

# Mini-Cassia Conservation Update



Volume  
2024.2

## East Cassia, Minidoka, & West Cassia Soil and Water Conservation Districts

### Soil District OFFICES

#### Burley Office Location

1361 East 16th Street  
(In the USDA Service Center)  
Burley, Idaho  
Monday-Thursday 9:00-2:00  
208-572-3375

#### Minidoka Office Location

85 East Baseline,  
(In the McGregor Building)  
Minidoka County Fairgrounds  
Rupert, Idaho  
Tuesday-Friday 9:00-2:00  
208-436-4202



2024 Conservation Theme

### INVASIVE SPECIES

Starting July 1, new laws in Idaho took effect to combat aquatic invasive species. "Since Idaho's Legislature took action in 2008, our state has taken the forefront in combating aquatic invasive species," said Chanel Tewalt, ISDA Director. "Today, Idaho adds additional tools in our fight to protect agriculture, power generation, recreation and private property."

**Idaho law requires the owner of any boat and any non-motorized vessel to buy and display an Idaho Invasive Species Fund sticker to legally launch and operate the boat in Idaho.**



A conveyance or watercraft includes but is not limited to a boat, kayak, paddleboard, inflatable watercraft

Continued on page 7

### Memories of Kathy Poulton

Kathy Poulton passed away on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Kathy served on the West



Cassia Soil & Water Conservation District Board for 14 years. She served as Treasurer for 11 of those years, working

closely with employees and board members. Kathy was a lifelong resident of Cassia County. She had many hobbies and interests. She enjoyed reading and music, and even took up tap-dancing!

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### COMMUNITY CONSERVATION CLASSES

The Soil & Water Conservation Districts are offering FREE Community Conservation Classes to be held 4 times a year.

The first class was held in June and surrounded the topic of Pollinators with a focus on beetles and bees. Attendees put together their own pollinator seed mixes to take home.

The 2nd class will be held on August 6th. Topics to be covered include Summer Gardening Issues, Pruning Vegetable Plants & Flowers, Pest Trapping, and will include garden refreshment delights.

Upcoming classes will include topics such as Preparing Your Plants for Winter, Flower Bulbs, Trees for Yards & Wind-breaks, Evaluating Your Yard Design for All Seasons, Water-Wise & Fire-Wise plants, Healthy Soil/Healthy Pastures, and more....

## Plant Whisperers



#### TOPICS:

- Summer Gardening Issues
- Pruning Vegetable Plants & Flowers
- Pest-Trapping

Community Conservation Class #2

### The Plant Whisperers / Summer Gardening

Tuesday, August 6, 2024 / Burley Public Library / 7-8:30 PM

Sponsored by The East Cassia, Minidoka, & West Cassia Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Register online at [www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com)

# District Board of Supervisors

## East Cassia SWCD

Chairman..... Rob Cottle  
 Vice-Chair..... Steve Ward  
 Treasurer..... Ken Woodworth  
 Member..... Hannah Sanders  
 Member..... Kurt Heward  
 Associate Member..... Mark Webb

## West Cassia SWCD

Richard Kunau  
 Jordan Searle  
 Ken Black  
 Chad Searle

## Minidoka SWCD

Dusty Wilkins  
 Reid Bowen  
 Lance Lovell  
 Luke Stevenson  
 Jeff Schow

### District Employees

Sharon Hardy.....Minidoka Administrative Assistant  
 Rachele Osterhout.....Cassia Administrative Assistant  
 Doreen McMurray.....Cassia Information & Education Specialist

### Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

*Burley 208-572-3377 / Rupert 208-436-4777*

David Mabey.....District Conservationist  
 Carolyn Firth.....ISWCC Ag Program Specialist  
 Dinah Reaney.....Soil Conservationist  
 John Erickson.....Natural Resource Specialist

### CONTACT SWCD OFFICES:

**Rupert SWCD Office 208-436-4202**  
**Burley SWCD Office 208-572-3375**

**Minidoka email:**  
[minidokaswcd@gmail.com](mailto:minidokaswcd@gmail.com)  
**Cassia email:** [ewcswcd@gmail.com](mailto:ewcswcd@gmail.com)

**Web page:** [www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com)

*Spanish translation available upon request.*

### DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

Supervisors for the Soil and Water Conservation Districts are landowners in Cassia and Minidoka Counties who volunteer their time. They are interested in farming issues and want to make a positive difference in their communities. Serving as a Supervisor is a great opportunity to learn how to improve your own operation as well as help to make a positive difference within your own community.

