

Summer 2023

Boone County Conservation District Newsletter

402 N. Walnut, Ste. 125**Harrison, AR 72601** (870) 741-8600 x.3
www.boonecd.com

Volume 23, Issue 2

Meet New DC Wendy Hendrix

My name is Wendy Hendrix, and I am the new NRCS District Conservationist for the Harrison Field Office, which covers Boone and Newton County. I have worked for NRCS for the past 23.5 years.

I served NRCS as a technician in Marshall, AR; a team resource conservationist in central Arkansas; and for the past 9.5 years I have been the District Conservationist in the Mountain View Field Office in Stone County here in Arkansas.

I grew up on a commercial beef farm in Witts Springs Arkansas in Searcy County. I worked my way through

college on a dairy farm. I have an associate degree from North Arkansas Community College and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agribusiness from Arkansas Tech University.

Presently I raise registered Angus and Charolais cattle with my father, Harold Hendrix. When I do have some free time, I like to do leather work and go fishing.

I look forward to working with the farmers and ranchers of Boone and Newton County.

Congratulations to **Sharon Woods!**

She was the latest winner of our birdhouse drawing!

Read our newsletter and look for the black/white bee!

Once found, email us your answer at:

lisa.widner@ar.nacdnet.net

Or call the answer in to 741-8600 x. 3.

Give us your full name, phone number, and where the bee is located.

Our Mission:
TO WORK WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS & LAND OWNERS HAVING SIMILAR GOALS TO PROMOTE THE CONSERVATION OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES.

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Jack Hensley
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NRCS Staff
Wendy Hendrix
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From the Desk of Colby Smith, NRCS Technician...

Soil Health—Why is it Important?

Soil health has become an important topic in modern agriculture, but what does soil health mean? Soil health is the continued capacity of the soil to function as a vital living ecosystem.

Soil health is important because it is interdependent with pasture health. A few of the benefits of healthy soil are:

- Increased soil organic matter leads to increasing water retention. This matter will essential “glue” soil particles together
- Improved water infiltration leads to reduced erosion and increases soil stability. Both lead to increased plant productivity and reproduction.

Keeping a living root in the soil is key to having healthy soils. We can achieve this on our pastures by balancing our stocking rate with our forage production. I like the saying keep down the shoot, kill the root. If we are over grazing our pastures this can actually stop root growth. Removing 40

percent of the leaf volume does not stop root growth. Removing 50 percent only stops it 2 to 4 percent. However, removing 60 percent of leaf volume stops 50 percent of the root growth, and once 80 percent is removed 100 percent of root growth is stopped. If leaf area is left at an optimum length, the roots can support more leaf growth.

Another thing we can do to improve our soil health is to increase our livestock rotation. By creating more paddocks, we can lengthen the amount of rest and recovery time the grass is getting. This helps maintain a healthy root, which leads to healthy soils, which leads to healthy pastures.

Equipment for Rent

(870) 741-8600 x. 3

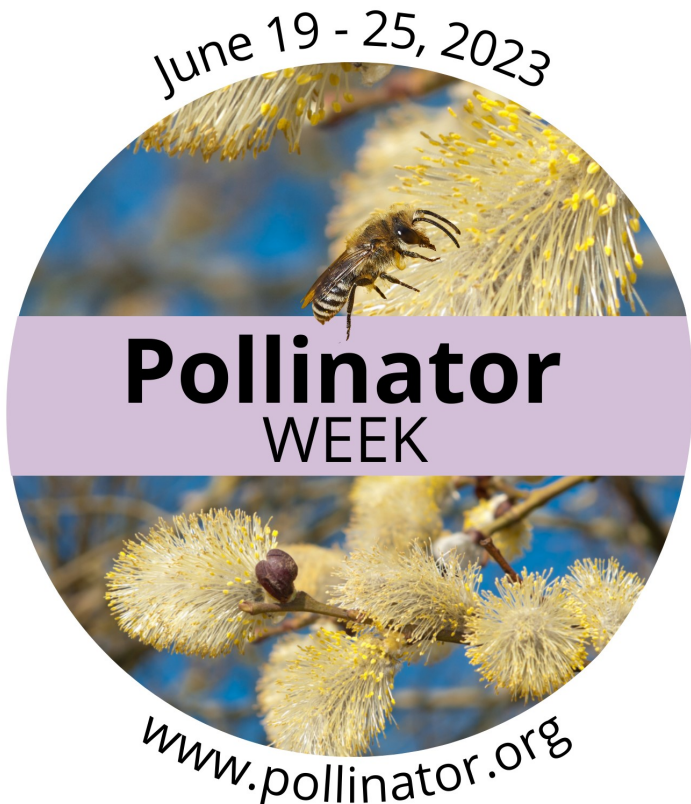
No Till Drills

Smooth Roller

Aerator

Litter Spreader

Gas-Powered Rhino Post/T-Post Driver



Poison Hemlock

Poison Hemlock is one of the deadliest plants in North America and can be deadly in small amounts if ingested. It is famous as the poison that was used to kill Greek philosopher Socrates.

AND IT IS DOMINATING OUR ROADWAYS and PASTURES!! 

Poison Hemlock can easily be mistaken for Queen's Ann Lace. They are both in the Apiaceae family and have hollow stems. So how can you tell the difference?

The stem for poison hemlock is hairless and has purple blotches. Where Queen Ann's Lace stem has hairs and will not display any purple blotches.

Poison Hemlock



Queen Ann's



The flowers of both species is white and bloom in an umbrella shape pattern. The flowers branch out in little umbrellas from one main central umbrella. Queen Ann's Lace will have a single purplish/red flower in the center of the umbrella. Queen Ann's Lace will be flat-topped while Poison Hemlock will be more rounded.

Queens Ann's



Poison Hemlock



Poison Hemlock can grow 5 to 10 feet tall. All parts of the plant are poisonous. Simply handling the plant can cause a reaction in humans. Sheep can be poisoned by eating as little as 4 to 8 ounces of green leaves. Cattle that eat 10-16 ounces may be affected. Signs usually appear within an hour of eating it. The animal will die of from respiratory paralysis in 2 to 3 hours.

Signs of poisoning are: Abortions may occur in pregnant animals that recover, nervous trembling, salivation, lack of coordination, bloating, dilation of pupils, rapid, weak pulse, blue coloration of lining of the mouth, respiratory paralysis and coma.

If you suspect an animal may have been poisoned by hemlock give stimulants and a large dose of mineral oil to affected animal as soon as possible. This treatment may save an animal that has not eaten an excessive amount. Animals that recover that are pregnant may abort or give birth to deformed offspring.

Poison hemlock may be controlled by treating plants with herbicide. Contact the Cooperative Extension agent for more information. (870) 741-6168

Boone County Conservation District

Federal Building 402 N Walnut Suite 125

Harrison, AR 72601

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Farm Bureau.....the voice of agriculture

Boone County Farm Bureau

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Call (870) 741-8600 x. 3 Or email me at lisa.widner@ar.nacdnet.net.