



# Butte County Resource Conservation District Quarterly Newsletter, Spring, 2008



*The mission of the Butte County Resource Conservation District is to conserve the resources of Butte County for the benefit of its citizens, its environment, and its economy.*

Our motto is cooperation, not regulation

## *Butte County Resource Conservation District is Expanding*

### **Welcome New Directors!**

The Butte County Resource Conservation District would like to welcome our new Director, Richard Coon and Associate Director Rodney Carter. Richard Coon was



Rod Carter, Associate Director

appointed by Supervisor Maureen Kirk, District 3. Richard and his wife Christine are graziers at the Wookey Ranch. They raise grass-fed lambs, almonds & fresh ideas!

Rod Carter is an experienced financial consultant with Northern California Farm Credit in Chico. Rod and his wife

Andrea are extremely active in the local agricultural community as both volunteers and supporters. Both Richard and Rod are welcome additions to our Board and we look forward to their insight, participation and expertise. Stay tuned for more good news concerning Bill Kellogg, Kellogg Ag Service.

### **Annual Sub- Clover Give Away**

The BC-RCD received a grant from the Coalition for Urban/Rural Environmental Stewardship (CURES) to purchase sub-clover cover crop seed. The seed is intended to cover the blank spaces in the orchards left by the January storm. Cover crops are a Best Management Practice (BMP) for improved water quality and increased soil fertility. The specific seed is an annual sub-clover mix and was recommended by Joe Connell, UCCE. We still have some sacks left, so please come visit us at the USDA Service Center, 150 Chuck Yeager Way, Suite A, Oroville. For more information contact Alexis Vertolli (530) 534-0112 ext 116.



Cover Crop in Almond Orchard



Richard Coon, Director, District 3

### **BC-RCD hires new Resource Technician**

The BC-RCD has hired a new Resource Technician. Alexis Vertolli is a graduate from the University of California,

Santa Cruz and holds a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies and Sustainable Agriculture. Alexis is a Paradise native and recently returned to Butte County from working



Alexis Vertolli, Resource Technician

overseas at a conservation trust in Tasmania, Australia. Her interest is helping small scale community farmers with local and direct marketing opportunities.

### **Partnering for Locally-Led Conservation Workshop**

BC-RCD hosted a Community Capacity Building Workshop. Members from the entire spectrum of the Resource Community were encouraged to attend. The workshop was facilitated by Ray Ledgerwood, THE national expert on RCD's and collaborative partnership building. Ledgerwood explained the unique authorities of the RCD, as well as statutory characteristics. Participants helped identify the priority resource concerns as well as the potential for future partnerships. Phil Hogan, NRCS, also presented information on Land Evaluation Site Assessment program (LESA) for ag land conservation.



Fine sediments choke salmon spawning beds

### **Rural Roads Project on the Move**

Contracts are now in place to begin work to reduce sediments from a few select gravel roads in the upper reaches of the Butte Creek Watershed. The Butte County Resource Conservation District received a grant from CALFED and will be working partnership with the DWR, USFS, Butte County Watershed Conservancy, Bureau of Land Management, Butte County Public Works, and NRCS. The project will result in improved road conditions, less erosion and runoff, as well as a technology transfer from the USFS to Butte County road crews, NRCS & BC-RCD staff. The Project will be implementing modern techniques in gravel road maintenance that may be utilized to other non-project roads throughout the county in due time. The BC-RCD will be leading the public outreach which will include bio-assessment training and cooperative water quality monitoring. BC-RCD is thrilled to begin work with ALL of our partners. There is so much to see and learn! We hope to share our lessons as we go.

### **Data Collection Nearing Completion**

Sutter, Yuba, and Butte RCD's are working in partnership to create a Watershed Assessment for the Lower Feather/Honcut Creek Watersheds. The CALFED project will create an existing conditions report for the watershed which may lay the groundwork for a management plan. The Watershed Assessment will provide the landowners & agencies with resource information to prioritize future projects. BC-RCD would like to thank CALFIRE and Butte County for supporting the data collection process. With the data collection nearly completed, BC-RCD will begin the educational outreach tasks in partnership with the Butte County 4-H program.

### **BC-RCD Attends 21<sup>st</sup> USDA - California Small Farm Conference**

The USDA Small Farm Conference, held in Visalia, offered 45 different sessions on beginning farming, marketing, innovations and conservation efforts, as well as small farm finance and food safety issues. The conference discussed the various opportunities for small farmers to continue their operations as an important part of their local community. BC-RCD plans to highlight the conference in Butte County and hold a local mini workshop this summer... stay tuned.

### **NRCS Continues to Offer Conservation Planning**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service continues to provide conservation planning to all landowners and land managers throughout the county. Conservation planning is a natural resource problem-solving and management PROCESS. The process integrates ecological (natural resource), economic, and social considerations to meet private and public needs and is entirely voluntary. The NRCS offers this technical assistance at no charge. **FREE!!!!!!!!!!!!** For more Information Contact NRCS at 534-0112 ex 3. EQIP has continuous enrollment.

### **Upcoming Spring Events:**

#### **Oroville Wildflower and Nature Festival**

The Butte County Resource Conservation District will be participating in the Oroville Wildflower Festival. The festival will be held April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> at River Bend Park in Oroville. The community event will have educational booths, guided walks, and entertainment for the whole family. There is no better time or place for flowers, sunshine and fresh spring air.

#### **FFA Regional Speaking Contest**

Butte County Resource Conservation District will be serving as a judge for the Regional Speaking Contest for Future Farmers of America. The competition will include students from 54 local school districts and the finalists will advance to the State Finals in Fresno in April. The Contest will be held Thursday, March 20, at CSU, Chico-BMU 100 with The Semi-Finals starting at 8:30am and Finals to follow.

#### **Long Term Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program**

The Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Regional Water Board) staff will hold public workshops and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meetings to seek input on the program elements and environmental information that should be considered in the development of a Long-term Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) and the associated Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Location: Durham Memorial Hall  
9319 Midway  
Durham, CA  
April 8<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm

#### **44<sup>th</sup> Annual End of the Frost Dinner**

The 44<sup>th</sup> Annual End of Frost Dinner will be held at the Chico Elks Lodge, Thursday, May 8. Come to this social event for local agriculture community members. No Host Cocktails start at 5:30pm and Dinner begins at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$25 and are available at Northern CA Farm Credit, Tri Counties Bank-Durham, Chico Farm and Orchard, Durham Pump, and Valley Tractor. Tickets bought before April 15<sup>th</sup> will be entered in an early bird drawing. For more information go to [www.end-of-frost.org](http://www.end-of-frost.org). Doors prizes for those that have good karma.