If you are interested in serving on the Soil & Water Conservation District Board in your county, contact a current board member or call one of the NRCS offices for information.

#### Monthly Board Meetings

**East Cassia SWCD - 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month**  
**West Cassia SWCD - 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month**  
**Minidoka SWCD - 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month**

*Any changes to meeting schedules will be posted in our offices and on our website at [www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com).*

## NEWSLETTERS are available by e-mail

To receive this and future newsletters electronically, send your e-mail address to:  
**[ewcswcd@gmail.com](mailto:ewcswcd@gmail.com)**

Type "NEWSLETTER" in the subject box.

*If you want your name removed from the newsletter mailing list, just let us know.*

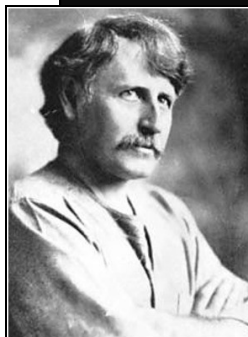


The "Conservation Update" is published 3 times a year by the East Cassia, West Cassia, & Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation Districts and mailed to approximately 1,000 landowners, and sent by email to several hundred more. The distribution mailing list is maintained by the Information & Education Specialist in Burley, Idaho. Names may be added or removed from the mailing list for the next publication by calling 208-572-3375.

East Cassia, West Cassia, & Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation Districts are non-profit organizations. All programs and services of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

Essentially, all life depends upon the soil... There can be no life without soil and no soil without life; they have evolved together.

— Charles Kellogg —




Did You Know...  
 You can access information and videos from speakers that presented at our past Soil Health workshops on our website at:

[www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com)

## PIVOT TRACK FILLER

Pivot Track filler for rent from East Cassia Soil & Water Conservation District. For details, visit our website at [www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com) or call

208-572-3375. 



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## PIVOT TRACK FILLER

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2024 STEWARDSHIP THEME

"MAY THE FOREST BE WITH YOU ALWAYS"

Watch for upcoming Speech & Poster Contests information on our website at [www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com)

## COMMUNITY CONSERVATION CLASSES

**Community Conservation Classes are for EVERYONE!**

Farmers, gardeners, landscapers, and Anyone **interested in conservation.**

Upcoming class info available on our website [www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com).

## Keep A Living Root in the Soil NO-TILL DRILLS - Ready to Rent

**Call to reserve a drill now.** The drills are perfect for direct seeding into grain stubble or for no-till plantings of oats, barley, pasture mix, alfalfa, forage mix, orchard grass, crested wheat, or any blend of cover crops. **Contact the Soil & Water Conservation Districts to reserve and rent a drill.**

Minidoka office: 208-436-4202

Cassia office: 208-572-3375

Info on our website: [www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com)



*Do you have  
Tomato Blight?*

Come to our **FREE**  
Community  
Conservation Class

Topics:

Gardening Issues  
How to Prune Plants  
Pest-Trapping  
Garden Yummies!



## The Plant Whisperers / Summer Gardening

Tuesday, **August 6th, 2024**

7:00-8:30 pm

Burley Public Library - 1300 Miller Ave, Burley

Sponsored by East Cassia, Minidoka, & West Cassia Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Register online at [www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com)

## WELCOME to our new Natural Resource Specialist



**John Erickson** is a developing professional in the natural resources field with over 8 years of experience. He is currently training to be a level 3 planner with the Natural Resource Conservation Service, where he will assist farmers/ranchers in achieving their goals with an emphasis on conserving our natural resources. John holds a bachelor's degree in biology. His expertise includes noxious weeds/invasive species mitigation and control, strategic planning, and project management. In his free time, John enjoys spending time with his family, playing basketball, and hiking.

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## Burley Livestock Auction LLC



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Districts

The safety of our members & employees is our top priority!  
Contact us for any safety questions or to schedule a safety demo.



