their eggs. Solitary bees are important pollinators, and their populations are declining due to habitat loss and pesticide use. By providing nesting houses, we can help increase their populations and support the health of our ecosystems.

Solitary bees are not picky pollinators. They will collect pollen and nectar from just about any plant that is blooming. That means not only do solitary bees help us grow more food, but they pollinate our native plants.

Creating nesting habitats can be a great family project too!



Managing grazing and harnessing the inherent abilities of living, healthy soil can promote productive pastures and animals.



Urban Agriculture

Installation of bluebird boxes, cold frames and hot beds, composters, cover crops for high tunnels, irrigation, landscape fabric, low tunnel, mulching, polywire fencing, rain barrel or rain barrel kits, raised garden bed, shade cloth, soil, stakes and trellises, straw mulch or urban deer fencing. Cost share not to exceed \$525.00.

Completion Deadline January 5, 2024.

Pollinator Plantings

Planting of select seed mixtures to create or enhance wildlife and pollinator habitat. Will be seeded and maintained in permanent vegetative cover.

Completion Deadline January 5, 2024.

Solitary Bee Nests

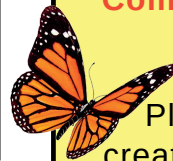
Create nesting opportunities for solitary bees. Not to exceed 1/4 acre. Cost share up to \$250.00.

Completion Deadline January 5, 2024.

Honey Bee Nucleus Colony

Establish new pollinator habitat, manage/improve existing habitat, and increase healthy pollinator populations. Not to exceed two 5 frame honeybee nucleus colonies with new queen. Cost share up to \$250.00.

Completion Deadline June 7, 2024.



How may we help you?

The Tygarts Valley Conservation District has a work crew and large equipment available to perform a variety of work on your property.



Our forestry mulcher hard at work.



The TVCD crew sets a 400 gallon watering trough. Our district sells these and other troughs and float parts.



Installation of a Heavy Use Protection Area. By laying rock and gravel down atop filter fabric, this heavy use area will no longer be flooded after heavy rain and will allow for better traction for vehicle use.

AVAILABLE SERVICES INCLUDE

POND CLEANUP

BRUSH REMOVAL

WATERING TROUGH INSTALLATIONS

WATER/SPRING DEVELOPMENTS

HEAVY USE AREA PROTECTION

STREAMBANK STABILIZATION

POND BUILDING

**Interested in the services we provide? Let the TVCD work for you!
Call for a free estimate!**

304-457-3026 or 304-614-7923

Where would we BEE without Pollinators?

The Farmers Almanac

Christopher Burnett - November 30, 2022

Build a native bee house to enjoy more blooms and greater harvests! Similar to birdhouses, bee houses are meant to increase the pollination of your garden plants by super-pollinating solitary bees, such as mason bees and leafcutter bees.

Bee houses (also called bee hotels or bug hotels) are similar to birdhouses, but instead of attracting birds, they attract native solitary bee species. Unlike honey bees, these solitary bees are extremely docile and up to three times more effective than pollinators. No, you won't get any honey, but you will enjoy better flowers, thriving plants, and healthier vegetables in your garden!

Some of the most common solitary bees are mason, leafcutter, and miner. Many of these native bees are already a part of the local ecosystem, but providing them with a perfect place to nest in your backyard can improve their lives and yours.

Bee houses contain a wooden, birdhouse-like structure containing native bee nesting materials—typically hollow reeds or cardboard tubes. They are the perfect habitat for solitary, hole-nesting bees, who also happen to be some of the best pollinators around.

These Jokes are the Bee's Knees!



Why do bees hum?
Because they can't remember the words.

What did the bee say to the flower?
Hey bud!

What's another name for a wasp?
A wanna-bee.

I went to the bee keepers to buy some bees.
All the bees had price tags on them except one. It was a freebie.



6 Tips for Managing a Successful Bee Hotel

1. Avoid bee houses that are too large
2. Protect nesting materials from wind, rain, and birds
3. Provide nesting holes made of the right materials, in the proper size range
4. Location and a word about predatory wasps
5. Protect developing bee larvae during the winter
6. Harvest bee cocoons each spring

For more information on solitary bees and bee houses, see *Native Bees: The Best Pollinators for Your Garden*.

<https://www.almanac.com/content/native-bees-best-pollinators-your-garden>

Learn about building your own bug hotel.

<https://www.almanac.com/video/how-build-bug-hotel>



Pictured: Pollinator hotels that are designed to attract and provide nesting habitat for native pollinators.

These hotels are provided through the TVCD WesMonTy RC&D partnership and built by Grafton carpentry class.

"TVCD is incorporating these in our NRCS/WVACD grant promoting regenerative agriculture. We have a limited supply now, but can provide plans and will have more available for sale this fall"

Donnie Tenney,
TVCD Chairperson



Pollinator Houses are a fun activity for families, schools, 4-H groups, Scouts and more!

