

Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District

April 2014

From the Frog Pond

I hope everyone will take time to look at the new WNRCD website. It has a new look and an interactive blog function. If you see something you think needs to be on there, let Diana know. It's a work in progress.

The Arizona Association of NRCDs, of which Winkelman is a member, had their annual Legislative Meeting last month. We met with many legislators, some rural and some urban, to let them know what the Districts in their districts have been doing for conservation and protection of the local tax base. Many have never been exposed to the volunteer district conservation model and are truly surprised at the many things the districts around the state are involved in.

There are three bills in the legislature this year that, if passed, will affect the performance of the districts. SB1167 will allow each district to request from the legislature \$50,000 per year and each Ed Center \$60,000 per year. Currently they are capped at \$13,000 and \$30,000 per year. All of our legislators have signed on as sponsors with Sen McGuire being the prime sponsor. When you see them tell them thanks.

Also in the works is SB 1214. This bill recognizes that districts are local units of state

government and that they have "special expertise" in natural resources within their districts. This language is important for coordination with federal agencies. Language in NEPA and FLPMA mandates that they seek consistency with local government plans whenever they are making their plans.

The last one is SB1292 which amends the Arizona Resource Advisory Council. This council advises the BLM and other federal agencies that own lands in Arizona. It identifies who will be represented on the council. The Governor, the Speaker of the House and the Senate President each get to appoint members who represent various interests in the state. Each will appoint a person who "represents a nationally or regionally recognized environmental or conservation organization."

The Winkelman/Redington joint committee that was formed in response to the FWS refuge proposal has morphed into a watershed planning committee. Among the advisors to the committee are State Land Department, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Arizona Land and Water Trust. We are reaching out to the other agencies that have a presence in the valley to join in the effort. Much more to come.

Our Tortoise Best Management Practices document

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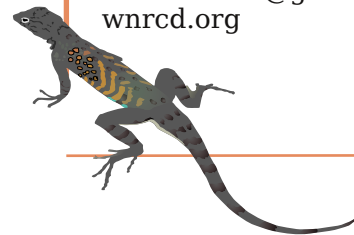
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Who we are

Bill Dunn, chair
Francie Meyer
Steve Turcotte
Peter Else
Gary Vinson

Diana Stirling, clerk

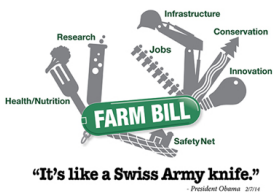
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for Grazing has been sent out to reviewers. As soon as they send their comments back and we incorporate them, we will be sending it to our cooperators and others to review and comment on.

Until next time...

Bill



2014 Farm Bill

Here's what the USDA has to say about the new Farm Bill:

The Agricultural Act of 2014 is important legislation that provides authorization for services and programs that impact every American and millions of people around the world. The new Farm Bill builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past five years, while achieving meaningful reform and billions of dollars in savings for the taxpayer.

The new Farm Bill will allow USDA to continue record accomplishments on behalf of the American people, while providing new opportunity and creating jobs across rural America. It will enable USDA to further expand markets for agricultural products at home and abroad, strengthen conservation efforts, create new opportunities for local and regional food systems and grow the biobased economy. It will provide a dependable safety net for America's farmers, ranchers and growers. It will maintain important agricultural research, and ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all Americans.

See the highlights on the next page. Visit <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=farmbill> for more information.

Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District



Lower San Pedro Initiative meeting Friday

Posted on March 25, 2014

The Lower San Pedro Initiative Committee will meet Friday, March 28, at the General Kearny Inn in Kearny at 10:00. Please see the attached agenda for more information.

[Agenda 3-28-2014](#)

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Leave a comment](#)

AZ SRM Workshop March 29

Posted on March 23, 2014

[Arizona Section SRM Director South Workshop.pdf](#)

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Leave a comment](#)

Nominations are Open for 2 Supervisor Seats

Posted on March 23, 2014



Search our site

Coming up ...

March 28
--LSP meeting, Kearny

March 29
--AZ SRM Workshop

April 9
--Quarterly meeting

Follow us!

