

March 2023

Central Curry Soil & Water Conservation District

918 Parkland Dr., Clovis, NM 88101

Board Members:

Chairman
Spencer Pipkin

Vice Chairman
Eric Nelson

Secretary/Treasurer
Doyle Carpenter

Rachel Armstrong
Clint Harden
KC Schooley
Zachary Cordel

Calendar of Events

March Monthly Meeting	March 9th
Annual Meeting/ Legislative Event	March 27th
April Monthly Meeting	April 13th
Field Day	April 27th
May Monthly Meeting	May 11th
June Monthly Meeting	June 8th

RAIN WATER COLLECTION PROGRAM

Central Curry SWCD has been awarded a grant from the Soil & Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) to fund Rain Water Collection systems. The grant will pay for a rain water collection system to be installed on the new Extension Building that is being built on the fairgrounds as well as Rain Water Collection projects for our producers. We are so excited to bring money to the producers of the district in order to conserve such a precious natural resource. For more information or to obtain an application, you can stop by the office or download one from our website @ centralcurryswcd.org.

Drip Irrigation Supplies
Available Upon Request
Call or Text Christi @ 575-799-1904
Prices and order forms are available
@centralcurryswcd.org

Check us out on Facebook!



“Today is a Good Day to Start Making a Difference”



Building a Firm Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation at our Annual Meeting / Legislative Event

- **March 27th, 2023 • 6pm •**
 - **Melrose Senior Citizens Center •**
 - **427 N Main St Melrose NM 88124 •**
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EVENT INCLUDES

Enchilada Dinner by El Rancho

**Featured Speaker:
Tom Sidwell**

Legislative Update

District Updates

Drawing of Cost-Shares

Door Prizes and Gift Certificates

**Border SWCD
575-760-1273**

**Roosevelt SWCD
575-356-6629 ext 3019**

**Central Curry SWCD
575-799-1904**

**Southwest Quay SWCD
575-309-3357**

For more information contact your district.

Soil Infiltration Demonstration Field Day

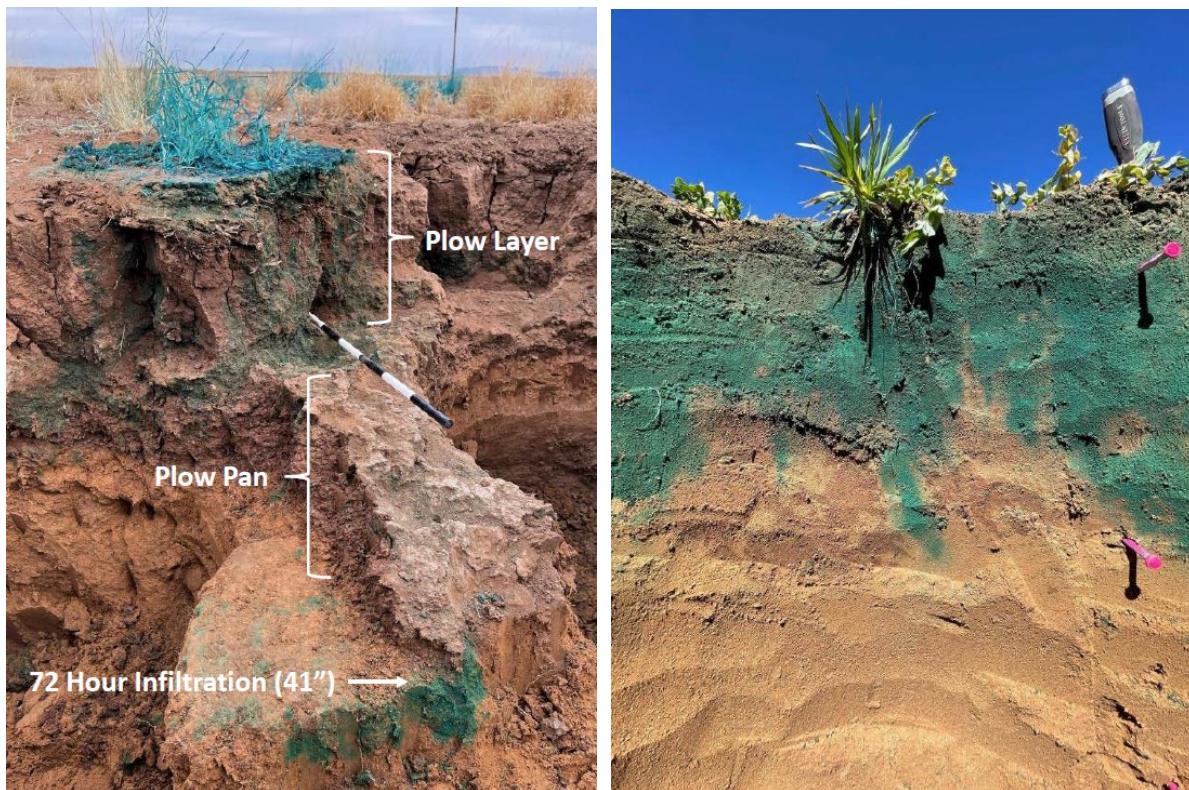
USDA-NRCS along with Central Curry SWCD and NMDA will be hosting a Field Day April 27th at 2 pm to demonstrate soil infiltration. We will meet at Melrose Grain & Elevator and go travel out to the site from there.

