

MARLBORO SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Volume 14 Issue 2

Summer 2014

Cover Crops Are Growing In Marlboro County



NRCS Gordon Mikell standing in cover crop at Richard Rogers Farm.

The interest in cover crops is growing in Marlboro County. Many of our farmers are adding cover crops to their crop rotation to improve soil health, improve soil fertility, reduce weed pressure and improve profits.

Cover crops are beneficial for a variety of reasons.

Protection against soil loss from wind and water erosion is perhaps the most obvious soil benefit of cover crops, but increasing organic matter is a long-term and equally important benefit. Cover crops catch and recycle nutrients before they can leach out of the soil profile. Legume cover crops add nitrogen to the soil. The additional nitrogen from legume cover crops will decrease the amount of commercial nitrogen needed for the following crop. Cover crop roots can help unlock some nutrients, converting them to more available forms. Cover crops provide habitat or a food source for some important soil organisms, help alleviate soil compaction, increase soil water holding capacity and help dry out wet soils. Cover crops provide a mulching effect resulting in



Richard Rogers planting into multi species cover crop.



Cotton planted into Hairy Vetch.

increased weed suppression, decreased herbicide use and improved profit margins.

Cover Crops provide many benefits to our farmers and our environment, from healthier soil to improved profit potential. If you are not using cover crops on your farm, maybe you should give it a try. For more information, stop by our office or give us a call.

Just Water?



Do you know what you are drinking? Have you ever wondered what kind of water to purchase? Not all bottled water is the same. Water used to be a plain and simple drink that came from the tap. Today, there are dizzying arrays of bottled water products that fill the grocery shelves. But what are the differences between the all the various brands and types of water you can buy?

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates the way bottled water is described, and the terms are based on either the source of the water or how it's been processed.

So be sure to check the label before you drink.

Artesian Well Water comes from a confined, underground water source.

Well Water is brought to the surface by pumps from an aquifer (a water-bearing rock or soil formation located underground).

Distilled Water is water that has been evaporated and allowed to condense, which removes all minerals and contaminants.

Drinking water is tap water that has been filtered and disinfected by water treatment plants.

Natural Mineral Water contains only the minerals present in the water as it flows from the ground. Mineral water not labeled "natural" may have had minerals added or removed.

Sparkling Water is any water that contains naturally occurring or added carbon dioxide. Many brands of mineral water, spring water, and other bottled waters are marketed as sparkling water. Sparkling water is considered a soft drink and is not regulated as bottled water.

Spring Water comes from an underground source from which water flows naturally to the surface. It must be collected only at a spring.

Natural Spring Water is enriched by minerals from the rocks through which it flows.

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Daniel Griffin, Soil Conservationist

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USDA Service Center

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Bennettsville, SC 29512

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The Conservation District Board scheduled meeting is the third Tuesday of month at 7:00 pm in the USDA Service Center Conference Room, at 210 Throop Street, Bennettsville, SC . 29512 For more information call 843-479-4552, Ext. 3 Meetings are open to the public.

All programs and services of the Marlboro Soil and Water Conservation District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, age, gender, national origin, religion, handicap or marital status.

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How do you want your membership listed? If you would like your newsletter emailed, please include email address to be used only for this purpose.

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Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Do you have a natural resource concern on your property? Is the resource issue related to soil, water, air, plants or animals on cropland, wood land, pasture land or livestock feed and growing areas? If so, then NRCS may be able to help.

The USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides financial and technical assistance to help South Carolina landowners address natural resource concerns, promote environmental quality, and protect wildlife habitat on property they own or control. The cost-share funds are available through the NRCS' Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

EQIP helps farmers improve production while protecting environmental quality by addressing such concerns as soil erosion and productivity, grazing management, water quality, animal waste, and forestry concerns. EQIP also assists eligible small-scale farmers who have historically not participated in or ranked high enough to be funded in previous program sign ups.

Landowners and/or producers interested in treating a resource concern should visit our office to discuss your natural resource needs and to see how EQIP may be able to help.

For more information please visit NRCS' web site at
www.sc.nrcs.usda.gov or call us at (843) 479-4552 ext 3.



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