

Otero Soil and Water Conservation District

3501 Mesa Village Drive, Alamogordo, NM 88310 (575) 437-3100 x 3

District board meetings are generally, the first Wednesday of each month at 9:30 am. The meetings are held in the same building, in the Forest Service's Guadalupe conference room located at 3463 Las Palomas Dr.

Current SWCD board of supervisors:

*Bob Nichols, Chairman
Rick Baish, Vice Chairman
Jeff Rabon, Secretary/Treasurer
Eddie Vigil, Supervisor
Thomas Mendez, Supervisor
James Evrage, Supervisor
Colt Howland, Supervisor*

NRCS Staff:

*Jasmine Wilson, District Conservationist
Justin Padilla, Range Management Specialist
Erika Rodriguez, Range Management Specialist
Morgan Smith, Soil Conservation Technician*

FSA Staff:

*Lynn Muncy, County Executive Director
Amanda Wylie-Largeteau, Program Technician*

District Employee:

Victoria Milne, District Manager



**The USDA Alamogordo Service Center will be closed:
September 6th - Labor Day; October 11th - Columbus Day**

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*The Otero SWCD is an
equal opportunity
employer.*



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NRCS Alamogordo Field Office Welcomes

New Range Management Specialist



My name is Erika Rodriguez, and I am from Laredo, Texas. I graduated May 2020 with my bachelor's degree in Range and Wildlife Management from Texas A&M University – Kingsville. My first experience working with the NRCS was when I did my internship in Casper, Wyoming during the summer of 2018 working under the state wildlife biologist. I am proud now to be working for the NRCS as a full-time employee to do my part in helping the environment and conserving its natural resources as a Rangeland Management Specialist in the Alamogordo field office. I am eager to learn and absorb all I can and apply it to my work along with what I learned in college in order to be a successful conservationist.

State Forestry Fall Seedling Distribution Sale

Online ordering for the fall seedling sale began July 6, 2021. Distribution will take place from September 13 through October 15, 2021.

Since 1960, the Forestry Division has offered low-cost seedlings to landowners to plant for reforestation, erosion control, windbreaks, streambank restoration, and wildlife habitat improvement. Millions of trees have been planted throughout New Mexico that were purchased directly through this program.

The Forestry Division offers more than sixty different species for sale over the course of the fall and spring sales. These seedlings are sold in small containers, large containers, and/or bare root. Not all species are available in all types. Large containers and bare root are more limited in the species available.

Please note all containerized species are offered in the fall and bare root species and any remaining containerized species are offered in the spring. We switched to this schedule because it has been shown that fall is a highly successful time to plant containerized seedlings. Plants have time to establish roots over the winter while dormant before putting on top growth in the spring and as an added bonus the weather is better for planting! Select your shipping or pickup date so that you can plant your seedlings five to six weeks before your area of the state starts having hard freeze days. For questions about prices and minimum order size refer to ordering information.

The order form and seedling information list are available at:

www.nmforestry.com or 505-476-3325 or -476-3334.





Invasive Plants of Otero County

Invasive plants pose a serious threat to our natural resources. These plants/weeds increase production costs for ranchers and farmers, destroy wildlife habitat, increase soil erosion rates on valuable watershed areas and reduce the visual quality and access to our lands. They have no indigenous enemies or diseases to manage their spread. They pose a threat to humans, wildlife, livestock, and to the ecosystem. Since early detection and treatment are so important, the Otero County Commissioners and the Otero Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board of Supervisors continue to address this problem within the Otero County Cooperative Weed Management Area.

The following plants are listed as being invasive in Otero County:

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| African Rue | Diffuse Knapweed | Siberian Elm |
| Hoary Cress | Yellow Star-thistle | Saltcedar |
| Leafy Spurge | Yellow Toadflax | Russian Olive |
| Malta Star-thistle | Russian Knapweed | Camelthorn |
| Musk Thistle | Purple Loosestrife | Halogenton |
| Canada Thistle | Purple Star-thistle | Teasel |
| Scotch Thistle | | |

We will have information packets for these weeds along with our annual Noxious Weed Calendar available at the Otero County Fair in September.



FSA nomination period opens June 15, 2021

Voting begins Nov. 1 and runs through Dec. 6, 2021.

The nomination period for local Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees begins June 15, 2021.

Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA and allow grassroots input and local administration of federal farm programs. Farmers and ranchers who are elected to serve on FSA county committees apply using their judgment and knowledge to help with the decisions necessary to administer FSA programs in their counties, ensuring the needs of local producers are met.

Members serve three-year terms. Nationwide there are more than 7,700 farmer and ranchers serving on FSA county committees. Farmers and ranchers may nominate themselves or others. Organizations may also nominate candidates. To be eligible to serve on an FSA county committee, a person must participate or cooperate in an agency-administered program, and reside in the local administrative area where the election is being held.

All nomination forms for the 2021 election must be postmarked or received in the local FSA office by Aug. 2, 2021.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by November 1, 2021, and must be returned to the FSA county office or postmarked by December 6, 2021.

Eligible voters must contact their local FSA county office before the final date if they did not receive a ballot.

Check out the Interactive Mapping of our noxious weed program and other projects.

oteroswcd.org