

GARLAND COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

NEWS AND VIEWS

600 Main St. Suite Q Hot Springs, AR 71913 501.545.4016

www.garlandcountycd.org

Directors: Tommy Sorrells Doug Meredith Melvin Daniel
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HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022

Whether it be family who have been by your side, coworkers you see daily or the significant other in your life, it is a time to let them know how special they are to you. It is a time to think of those that we have lost and the everlasting imprint they have left on our lives. From resolutions to bucket lists, a new year is filled with possibilities! Wishing you all a prosperous new year filled with joy, inspiration, health, peace, and love!

We wish to extend our most sincere gratitude to Garland County Judge Darryl Mahoney and the members of the Garland County Quorum Court for their continued support. Many thanks to our community for your ongoing patronage.

Out with the old and in with the new! As each year comes to a close, it suddenly feels like the whole world gets a fresh start. There is an air of excitement and new possibilities. Many of us choose to see this as a time to make goals for personal growth and transformation. As we reflect on the past year, we must remember to not let our challenges and struggles overshadow our achievements and triumphs. Recognizing and being grateful for all moments help us to build and grow for all the years to come. It is a time to acknowledge those who are important to us.

ADA-NRD Poultry Registration

In accordance with the Arkansas Poultry Feeding Operations Registration Act (ACT 1060 of 2003), all owners and operators of Poultry Feeding Operations (PFOs) with 2,500 or more Poultry housed or confined on any given day must register annually. Registration begins January 1, 2022 and runs through March 31, 2022. Each poultry producer will be required to pay a \$10 registration fee per operation.

Failure to do so will result in the following penalties:

First Offense: Written notice of Non-Compliance with the Arkansas Poultry Registration Act.

Second Offense: You may be fined up to fifty dollars (\$50.00).

Third Offense: You may be fined up to five hundred dollars (\$500.00).

For more information on PFO registration contact Garland County Conservation District; Hesper Hortman 501.545.4016 or Natural Resources Division; Megan Perkins 501.682.396



Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts Dave Ferguson Scholarship

As part of a statewide education program, Garland County Conservation District in conjunction with Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts, is offering a \$250 scholarship to a local high school student. As well as receiving the district scholarship, the winner will be eligible to compete at both the area and state level. AACD awards two scholarships (\$1,000 and \$500) based on student's required essay on this year's topic; "Healthy Soil-Healthy Life". The rules are simple and the contest is open to all sophomores, juniors, and seniors with a minimum 2.5 grade point average who are Garland County residents and plan to follow a conservation related course of study. Contest entries must be submitted by **February 18, 2022** to GCCD at 600 Main St. Suite Q, Hot Springs, AR 71913. For more information contact GCCD at 501.545.4016 or visit our website at www.garlandcountycd.org

What Are Healthy Yards?

Healthy yards support the local environment, humans, and wildlife. Changing our landscaping practices is one of the easiest ways to protect our local ecosystem. Here are a few steps to obtain a healthier yard!

Mow High and Water Less

Let grass grow up to 4 inches. Longer grass can better shade its roots, conserve moisture and keep out weeds. Countrywide 30% of our drinking water is used for yard irrigation. Watering less often and during the cooler morning hours will help to avoid evaporation. Roots will grow deeper and stronger.

Avoid Chemical Pesticides and Fertilizers

More than 95% of pesticide application does not reach its actual target. Run off from chemical pesticides and fertilizers cause great harm to our streams and ponds. We are losing beneficial insects to pesticide use. Many canine and human cancers can be linked to pesticides.

Mulch Clippings and Leaves

Mulch-mowing is a simple alternative to raking or blowing leaves and helps lead to healthy soil. Mulched leaves add nutrients to soil that in turn create better soil structure. Better soil structure improves drainage and encourages deep roots that help to hold soil in place and lessen soil erosion.

Choose Sustainable Plants

Native plants are adapted to the local weather, local soil and other indigenous plants and animals of their area. Native plants provide food for multiple species of insects, birds and other native wildlife. Once natives become established they require little attention; no watering or fertilizer needed.

Remove Invasive Species

Invasives are plants brought from other continents that have no relationship to our wildlife therefore having no natural predators. Therefore they are able to spread undisturbed in a way that can deprive entire areas of any natural vegetation. They cause loss of biodiversity, as well as habitat degradation.

