



State Legislative District #9  
Congressional District #4

# Adams Conservation District

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Board Chair: Curtis Hennings

## Other Accomplishments



Local 5th graders joined us at the WSU Lind Research Station to learn about soil, weeds, wildlife, fungi, weather monitoring, and more.



The top three students in our 6th grade essay contest read their papers on the benefits of rotation grazing to the operators at our annual meeting.



Over 230 FFA students from 18 schools participated in our local soil judging competition.

## 2015 Feature Accomplishment: Livestock watering facilities support rangeland health

**RESOURCE CHALLENGE** Healthy rangeland provides habitat and food for wildlife and domestic livestock. A diverse mixture of grasses, forbs, and shrubs provide shelter and nutrients. The sagebrush-steppe areas in Adams Conservation District provide rangeland for many producers. If rangeland is overgrazed, desirable native vegetation may be replaced by invasive species. Weedy invasive species often out-compete natives, which results in decreased plant diversity and less forage opportunity for livestock and wildlife.

### PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS

In order to expand livestock grazing capabilities, Adams Conservation District provided assistance to install two watering facilities in rangeland pastures. The watering facilities were solar powered and included panels, pumps, and troughs. Water availability now allows the operator to include those pastures in his grazing rotation, which reduces grazing pressure on the rest of his property. Moving livestock frequently and between multiple pastures ensures native plants aren't overgrazed, reduces the risk of weedy invasion, and supports plant diversity and habitat.



It's a family effort installing the watering facilities.

Credit: Ron Hennings



**KEY PARTNERS:** Washington State Conservation Commission

Livestock watering facility on rangeland west of Ritzville.

## More Work to Do!

- Multi-landowner riparian and wetland restoration on Cow Creek, which is a tributary to the Palouse River.
- Installation of wells and watering facilities on rangeland to improve livestock management.
- Promote and provide assistance for no-till farming and field buffers in order to minimize erosion and improve soil quality and quantity.