The USDA Alamogordo Service Center will be closed: October 10 - Columbus Day; November 11 - Veteran’s Day; November 25-26 - Thanksgiving Holiday; December 24 - Christmas Holiday; December 31 - New Year’s

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

District Employee:
Victoria Milne, District Manager

NRCS Staff:
Kristi Wright, District Conservationist
Katie Pritchett, Soil Conservationist
Justin Padilla, Range Management Specialist
Erika Rodriguez, Range Management Specialist
Morgan Smith, Soil Conservation Technician
Amalia Montoya, Area Range Conservationist

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

Otero SWCD 3501 Mesa Village Dr. Alamogordo, NM 88310 (575) 437-3100 x 3

The Otero SWCD is an equal opportunity employer.

2023 NRCS Sign-up Deadline

The Sign-up Deadline for 2023 Program is November 18th.

EQIP provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers in order to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation or improved or created wildlife habitat.

Eligible program participants receive financial and technical assistance to implement conservation practices, or activities like conservation planning, that address natural resource concerns on their land. Payments are made to participants after conservation practices and activities identified in an EQIP plan of operations are implemented. Contracts can last up to ten years.

Agricultural producers and owners of non-industrial private forestland and Tribes are eligible to apply for EQIP. Eligible land includes cropland, rangeland, pastureland, non-industrial private forestland and other farm or ranch lands.

Socially disadvantaged, beginning and limited resource farmers, Indian tribes and veterans are eligible for an increased payment rate and may receive advance payment of up to 50 percent to purchase materials and services needed to implement conservation practices included in their EQIP contract.

Applicants must: Control or own eligible land; Comply with adjusted gross income limitation (AGI) provisions; Be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation requirements; and Develop an NRCS EQIP plan of operations.

"Helping People Help the Land"

Continued on page 2...
The County Farm Service Agency (FSA) Committee election will be held December 5th for the Tularosa/Alamogordo Area. Farmers and ranchers will begin receiving their ballots Nov. 7th. Ballots include the names of candidates running for the local committee election. Voters who do not receive ballots in the coming week can pick one up at their local FSA offices. Ballots returned by mail must be postmarked no later than Dec. 5, 2022.

The duties of County FSA Committee members include:
A. Administering farm program activities conducted by the County FSA Office.
B. Informing farmers of the purpose and provisions of the FSA programs.
C. Keeping the State FSA Committee informed of Local Administrative Area conditions.
D. Monitoring changes in farm programs.
E. Participating in county meetings as necessary.
F. Performing other duties as assigned by the State FSA Committee

Please take the time and vote for the candidate of your choice!

NRCS Deadline Continued...

Noxious Weed Program Guidelines
Requirements for participation are:
1. Resident of Otero County
2. Current Private Applicators License
3. Presence of a Otero County Noxious Weed
4. Approval to map noxious weeds
5. Coordinate plan for treatment
6. Follow-up after treatment

Otero County Noxious Weed List
African Rue
Hoary Cress
Leafy Spurge
Malta Star-thistle
Musk Thistle
Russian Knapweed
Diffuse Knapweed
Yellow Toadflax
Yellow Star-thistle
Dalmatian Toadflax
Spotted Knapweed
Purple Loosestrife
Purple Star-thistle
Camelthorn
Scotch Thistle
Canada Thistle
Teasel
Perennial Pepperweed
Halogenon

The Otero County Fair was held September 22 through the 25th. Along with NRCS and FSA Program handouts, the Otero SWCD provided information on the value of pollinators, plants to help pollinators thrive, home building plans for various native beneficial creatures, the importance of New Mexico bats and several conservation focused coloring pages for the kids.

The 2023 New Mexico Noxious Weed Calendar is available. Please stop by the Alamogordo Field office at 3501 Mesa Village Drive to pick up your copy. A limited quantity is available.

Hope to see you all again next year!