Board of Directors Election

Soil and water conservation is challenging work. If you are interested in running for a position on the Garland County Conservation District board, this is what you should do:

- Be a registered voter
- Own land within the district, even if only a city lot
- Reside in the district

**Submit a nominating petition by February 1, 2022

For more information on running for a position on our district board, call 501.545.4016.

Monthly Board Meetings

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 9:00 AM. Due to COVID guidelines, our office is currently closed to visitors. You may contact the district office to request a copy of the meeting minutes.

Equipment For Rent

TYE NO-TILL DRILL

7-foot with hydraulic remote outlets

Minimum tractor size: 55 HP

\$7 per acre

\$50 minimum

PASTURE SPRAYER

300 gallon

\$40 per day

LOG SPLITTER

35 ton

Vertical or Horizontal splitting

\$50 first day

\$25 each additional day

GARDEN SPRAYER

25 gallon

\$25 per day

Specialty License Plate



Showing your support for the Garland County Conservation District is easy by purchasing a specialty license plate from the

Department of Conservation Districts. GCCD receives \$25 for every license plate issued in Garland County. Funds are used for local conservation education. For more information visit www.dfa.arkansas.gov

Layers of Love Chocolate Brownies

AACD Simply Sweets Cookbook

3/4 cup all-purpose flour	3 large eggs, divided
1/4 cup Cocoa powder	2 tsp vanilla extract
1/4 tsp salt	1 cup chopped pecans
1 stick butter, cut in pieces	3/4 cup white chocolate chips
1/2 cup granulated sugar	1/2 cup caramel sauce
1/2 cup packed brown sugar	3/4 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350.

Grease 8" square baking pan.

Combine flour, cocoa and salt in small bowl.

Beat butter, granulated sugar and brown sugar in large mixer bowl until creamy.

Add 2 eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition.

Add vanilla extract; mix well.

Gradually beat in flour mixture.

Reserve 3/4 cup batter.

Spread remaining batter into prepared baking pan.

Sprinkle nuts and white chocolate chips over batter.

Drizzle caramel sauce over top.

Beat remaining egg and reserved batter in same large bowl until light in color.

Stir in semi-sweet chocolate chips.

Spread evenly over caramel topping.

Bake for 30 to 35 minutes or until center is set.

Cool completely in pan on wire rack.

Cut into squares.



Corned Beef Chili

Courtesy of Dennis Berry

2.5-3 lb corned beef	1 tsp salt
2 cans diced tomatoes	4 tbsp paprika
3 cans red kidney beans	4 tbsp cumin
1 sweet onion, diced	1 clove minced garlic
1 cups red wine	1 cup water from corned beef
1 box chicken broth	

Boil corned beef 30 minutes per pound.

Save 1 cup of water from boil. Set beef aside to cool.

Once cooled, shred or chop into bite sized pieces.

Sauté onions for 5 minutes, add garlic and sauté another 5 minutes.

Add remaining ingredients and simmer for 1 hour.

Serve and enjoy while listening to your favorite traditional Irish music.



DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE RECIPE THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE FEATURED IN OUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER? SUBMIT RECIPES TO:

hesper.hortman@usda.gov

NRCS Programs for Landowners

EQIP-The Environmental Quality Incentives Program provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural and forestry producers 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, and improved or created wildlife habitat. NRCS first works one-on-one with you to develop a conservation plan that best meets your needs. Financial assistance covers a portion of the costs from implementing conservation practices. Applications are ranked, and if yours is funded, NRCS will offer you an EQIP contract to receive financial assistance. Payment rates for conservation practices are reviewed and set each fiscal year.

CSP- The Conservation Stewardship Program helps you build on your existing conservation efforts while strengthening your operation. Whether you are looking to improve grazing conditions, increase crop yields, or develop wildlife habitat, we can custom design a CSP plan to help you meet those goals. CSP is for working lands. It is the largest conservation program in the United States with 70 million acres of productive agricultural and forest land enrolled in CSP. Some benefits that participants are seeing through CSP include increased crop yields, decreased inputs, wildlife habitat population improvements and increased resilience to weather extremes. For more information contact District Conservationist Andres Aponte at 501.624.2574 or andres.aponte@usda.gov

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