The USDA Alamogordo Service Center will be closed:
September 5th - Labor Day; October 10th - Columbus Day

District board meetings are generally the first Wednesday of each month at 9:30 am.

Otero Soil and Water Conservation District
3501 Mesa Village Drive, Alamogordo, NM 88310 (575) 437-3100 x 3

Current SWCD board of supervisors:
Bob Nichols, Chairman
Rick Baish, Vice Chairman
Jeff Rabon, Secretary/Treasurer
Wacey Cochise, Supervisor
James Evrage, Supervisor
Colt Howland, Supervisor

FSA Staff:
Cheyanna Reyes, County Executive Director
Amanda Wylie-Largeteau, Program Technician

The Otero SWCD is an equal opportunity employer.

KRISTI WRIGHT: New District Conservationist

Kristi Wright is the new District Conservationist for team 9, and is located out of the Truth or Consequences field office. I earned a Bachelor’s of Science in Plant Science Agronomy and a Master’s of Science in Soils from West Texas A&M University. It was in my last years of graduate school that I left my home state of Texas to intern with NRCS New Mexico, first in Deming and then in Clovis. I learned many things during those summers, but maybe the most important was the introduction to red or green, not to mention Christmas. I became a full-time employee and New Mexican in 2006. I spent eight years in Las Cruces followed by another eight in Truth Consequences. I prodded myself to learn all the ins and outs of programs, resource conservation, and NM Ag, because I wanted to do my very best for our farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural producers. I am excited to be the District Conservationist for Team 9 and look forward to working with the communities in and around Alamogordo, Las Cruces, and Truth or Consequences.

New Mexico State Forestry Conservation Seedling Program

Orders for the Fall 2022 Conservation Seedling Sale will begin in July and will end October 7th. Distribution will begin mid-September and will go through mid-October.

For more than forty years, the Division has offered low-cost seedlings to landowners to plant for reforestation, erosion control, windbreaks, or Christmas tree plantations. Since 1960, more than four million trees have been planted throughout New Mexico that were purchased through this program.

For questions about prices and minimum order size refer to ordering information please see attached news release or visit: https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/seedlings/.
We are online! Check us out on the web @ oteroswcd.org/

Otero County Fair & Rodeo

Each year the Otero SWCD has a booth at the Otero County Fair. Providing informational brochures on noxious weeds, building homes for wildlife in our neighborhoods, the importance of native pollinators and conservation coloring books for the kids. We try to convey the importance of conserving our natural resources. See you out there again this year!

The 83rd Annual Otero County Fair and Rodeo will be held September 22-25, 2022! See the exciting Rodeo Show, Junior Livestock Show and Sale, and your Otero County Rodeo Queens Court. Good food, good fun, and unique exhibits to see not to mention local non-profit and various vendors. Come see what’s new in 22!!

For more information go to their website: http://www.otero countyfair.com

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 along with our partners in the Otero County Cooperative Weed Management Area.

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

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

FSA County Office Committee Election

Overview 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 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. FSA county committees operate within official federal regulations and provide local input on:

- Income safety-net loans and payments, including setting county average yields for commodities;
- Conservation programs;
- Incentive, indemnity, and disaster payments for some commodities;
- Emergency programs; and
- Payment eligibility

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) encourages all eligible producers with farming or ranching operations to vote or hold office as county committee members, including beginning, established, women, African-American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Hispanic, Asian American, and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander producers.

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

oteroswcd.org