



Healthy Land
Clean Water
For Life

Oklahoma Chapter SWCS

Officers

Daniel Moriasi, President
Jason Warren, President- Elect
Larry Wright, Past-President
Melanie Oliver, Sec-Treasurer

Council Representatives

Ryan Jones
Greg Allen
John Mustain
Jean Steiner
Clark Williams
Stacy Riley
Joe Freeland
Shelly Oliphant
Joshua Ketch

Links:

www.swcs.org

Check out activities on the national web site.

www.okswcs.org

Check out activities on the Oklahoma SWCS web site.

<http://envirothonok.com/>

Learn more about Oklahoma Envirothon.

Become a Fan on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Oklahoma-Soil-and-Water-Conservation-Society/110815548967772>

By-Laws Revision

The Oklahoma Chapter SWCS council is currently reviewing the current by-laws for needed revisions. One area in particular is updating the by-laws to allow the use of electronic media in conducting business. The use of email, teleconferencing, web sites, etc. are very useful to effectively and efficiently conduct business in the busy world of all of our members. Watch for ballots in your mailbox. The proposed by-laws for approval may be viewed on the www.okswcs.org website.

Communicating with New Producers: How to Reach Them, How to Teach Them

The theme for the next workshop planned for March 20th at OSU-OKC is titled Communication with New Producers: How to Reach Them, How to Teach Them. The importance of continuing the successful conservation programs and stewardship that many of Oklahoma's agriculture producers practice is the focus of this workshop. Training and information will be provided to assist agency and organization personnel to make the transition or adjustments to reach the changing demographics of landowners and producers.

The workshop is sponsored by the Oklahoma Chapter SWCS along with co-sponsor Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education, <http://www.southernsare.org/>. Mark your calendars

and plan to attend this most timely and informative workshop. Additional information will be provided in the next newsletter.

Welcome new members **Jessica Cotton and Rana Jasmine**. Both are students and list Broken Arrow as their hometown.

FROM: Jim Gulliford, SWCS Executive Director US FARM BILL AND FUNDING UPDATE

As we continue to monitor the activities of the US Congress with respect to deficit reduction and the potential for a 2011 Farm Bill, there still are more questions than answers. From our interaction with the Farm Bill Conservation Coalition, there are several things we know:

The Senate and House Ag Committee chairs have submitted a proposal for \$23 billion in deficit reduction savings from Farm Bill funding over the next ten years.

The Senate and House Ag Committee chairs have drafted a Farm Bill proposal that they would like to attach to whatever deficit reduction proposal the 'Super Committee' proposes.

The drafting of the Farm Bill proposal was done behind closed doors. There are indications of what may be contained in the proposal but nothing certain that I am willing to put into print. I will say that any Farm Bill that contains \$23 billion less spending than the current Farm Bill will contain significant reductions in the Conservation Title funding.

It appears that among the Super Committee members there is both support and resistance to including a Farm Bill in the deficit reduction proposal.

November 23 continues to be the target date for the Super Committee to report out their proposal for deficit reduction. However, it is not certain that the committee will be able to reach agreement.

If the Super Committee is able to reach agreement and meet the November 23 target date, when their deficit reduction proposal is released, we will see at that time 1) what the Farm Bill funding reduction will be, 2) what the implications for the Conservation Title are, and 3) whether the proposal contains a 2011 Farm Bill.

The Farm Bill Conservation Coalition has scheduled a call for November 29 to discuss what does or doesn't occur next week, and an appropriate path forward to continue to work to support conservation programs and funding.

I wish I could be more specific, but access to the process has been very limited for us and Farm Bill Conservation Coalition members.

(Editor's note: the super committee failed to meet its deadline and the work on the 2012 Farm Bill is currently on hold.)