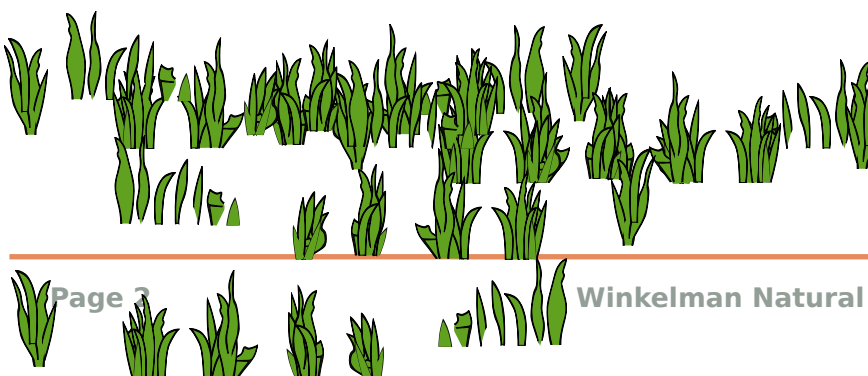
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Find a wealth of information about maximizing your soil's health at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/soils/health/>. Resources include videos, newsletter articles, information from farmers, and facts about soil biology.

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SOIL



2014 Farm Bill Highlights

Farm Safety Net

Before the 2014 Farm Bill

- The 2008 Farm Bill continued direct payments—a system that paid producers regardless of whether they incurred losses.
- Disaster assistance programs expired in fiscal year 2011. Since then, producers impacted by disease or adverse weather conditions have not received financial assistance for losses incurred.

2014 Farm Bill

- Eliminates direct payments and continues crop insurance.
- Producers will choose between the Price Loss Coverage and Agricultural Risk Coverage. Establishes the Dairy Margin Protection program.
- Restores livestock disaster assistance for losses dating back to 2011, and establishes a permanent livestock disaster program.

Rural Development

Before the 2014 Farm Bill

- USDA programs support investments in the rural economy through grants, loans and loan guarantees with an emphasis on essential infrastructure, small business development, job creation, and growth.

2014 Farm Bill

- Continues USDA Rural Development programs. Provides \$15 million to support rural business development and growth through the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program.
- Provides \$150 million for water and wastewater infrastructure.
- Reserves 10% of certain programs for regional, long-term investments to better promote economic development through regional planning and leveraging of resources.

Trade and Foreign Agriculture

Before the 2014 Farm Bill

- USDA expands markets for U.S. agricultural goods through the Foreign Market Development Program and Market Access Program. Local and Regional Procurement (LRP) authorized as a pilot to provide international development assistance and expedite food aid.

2014 Farm Bill

- Continues authorization for \$200 million annually for international market development.
- Authorizes up to \$80 million for LRP and makes the program permanent.
- Provides more flexibility for USAID to use cash assistance in administering the Food for Peace program.
- Increases flexibility for assistance in emergency situations.

Research

Before the 2014 Farm Bill

- USDA advances scientific knowledge related to agriculture through research, extension, and education. Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI) funded at \$40 million annually.

2014 Farm Bill

- Endows \$200 million for a foundation for agricultural research.
- Doubles the funding for SCRI to \$80 million annually

Conservation

Before the 2014 Farm Bill

- The 2008 Farm Bill built on past farm bills, providing further conservation opportunities for farms and ranchers.

2014 Farm Bill

- Consolidates conservation programs for flexibility, accountability and adaptability at the local level.
- Links basic conservation practices to crop insurance premium subsidy for highly erodible lands and wetlands.
- Builds upon previous successful partnerships and encourages agricultural producers and partners to design conservation projects that focus on and address regional priorities.

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

Before the 2014 Farm Bill

- The 2008 Farm Bill established new energy programs, including the Bioenergy Assistance Program, the Biobased Marketing Program and the Biomass Crop Assistance Program.

