



National Association of
Conservation Districts

Bridging the Divide: Updates on new NACD programs and opportunities for your districts

Ariel Rivers

Pacific Region Representative

National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)

South Lake Tahoe, CA | Sept. 23-24, 2019



National Association of
Conservation Districts

NACD MISSION:

To promote the wise and responsible use of natural resources for all lands by representing locally-led conservation districts and their associations through grassroots advocacy, education and partnerships

www.nacdnet.org



National Association of
Conservation Districts

NACD: 30,000' Level

- Established in 1946, NACD serves as the **unified, national voice** for the nearly 3,000 conservation districts across the US
- NACD's **member-driven board of directors selects conservation policy priorities** which are used to develop and review environmental and natural resources legislation
- We work to secure **adequate federal funding** for natural resources conservation programs

www.nacdnet.org



National Association of
Conservation Districts

Who We Are: Structure



President Tim Palmer
Truro, Iowa



**First Vice President
Michael Crowder**
West Richland, Washington



**Second Vice President
Kim LaFleur**
Plympton, Massachusetts



**Secretary-Treasurer
Ian Cunningham**
Pipestone, Minnesota



**Immediate Past President
Brent Van Dyke**
Hobbs, New Mexico

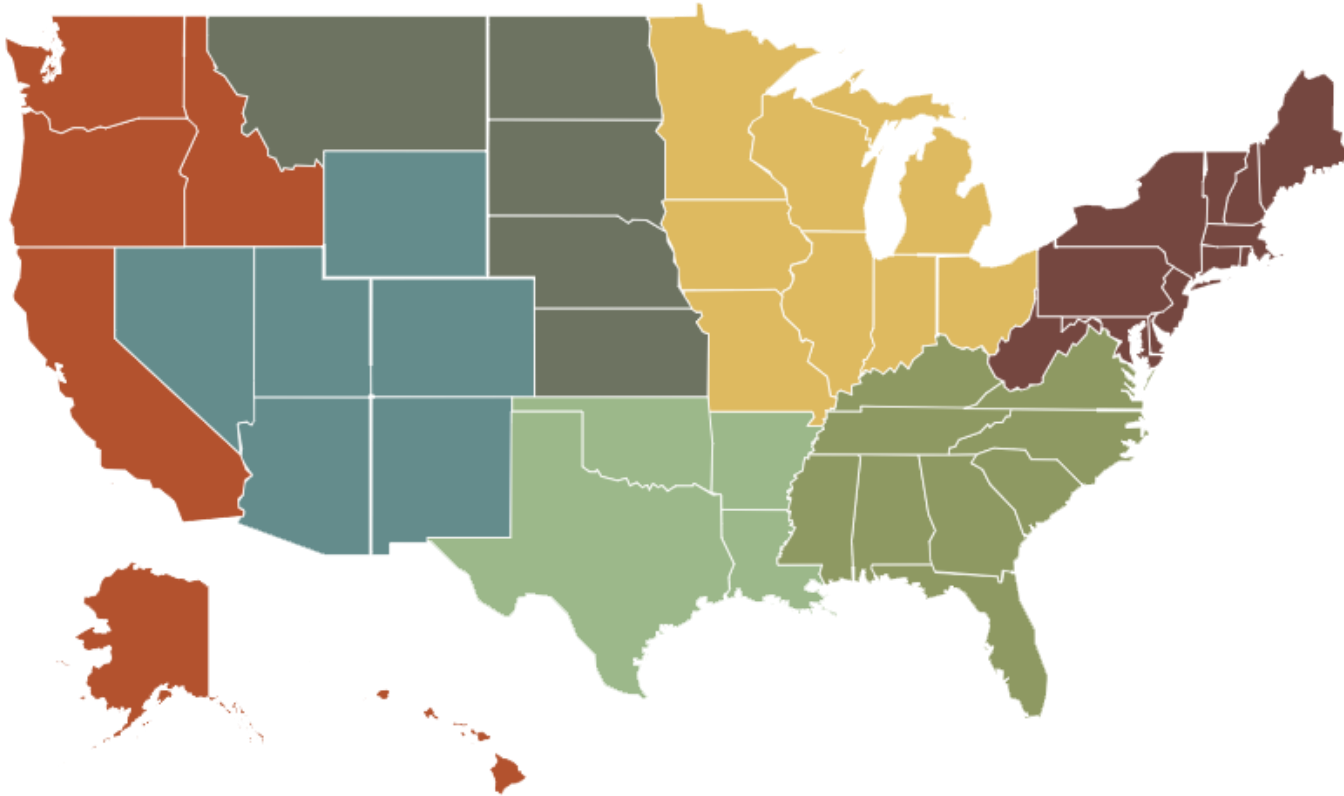


**Chief Executive Officer
Jeremy Peters**
Washington, D.C.



National Association of
Conservation Districts

NACD: Regions



PALAU

GUAM

AMERICAN SAMOA

PUERTO RICO

NORTHERN MARIANA
ISLANDS

FEDERATED STATES OF
MICRONESIA

VIRGIN ISLANDS



National Association of
Conservation Districts

What We Do

GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY

NACD advocates for nearly 3,000 conservation districts across the United States, ensuring federal policy and funding levels reflect the mission and goals of our district members.

[LEARN MORE](#)

NEWS

NACD keeps our members informed of the latest conservation news affecting districts and their customers, newly available tools and resources and NACD's latest activities.

[LEARN MORE](#)

MEMBERSHIP

NACD is your national association working side by side with conservationists nationwide to promote natural resource management at the grassroots level.

[LEARN MORE](#)

EDUCATION

Educating young people about the benefits of conservation helps to ensure the next generation will be wise stewards of America's natural resources.

[LEARN MORE](#)

EVENTS

NACD events provide conservation leaders nationwide with the opportunity to network, discover emerging technologies and services, develop education and outreach strategies and influence national conservation policy.

