

Summer 2008



ALASKA

Fairbanks Soil & Water



A note from your District Assistant:

If you use email on a regular basis, please contact me @ fwcd@gci.net so I can add you to the email list. There are times when information gets sent down that I would love to pass on to you! Just put in the subject line: "Add me" and I'll take care of the rest!

WE ARE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THESE INVASIVE WEEDS!

WANTED!



Impact: Aggressive vegetative reproduction forming dense mat of plants in which no other plants can grow. Has the ability to move into undisturbed sites and crowd out native vegetation.

Orange Hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum* L.) Photo by Michael Shephard



Impact: Can form dense colonies which displace native vegetation, degrade wildlife habitat and recreation sites.

Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense* L.) Photo by .9UAF Cooperative Ext.



Impact: Can form dense stands in natural areas and increase soil erosion. Knapweed is allelopathic, inhibiting the establishment and growth of surrounding species.

Spotted Knapweed (*Centaurea biebersteinii* DC.) Photo by Michael Shephard

Over the last decade, some of the most harmful noxious weeds plaguing the lower 48 have become established on Alaskan soil, and have begun to spread. These 3 invasive species (above) have not been documented in the Fairbanks area, but have become problems in other areas of Alaska. These species could pose a serious threat to Fairbanks agriculture, gardening, tourism, fish & wildlife, and recreation.

PLEASE CONTACT US IMMEDIATELY IF SPOTTED!

The local cooperative weed management program has identified these 6 weeds as species of concern in the Fairbanks area.



Hempnettle (*Galeopsis bifida*, *G. tetrahit*)

Bird vetch (*Vicia cracca*) Photo by George Hitz



Perennial Sowthistle (*Sonchus arvensis*)



White Sweet Clover (*Melilotus alba*)

Yellow toadflax/ Butter-and-eggs (*Linaria vulgaris*)



USDA Forest Service photos by Michael Shephard



Foxtail Barley (*Hordeum jubatum*)

XID Services photo by Richard Old

HELP US STOP THE INVASION!

Natural Resource Corner



Mission Statement: The mission of the TVWA is to promote and improve the health of the Tanana Valley watershed through education, restoration, collaborative research, and diverse community involvement. Sign up now for a membership or Adopt-A-Stream, which includes Litter Pickup, Stream-bank Preservation, Water Quality Monitoring, Bio-assessment Monitoring, Beaver and/or Dam Management and Funding. The waterways of our community are an essential part of what makes the Tanana Valley a wonderful and exceptional place to live, work and visit.

Contact:
www.tvwatershed.org

NRCS has financial & technical assistance opportunities for producers involved in conservation programs

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEB SITE

www.fairbankssoilwater.org

It's a work in progress!
If you would like to be **FEATURED** on our site, please contact Margie @ fswcd@gci.net



FSWCD STAFF GOES INTO THE CLASSROOM and some 4H ladies join us for Alaska Agriculture Day at the Chamber of Commerce



Schedule of Events

- August 1-9 Tanana Valley State Fair
- August 2 Alaska Grown Day @ the fairgrounds
- Hands on kids activities, Taste of Alaska, Farm & Garden Displays, Giant Cabbage Weith-in, Bucks for Bales (Entry deadline—July 28)
- August 23 3rd Annual Renewable Energy Fair Chena Hot Springs Resort 10am—6pm
- August 23 Waterway Clean-up

GRANTS RECEIVED

Thanks to local legislators, especially Sen. Therriault & Rep. Coghill, FSWCD received a legislative grant of \$80,000 to assist in the continued restoration of Chena Slough and \$5,000 to battle invasive weeds. We also received a matching grant from the Division of Agriculture for over \$2700 to promote Alaska Grown Day at the Tanana Valley State Fair.

Summer Agricultural Programs

LIMING COST-SHARE

Nutrient Management is an incentive practice offered under EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) through Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Liming is a component of nutrient management under EQIP. To be eligible for the incentive payments, nutrients must be applied according to an NRCS-approved Nutrient Management Plan. For more information, please contact your local NRCS office @ 479-3159 ext. 110 or stop by to sign up at the USDA Service Center 590 University Ave. Fairbanks, AK.

Weed Cost-Share

Need \$250 to help with a weed problem?



The FSWCD offers a cost-share program to assist FSWCD cooperators with weed control. Sign-up and a pest scout from the Tanana Valley Cooperative Extension Service will come out to your property, inspect your infestation, and recommend methods of weed control. Bring in your recommendations and your receipts for work completed and we will reimburse your expenses, up to \$250, for costs associated with the recommended methods of control.

NEW THIS YEAR

The FSWCD has purchased a Soil Quality Test Kit for cooperator use. The kit can test Soil Respiration, Infiltration, Bulk Density, Salinity, pH, Soil/Water Nitrates, Aggregate Stability, Compaction, Soil Structure, and Soil Texture. These tests would be used to determine overall soil quality health, evaluate different management techniques, and supplement a soil nutrient analysis. To make an appointment to have the Natural Resources Tech. Specialist come out to your property with the kit, call 479-2657 ext. 104.

Forage Inspection Available

Some public lands require certified weed free forage, bedding, and mulch. The FSWCD will inspect forage and grain fields for weed free forage certification. This is an important step in preventing the spread of noxious weeds and can potentially increase the value of your product. All inspections must be scheduled within 10 days of harvest (cutting). Producers can schedule an inspection by contacting George Hitz @ 479-3159 X 104 or email him at: nrtech@gci.net

Woodlot Walks

The FSWCD offers "woodlot walks" for private land owners to discuss issues and opportunities related to your forest property including your home site.

