

South Yakima Conservation District

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Board Chair: Dirk Van Slageren



State Legislative District #14, 15
Congressional District #4

2016 Feature Accomplishment

Voluntary manure application workshop

RESOURCE CHALLENGE

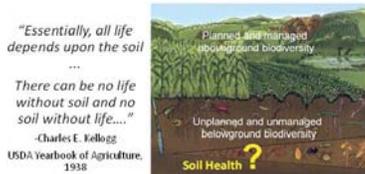
Throughout history, agriculture producers have used manure as a fertilizer to grow crops. When managed improperly manure may cause degradation to water quality. Today, agriculture producers are under increased scrutiny of land application of manure. Recently, the Lower Yakima River Valley was designated as a groundwater management area within the boundaries of the South Yakima Conservation District (SYCD). With new regulations and requirements, applying the right best management practices for environmentally sound use of manure is a must.



Dairy and agricultural producers listen as experts describe best management practices, rules and regulations, and required records to protect water quality.

Photo: Steve George

The Answer Lies Beneath Our Feet...
The Soil and Life Belowground!



Workshop presentations included: soil health, irrigation water management, soil moisture monitoring, nutrient management, and soil testing.

Photo: NRCS

culture producers and assist with nutrient management training, irrigation water management, on-site field work, and soil monitoring as new technology evolves.

KEY PARTNERS: Washington State Department of Agriculture; Washington State Conservation Commission; President-Organix, Inc.; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services; Northwest Agricultural Consultant Labs

Other Accomplishments



SYCD hosted a tour for state partners that showcased the diverse landscapes and land uses of the area.



State Conservation Commission funding was used to convert 19 acres of flood irrigated pasture. This lush pasture is home to 26 grazing beef cows.



2,500 students participated in hands-on activities through the Water on Wheels, Wheat Week, and Salmon in the Classroom education programs.

Photos: South Yakima Conservation District

More work to do!

- Participate in the Voluntary Stewardship Program to enhance sustainable agricultural while protecting critical areas.
- Conduct educational workshops for dairies and local growers focusing on nutrient and irrigation water management.
- Increase funds for technical and financial assistance to apply best management practices to improve water quality.
- Remain a member of the Groundwater Advisory Committee to identify solutions to groundwater contamination.