[LEARN MORE](#)



National Association of
Conservation Districts

What We Do: Advocacy

NACD advocates for the interests of this nation's nearly 3,000 conservation districts and their state/territory associations on Capitol Hill year-round.



Annual NACD Spring Fly-In

NACD August Recess Guide to Grassroots Engagement

Join conservation districts from across the country to help educate your elected representatives about the benefits of locally-led conservation.

**Resources for grassroots
advocacy**




National Association of
Conservation Districts

What We Do: Advocacy

NACD **testifies** before Congress, **submits letters** and **comments** on proposed federal rules and legislation, and **meets** with federal lawmakers to advance policies related to voluntary, **locally-led** conservation



Jeremy Peters, NACD CEO, testifying before the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry on February 28, 2017.

 National Association of Conservation Districts

June 16, 2017

Donna Downing Project Lead Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds Environmental Protection Agency 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW Washington DC, 20460	Andrew Hanson Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations Environmental Protection Agency 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW Washington DC, 20460
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Re: Definition of "Waters of the United States"

Dear Ms. Downing and Mr. Hanson,

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) represents America's 3,000 locally-led conservation districts working with millions of landowners and operators to help them manage and protect land and water resources on private and public lands. Established under state law, conservation districts share a single mission: to work cooperatively with federal, state, and other local resource management agencies, and private sector interest groups to provide technical, financial, and other assistance to help landowners and operators apply conservation to the landscape.

Conservation practices help minimize the impacts of major weather events. For example, soil health practices increase infiltration, improve nutrient uptake, reduce runoff and protect water quality. With earned trust and a proven ability partner at the local level, conservation districts are well positioned to play a key role in addressing water quality and water conservation challenges in local communities.

NACD acknowledges the successes of the Clean Water Act (CWA) over its 40-year existence. Clean water is critical to the health and viability of the urban and rural landscapes that conservation districts serve. New guidance is required to provide clarity regarding the scope of waters protected under the CWA.

On February 28, 2017, President Donald Trump issued the "Executive Order on Restoring the Rule of Law, Federalism, and Economic Growth by Reviewing the 'Waters of the United States' Rule."¹ The order instructed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to "consider interpreting the term 'navigable waters'" in a manner "consistent with former Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Antonin Scalia's opinion" in *Rapanos v. United States (Rapanos)*. NACD appreciates the opportunity to participate in the beginning stages of creating a new guidance, and you will find our comments to the proposed discussion questions below.

¹ Executive Order Number 13778, 82 FR 12497, "Restoring the Rule of Law, Federalism, and Economic Growth by Reviewing the 'Waters of the United States' Rule," February 28, 2017.

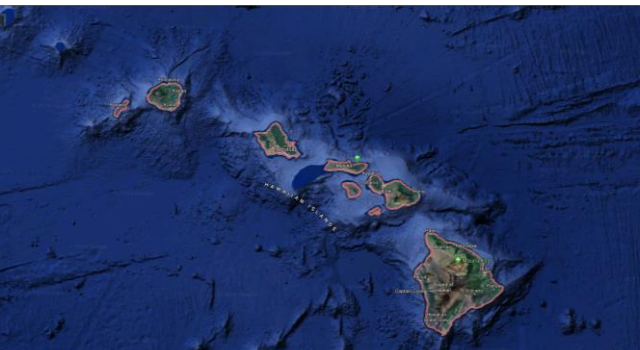
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National Association of Conservation Districts

What We Do: Advocacy

Natural Resource Policy Groups



Conservation Districts and Invasive Species Management

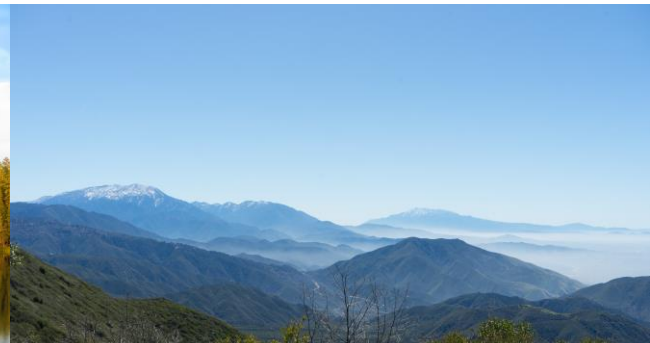
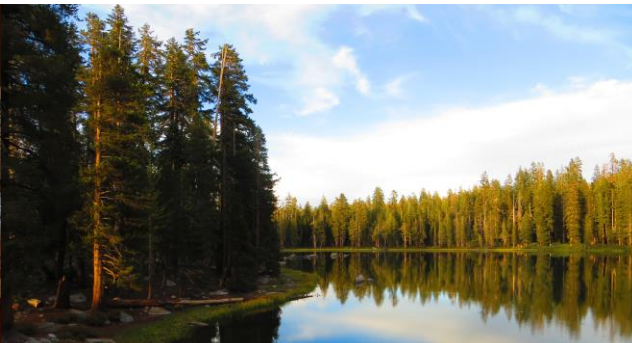
The webinar featured representatives from conservation districts in Hawaii, Oregon and New Mexico discussing innovative, cross-boundary efforts to manage invasive species. The webinar was moderated by **Travis Thomason**, Director – Pacific Islands Area, NRCS. Panelists included **Mae Nakahata**, Director, Maui County Soil and Water Conservation District; **Michelle Delepine**, Invasive Species Program Manager, West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District; **Lindsey Karr**, WeedWise Specialist, Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation



Coastal

Invasive Species

Urban and Community



Tribal Outreach and Partnership

Forestry

Public Lands



Questions?

- 1. What do you value about NACD's government affairs work?*
- 2. What other opportunities do you see for NACD's legislative affairs team?*



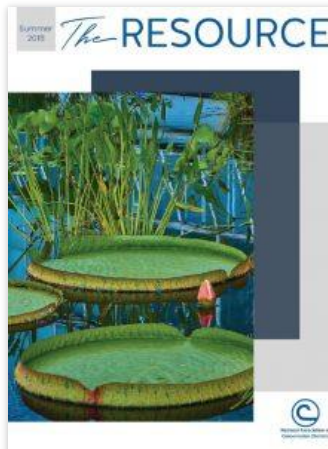
National Association of Conservation Districts

What We Do: News



eResource

Weekly collaborative newsletter delivered every Tuesday; **13,200 subscribers**



The Resource

Electronic and print; quarterly publication delivered electronically and one printed version to 3,000+ districts



Forestry Notes

Monthly publication with nearly **13,300 subscribers**



Conservation Clips

Weekly conservation news round-up distributed on Friday morning with over **12,800 subscribers**



Questions?

- 1. How can NACD improve our publications?*
- 2. What other information would be valuable to receive regularly?*



National Association of
Conservation Districts

What We Do: Membership

National Conservation Planning Partnership



Partners: NACD, NRCS, NASCA, NCDEA & NARC&DC

The partnership helps NACD expand programs through:

- Technical Assistance Grant Program
- Urban Agriculture Grant Initiative
- Soil Health Champions Network
- Resource Stewardship Evaluation Tool (RSET)
- NRCS' Conservation Planning Boot Camp
- Brings conservation planning into 21st Century





National Association of
Conservation Districts

What We Do: Membership

NRCS' Conservation Planning Boot Camp is a three-week, intensive training course for technical employees that covers current conservation planning policy, procedures and guidelines as outlined in the National Planning Procedures Handbook





National Association of
Conservation Districts

What We Do:

Urban Agriculture and Community Grants

Since 2016, \$4 million in grants have been delivered to 81 conservation districts in 34 states

Grants support urban food security, training programs and learning gardens, small-scale conservation practices, etc.

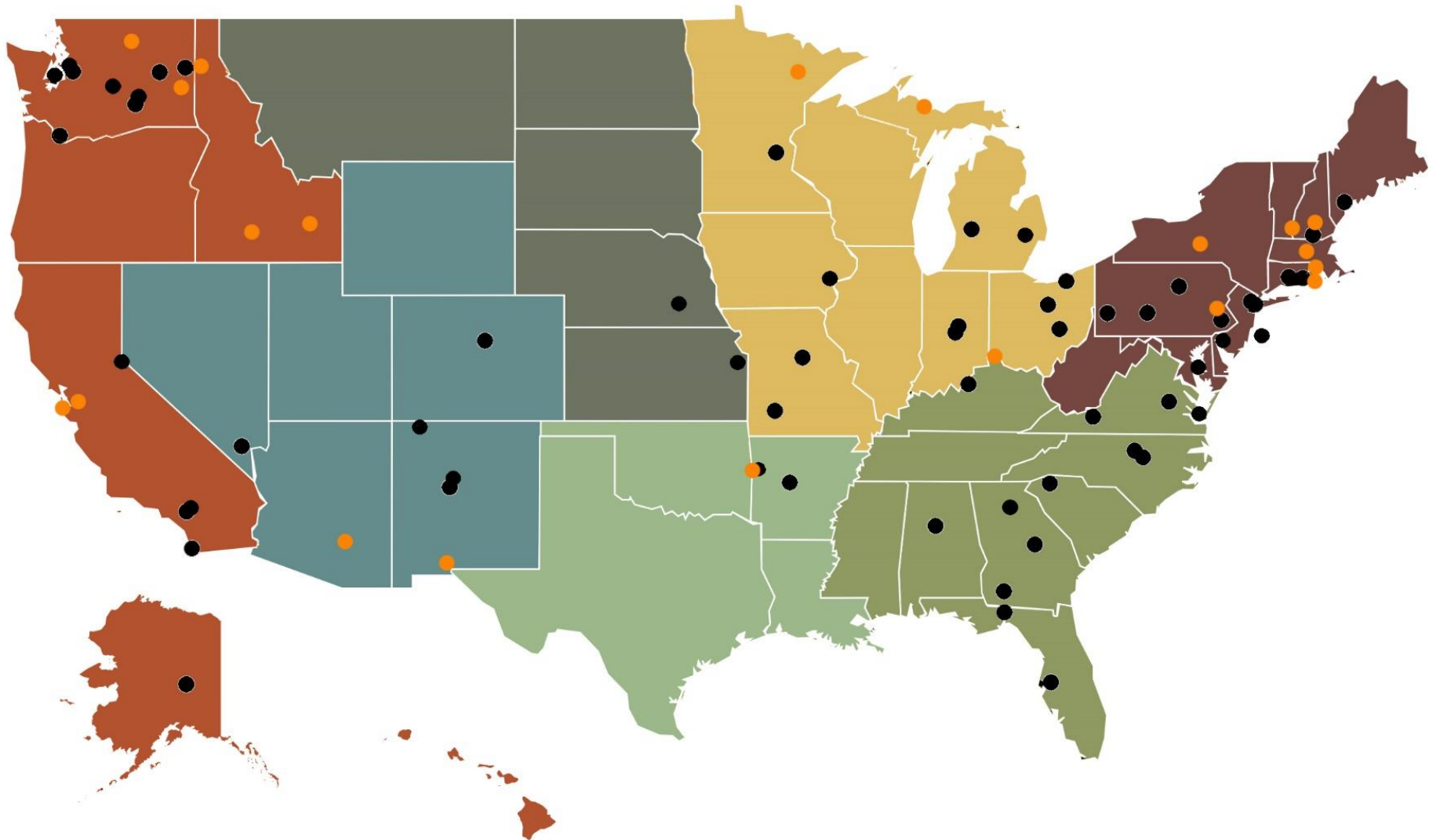




National Association of
Conservation Districts

What We Do:

Urban Agriculture and Community Grants





MEMBERS ONLY SECTION

Welcome to NACD's Members Only section!

Thank you for supporting your national voice for conservation by completing your NACD membership dues payment. Here you'll find an array of timely and relevant resources for conservation districts and state/territory associations to utilize. NACD regularly adds free, easy-to-download content to this page, so make sure to check back frequently.

Are you an NACD Board Member or alternate? Please visit the [NACD Board of Directors secure webpage](#) for additional materials.

[DISTRICT JOB BOARD](#)

[POST A JOB](#)

CONTENT CATEGORIES

[NACD Resources](#)

[Outreach](#)

[District Operations](#)

[Personnel Management](#)

[District Board Materials](#)

[NACD Reports](#)

[NACD News](#)

[NACD District Guides](#)

[Grassroots Advocacy](#)

[District Official Training Program](#)

NAVIGATION

[Members Only Section](#)

[Board of Directors Page](#)

ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT

Click the Account Management headline above to:

- Update NACD username and password
- Manage subscription preferences
- View store orders
- Manage membership
- Register for an event
- Update contact information



- Subscribe
- Marketplace
- Contact

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

This secure page has documents specific to your duties as a members of NACD's Board of Directors. Below, you'll find materials from NACD's board book, the latest meeting minutes, financials and committee reports, a directory and membership reports for each state. **Please do not distribute these documents** to individuals not currently on NACD's Board of Directors unless you have the explicit permission of NACD's Chief Executive Officer Jeremy Peters.

Feel free to reach out to your NACD Executive Board Members and Officer team with any questions.

2019 SUMMER CONSERVATION FORUM AND TOUR BOARD BOOK

Board of Directors Overview

- NACD Organizational Chart
- Board Member Job Description
- Region Chair and Vice Chair Job Description
- Executive Board Member Job Description
- NACD Bylaws | What Do Our Bylaws Say Presentation
- NACD Strategic Plan 2017-2019
- Robert's Rules of Order

ROSTERS

- Board of Directors Directory

NAVIGATION

[Members Only Section](#)

[Board of Directors Page](#)

ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT

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Questions?

- 1. What aspects of your NACD membership do you value most?*
- 2. What other resources would you like to see on the Member's Only page?*
- 3. How can NACD improve value to members (associations and districts)?*



National Association of
Conservation Districts

What We Do: Education

*NACD members can access **stewardship & education materials** free of charge*

National Association of Conservation Districts

Welcome to the NACD Conservation Education Hub!

This learning platform provides interactive lessons, training, and resources for district educators and students in support of locally-led conservation efforts.

[Find Out More](#)

COMING SOON:

CONSERVATIONLEARN.ORG



Learn More



Learn More



Learn More



National Association of
Conservation Districts

What We Do: Education

Soil Health Champions

- A network of over 200 farmers, ranchers and foresters from across the nation who practice and promote the use of soil health management
- Likeminded soil health advocates who can dialogue with each other as they work to build better soil health practices

What role does NACD play?

- Provides exclusive access to offers, technologies and information specific to soil health and conservation, including a quarterly bulletin



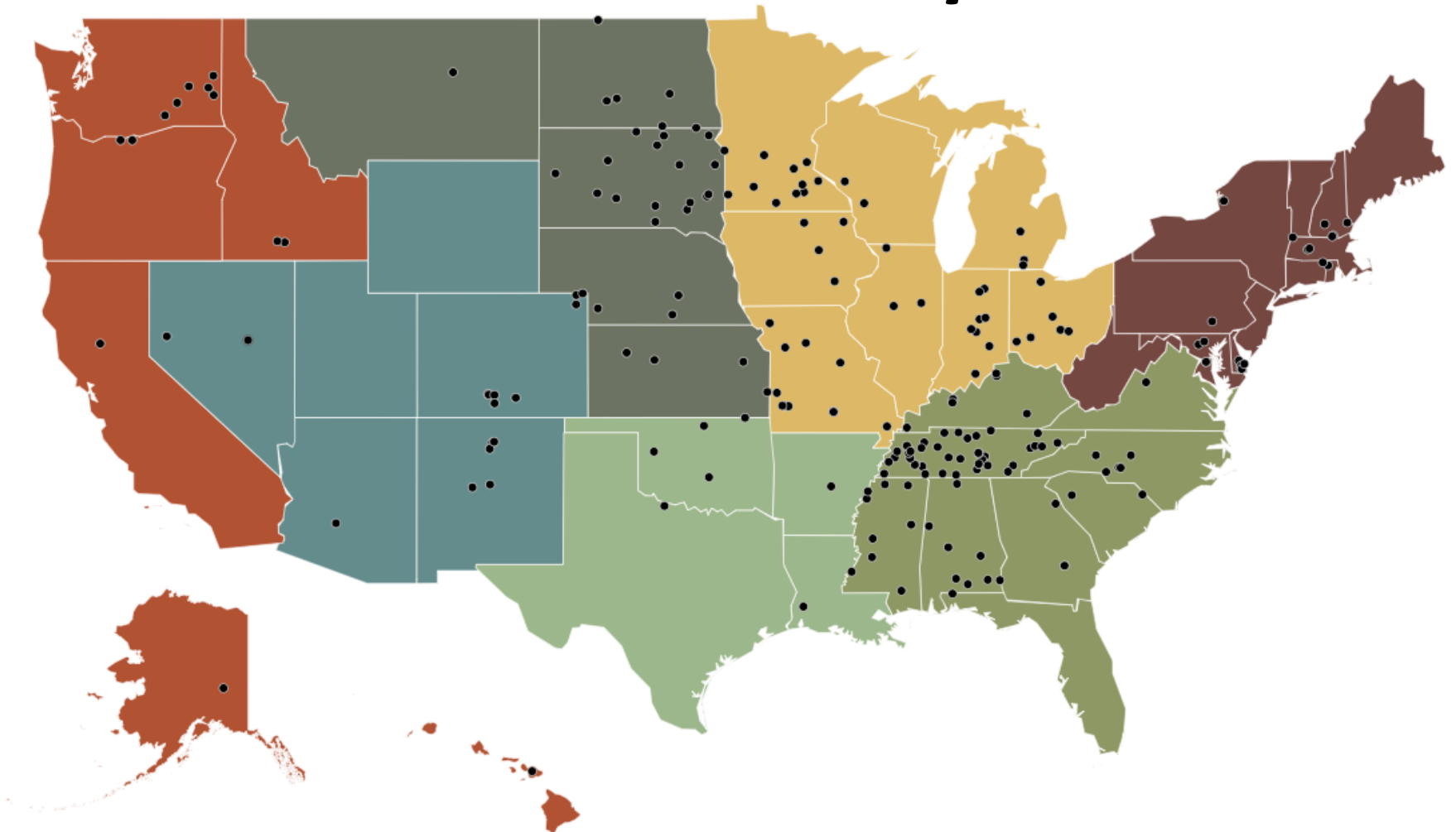
Crowder, 2018



National Association of
Conservation Districts

What We Do: Education

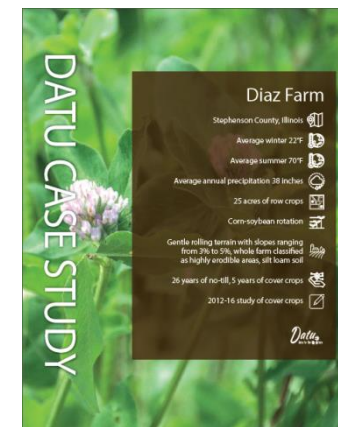
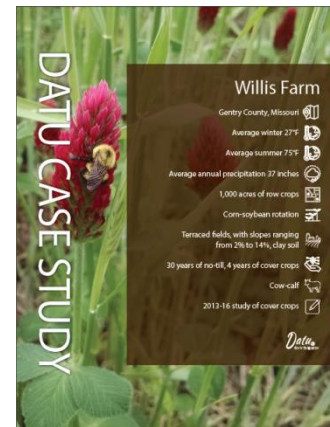
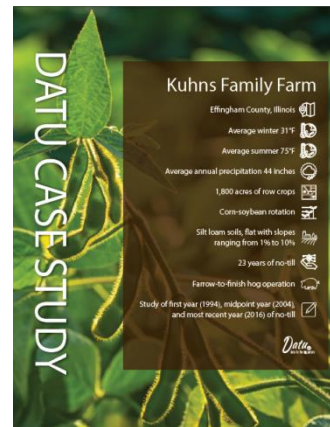
Soil Health Champions





What We Do: Education

*NACD released case studies that found cover crops and/or no-till can add **more than \$100 per acre** to a farm's bottom line*



According to the three-year study, these practices:

- Cut fertilizer costs by up to \$50 per acre;
- Cut erosion repair costs by up to \$16 per acre; and
- Increased yields by up to \$76 per acre.



Questions?

- 1. How often do you use NACD's education materials?*
- 2. What other materials would be of value?*
- 3. How can NACD improve the awareness and recruit to the Soil Health Champions Network?*



National Association of
Conservation Districts

What We Do: Events

Opportunities for Networking, Educational Breakout Sessions, Skill-Building Seminars, etc.



2020 NACD Summer Conservation Forum and Tour:

Bismarck, North Dakota | July 17-22, 2020

2021 NACD Annual Meeting:

New Orleans, Louisiana | Feb. 2021



Questions?

- 1. What do you find most valuable about NACD's events?*
- 2. What would add value to the events?*
- 3. How can we increase attendance from your state?*



National Association of
Conservation Districts



Every acre,



Every American,



Every day.

