

# Hereford Natural Resource Conservation District

CONSERVING - PROTECTING - PRACTICING WISE USE



## FALL 2011 NEWSLETTER

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### Chairman's Corner

Those of us who didn't attend the County Fair last month missed seeing an outstanding exhibit sponsored by the district and put together with lots of help from the Douglas office of the NRCS and the White Water Draw District. This group created a large display of photographs depicting "100 Years of Conservation in Cochise County". By all accounts it was a major attraction at the fair. Plans are being made to archive the pictures and information so the whole display will be preserved for the future.

The three principal architects of the display, Dusty Glidewell from the NRCS and Gail Lanham and Sharon Bee from Hereford expressed gratification in the great interest shown in the display by the fair goers. They commented that it was exciting to watch people discover and discuss the history of conservation through the photos and attached stories. They also enjoyed the reaction when people recognized themselves or relatives. They further observed that conservation is an important aspect of agriculture and should get more attention in Cochise County.

Rachel Thomas, as one of the presenters, agreed and because the display had prompted questions from people of all ages, even children, we had been given the opportunity to explain how our conservation practices benefit the whole environment.

I thank the above mentioned individuals and look forward to seeing the preservation and possible expansion of this excellent exhibit.

*Jack Ladd  
Chairman, Hereford NRCD*

WORKING TOGETHER ON NATURAL RESOURCE  
CONCERNS AND SOLUTIONS

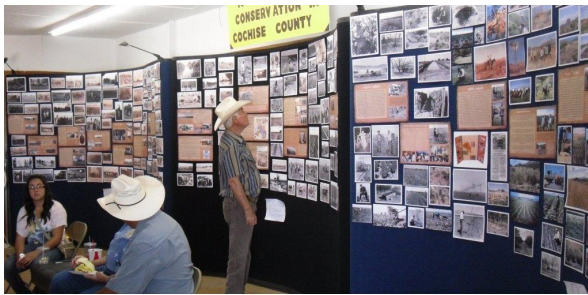
# 100 YEARS of CONSERVATION!

## At the Cochise County Fair

The Cochise County Fair Association was formed in 1924 and commemorated its 87th fair in September 2011. 2011 represents the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the State of Arizona. NRCS-Douglas Field Office, Whitewater Draw NRCDC, and Hereford NRCDC displayed a booth of "100 Years of Conservation". There were 21,000 people in attendance at the fair this year with 3,200 people attending our booth. It was a great success!







## Welcome Marques Munis—NRCS Rangeland Management Specialist



I am excited to report that I have recently joined the Douglas Field office as a Rangeland Management Specialist. My wife and I are moving here from Fort Collins, CO where we have been attending graduate school at Colorado State University. I have been working towards a Ph.D. in Rangeland Ecosystem Science and Megan is finishing up vet school with a focus in large and mixed animal medicine. My graduate work in graduate school focused on the ecology and management of weeds and particularly on an invasive annual grass, cheatgrass.

Prior to graduate school I have been involved in many forms of agriculture and natural resource management. I was raised on a small registered Red Angus cattle ranch in Lone Pine, CA and have since worked as an NRCD Conservation Technician, USFS Rangeland Technician, Outfitter and Hunting Guide, Climbing and Mountaineering Instructor, and on my off time have been an avid Rock Climber and Skier. Together these activities have provided me the opportunity to set ambitious goals and overcome challenging obstacles on the path toward achieving them.

Highlights from these pursuits include; Securing a graduate fellowship and funding to develop a weed management tool for cheatgrass, one of the most ubiquitous invaders of western

rangelands; Treating over a 1,000 acres of weeds as field crew leader, more than had previously been treated on the Blanco District of the White River National Forest; Creating additional opportunities for hands on learning for students as a teaching assistant for a class on the ecology and management of weeds; and completing a multiday rock climbing ascent of the sheer 3,000 ft granite face of El Capitan in Yosemite, CA.