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## Thanks to our Advertisers

Their support makes this Newsletter possible.

## Memories of Kathy Poulton (Continued from page 1)

Kathy helped her son Mike run a cow-calf ranching operation south of Oakley. Conservation has always been a priority for the Poulton Family. They own a meadow ranch on Goose Creek where, with the help of NRCS and the Soil Conservation District, they carried out a riparian restoration project on 3 miles of creek bank. The banks of Goose Creek have healed, water quality improved, sediment flow reduced, and the shallow water table restored.



*Kathy presenting a scholarship award 2016.*

Education was always an important part of Kathy's life. She was a teacher in Cassia Schools for 32 years. She was a Master Gardener, a quilter, a member of P.E.O. and was an active member of the Presbyterian Church. Her favorite activity was being involved in the raising of her 5 grandsons. Joining the West Cassia Soil &

Water Conservation District was a natural fit for Kathy. She enjoyed working with other supervisors and district employees. She was involved in many of the activities provided by the Soil

Districts. Some of her favorites were the State FFA Land & Soil Judging Event, the Soil Health Workshops, and the Seedling Tree Sale. Kathy encouraged everyone, from back-yard

gardeners to mega-farmers, to be good conservationists. Kathy believed that soil and water are the building blocks for all life, and that everyone needs to conserve and use our resources wisely.



*Above: Kathy giving a presentation at the Idaho Association of Conservation Districts about the State Land & Soil Evaluation Contest.*

*Below: Kathy participating on a conservation tour at state conference 2022.*



Kaye and Michael presented the 5 scholarships in their mother's name to: Chloe Larson from Oakley High School, Taylor Miller from Declo High School, Regan Nalder from Minico High School, Sadee Sears from Raft River High School, and Malia Tolley from Burley High School.



*Kathy receiving her 10 year West Cassia SWCD service pin. L to R Ken Black, Kathy Poulton, Richard Kunau, and Jordan Searle.*



*West Cassia Board 2019. L to R Jordan Searle, Richard Kunau, Kathy Poulton, Brent Stoker, and Ken Black.*

Kathy has been missed. There is still a hole on West Cassia's board that she once filled. To honor Kathy's memory, donations were made in her name to be used toward continuing education for our youth. Kathy's legacy of conservation and education will continue with 5 students who were selected to receive the Kathy Poulton Memorial Scholarship. Kathy's children, Kaye Poulton-Timm and Michael Poulton have chosen one recipient from each High Schools in the Mini-Cassia area to receive this scholarship.

*Kathy Poulton Memorial Scholarship Winners presented by Kathy's children Kaye & Michael.*





2024 Conservation Theme:

## *May The FOREST Be With You Always*

The Conservation Theme will be used this fall for the  
**SPEECH CONTEST** (for high school students)  
**POSTER CONTEST** (for 5th & 6th grade students)

Details on our website at  
[www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com)

### MOISTURE MONITORS GET “PLANTED”

The Soil & Water Conservation Districts are running a Moisture Monitoring Cost-Share project to follow how landowners are using and saving water as they implement conservation practices. Twelve landowners are participating in the project. A workshop was held early spring to train landowners on the use of the monitors and how to use the electronic data provided by the monitors. The monitors have now been planted and farmers are receiving current data which will help them make better decisions regarding irrigation and moisture content in the soil.

The Project is overseen by the 2 Supervisors from each of the 3 Conservation Districts within Cassia & Minidoka Counties. They make up the “Project Committee” and oversee several projects for the Soil & Water Conservation Districts including the rental of the Direct Seed Drills, and the Community Conservation Classes.



### WE NEED YOUR HELP!

With limited press coverage in Cassia and Minidoka Counties, we need your help to share conservation news. The Soil & Water Conservation Districts offer a variety of educational programs for both adults and youth - and we need help spreading the word!

#### What YOU Can Do...

- \* You can help by sharing our Conservation Activities on Facebook by “following” and “friending” us. Please “like” and “share” our programs and posts with your friends, and encourage them to “follow” us.
- \* You can help by forwarding this newsletter to your friends and contacts, and ask them to join our newsletter e-mail list.
- \* You can help by sharing our website: [www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com).