2014 Farm Bill

- Reauthorizes and provides \$880 million for energy programs established in the 2008 Farm Bill.
- Expands Bioenergy Assistance Program to include biobased product and renewable chemical manufacturing.
- Expands Biopreferred program to include forestry products.

Forestry

Before the 2014 Farm Bill

- The Forest Service (FS) was granted Stewardship Contracting Authority through FY14.
- Good Neighbor Authority allowed State Foresters in CO and UT to conduct restoration services on National Forest System Lands. Expanded to include all states in FY14, through FY18.

2014 Farm Bill

- Makes Stewardship Contracting Authority permanent, allowing FS to conduct restoration work and stimulate job growth.
- Makes the Good Neighbor Authority permanent and available nationwide.

Nutrition

Before the 2014 Farm Bill

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the cornerstone of the Nation's food assistance safety net, helping families put food on the table.
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) supports food banks and food pantries.

2014 Farm Bill

- Maintains SNAP eligibility for millions of low-income families.
- Provides \$200 million for job training and \$100 million to increase fruit and vegetable purchases.
- Provides \$250 million in additional funding for TEFAP.
- Authorizes \$125 million for the Healthy Food Financing Initiative to make nutritious food more accessible.

Next Generation Farmers and Ranchers

Before the 2014 Farm Bill

- The 2008 Farm Bill established the Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Development Program with \$75 million for FY 2009 to FY 2012.

2014 Farm Bill

- Provides \$100 million for the Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Development Program.
- Increases access to capital and supports crop insurance and risk management tools, including reducing crop insurance premiums during the first 5 years of farming.

Local and Regional Food Systems

Before the 2014 Farm Bill

- The Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) funded at \$10 million annually.

2014 Farm Bill

- Renames FMPP to "Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program" and provides \$30 million annually.
- Continues to reserve funds in the Business & Industry Loan Program for locally- and regionally- focused businesses.
- Advances growth of local and regional food systems with \$65 million for Value Added Product Market Development Grants.

Specialty Crops and Organics

Before the 2014 Farm Bill

- Funded the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBG) at \$52 million annually to promote fruit and vegetable production.
- The 2008 Farm Bill provided \$55 million to strengthen the nation's infrastructure for pest detection and threat mitigation, and to safeguard nursery production.

2014 Farm Bill

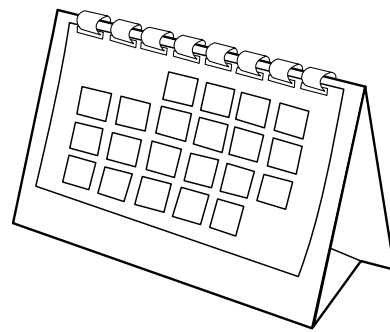
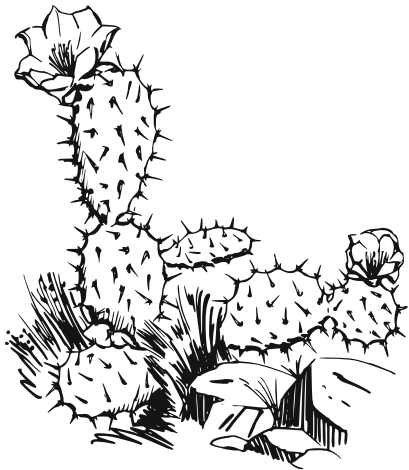
- Provides \$72.5 million annually for SCBG.
- Provides new resources for organic farmers, including funding the Organic Cost Share program at \$11.5 million annually.
- Increases funding for pest and disease management and disaster prevention to \$62.5 million per year, and \$75 million in FY 2018 and beyond.

Mark your calendar . . .

April 9 Quarterly meeting

**10:00 a.m.
Dunn Ranch
Downtown Kelvin**

Lunch will be pot-luck.



Get the *latest news* about

- * The Triangle Bar
 guest speaker Shawn Lowery AGFD
- * the Lower San Pedro Initiative
- * the tortoise monitoring project
- * what's happening with our Board members and
 cooperating agencies

The Education Center meeting will be held after the
business of the regular quarterly meeting.
Check wnrcd.org for the agenda.



Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District
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