The USDA Alamogordo Service Center will be closed:
December 31 - New Year’s, January 17 - Martin Luther King Jr,
February 21 - Presidents Day

Otero Soil and Water Conservation District
3501 Mesa Village Dr.
Alamogordo, NM 88310

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

District Employee:
Victoria Milne, District Manager

NRCS Staff:
Phillip Herrera, District Conservationist
Katherine Pritchett, Soil Conservationist
Justin Padilla, Range Conservationist
Erika Rodriguez, Range Conservationist
Morgan Smith, Soil Conservation Technician
Amalia Montoya, Area Range Conservationist

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

The Otero SWCD is an equal opportunity employer.

2022 NRCS EQIP PROGRAM

The Sign-up Deadline for the 2022 Program is January 7th.

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”
A New Face in the Office

We welcomed Katie Pritchett to our office in December. I’m a Georgia native that has lived all over the Southeastern USA and most recently in South Florida. I have a background in horticulture and a general curiosity for the natural world. I earned my Bachelor’s in Science with a concentration in Sustainable Land Management from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University as well as a Master’s in Soil Science from North Carolina State University. I started out with NRCS as an intern and have been with the agency for 5 years. I am excited to be the new Soil Conservationist in Alamogordo and I look forward to meeting our producers and learning as much as I can about my new home.

USDA Expands Assistance to Cover Feed Transportation Costs for Drought-Impacted Ranchers

In response to the severe drought conditions in the West and Great Plains, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced today its plans to help cover the cost of transporting feed for livestock that rely on grazing. USDA is updating the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP) to immediately cover feed transportation costs for drought impacted ranchers. USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides more details and tools to help ranchers get ready to apply at their local USDA Service Center at fsa.usda.gov/elap.

The deadline to file an application for payment for the 2021 program year is Jan. 31, 2022.


Join CoCoRaHS Today!

CoCoRaHS is an acronym for the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network. It is a unique, non-profit, community-based network of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds working together to measure and map precipitation (rain, hail and snow). By using low-cost measurement tools, stressing training and education, and utilizing an interactive Web-site, they aim to provide the highest quality data for natural resource, education and research applications in all fifty states.

CoCoRaHS is a practical, enjoyable and useful activity. If you have an interest in weather and would like to help your local community, as well as scientists and others interested in precipitation, then CoCoRaHS is for you. It only takes a few minutes a day and gives you the chance to participate in real hands-on science. You’ll be amazed at what you learn as you become more aware of the variable weather that impacts you, your neighbors, your state and our entire country.

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 Knapsweed
Diffuse Knapsweed
Yellow Toadflax
Yellow Star-thistle
Dalmatian Toadflax
Spotted Knapsweed
Purple Loosestrife
Purple Star-thistle
Camelthorn
Scotch Thistle
Canada Thistle
Teasel
Perennial Pepperweed
Halogen ton