### Our Facebook Pages:

~ *East and West Cassia Soil and Water Conservation District* ~

~ *Minidoka SWCD* ~

~ *East-West Cassia Swcd* ~

~ *Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation District* ~

# The Cotterell INVASIVE SPECIES INSPECTION STATION

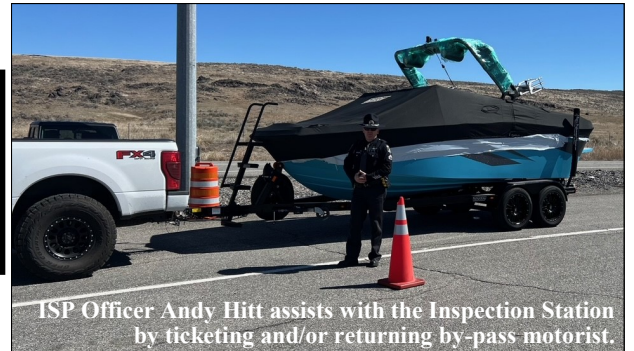
*Working to keep Idaho Waters Clean.*

**REMEMBER:**  
**ALL WATERCRAFT MUST STOP FOR INSPECTION.**  
(Including kayaks, float tubes, buoys, paddles, all boats, etc.)

There is no penalty if we find invasive species on your watercraft.  
We will help you get rid of them.

EVERYONE can help to keep Idaho waters clean.

*Invasive species are harmful, non-native plants, animals and pathogens that damage our economy and environments. Invasives can move into and dominate both natural and managed systems by disrupting the ability of those systems to function sustainably. They are highly competitive, persistent, and can create monocultures that will eliminate Idaho's diverse biological landscape—a landscape that nurtures Idahoan interests from our recreational pursuits to our ability to help feed the nation.*



ISP Officer Andy Hitt assists with the Inspection Station by ticketing and/or returning by-pass motorist.

## **INVASIVE SPECIES** (Continued from page 1)

sailboat, trailer or any other means or method of water transportation.

Before transporting any watercraft, operators must remove the drain plug and drain all water, including all internal compartments, such as ballasts, bilges, live wells and motors. All bilge and ballast plugs and other barriers that prevent water drainage from a conveyance must be removed and remain open while a watercraft is transported by land within the state.

The ISDA operates a hotline (**1-877-336-8676**) for anyone needing information or a free decontamination wash for watercraft that may have been in mussel-infested waters. For more information on ISDA's Invasive Species Program, including inspection station locations and program activities, visit [invasivespecies.idaho.gov](http://invasivespecies.idaho.gov). Invasive species stickers can be purchased from Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, [parksandrecreation.idaho.gov/activities/sailing/invasive-species-program/](http://parksandrecreation.idaho.gov/activities/sailing/invasive-species-program/).

## THANK YOU to our local Invasive Species Inspectors!



# SOIL DISTRICTS HOLD THEIR ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

West Cassia SWCD hosted the joint Annual Awards Banquet for The Soil & Water Conservation Districts in Cassia & Minidoka Counties on June 13, 2024. A presentation on the Mid-Snake Quagga Response efforts was given by Madilyn Patterson, Invasive Species Program Specialist. The infestation of these invasive species threatens all waterways and would have a profoundly negative effect on farming in our counties. The invasive species inspection workers who run the Cotterell Inspection Station were spotlighted and recognized for their work. Each district presented scholarship awards, and District Supervisor and Conservation Awards were presented.

## Retiring West Cassia Board Member – Brent Stoker

Brent Stoker has served on the West Cassia Board for 22 years. Brent joined West Cassia in January of 2001. He has provided great insight and service in the conservation efforts in Cassia County and throughout the state. He is experienced not only in the areas of farming and dairy, but also in recycling resources, composting, researching, and trying new ways to improve both efficiency and higher quality results that will improve soil and our environment.