Contact the TVCD for more information on how you can help pollinators in your community and beyond!



Taking Soil Samples



THE WVU SOIL TESTING LAB

WHEN?

- > Late summer- early spring
- > 3 or more months after application of fertilizer or lime
- > Avoid taking samples when soil is wet
- > Plan Ahead: use your soil test results to purchase fertilizers and soil amendments

How often
should I have
my soil tested?

Garden	Every Fall
Agricultural crops	Every 1-2 years
Pastures	Every 3-4 years
Lawns	Every 4 years

For additional information
visit : soiltesting.wvu.edu
or
your local extension office

HOW TO SELECT AND SEND YOUR SAMPLES

For Areas less than 1 acre:

- Choose 7-10 throughout the entire area
- Using a spade, auger or soil probe take a soil sample at the appropriate depth (see table below)
- Place samples in a hard container
- Remove any grass, debris, or rocks from the samples
- Crumble and mix the samples
- Allow the composite samples to air dry
- Place 1-2 cups of soil in a Ziploc bag

- Completely and legibly fill out the information sheet and attach it to the sample

For areas 1-10 acres:

- Choose at least 15-30 locations throughout the entire area
- Using a spade, auger or soil probe take a soil sample at the appropriate depth (see table below)
- Place samples in a hard container
- Remove any grass, debris, or rocks from the samples

- Crumble and mix the samples
- Allow the composite samples to air dry
- Place 1-2 cups of soil in a Ziploc bag
- Completely and legibly fill out the information sheet and attach it to the sample

Mailing your Samples:

Send samples in a box or padded envelope to:

WVU Soil Test Lab

PO Box 6108

Morgantown, WV 26505



HOW DEEP SHOULD I TAKE MY :

Home Gardens	To Tillage Depth
Agricultural Crops- Conventional Tillage	To Tillage Depth
Agricultural Crops- No -till	6 inches split in two samples: a) top 2 inches b) lower 4 inches
Pastures	2-4 inches
Meadows	4-6 inches
Lawns	Existing: 4 New: 6 inches

Soil Sample Submission Form

CUSTOMER DATA

West Virginia Resident? ☐ Yes ☐ No Name: First Last

Home Address: Street/PO Box

City State Zip Code

Phone: Primary Email:

Secondary Email(s):

SAMPLE DATA

Your Sample ID: County Where Taken:

Previous Management (crop, cover): High Tunnel Sample? ☐ Yes

Size of Sample Area: Acre or Square Feet Predominant Soil Series:

Crop Code*: Date Sampled:

Soil Texture Code*: Tillage Code*:

**To find the crop, texture and tillage code, see the back of this sheet.*

Sample area limed within the last 12 months ☐ Yes ☐ No Electrical Conductivity – EC (Charge per sample) ☐ Yes ☐ No

Cost Share Program Participant ☐ Yes ☐ No Micro Nutrient Package – MN (Charge per sample) ☐ Yes ☐ No

Organic Matter – OM (Charge per sample) ☐ Yes ☐ No

If requesting an OM, EC or MN package, check current price per sample online at go.wvu.edu/SoilTestStore or soiltesting.wvu.edu. Please include a check made out to WVU or use our WVU online payment system at go.wvu.edu/SoilTestStore. If using the online payment system, enter the transaction ID number in the comments below.

Comments:

To get help with using and submitting this form, contact your local WVU Extension Service office (extension.wvu.edu/offices).

FOR LABORATORY USE ONLY

WVU Lab ID: Date Received: Sample Quality:

pH <input type="text"/>	Buffer pH <input type="text"/>	Mg <input type="text"/>	Mn <input type="text"/>
Ca <input type="text"/>	K <input type="text"/>	Na <input type="text"/>	Ni <input type="text"/>
P <input type="text"/>	B <input type="text"/>	Zn <input type="text"/>	Cu <input type="text"/>
Fe <input type="text"/>	Al <input type="text"/>	Organic <input type="text"/>	EC <input type="text"/>

DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

Barbour County
Tom Short
Delbert Vandevander

Randolph County
Tim Cunningham
James Dean

Taylor County
Teresa Gerard
Joe Shaffer

Tucker County
James Nester, SR.
Donald Adams

Upshur County
Kayln Roberts
Donnie Tenney

WEST VIRGINIA CONSERVATION AGENCY STAFF

CANDICE STONE - ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST
COMING SOON - CONSERVATION SPECIALIST

TYGARTS VALLEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT STAFF

TONI JOHNSON - EDUCATION COORDINATOR & BOOKEEPER
DAVID COOK - CONSERVATION TECHNICIAN

PHONE: 304-457-3026 | FAX: 304-457-6927
EMAIL: TVCD@WVCA.US



OUR MISSION:

"TO PROVIDE FOR AND 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."

TYGARTS VALLEY CD
16346 BARBOUR CO HWY
PHILIPPI, WV 26416