In the coming months I look forward to meeting all of you and aspire to maintain the same high level of service that I have heard is customary of the Douglas field office.

## It's Planting Time!

By Cato Daily/Water Wise Program, Senior Coordinator  
University of Arizona Cochise County Cooperative Extension

Do you want your children, grandchildren and perhaps great-grandchildren to enjoy a tree you've planted? Or are you re-vegetating after the fire? If so, plant right!

Planting a tree or shrub is more than digging a hole, putting in a plant and watering it. Planting involves a lot more to ensure your plant will thrive for years to come.

To help you have a long-lived beautiful plant, here are a few tips.

Right plant, right place. Learn where a plant likes to naturally grow, and match the plant selection to your site. Local native plants are great choices because they settle into their new location faster and they are used the area's growing conditions.

Look at the roots before you buy. At the nursery, take the plant out of the pot and select one without circling roots if possible. Some circling roots can be straightened out in the planting hole (try not to cut them) but circling roots can eventually choke the plant to death.

Dig the hole only as deep as the root ball and loosen the soil at least 3 to 5 times the diameter of the ball. For a one gallon plant, this means the hole may only be 4 to 6 inches deep and loosened soil 3 feet wide! Good news for tough soil areas! You want compacted soil underneath the root ball so it doesn't sink, and want soft soil for easy lateral root growth. Now fill the hole with water to check drainage. If after 24 hours the water is still there, find another location or create drainage by digging "chimneys" to the sides (not directly under) the hole. Knowing how your soil drains will help you know how to water – slow draining soil (clays) means you should water slowly and less often, fast draining soil (sandy or rocky) means you will water more often for less time.

Position the plant high in the hole showing the root flare. Planting too deep is one of the main causes of plant decline. When wet soil remains next to the trunk, it rots the trunk and can eventually kill the plant.

Do not amend the soil but mulch, mulch, mulch on top of the soil. Adding potting soil or other organic material into your hole makes it harder for your plant to thrive because it isn't the soil the roots will eventually grow into, and as the organic material decomposes, it robs nutrients intended for the plant. Put a three inch layer of bark or stone mulch on top of the soil to keep moisture in the ground and keep the soil cooler.

*Continued on page 5*

## It's Planting Time!

### *Continued*

Do not prune or fertilize the plant when planting. Pruning your new plant reduces its ability to make food, and initially you want the plant to make roots, not regenerate shoots. For fertilizing, in general, the right landscape plant in the right place does not need fertilization, especially if the plant is local or locally adapted. Let plants grow at the rate they want to grow.

Water correctly. It is important to water your new plant frequently, but reduce waterings as the plant matures. Too much water will cause the plant to grow too fast making it weaker and susceptible to wind damage. For suggested watering schedules, visit the Landscape page on the Water Wise website.

Remember that the majority of plant roots are found in the top 3 feet of soil and roots spread laterally. As the roots grow out, move your drip emitters or area of watering to underneath the drip line of the plant (the drip line is the area directly beneath the branch edges and is where roots absorb water). Roots at the base of the plant are too big to absorb water and will rot if kept wet (so keep mulch away from the trunk too!).

As you can see there is a lot to consider, but with a little planning you can have a healthy plant for years to come.

For more planting and watering information, visit [waterwise.arizona.edu](http://waterwise.arizona.edu) or give us a call at 458-8278 x 2139. Water Wise is University of Arizona Cochise County Cooperative Extension program supported by Cochise County, the City of Sierra Vista, Ft. Huachuca, the Upper San Pedro Partnership and Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative.





# Dinner in a Pumpkin



## Directions

1. In a large skillet over medium heat, mix ground beef and sausage. Cook and stir until evenly browned. Mix in salt and pepper, pumpkin pie spice, and brown sugar.
2. Drain meats, and mix in chicken stock and rice. Cover, and cook 25 to 30 minutes, until rice is tender.
3. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C). Remove and reserve top of pumpkin. Scoop out seeds and stringy pulp.