Brent has worked tirelessly on reducing dairy odors and has served on many committees and task forces including the Gateway West project. Besides his 22 years with the Soil District, Brent has served on the Cassia County

Groundwater Quality Advisory Committee, the Mini-Cassia Commerce Authority, and is VERY active in church and with the youth. Brent and his wife Marla have 7 children and 11 beautiful grandchildren with one more coming in July. Brent loves spending time with his family, working, playing, and serving. Brent, thank you for your dedicated service to West Cassia District and to our community.

## Welcome New Supervisor Chad Searle

Chad was appointed to the board after last year's awards banquet and has been with us now for a year. We appreciate his dedication and service. Two of Chad's goals in serving as a Supervisor are to encourage efforts to conserve water, to ensure sufficient water, and to continue efforts to improve soil health. He would also like to see greater community awareness and involvement in conservation efforts, both on the farm and off.

Chad said that he has seen many good things come from the soil and water conservation district over the years, and he is eager to be



a part of it. He has participated in many programs offered by the districts including the soil health education, drill rentals, the moisture monitoring project, and even participated as a high school student in programs provided for the youth.

Chad works with his Dad and brother, Mitchell on the family farm where he grew up. Chad and his wife Shaylona have been married for 6 years. Chad loves agriculture and outdoor activities, including hiking, hunting, swimming, and camping.

## Minidoka Stewardship Award

Doug Tuma has truly been farming since he was abt 2 years old. He started out by farming on the carpet as a toddler, moving outside to the dirt pretending to make rows of crops with his little toy tractors. He continued until he got old enough to graduate from moving lines as a pre-teen to finally being entrusted to run real live equipment. Doug farmed alongside his father Allen Tuma for many years until about 10-15 years ago when his dad handed the reins over completely to Doug, which led to Tuma Farms INC. His children and grandchildren work in ag related business' and jobs. The love of farming runs deep. Tuma Farms has grown to over 3000 acres of Hay, Grain, Barley, Beets and Potatoes.



## West Cassia Conservation Farmer of the Year Award

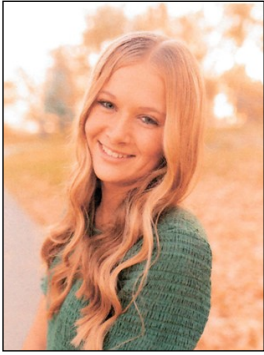
Dale Darrington and Val Darrington were selected as the Conservation Farmers of the Year for their EQIP water management project. Since about 1909, their grandfather's cropland was flood irrigated. But there never seems to be enough water to get to the end of the row now. Each year, they hope that they will not run out of water before the end of the season. Needing to find a way to save water, they decided to install a sprinkler system, hoping it would save enough water to last to the end of the irrigation season.

The Darringtons qualified for an EQIP project to install a sprinkler system on 92 acres. So far this year, they have saved HALF of the water that they normally used with flood irrigation by this time in the season! They feel it is a great success so far and anticipate a full year of irrigation, thanks to the new sprinkler system. Thank you for being good stewards of the land. Dale & Amy Darrington, and Val & Teresa Darrington, West Cassia's Conservation Farmers of the Year.





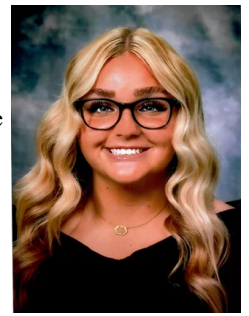
## East Cassia SWCD Scholarships



Allie Black is the daughter of Chad and Lisa Black of Malta. Allie graduated from Raft River High School where she served as the Student Body Vice-President. She was a member of the National Honor Society, FFA, and the Business Professionals of America (where she served as chapter president). Allie participated in a variety of school, community, church, and service activities holding many leadership positions including. Allie plans to attend Utah State University majoring in Accounting with a minor in Ag Business.

Taylor Miller is the daughter of Pam and Jesse Miller of Burley. Taylor graduated from Declo High School where she was active in FFA, student council, and sports. Taylor served in several FFA leadership positions including Historian, Treasurer, Vice-President, and this past year, she served as the FFA Chapter President as well as the District FFA President.

Taylor served as the girls' soccer captain and has been involved in many church and community activities. Taylor is planning to attend Utah State University majoring in Agri-Business and minoring in Economics.