According to NRCS State Soil Scientist, Rick Strait, “Water is the common thread that weaves through the soil-plant-atmosphere continuum. We can see rain as it falls to replenish our crops. We can cut a corn stalk and watch water bead up through the stem. However, ‘seeing’ water move through soils is much more challenging. NRCS is developing demonstration projects using dye tracers to temporarily stain soils and objectively illustrate where water moves. These demonstrations will focus on how water infiltrates through the soil and interpret the results to improve soil management decisions.”

Is your field or pasture prepared for a rain? Join us on April 27th to see local demonstrations on a variety of cropland and rangeland fields to see how water is moving into the soil.

Rangeland monitoring toolkits will be provided by NMDA through the Healthy Soils Program to producers who would like to have the tools to monitor their rangeland and improve their soil health. NRCS staff will be available to discuss conservation practices that can help improve soil infiltration as well as other soil health resource concerns.

Demonstration Examples from the Rio Grande Valley, NM:



For more information, please contact NRCS at 575-762-4769 ext. 3 or visit centralcurryswcd.org.



NRCS Conservation Programs and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)



Overview

The IRA provides USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) with \$19.5 billion in additional funds over five years for its existing conservation programs, including the **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**, **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**, and the **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)**.

The IRA directs NRCS to use these additional funds specifically for climate change mitigation, activities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve carbon storage, like:

- ◆ Cover Crops
- ◆ Reduced-Till and No-Till
- ◆ Nutrient Management
- ◆ Prescribed Grazing
- ◆ Tree/Shrub Establishment
- ◆ Wetland Restoration

Through this funding, NRCS is seeking to both benefit the climate, by reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and the producer, by improving access to programs and providing financial and technical assistance to improve their farm, ranch, urban operation or forest land.

NRCS Climate-Smart Mitigation Activities

For a list of NRCS climate-smart mitigation activities, eligible for IRA funding in fiscal year 2023, see: nrcs.usda.gov/mitigation-activities.pdf

How to Apply

EQIP and CSP

NRCS accepts producer applications for its conservation programs year-round, but if you're interested in EQIP or CSP, you should apply by **March 24, 2023** to be considered for funding in the current cycle. Funding is provided through a competitive process: nrcs.usda.gov/rankingdates.

