

**Hereford
Natural
Resource
Conservation
District**



CONSERVING - PROTECTING - PRACTICING WISE USE



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December, 2017 Newsletter

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and a Great New Year to everyone from The Hereford NRC

THANK YOU for your support this last year. Your Board and Advisors have been very busy. A recap of this year:

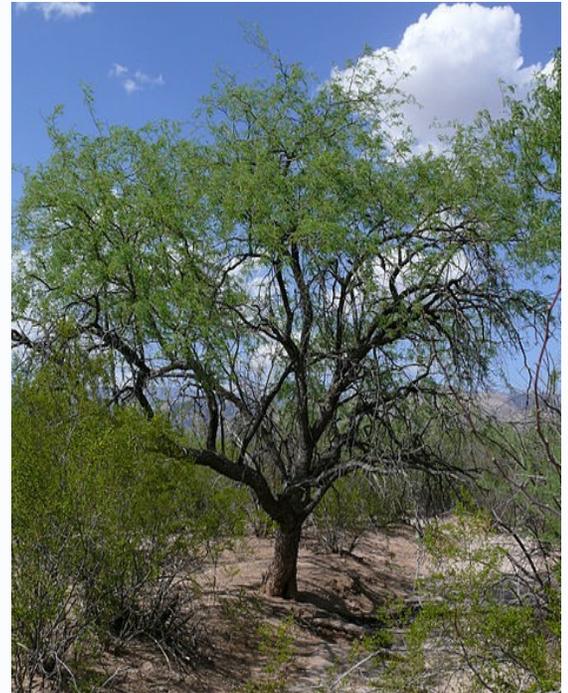
1. The BIG one was the completion of the Horseshoe Draw project. If you have not seen the pictures from the local newspaper, go to our website. What a change. Over time we will see the benefits of this project for the San Pedro River and the local residents of the area. So many thanks to the people that helped with the project!! 1,374.5 cubic yards of sediment were retained by the erosion control structures in 2017.
2. The Border Rangeland and Restoration Project covered land from the Coronado National Forest going east to the New Mexico border with a one mile width of range land restoration of white thorn, black brush and other shallow root brush back to grass lands. This will also help with erosion and water retention back into our aquifer.
3. Comments about the Jaguar to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and how the plan will affect our environment and economy.
4. A part of a diverse group that filed a petition for the delisting of the Yellow Billed Cuckoo
5. Comments of the recovery plan for the wolf in Arizona and New Mexico to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).
6. We are part of a group that joined with Immigration Reform Law Institute in a lawsuit against the Department of Homeland Security for violating the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by failing to analyze the impact of immigration on the human environment.
7. Participated in the Arizona AACD Restore Arizona Project.
8. Attended the Arizona Association of Conservation Districts (AACD) Summer Conference.

Mesquite Beans

By Lucinda C. Earven, DVM
Earven Equine Veterinary Services
Vice Chairman, Hereford Natural Resource Conservation District

It's been a different kind of growing season this year — lots of rain in July, then a dry August and September. As an equine veterinarian, I get asked a lot of questions about horses eating mesquite beans. I dispel the myth that mesquite beans are "poisonous". They aren't poisonous but they can be deadly if your horse eats too many. Remember, they are grain encased in a stringy pod. The two dangers for horses are colic, from the stringy pods balling up in their gut, and laminitis from a grain overload. But here's what I have observed with my own horses on my property: a horse that lives year-round in a pasture with mesquite trees will usually not get into trouble - they eat the new leaves coming on in the spring; the tender new green pods with no mature grain; and the mature beans all during the growing season.

But use common sense - the reason mesquite beans are on my mind in December is because we had a banner crop this year (especially on my place where I have a lot of mature trees). Instead of the beans falling from the tree and rotting because the rains continue, this year they're still laying on the ground ready to be eaten. Anywhere there is still an accumulation of dry, mature beans, will be the first place your horse will head, and stay until he's eaten too many!



Arizona Association of Conservation Districts

WINTER MEETING

The Salad Bowl Tour

January 9th & 10th

Hilton Garden Inn

Yuma, AZ

Hotel Reservations: (928)-785-1500

Use code **AACD18** for group rate



Tombstone High School FFA

The Tombstone High School FFA program, led by instructor Katie Swaim and supported by the HNRCD, has had a busy and productive year.

Tombstone FFA took first place at the Cochise County Fair for their display. 30+ students attended the FFA State Convention and did very well.

The FFA students did a year long study with 12 chickens for weight gain, egg production, etc. using different types of feed—organic and product feed. They sent their data results to four different feed companies. The company Nutrina was so impressed with their study they gave the students 100 birds and feed for a year to further the study.

IMPORTANT DATES

**NRCS EQIP DEADLINES
FISCAL YEAR 2018**

DRAFT DATES

**CYCLE 1
Application Cutoff
February 23, 2018**

**CYCLE 2
Application Cutoff
April 20, 2018**

For more information contact
NRCS District Conservationist
Donald Decker

On The State and Federal Level

- ◆ **Waters of the United States (WOTUS):** The rule was highly controversial and largely opposed by the agriculture community due to government overreach and because of costs added to the agriculture industry. Numerous other regulated entities joined the opposition since its inception in 2015. In November, 2017 the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers proposed delaying implementation of the rule defining the term WOTUS for two years.
- ◆ **Coronado National Forest:** The Coronado National Forest, Sierra Vista Ranger District has prepared a preliminary Environmental Assessment pursuant to the Forest Service's Travel Management Rule. Areas affected include Cochise County, in the HNRCD. There are several proposed changes and some routes will be added. However, the proposed action shows a net decrease of 159.98 miles of roads to the Sierra Vista Ranger District. Changes include: 1) 533.65 miles of National Forest System roads open to all vehicles; 2) 23.16 miles of closed roads; 3) 59.27 miles of roads restricted to administrative or permitted use only; 4) 0.73 new miles of motorized trails for vehicles less than 50"; 5) 2.68 new miles of motorized trails for vehicles greater than 50" and 6) 6.52 miles of non-motorized trails designated.
- ◆ **State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO):** SHPO, part of Arizona State Parks & Trails, reached a landmark agreement with the Arizona State Land Department (ASLD) and USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in October, 2017. The agencies signed a Prototype Programmatic Agreement which will streamline cultural resources surveys for NRCS conservation projects on Arizona state land. The intention of the agreement is to simplify the process to conduct cultural resources field surveys, while complying with the National Historic Preservation Act.
- ◆ **Arizona Wolf Recovery:** In August, 2017 the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) submitted comments on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) draft Mexican wolf recovery plan. The AZGFD stated, "we are committed to continue our long-standing cooperation in recovering the Mexican wolf and this plan, based on the most current and best available science." In their comments to FWS AZGFD did seek clarification on the state's authority to determine and implement release strategies, and detailed criteria for delisting the Mexican wolf as an endangered species.

We wish you a joyous and prosperous New Year!

Explore the World Wide Web

Finding information on the internet *can* be a frustrating endeavor, but there is unlimited data, knowledge, reports, and science just a click away. Below are just some of the websites that are related to conservation and some of the information you may obtain from them.

- ◆ **herefordnrcd.com** Hereford Natural Resource Conservation District. Information—meeting dates, agendas, minutes, newsletters, plans and reports. Meet the Board of Supervisors and Advisors. Learn about the Horseshoe Draw Project, erosion control, invasive weed and range management workshops and the Walnut Gulch Watershed Project. Watch videos of the various projects. Introduce yourself to *Field Guides to Southern Arizona Plants*. Obtain a cooperators' form—become a member of the HNRCD. Learn about the District's Education Center activities.
- ◆ **nrcs.usda.gov** USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Financial and technical assistance. Field office technical guide. Learn about plants and animals.
- ◆ **aacd1944.com** Arizona Association of Conservation Districts (AACD). Learn about conservation efforts and programs throughout the state. View a map of all the conservation districts.
- ◆ **azland.gov** Arizona State Land Department. View current, recreation and archived news, obtain recreation permits. Learn about the multiple programs the department oversees.
- ◆ **usda.gov** United States Department of Agriculture. Topics include animals, biotechnology, conservation, farming, food and nutrition, forestry, organic, research and science, just to name a few.
- ◆ **blm.gov/arizona** Bureau of Land Management, Arizona. Learn How the BLM is managing public lands within their jurisdiction in Arizona.
- ◆ **fs.usda.gov/coronado** Coronado National Forest. The site includes information on recreation, alerts and notices, passes and permits, land and resources management, and about the forest.

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BOARD MEETINGS
 Third Wednesday of every month
 9:30 AM
 Sierra Vista Cochise County
 Complex Conference Room
 Hwy 92 and Foothills Drive, Sierra Vista

Note: Date, location and time is subject to change.
 We invite District Cooperators and the general public's attendance and participation.

Hereford NRC D
 is on the World Wide Web!
www.herefordnrcd.com

Classified Ads: \$5.00 per item per issue
Advertisement: \$60 for 4 issues.
Email: hereford_nrcd@juno.com

This newsletter was printed by the UPS Store in Sierra Vista.

FIND HEREFORD NRC D ON FACEBOOK
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Hereford-NRCD/4342483309971>

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All programs of the Hereford NRC D are offered on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, national origin, age, sex, religion, political belief, marital or familial status or handicap.