## Minidoka SWCD Scholarship

Regan Nalder attended Minico High School and is the daughter of Shad and LaNae Nalder of Rupert. Regan holds a State FFA Degree and a Greenhand Degree. She has been active in FFA, Floral Design, Horse Judging, State FFA Conventions, both the Minidoka and Cassia County Fairs, and many other FFA and social activities.

Regan's mother LaNae, served on the Minidoka Soil District Board for several years. Regan is planning to attend BYU-Idaho this fall majoring in Animal Science and Agronomy.



## West Cassia SWCD Scholarships



Hannah Groves is the daughter of Katharin Groves of Burley. Hannah is a graduate of Burley High School where she was active in National Honor Society, Track and Cross Country, Choir, and theater.

Hannah will be attending Brigham Young University this fall with a major in mechanical engineering. Hannah wants to contribute to the agricultural community by using her problem-solving skills to serve in the engineering industry.

Hannah has been selected to receive one of the West Cassia Scholarships. Congratulations Hannah.



Parker Hanks – Parker is the son of Kori and Logan Hanks. Parker attended Burley High School where he was active in athletic and tech classes. Parker has volunteered in physical therapy, sporting events, and special education programs. He has worked as an intern doing soil sampling and also as a cabinet maker. Parker is planning to attend Boise State University this fall majoring in Business. Congratulations Parker.

Hudson Kunau is the son of Bob & Nancy Kunau of Burley. Hudson has been involved in Soil District activities as a youth, attending and participating in the Natural Resource Camp.

Hudson is currently attending Idaho State University and is majoring in Surveying and Geomatics Engineering. He is learning how to conduct land surveys, fly drones to map areas of land more efficiently, and he uses the CAD (computer-aided design) program to take real world locations and then map 3-dimensional information on a 2-dimensional space. These skills are great assets to the agricultural community. Congratulations Hudson.



Aspen Osterhout is the daughter of Winn & Rachelle Osterhout of Declo. Aspen is a graduate of Declo High School where she was active in dance, basketball, and track & field. She was the Senior Class President, a member of FFA, the Leo's Key Club, and National Honor Society.

Aspen plans to attend the College of Southern Idaho this fall majoring in Drafting Technology. Congratulations Aspen.



Chloe Larson is the daughter of Seth and Erin Larson of Oakley. Chloe is a graduate of Oakley High School where she was active in sports, FFA, and served as an FFA officer for 3 years. She participated in Know Your Government, held high school government positions, and participated in 4-H. Chloe also participated in community service including volunteering at long term care centers and hospitals.

Chloe is fascinated with how the human body works. She plans to attend Brigham Young University-Idaho this fall majoring in nursing. Chloe understands the importance and the need for a healthy workforce in our agricultural community. Congratulations Chloe.



Malia Tolley is the daughter of Karson & Lawana Tolley of Burley. Malia attended Burley High School where she was active in choir, girls' soccer, Tri-M, and Drama. Malia has participated in 6 community theater productions. She has been active in FFA, and was the Greenhouse Manager. Working as Greenhouse manager instilled in Malia a love for this type of work.

Malia plans to attend Utah State University with a major in Ornamental Horticulture and a minor in Agribusiness. This course of study will help Malia begin her life career to open her own year-round green house. Congratulations Malia.



East Cassia, West Cassia, & Minidoka  
Soil & Water Conservation Districts  
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Burley, ID 83318

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**Soil District Board Meetings:** Public is welcome.  
*East Cassia - 1st Tuesday of each month.*  
*West Cassia - 2nd Tuesday of each month.*  
*Call 208-572-3375 for details.*  
*Minidoka - 2nd Wednesday of each month.*  
*Call 208-436-4202 for details.*

**Minidoka SWCD**  
Phone: 208-436-4202  
minidokaswcd@gmail.com

**East & West Cassia SWCDs**  
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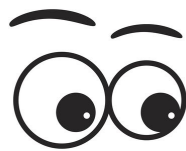
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- \* Conservation Theme 2024
- \* Pivot Track Filler for Rent
- \* and much more.....

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**Look for us at the Fair!**

Minidoka County Fair  
July 30 - August 3, 2024

Cassia County Fair  
August 13 - 17, 2024