## Ingredients

- 1 1/2 pounds ground beef
- 1 pound ground pork sausage
- salt and pepper to taste
- 2 tablespoons pumpkin pie spice
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 2 (14.5 ounce) cans chicken stock
- 1 1/2 cups long grain and wild rice mix
- 1 sugar pumpkin
- 1 (10.75 ounce) can condensed cream of celery soup
- 1 (10.75 ounce) can condensed cream of mushroom soup
- 2 (4 ounce) cans mushroom stems and pieces, drained
- 2 (14.5 ounce) cans French cut green beans

4. Mix cream of celery soup, cream of mushroom soup, mushroom stems and pieces, and green beans into the beef and sausage mixture. Spoon mixture into the pumpkin, and replace pumpkin top.
5. Place pumpkin on a large baking sheet, and bake 1 hour in the preheated oven, or until pumpkin is tender. Scoop out portions of filling and parts of the cooked pulp to serve.



## More Vegetables

**PUMPKINS** — Pumpkins are one of Arizona's interactive crops. At many Arizona farms, the kids can search the fields for their own jack-o-lantern for Halloween. The seeds inside aren't wasted and make a great treat for baseball games when dried and salted.

**SQUASH** — Mother Nature really outdid herself when it came to squash. There are more than a dozen varieties, each with a unique shape, color, texture and flavor. *In Arizona, farmers grow summer and winter squash.*

**TOMATOES** — Arizona tomatoes provide us with salsa, tomato sauce for spaghetti and pizzas, and soups, plus taste great sliced on your summertime Arizona beef hamburger. Good quality tomatoes should have bright, shiny skins and firm flesh. *In 1893, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled the tomato was a "vegetable" and was subject to import taxes. At that time, fruits were not subject to import taxes and foreign countries could flood the market with lower priced produce.*

**LETTUCE** — Chances are that any salad you eat in the months of November through March literally had its roots in Arizona. Yuma is the winter lettuce capital of the nation, producing several popular lettuce varieties including romaine, green and red leaf, butter, iceberg and numerous salad greens. *Lettuce is low in calories, fat-free, cholesterol-free and very low in sodium.*

**ONIONS** — A staple for cooking, onions are found in every kitchen cupboard. In Arizona, look for Grand Canyon sweet onions that you can deep-fry and make your own bloomin' onion. *Farmers donate surplus crops like onions to gleaning programs of Arizona Food Banks and contribute to food security.*

## More Vegetables *(continued from page 6)*

**CORN/SWEET CORN** — Most of the corn grown in Arizona is cut for silage, meaning it's for cows to eat. But there are some farmers that grow fresh sweet corn for your family to enjoy. *Taking from the edge of a field is stealing. Since farmers sell it so inexpensively, we suggest you pay first and then enjoy.*

**CELERY** — Great in soups, mixed in your tuna salad or in your holiday stuffing, some people are surprised that celery is raised here. It's a great old stand by snack with peanut butter also. *Celery is mostly water and therefore very low in calories, making it a first-rate snack food for people trying to control their weight.*

"Greetings From Arizona Always in Season" Arizona Farm Bureau Guide, written by Neil A. Schneider

## Certificate of Commendation to Gail Lanham from the AZ State Land Department



Gail Lanham received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Arizona State Land Department for her years of hard work with the Hereford Natural Resource Conservation District. This was an award very well deserved. Thank you Gail!

that was easy.

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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

**Hereford NRCD  
 is on the World Wide Web!**

**[www.herefordnrcd.com](http://www.herefordnrcd.com)**

**Classified Ads: \$5.00 per item per issue  
 Advertisement: \$60 for 4 issues.**

**Email: [info@herefordnrcd.com](mailto:info@herefordnrcd.com)**

*This newsletter was printed by Staples in Sierra Vista.*

## HEREFORD NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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