These include fire prevention, revegetation of disturbed areas (fire, construction, etc), timber stand improvement, forest health issues (invasive insects, diseases, plants), stream bank stabilization, wildlife habitat improvement, and any other questions you may have.

Equipment Lending

FSWCD HAS A SOIL CORE AERATOR TO LEND



The FSWCD has a new Gandy 8ft. Soil aerator with a 3-pt. tractor hook-up. This can be used for improving water infiltration, nutrient

Soil Testing

Time to have your soil tested! Soil tests help determine the level of nutrients in your soil as well as what fertilizer you should use to further enrich your land. FSWCD offers cooperators a **free** service to collect soil samples from your farm or garden. Samples will be sent for analysis and the UAF Cooperative Ext. Service will provide recommendations to increase the productivity and health of your crop, garden or lawn. The only cost to you is the lab analysis fee of \$25 for sample. If you have more than 10 samples, ask about cost share.

Weeds gone Wild!

A **FREE** invasive plants workshop and guided tour around Fairbanks

When: Saturday, August 16 Sign-In: 9:40am-10am. Classroom workshop: 10am-Noon Bussed tour: 1pm- 3pm, starts/ends at Old U Park

Where: Old University Park School - 1000 University Ave, Room 108

*Free lunch included for field trip participants

Please call Diane Claassen at 474-2428 for more information.

uptake, relieving soil compaction and root-bound hay/pasture land. We also have 4 **weed sprayers** available. An Equipment Use Agreement must be filled out in order to borrow any equipment. Donations are appreciated to help pay for maintenance and upkeep of the equipment.

**FAIRBANKS SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

590 University Ave, Suite B
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Main Phone: 479-1213

Fax: 479-6998

Email: fswcd@gci.net

Web page: [http://](http://www.fairbankssoilwater.org/)

www.fairbankssoilwater.org/

Our phone numbers have changed,

Please Note:

Joni Scharfenberg, District Coordinator:
978-1727

George Hitz, Natural Resource Technical
Specialist: 479-3159 ext. 104

Tami Seekins, Education Assistant:
479-3159 ext. 116

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5



The Fairbanks Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors meets on the third Thursday of every month at 5:30 pm.

All meetings are open to the public. Agendas and previous meeting minutes are available for public viewing at the FSWCD office. If you would like any information please stop by or call FSWCD at 479-1213.



Pirates of the Carrots & Beans

Tanana Valley State Fair

August 1—9



FSWCD is offering discounted season fair passes to cooperators and families. There is a limit of 4 passes per family.

Children & Senior passes: 10\$ Adult passes: \$25

Supply is limited. Purchase your tickets at the FSWCD office. 590 University Ave
Hours: 10am—2pm

For verified cooperators only.

Cooperators are private landowners who agree to manage their natural resources utilizing wise conservation practices.

The Tanana Valley State Fair is Coming: Here Are Some Fun Events You Won't Want to Miss!



ALASKA GROWN DAY



Join us at the fair for **Alaska Grown Day on Saturday, August 2!** There will be contests, events, demonstrations, kids activities and informational displays that highlight Alaskan agricultural products. Don't forget to stop by our "Taste of Alaskan Grown" table in the Agricultural Hall where you can try free samples of Alaskan Grown products!

Events will be held from 1:00 -5:00pm

Alaska Grown Day is sponsored by: FSWCD, Division of Agriculture and the TVSFA.

FARM AND GARDEN DISPLAY CONTEST

Showoff your produce and creativity with a fun display! The FSWCD is sponsoring the very popular "Farm and Garden Display" contest. There are both Adult and Junior divisions so it will be a fun event for the whole family! Props (farm implements, etc.) may be used as part of the exhibit. The **Judging criteria** will be based on the quality and variety of Alaskan Grown



Products and creativity of the display.

Awards: Blue: \$30

Red: \$20,

White \$10

This lot will not be judged for class champion.

See the Tanana Valley Fair Exhibitors Guide for more information.

WIN FAME AND FORTUNE!

\$200 Awarded to First Place

The Fairbanks Soil & Water Conservation District is sponsoring the "**Bucks for Bales**" contest for farmers who wish to enter their products.

FSWCD staff will judge the bales and send samples to Palmer for nutrient analysis. Cash and bragging rights will be awarded to the farmers with the best hay. Bales will be on display at the Tanana Valley fair.

How to Enter: Drop off your best bale (45 - 65 lbs) at FSWCD before July 28 between the hours of 9am—3pm. Call ahead for other arrangements.

Each producer may only enter one bale in each category. Hay must have been grown in the Tanana Valley within the previous year.



Judging Criteria:

1. Moisture content
2. Visual appearance (*color, leaf retention, texture, maturity*)
3. Impurities (*dust, mold, weeds*)
4. Nutrient analysis
Finalists Only!

Categories:

1. Grass
2. Legume & grain mix

Prizes:

- First Place:**
\$200
Second Place:
\$100
Third Place:
\$75



GIANT CABBAGE CONTEST

Sponsored by FSWCD

Giant Cabbage Weigh in—All ages
Saturday August 2nd
4pm—7pm at the
Kiwanis Agricultural
Hall

See the TVSFA Exhibitors guide for more information

For More Information on any of these events, contact the Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation at: 479-1213; fswcd@gci.net; or come by our office at 590 University Ave