ACEP

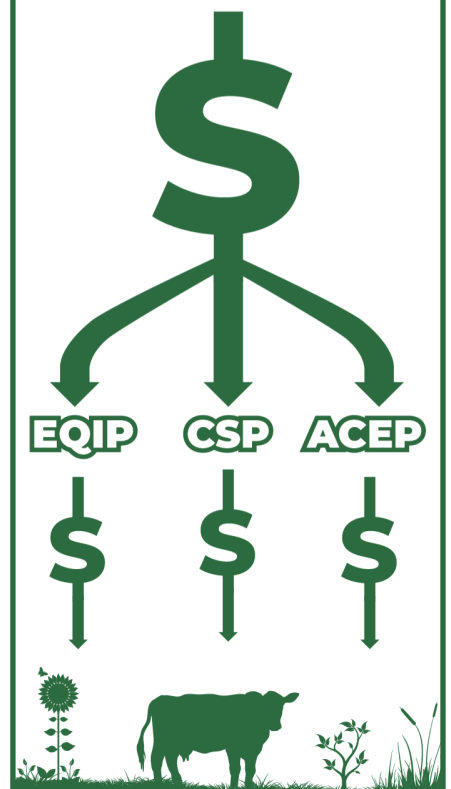
ACEP Agricultural Land Easements (ACEP-ALE) and Wetland Reserve Easements (ACEP-WRE) applications for the current IRA funding cycle must be submitted by **March 17, 2023**, for the first funding round.

Improving Access

Every producer has a part to play when it comes to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, regardless of the size or type of operation. Whether you are a new or an existing NRCS client, we encourage you to apply. We want to make sure you have access to our programs and get all the assistance for which you are eligible.

Contact NRCS at: farmers.gov/service-center-locator. Or call the **Clovis Field Office at 575-762-4769 ext. 3**

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)



Climate-smart Mitigation activities, e.g.

- Cover Crops
- Reduced-Till and No Till
- Nutrient management
- Prescribed Grazing
- Tree/Shrub Establishment
- Wetland Restoration



Lesser Prairie– Chicken Listing Delay Announcement

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), is delaying the effective date of a final rule published on November 25, 2022, and corrected on December 2, 2022, listing two distinct population segments (DPSs) of the lesser prairie-chicken (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*) under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The delay is to allow the USFWS to finalize conservation tools and guidance documents to avoid confusion among landowners, federal partners, and industry.



One conservation tool available to New Mexico landowners is the Candidate Conservation Agreement/Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCA/CCAA). Enrolled landowners will be required to follow prescribed conservation measures, but once the final rule is in effect, there will be no additional requirements or restrictions on landowner activities. The Agreement is voluntary and at no cost to landowners. There are no penalties for opting out of the Agreement once enrolled.

The CCA/CCAA is administered by CEHMM, a non-profit organization located in Carlsbad, NM. For more information about the CCA/CCAA contact CEHMM directly by calling the Carlsbad office

at (575) 885-3700, or emailing Mr. Matt Mathis, CEHMM, at matt.mathis@cehmm.org.

The deadline to enroll in these Agreements is March 26, 2023.

The effective date of the final rule that published on November 25, 2022, at 87 FR 72674, and corrected on December 2, 2022, at 87 FR 73971, is delayed from January 24, 2023, to March 27, 2023.

NMDA Healthy Soil Program is Open to Individuals

If you haven't subscribed yet to the e-newsletter for NMDA's Healthy Soil Program, you can do so at the program's website: <https://nmdeptag.nmsu.edu/healthy-soil-program.html>. The newsletter features Healthy Soil Program updates and tips for applying for a grant, as well as links to articles and in-state and online events all about soil health.

The application has launched for Individual Applicants. Individual Applicants include individuals, businesses, and nonprofits engaged in farming, ranching, or another form of land management. **They will have until April 21 to complete** conservation planning with NRCS, develop their application online (including a timeline of their project activities, as well as their project budget), then seek project sponsorship from an SWCD. Individual Applicants must use NMDA's letter of support template to secure project sponsorship. NMDA will host a webinar February 28 to show Individual Applicants how to apply. SWCDs and tribal governments are encouraged to attend, given their critical role as project sponsors. **Please contact the Central Curry SWCD for more information and to the Eligible Entity for your grant application.**

Central Curry SWCD

918 Parkland Dr.
Clovis, NM 88101

Phone: 575-762-4769 Ext. 3
Email: centralcurry@gmail.com

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We are on the web!
centralcurryswcd.org

“USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider, Employer and Lender”

Save The Date



INNOVATIVE AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE

December 6, 2023

Central Curry SWCD will host a conference with local speakers, good food, and great give aways. We are also working to offer CEU's with this conference.

Stay tuned for more information!