

Garland County Conservation District

2018 Annual Report

Mission Statement

The Garland County Conservation District pledges to continue to provide leadership and education to the citizens of Garland County in the wise use and conservation of our natural resources.

Board of Directors

Tommy Sorrells, Chairman
Melvin Daniel, Secretary/Treasurer
Doug Meredith, Member
Judy Castleberry, Member
David Parker, Member

Office Personnel

Hesper Hortman, District Manager
Terry Hunter, Retiree Technician
Derrek Nokes, USDA-NRCS District Conservationist
Larry Gray, USDA-NRCS MLRA Office Leader
Elizabeth Gray, USDA-NRCS MLRA Soil Scientist
Kelly Bufkin, Farm Bill Biologist, Quail Forever

District Hours

Monday-Friday 7:30-3:30

Board Meetings

Third Wednesday of each month at 9:00 AM

Who We Are

The purpose of this district is to plan and carry out programs for the conservation and efficient use of the land, water and related natural resources of Garland County. In doing so it serves as the medium through which all individuals, agencies, organizations and institutions with conservation interest can efficiently work together to solve local natural resource conservation and help forecast future needs.

Technical assistance is provided to the District through an agreement between the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Garland County Conservation District. The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) is partnered with the District office to provide conservation related services.

The District is governed by five local land owners known as the Board of Directors, three of whom are elected by the landowners of the district and two who are appointed by the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission. Directors serve three-year terms and meet at least once per month.

The District's missions are met with many thanks to the financial support from and coordination with the Garland County Quorum Court and Arkansas Natural Resources Commission.

How We Help Garland County Landowners Help the Land

Garland County Conservation District along with its partner the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service work together to provide technical assistance to landowners and administer programs that provide financial assistance for implementing conservation practices.

The following was received in Garland County for FY2018:

***Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)**

35 applications for EQIP were completed, 4 applications were funded and have had final plans developed and approved for a total amount of \$78,187 in federal cost share dollars

***Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**

3 applications for CSP were submitted and 1 approved totaling \$28,819

Projects

Beaver Eradication Program

* The beaver control program is administered through the Arkansas Natural Resource Commission and Arkansas conservation districts. ANRC along with the Garland County Quorum Court provide funding for the program. Only beavers trapped in Garland County are eligible for the Garland County Conservation District's \$15 per tail bounty. The district paid trappers for the eradication of 244 nuisance beavers this year.

Poultry Registration

*The district collects a \$10 annual fee from each poultry operation in the county. Technical assistance is also provided to help producers utilize poultry litter and commercial fertilizers effectively without jeopardizing water quality. The district had a total of 13 poultry registrations.

Thistle Awareness Program

*The district continues to monitor the problem of thistle in this county. Along with the local University of Arkansas Extension Service, we educate the landowners of the seriousness of the problem. We provide an annual report to the State of Arkansas listing specific species and control measures used to control and or eradicate thistle.

Garland County Fair

*In conjunction with the Garland County Master Gardeners, the district set up an informational booth in the horticulture building at the county fair. Educational pamphlets explaining the services and resources that are offered through the district, were provided to patrons. Photos and information were displayed of the rental equipment we offer to landowners in the county.

Conservation Materials

Annual nut sale

*Each year the district holds a nut sale. This is a service to the community as well as a great fundraiser for the district. This district is also responsible for the ordering and distribution of nuts to other participating conservation districts.

Plat Books and Maps

*Garland County Conservation District is the exclusive seller of Plat Books and maps in the county. We also provide landowners and local businesses with flood plain information. This is needed for insurance and building developments. We also provide topographic and ariel photos when requested.

Equipment Rental

*The district offers several different types of equipment for Garland county residents and landowners to rent:

- TYE No-Till Seed Drill
- 35-ton log splitter
- 300-gallon pasture sprayer
- 25-gallon lawn and garden sprayer
- Assorted tools for electric fencing

Community Involvement/Information and Education

Farm Family of the Year

*The district's chairman Tommy Sorrells, along with board secretary Melvin Daniel, served on the selection committee for the Farm Family of the Year. This is something The District Participates in annually.

Scholarships

*The district participated in the Arkansas Association of Conversation Districts annual Dave Ferguson Scholarship contest. Area students were given the essay topic "Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home". The awarded a \$250 scholarship and the winner's essay was then sent to the state level competition.

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Community Garden Project

*Through a grant provided by ANRC, the district was able to assist Compact/Hillcrest Children's home with their garden project. The district was able to contribute to the funding of the home's new greenhouse. The district donated many needed supplies such as garden tools, wheelbarrows, fertilizer, and water hoses. The home is now able to produce vegetables that they use in their kitchen to serve to their residents.

Assessments and Proposals

*Having a conservation district in the county helps to facilitate water and sewer grants to be awarded to the city and county. The ANRC can use the district as a contact for gathering information from the Quorum Court as well as the County Judge. The district uses local connections and resources to prepare proposals for grants and assessments for other projects that benefit the county.

Thistle Awareness Program

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