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## District Priorities

1. Promote Sustainable Agriculture and Soil Health
2. Provide Community Information and Education
3. Protect Water Quality and Quantity
4. Improve the Urban/Rural Interface
5. Farmland Preservation

## FY 2019 Revenue

State Funding	\$ 61,300
County Funding	\$ 45,000
Avimor Easement Management	\$ 5,000
No-Till Drill Rental	\$ 11,621
SWID RC&D Assistance	\$ 892
<u>5<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Day Partners</u>	<u>\$ 3,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$126,813</b>

## Innovation Farm

In 2019, Ada SWCD launched a new curriculum to help farmers and gardeners explore innovative agricultural practices. The goals of the **Innovation Farm** are to educate farmers and the community about natural resource conservation practices, show niche markets for farmers looking to diversify, demonstrate urban farming techniques, host classes and workshops to connect people with the food they eat and the farmers who grow that food, and to help create a path forward for farmland preservation in the Treasure Valley by demonstrating the value of local farmland, farmers, and agricultural products.

### 2019 Projects:

#### *Boise Farmers Market Tours*

- Hosted **four** tours of farms in the Treasure Valley. Each tour had **22-25 attendees**. Participants visited **three farms** that sell produce at the Boise Farmers Market. These tours allowed participants to experience firsthand where their food is grown and to connect with farmers.

#### *Classes and Workshops*

- Hosted classes and workshops on identification of pollinators, soil health, wild plant foraging, ecosystem restoration, starting a flower farm, and preserving jams, jellies, and spreads.

#### *Composting, Soil Health, and Vermiculture*

- Worked with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to begin research on composting methods.
- Taught classes using microscopes to examine beneficial microbes in soil.
- Conducted trial to test cover crops mixes for grazing and soil health.
- Acquired 40,000 red wiggler worms for soil health research and education.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Days

Ada SWCD hosted **five** conservation field days in 2019. **1,150 students** from **14 schools** in the Boise and West Ada School Districts participated. The Field Days educate students about soil, agriculture, pollinators, watersheds, natural habitats, and healthy food.

This unique program is provided at **no cost** to the schools and prioritizes Title I schools. Partners in this program are environmental and industry leaders from agencies, private industry, nonprofits and other local governments.



## Ada Community Conservation Grant Program

For the second year, Ada SWCD managed a grant program to fund on-the-ground conservation projects by local community partners.

In 2019, Ada SWCD funded **seven grant project proposals** and awarded **\$19,099.60**. Projects included noxious and invasive weeds education, farming and conservation education for children and adults, soil health training for farmers, and a restoration project along Hill Road Parkway in northwest Boise. Grant projects reached over **5,000 people in Ada County**.

## Harvest and Hearth

In February 2019, Ada SWCD hosted the first annual **Harvest and Hearth**. Harvest and Hearth is a two-day farm and heritage workshop. The event reached **100 farmers and community members**. Attendees selected courses on livestock, crop production, enterprise diversification, and farmstead management. Harvest and Hearth featured keynote speakers from Full Belly Farm and gave participants the opportunity to learn new skills with several hands-on workshops.

## No-Till Drill Rentals

No-till practices have numerous benefits and help governments meet TMDL regulations. No-till farming reduces erosion, energy use and particulate emissions, and increases soil quality organic matter content, and plant available moisture. It can also provide habitat for beneficial insects and wildlife and improve soil biological activity and diversity. Increased soil diversity has been shown to reduce the need for commercial fertilizers and pesticides, improving farm profitability.

Ada SWCD leases two no-till drills to producers. In 2019, **25 producers** used the drills on **1,000 acres** throughout the Treasure Valley. The small no-till drill was used to re-seed pastures for improved forage, and the large no-till drill was used to plant cover crops and winter wheat.

### Number of People Reached in 2019

5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Field Days	1,150
No-Till Drill Rental	25
Innovation Farm	500
Community Conservation Grants	5,000
Harvest and Hearth	100

### Ada Soil & Water Conservation District

Glen Edwards	Chairman	208-685-6981	5042 W Amity, Nampa, Idaho 83687
Kent Foster	Vice Chairman/Treasurer	208-685-6981	4735 W Moonlake Dr., Meridian, Idaho 83646
Paul Calverley	Supervisor	208-685-6981	9396 Pandion Ct., Boise, Idaho 83714
Lynn McKee	Supervisor	208-685-6981	1887 W Beacon Light, Eagle, Idaho 83616
Joan Cloonan	Supervisor	208-685-6981	9038 W Beachside, Garden City, Idaho 83714
Bryce Durrant	Supervisor	208-685-6981	7592 S Ten Mile Rd., Meridian, Idaho 83642
Mike Pellant	Supervisor	208-685-6981	1072 N Elk River Way, Eagle, Idaho 83616

IDAHO SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

PERFORMANCE  
REPORT  
CERTIFICATION

DISTRICT:

Ada SWCD

FOR YEAR:

2019

DUE:

December 20,

**CERTIFICATION**

On behalf of my local Board of Supervisors, I hereby certify that the attached Performance Report is true and accurate, and further submit said Report for the above named District and fiscal year.

A copy of this Performance Report shall be kept at the District office and is available for public inspection.

Glen Edwards - Chairman

Board Supervisor Signature

Glen Edwards

Printed Name

12-18-19

Date

208-685-6981

District Telephone

9173 W. Barnes Dr. Ste. C, Boise ID 83709

District Email Address

FOR SWC USE ONLY:

DATE OF CONFIRMATION: