

# Mini-Cassia Conservation Update

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

Volume No. 2017.2  
Summer 2017

## West Cassia

### COOPERATOR of the YEAR Honored

Mark Hobson was selected as West Cassia's Cooperator of the Year 2016. The award was presented at the Soil & Water Conservation District's Annual Awards Banquet held on March 9, 2017.

Mark Hobson was born and raised on the family farm. Mark is the 4th generation in his family to farm in Idaho. Mark's grandfather purchased the land down by the Snake River west of Burley called Rattle Snake Farm where Mark grew up. He has made improvements on the homestead where he lives, now calling it Hobson Farms. Mark started his own farming operation in 1975 renting 70 acres. Little by little his operation grew, picking up land as older farmers retired. He now owns 600 acres, rents 300+ acres, and irrigates another 450 acres for other

*Continued on page 4.*



*Left - Mark Hobson, West Cassia Cooperator of the Year, Right—Brent Stoker, West Cassia Supervisor.*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Awards Banquet Highlights  
Minidoka Honors John Firth  
West Cassia Runs Boat Check Station  
Students Attend Natural Resources Camp  
Fall Direct Seed & Cover Crop Tour  
Soil Health Workshop  
Supervisor Spotlights  
Upcoming Poster & Speech Contests  
District Activities  
Direct Seed Drill Rental Info

### Seedling Tree Sale Completed

The Annual Seedling Tree Sale held February—April, 2017 is sponsored by East Cassia, West Cassia, & Minidoka Soil & Water Conservation Districts. Seedlings are inexpensive and hardy and are an excellent way to get started on a windbreak or shelterbelt project. Seedling trees carried by the districts are selected

*Continued on page 5.*

### DIRECT SEED DRILLS - RESERVE THEM NOW

Renting the Direct-Seed/No-Till Drills is a great way to try out the direct seeding practice and cover crops on your farm. The benefits are many. As grain is cut, cover crops can go directly into the grain stubble. Information is available in both Burley and Rupert NRCS offices.

*Continued on page 3.*

### SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED AT SUMMER PICNIC

Over 80 people attended the Soil Districts' annual summer family picnic on July 6, 2017. Following a pot luck dinner, Speaker of the House Scott Bedke, Senator Kelly Anthon, and Representative Fred Wood each gave updates on current issues and concerns. Following the legislative updates, scholarships were awarded to winning students planning to attend college in agricultural related fields this coming fall. Students receiving scholarships include Josie Deaville from Minidoka, and Madeline Garner, Kirsti Prewitt and Kortni Wells from West Cassia.

*Continued on page 10.*



*Scholarship Winners: Josie Deaville, Kirsti Prewitt, & Kortni Wells. (not pictured Madeline Garner.)*

# District Board of Supervisors

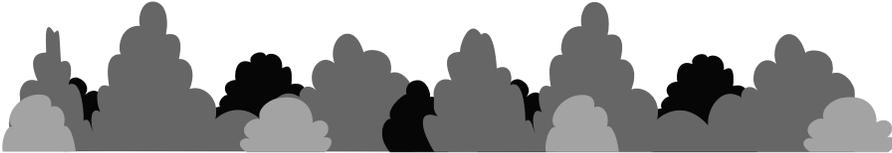
	<u>East Cassia SWCD</u>	<u>West Cassia SWCD</u>	<u>Minidoka SWCD</u>
Chairman.....	Mark Webb.....	Richard Kunau.....	Brian Kossman
Vice-Chair.....	Steve Ward.....	Ken Black.....	Russ Suchan
Sec/Treasurer.....	Ken Woodworth.....	Kathy Poulton.....	Dusty Wilkins
Member.....	Brook Holtman.....	Brent Stoker.....	Justin Hunter
Member.....	Jonathan Harper.....		Aaron Firth
Associate Member.....			
Associate Member.....			

**District Employees**

Megan Heward.....Cassia Administrative Assistant  
 Madi Patterson.....Cassia Office Assistant  
 Sharon Hardy-Mills.....Minidoka Administrative Assistant  
 Doreen McMurray.....Cassia Information & Education Specialist

**Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Personnel**

David Mabey.....District Conservationist  
 Carolyn Firth .....ISWCC Ag Program Specialist  
 Dinah Reaney.....Soil Conservationist  
 Connor White .....Range & Wildlife Conservationist  
 Haydn Carson.....Soil Technician  
 Nathan Huber.....Soil Conservationist



**NEWSLETTERS**  
are available by  
e-mail!

If you are interested in receiving this and future newsletters electronically, send your e-mail address to:  
[ewcswcd@pmt.org](mailto:ewcswcd@pmt.org)

Type "NEWSLETTER" in the subject box.

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

**WE NEED YOU!**  
**Districts Seeking Supervisors**

Needed: Cassia and Minidoka County Residents willing to serve on the Soil District Board of Supervisors.  
 Requirements:  
 — Landowner in Cassia or Minidoka County.  
 — Be interested in farming issues and want to make a positive difference.

*Serving as a Supervisor is a great opportunity to learn how to improve your own operation as well as helping to make a difference within our community.*  
 If you are interested in serving on the Soil & Water Conservation District in your county, contact a current board member or call one of the NRCS offices for information.

**Monthly Board Meetings:** (Public Welcome)  
**East Cassia SWCD** - 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of ea month  
**West Cassia SWCD** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of ea month  
**Minidoka SWCD** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month

**CONTACT OUR OFFICES:**

Minidoka Office 436-4202  
 Burley Office 678-1225 x100

**Minidoka e-mail:** [minidokaswcd@gmail.com](mailto:minidokaswcd@gmail.com)  
**East & West Cassia e-mail:** [ewcswcd@pmt.org](mailto:ewcswcd@pmt.org)

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



*The "Conservation Update" is published quarterly by the East Cassia, West Cassia, & Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation Districts and mailed to approximately 1,100 landowners. The distribution mailing list is maintained by the Information & Education Specialist in Burley, Idaho. Names may be added to or removed from the mailing list for the next publication by calling 878-5556.*

*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.*

## DIRECT SEED DRILL RENTALS

Reserve the Direct Seed/No-Till Drills now. Try cover crops on your farm. Renting a drill removes the need to purchase your own drill. These drills can be used for any planting but are excellent for **Direct Seeding** into stubble from previous harvest. Contact either the Burley (678-1225 x100) or Rupert (436-4202) office to reserve a drill or for details.



Check our website [www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com) or come into one of the offices for details about the drill rentals. Seed recommendations are available by NRCS staff in both the Burley and Rupert offices.

Minidoka and Cassia Soil & Water Conservation Districts continue working together to help educate farmers on soil health issues and the benefits of planting cover crops. Supervisors from all 3 local Soil Districts donate their time to serve on the **Direct Seed/Cover Crop Project** Committee to run and supervise the project which provides education to landowners, seed reimbursements, and access for rental use of direct seed drills for cover crop plantings.

### Direct Seed Drill

*Information & contracts* can be picked up in either the Rupert or Burley USDA offices, or can be found online at [www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com).

### THE PURPOSE of the

### **Mini-Cassia Direct Seed/Cover Crop Project**

Is to increase education in:

- ◆ The use of **direct seed farming**,
- ◆ The use of **cover crops**,
- ◆ How to **improve Soil Health**,
- ◆ To provide access to **equipment, seed information, and seed rebates** toward implementing these practices.

## Cover Crops Diversity Brings Benefits and Spreads Out The Risk

Cover Crops allow crops to be grown with:

- **less soil disturbance**,
- Increased **water holding capacity** in soil,
- Increased **organic matter** in the soil,
- **Decreased wind erosion**,
- **Decreased water erosion**,
- More **soil stability**,
- Natural **Weed control**, and
- **Increased nutrients in the soil** provided by certain cover crop varieties chosen ie: legumes for nitrogen or plants with long tap root systems which pull mobile nutrients and moisture back up to the surface from lower layers of the soil and provide moisture pathways.

Visit our webpage at [www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com)

## Direct Seed & Cover Crop Educational Opportunities

**Cover Crop FALL TOUR**  
1st week in November 2017

**SOIL HEALTH WORKSHOP**  
1st week in February 2018

*To get on the invitation list:  
send e-mail to  
[dmc Murray6@gmail.com](mailto:dmc Murray6@gmail.com)*



*Luke Adams showing mulch from a cover crop planting.*

## **Minidoka's Conservation Steward Award**

Luke Adams grew up farming. He enjoys the hard work and the way it connects you to the natural seasons. The most satisfying part of farming for Luke is working with family. He enjoys the opportunity to spend time with each of them daily.

The biggest obstacle Luke has encountered with cover crops is ensuring that they were really planting beneficial covers for their rotation.

Luke loves how everyone works as a cooperative group. The time cycle is so long in the learning of lessons in agriculture that we need people to help consolidate those learned lessons and spread the stories. Luke does that by sponsoring his own cover crop tours, participating in panel discussions at workshops and is willing to share his knowledge with others.

Congratulations Luke Adams - Conservation Steward Award for Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation District.

## **West Cassia's Cooperator of the Year Honored** *(continued from page 1.)*

farmers. Mark grows potatoes, sugar beets, malt barley, triticale, and cover crops.

Mark got involved with conservation improvements to help qualify for his EQIP contracts. One project included the removal of ditches and installing 5 new pivot lines. This project required the removal of a section of a windbreak/tree line. They were able to save much of the tree line and planted

Pollinator Plots in areas where the old cement ditches were. Planting the Pollinator Plots has increased pheasant and bird populations as well as increasing the bee population and the number beneficial insects.

Mark has also tried strip tilling and growing cover crops, seeing much success. Immediately following the harvest of the malt barley, Mark plants cover crops into the grain stubble. Mark's cover crop fields were part of the Direct Seed & Cover Crop Tour in November 2015. Mark has found excellent bean harvests the year following a cover crop planting.

Mark runs 25 mother cows, utilizing BLM grazing permits in the summer, with calves being born in August. They bring the cows with calves onto the cover crop fields from October to January. The calves grow really fast and healthy on the cover crops. It's like serving them up a nice green salad every day!

Mark's son Presley and employees Osbaldo and Teo work together to make everything happen. They are a great team. In his spare time, Mark likes to pan for gold below the dam with his son Presley. He also enjoys scuba diving and lap swimming. Some of Mark's favorite things about farming include digging potatoes. He likes to watch as the potatoes move down the belt. Mark says, "It's soothing therapy". He loves to make things green! He likes to watch things grow. Mark is an excellent example of a good Steward of the land.

Congratulations Mark Hobson, West Cassia's Cooperator of the Year.



*Mark showing cover crop radishes during November Tour 2015.*

## **TREE SALE** continued from page 1.

for their high rate of survival in our Southern Idaho climate.

Start planning now for your project next spring. Select the desired location where you need protection from the wind such as around a feedlot, on a property line, down a roadway or lane, surrounding your yard or livestock pens, or along a field for either wind protection or wildlife habitat shelterbelt.

The seedlings selected are primarily for windbreaks but can also be used for beautification projects on your property or in your community.

Here's a few things to remember:

1. *Seedling trees are very small – just “babies”, but their cost is minimal and their survival rate is excellent. Nearly all windbreaks are started with seedling-size plants to keep the costs down.*
2. *Do some careful planning before you begin. You can find many excellent sites on the internet that will give you guidance and direction to help with your plans. Consider proper location. Careful planning of the distance between the windbreak and the area you want to be protected is important.*
3. *Ground preparation,*
4. *Irrigation,*
5. *How many rows of trees and/or shrubs to plant, and the varieties that would be best.*

Also take into consideration the protection for the seedlings from livestock and animals during the first few years. With good conditions, your seedlings should produce noticeable protection within 4-5 years. (7-12 years on dry-land).



*Photo shows L to R: Sharon Hardy-Mills - Minidoka Administrative Assistant, Russ Suchan - Minidoka Supervisor, and Richard Kunau - West Cassia Chairman.*

## **AWARDS BANQUET HIGHLIGHTS:**

Soil and Water Conservation Districts hold an awards banquet each year to honor landowners who are dedicated to improving their operations, dedicated to improving conservation, and improving their communities. Supervisors are honored for their years of service to the soil districts and new members are welcomed to the district boards.

**K. Wells received his 10 year service pin.** K. has been a member of the West Cassia Soil Conservation District board since 2007. He taught Vocational Agriculture for 26 years before retiring to run the ranch where he was raised.

K. farms 160 acres of irrigated ground, using a gravity run sprinkler system, which was the first of its kind in the state of Idaho. This was a cooperative agreement with two other neighbors with the help of the Soil Conservation District and the NRCS. K. raises hay and grain, and also runs 70 head of mother cows on the remaining 900 acres of his private pasture land in the Basin east of Oakley. Over the years he has worked to improve the quality of his breeding program with his Simmental-Maine Angou beef cattle.

K. enjoys being involved on the Soil District Board, learning and keeping up with District activities. He is very concerned about the success of Ag educational activities

supported by the district and very involved with the Idaho State Land & Soil Evaluation Event for FFA students. The soils contest takes several days of intense labor, choosing testing sites, preparing the pits for the contest, and cleaning up afterward. K's experience in FFA and teaching soils



*Richard Kunau - West Cassia SWCD Chairman presents 10 year service award to K Wells - West Cassia SWCD Supervisor.*

## **AWARDS BANQUET HIGHLIGHTS:** *Continued from page 5.*

education are valuable assets in hosting this state event.

K. has been active in his church, serving in many leadership positions. He has served as a Varsity Scout leader numerous times, taking his scouts on week-long horseback rides across the mountain ranges surrounding Oakley. He is the chairman of the Oakley Valley Cemetery Board, and currently serves as a member of the Gateway West Task Force for the power transmission line proposal through Cassia County.

K. and his wife Carol are the parents of six children, 31 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild with another on the way! They are currently serving as ordinance workers in the Twin Falls LDS Temple. K. enjoys spending time on his farm and with his grandchildren - teaching and passing on the farming traditions to them.

### **Steve Ward received his 10 year service pin.**

Steve has been a member of the East Cassia Soil & Water Conservation District board since 2007. Steve is married to Tonya and they have 5 children.

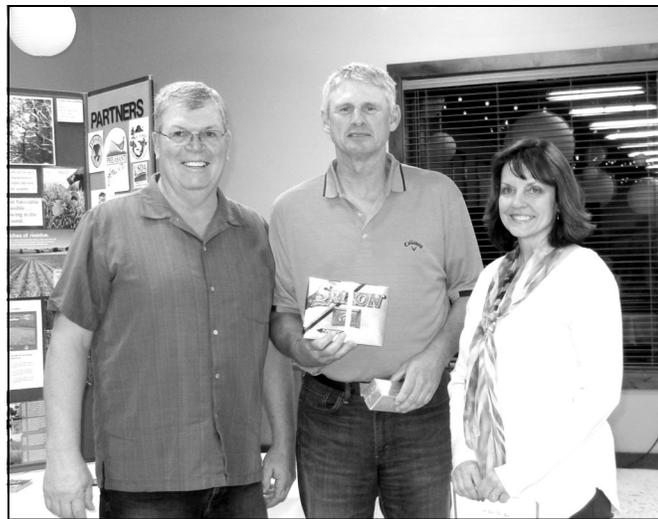
Steve is currently running the family ranch in Almo, with property in the Almo and Junction Valley. He is active in church, having served as Bishop for the Almo ward. Steve is also active in the community, serving on the Cassia County Road & Bridge Advisory Board.

Steve enjoys snowmobiling, Team sorting, and chasing kids to different events. Steve feels it is important to help other ranchers and farmers understand the help and resources available. Steve has volunteered to serve on the East Cassia Board because he has personally seen the benefits provided by the district through the installation of water diversion and head gates on his own operation.

Education is Steve's number one goal for the Soil & Water Conservation District. He wants to educate those involved in agriculture as well as help inform the younger generation about the importance of agriculture.



*Steve Ward receiving his 10 year service pin presented by East Cassia Board Member Brook Holtman.*



*Mark Webb - East Cassia Chairman, presents retirement gift to Mark Streeter & wife Connie.*

**Mark Streeter has served on the East Cassia board for 11 years.** 8 of those years he has served as Chairman of the Board being very active in Soil District Activities. Mark is now retiring from Soil District work. Mark grew up in the Springdale area. He began working with his father-in-law on the Sublett farm where he has been for 40 years.

Mark's interest in the Soil District have included learning about controlling erosion and noxious weeds. He has encouraged landowners to be more conservation minded and supports the combined work with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to help landowners make improvements. Mark has been active in district activities and has taken special interest in the district's success.

Mark and his wife Connie have 7 children where all have helped on the farm by moving pipe and fencing, and working with cattle. Mark is not only retiring from Soil District service, but he is now retired from ranching so he can now spend more time hunting, fishing, and golfing in warmer climates! Thank you Mark for 11 years of dedicated service and leadership.

Continued on page 7.

## AWARDS BANQUET HIGHLIGHTS: *Continued from page 6.*

### John Firth recognized for 8 years of service on the Minidoka Soil & Water Conservation District Board.

John was elected to serve as a Supervisor on the Minidoka Soil & Water Conservation District Board in 2009 and he has served as Chairman of that Board from February 2013 until January 2017. John has been involved with much of the day to day work of the district as well as promoting several major projects while serving as the Minidoka Board Chairman.

John's attitude has always been "Let's do it!". And that's exactly the way that John works as he sees opportunities for the district. John always chooses to look at the positive side of how projects could work out and what benefit they could have. He was also



*Presenting Thank you to John at the Awards Banquet - L to R: Dusty Wilkins-sec/treasurer, Russ Suchan-vice-chairman, Brian Kossman-Minidoka Chairman, John Firth, Carolyn Firth, and Sharon Hardy-Mills.*



*Board members installing a seed box on a new direct seed drill. L to R: John Firth, Dusty Wilkins, Russ Suchan, Woodworth, Brian Kossman, and Justin Hunter.*

Practicing direct seeding and using cover crops will improve overall soil health and increase water holding capacity in the soil. John's priority was to help farmers/producers try the direct seeding practice without having to purchase a drill of their own. John lead his Minidoka Board in approaching both East Cassia and West Cassia Soil & Water Conservation Districts with the idea and all 3 districts joined together to make a project that could reach many more producers in our area.

Another large project that John has promoted is the **A&B Irrigation Project**. The A&B Irrigation District wanted to put a pipeline in Minidoka county to help supplement an outdated water conveyance system and would deliver water to acres where wells had dried up. The project was massive and expensive to shareholders. John arranged for A&B management to meet with NRCS to discuss some possible sources of

very determined to work through any obstacles that may arise.

John worked to secure several grants. One which allowed for the purchase of new computer equipment, and another grant was secured through the Arbor Day Foundation which purchased leftover seedling trees from the annual seedling tree sale to be distributed to grade school children in combination with an essay contest to promote conservation awareness.

One of the larger projects that John was heavily involved with is the **Direct Seed/Cover Crop Project**. John spent many hours discussing possibilities with Elliot Traher, the District Conservationist. Working with the Admin Assistant, Minidoka SWCD secured a CIG grant to help fund the project which included the purchase of 2 direct seed drills and money for cover crop seed.



*Seedling Tree Sale distribution. L to R: Russ Suchan, Dawn Privett, and John Firth.*

Continued on page 8.

## **AWARDS BANQUET HIGHLIGHTS:** *Continued from page 7.*

funding for the project. The outcome of that meeting was remarkable. It led to uniting the AWEF program with their irrigation concerns and goals. Through a series of public meetings and face to face conversations with his neighbors, John was able to get about **29 producers** to sign over their farm bill money to help fund the project **bringing \$ 3,800,000 into Minidoka County**. That is another example of John's vision to improve things around him.

John assigned one district Supervisor to dedicate his time specifically to the **Minico Ag advisory board**, which supports the Ag program at Minico High School in the Minidoka County School District. Much good has been done to expand there already including the benefit of another ag advisor being hired.

John's **dedication to community** was evident by his work in areas besides conservation. Through John's research

and persistence, the Idaho Transportation Department installed a sign on Highway 25, a few miles northeast of the Paul/Kasota Exit (Exit 201) commemorating the Rupert Camp, which was a POW camp during WWII. John had heard about the existence of the camp through some research and communication with the National Park Service and the Minidoka Historical Society.

John is respected by his board. Russ Suchan, Minidoka SWCD board member said, "In the few years I have known John, I have been very impressed by him. He is dedicated to the Minidoka District." This is evident in his commitment of time and resources, and in his "Let's Do It!" attitude. John oversaw the daily operation of their office and was supportive to neighboring districts. One example was his willingness to volunteer with the Idaho State Land & Soil Evaluation Event. He served selflessly and rarely missed a district meeting, division IV meeting, or a state conference.

While John was semi-retired, he still found time to farm with his son, run a small business in town, actively serve in his church, and amongst other things, serve as Minidoka's chairman, all while being treated for cancer. John has been a tremendous example and leader to everyone he worked with. John passed away on April 24, 2017. He will be missed.

**West Cassia Range Improvement Award presented to Bill Poulton.** Bill Poulton and his wife Margaret live on a small family ranch in Willow Creek that Bill's ancestors settled in 1860. As a kid, Bill ran cattle with his Dad. Over the years, Bill has watched junipers taking over the land. It has become difficult to do the branding and other ranch work as the land has become overrun with the invasive species - junipers.

Bill has a grazing allotment along Little Birch Creek. On the uphill side of the riparian area, Bill has worked hard to protect that land. He rotates 38 pair of cattle in creative ways to improve the natural plant growth and works to increase grazing availability.

Bill partnered with Pheasants Forever to improve the grazing area. In working with the Sage Grouse program, BLM cut down some of the junipers. Next fall, machines will grind up the large trunks. Bill has put up fence markers to work with their cooperative agreement. Already Bill has seen a benefit - with the junipers gone, the natural feed and grasses have greatly increased!

Bill has been a long time supporter of 4-H. In his spare time, Bill likes to team rope, team sort, train young horses for riding. He also likes to spend time with his grandkids. Congratulations Bill Poulton - A good Steward of the land.



*Supervisors attending a Division IV Soil Conservation District Meeting.*



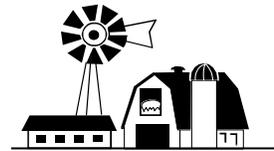
*Margaret & Bill Poulton - Range Improvement Award presented by Richard Kunau - West Cassia Chair.*



## ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

Minidoka SWCD Administrative Assistant Sharon Hardy-Mills helped the Albion Elementary 3-5 grade plant Chokecherry, Artic Willows, Dogwoods and native Idaho Iris for Arbor day. Even though the wind was blowing 26 mph, the kids had fun getting muddy, finding worms, and digging the holes for the plants. Sharon taught them how wide and deep to prepare the holes for the various plants, then they all went inside to talk about the importance of trees. The kids received a bookmark and a worksheet. Sharon also donated a book to the school library - The Seasons of Arnolds Apple Tree.

**Thanks to our Advertisers.**  
Their support makes this Newsletter possible.



*Above: East Cassia Vice-Chair Steve Ward and Board Member Brook Holtman present welcome jacket to new board member Jonathan Harper (center).*

*Right: New Minidoka Board Member Aaron Firth.*

## Welcome to New Supervisors!

**East Cassia welcomes Jonathan Harper.** Jonathan is a graduate of Utah State University with a major in Ag Systems and Technology. He moved to Malta right after and started faring with his 2 older brothers. He is married to Alli Webb and they have 2 children. Jonathan enjoys outdoor activities like boating, skiing, and snowmobiling.

Jonathan feel sit is important to learn and promote conservation ag practices that will improve soil health and water quality. He wants to serve on the board to stay up to date on new methods of soil and water conservation.

**Minidoka welcomes Aaron Firth.** Aaron graduated from BYU Idaho, worked for 3 years as a crop consultant in Blackfoot, and returned to Heyburn in 2014. Aaron says that he always dreamed of returning back to his hometown and working on

the farm with his Dad. Aaron farms part time and raises beans, hay, grain, and has cattle. He enjoys shooting firearms, working on farm equipment, riding his motorcycle, and farming. He likes to travel and learn about new places and enjoys new experiences.

Aaron would like to see the district further implement programs to promote the use of cover crops, pollinator gardens, food-plots, and conservation farming practices. He would also like to further implement advanced irrigation and water management practices to address water resource concerns in the county. Aaron would like to promote the image of the Conservation District in the community through the use of social media, the direct seed workshop, and conservation programs.

Aaron believes it is important to serve voluntarily in the community where you live. It is an opportunity to network with peers in his industry, share his expertise and talents with the community, and associate with top notch individuals.



## MINIDOKA DISTRICT HELPS WITH C.A.S.T.

The Minidoka SWCD was asked to participate in an event sponsored by the Bureau of Reclamation called C.A.S.T. for Kids July 15, 2017. Disabled children in the Mini-Cassia area from the ages of 5-17 are invited to participate in a day of fishing and adventure. The youth receive a t-shirt, hat, fishing rod and reel, tackle box, picture, plaque, backpack with information on beneficial bugs and other fun goodies. The youth are taught to fish, and get to keep the fish they catch (volunteers cleaned and prepared to the fish for the families to take home).



## WEST CASSIA TAKES ON BOAT STATION

West Cassia has accepted the opportunity to manage the Boat Checking Station located at the Cotterel Port of Entry on I-84.

**ALL watercraft and trailers**, portable docks, water-related construction equipment and other appurtenances and equipment **are required to stop at the check station.** This falls under the authority of the Idaho Invasive Species Act of 2008.

## Soil Health Workshop

4th Annual **Soil Health Workshop**  
February 8, 2018

Nationally known Guest Speaker

**Gabe Brown**

*(check him out on YouTube)*



The workshop is part of the educational goals of the Direct Seed & Cover Crop Project that Minidoka, West Cassia, and East Cassia Soil & Water Conservation Districts are implementing.

Mark your calendar now. If you want to be on the e-mail invitation list, send email to [dmc Murray6@gmail.com](mailto:dmc Murray6@gmail.com).

## UPCOMING POSTER & SPEECH CONTESTS

### SPEECH CONTEST

The **Speech contest** is for students in grades 9-12. Speeches are to be between 3-5 minutes, researched & written by the student. Contest will be on Tuesday, October 17th.

### CONTEST RULES can be found:

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

Cassia—678-1225 x100

[ewcswcd@pmt.org](mailto:ewcswcd@pmt.org)

Minidoka—436-4202

[minidokaswcd@gmail.com](mailto:minidokaswcd@gmail.com)

### POSTER CONTEST

The **Poster contest** is for 5th & 6th Graders. Students draw about natural resources- soil, water, forests, wildlife, and range. Theme is: "HEALTHY SOILS are Full of LIFE". Posters due Thurs, October 19th.

## SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED AT SUMMER PICNIC continued from page 1.

Scholarships were also provided to Jr. high school age students who attended the Natural Resources Camp held near Ketchum, Idaho in June. At NRC Camp, students ages 12—14 have educational experiences in forestry, wildlife, soils, and aquatics topics along with fun camping activities. Hudson Kunau from Cassia County, and Drayke Bair and Sage May from Minidoka County each told about their experiences at the camp. At the end of their presentation, they lead the group in a fun song & activity they learned at camp.



*Natural Resources Workshop Campers Drayke Bair, Hudson Kunau, and Sage May.*



Ad page goes here.

**EAST CASSIA, WEST CASSIA, & MINIDOKA**  
**Soil and Water Conservation Districts**  
1361 East 16th Street  
Burley, ID 83318

**NONPROFIT**  
**U.S. POSTAGE**  
**PAID**  
**BURLEY, ID**  
**PERMIT NO. 9**

Return Service Requested

***District Board Meetings: Public welcome.***

*East Cassia — 1st Tuesday of each month.*

*West Cassia — 2nd Tuesday of each month.*

*Call 678-1225 x100 for details.*

*Minidoka — 2nd Thursday of each month.*

*Call 436-4202 for details.*

## **COVER CROP TOUR**

**1st week in November 2017.**

View fields and listen to landowners share experiences with cover crops.  
Bus tour & lunch provided.

## **SOIL HEALTH WORKSHOP**

**1st week in February 2018.**

Nationally known speaker **Gabe Brown**, local experts, cover crops,  
direct seeding, dairy diversified feed, etc..... Lunch provided.

Contact Doreen @ [dmc Murray6@gmail.com](mailto:dmc Murray6@gmail.com) for information or to be  
put onto the e-mail or mailing invitation lists.

