



Butte County Resource Conservation District Quarterly Newsletter, Winter, 2006/2007

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



Partnerships

“Day in the District” Bus Tour

On November 15, 2006, the Butte County Resource Conservation District held a “Day in the District” bus tour to thank its funders and partners while celebrating its accomplishments as one of the newest Conservation District in California. Participants included representatives from the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Services, California Department of Conservation, California Department of Water Resources, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, CalTrans, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the offices of Congressman Wally Herger and State Assemblyman Rick Keene, Butte County Government offices, Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG), Butte County Fire Safe Council, and local watershed groups. Butte County Supervisor Bill Connelly also attended the event. State Assemblyman Doug LaMalfa stopped by in the morning to address the group and give his support to the BC-RCD and its partners.



Lin Brooks and Dan Taverner, NRCS

Lunch at the CDF center in Magalia featured a presentation about the California Forestry Incentive Program from CDF Forester Ken Kendricks. The group also toured a 20-acre conifer seedling nursery with CDF Forester Rich Elliott.



Bob Hennigan addresses the group at Hennigan Farms

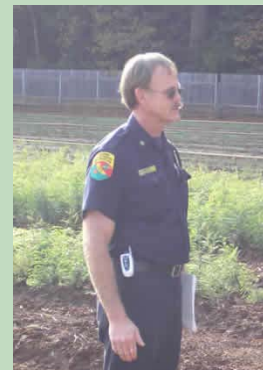
The first stop at Hennigan Farms featured a presentation about Integrated Pest Management by host Bob Hennigan and Justin Nay of Scientific Methods. In 2006 alone, landowners on over 1000 acres of Butte County orchards have eliminated or reduced the use of “high risk” pesticides through IPM. Dan Wright, NRCS, noted that since the BC-RCD was established four years ago, annual Environmental Quality Incentive Program contracts in Butte County have grown from \$64,000 to \$787,000.

Upon arrival at the Okie Dam, Les Heringer from M & T Ranch joined NRCS Engineer Bob Smith and NRCS Soil Conservationist Dan Taverner in a discussion about agricultural diversions and watershed restoration efforts on Butte Creek. Dan informed the group about the Conservation Security Program (CSP) and its continuing success in Butte County. Currently, NRCS has 147 CSP contracts with the potential to provide up to \$24 million for continued conservation efforts on 67,000 acres of Butte County farmland over the next 10 years!

After lunch, the group was treated to a drive-through tour of the Coutelenc Road Shaded Fuel Break project that was enhanced by a presentation from Calli-Jane Burch, Butte County Fire Safe Council, about the dynamics of fuel loads, defensible space, and community partnerships in the forest regions of the County. Watershed Coordinator Susan St. Germaine-Morger provided everyone with a copy of the beautiful “Caring for Butte County Creeks” 2007 Calendar.

The last stop at the 149/70 Highway Interchange featured a discussion about on-site mitigation and vernal pool creation, lead by BCAG’s Andy Newsum. In the final closing address, RCD Director Paul Moore stressed the importance of viewing resource conservation in Butte County as a collaborative, community process that balances competing interests resulting in multiple benefits for its citizens and the land.

Throughout the day, the group heard on-board presentations from Watershed Coordinators Margot Harry, Roger Cole, and Amy Gijon regarding a recent Oak Woodlands Resolution, Proper Functioning Conditions for riparian areas, and floodplain management efforts at the watershed level.



CDF Forester Rich Elliott

Upcoming Events

Best Management Practices

The Butte County Resource Conservation District will conduct Best Management Practice (BMP) presentations and Orchard Sprayer Calibration demonstrations at upcoming events throughout the region. BMPs are designed to help prevent and/or lessen non-point source pollution from orchards, ranches, and farms. The RCD is also offering several BMP techniques, including free filter strip installations and on-farm sprayer calibrations, to interested parties. For more information, please contact Larry Lloyd, BC-RCD Resource Technician, at 530-534-0112 X 116.



Cover Crop

BMP Presentations Schedule

November 29: Irrigated Lands Workshop, 9 am to 11 am, Durham Memorial Hall, 9313 Midway, Durham

December 5: Butte-Yuba-Sutter Coalition Annual Meeting, 9 am to noon Butte County Fairgrounds, 1991 E. Hazel, Gridley

December 15: Growers Meeting, 8:30 am to Noon at the CSU Chico Farm, 311 Nicholas Schouten Ln., Chico (Information only, no demonstration).



Orchard Sprayer Calibration Equipment

News at the BC-RCD

Strategic Plan Adopted

The Butte County RCD Board of Directors recently approved the BC-RCD 2006-2011 Long Range Strategic Plan. Highlights of the Plan include:

- > Wise Land Use Planning and Erosion Control
- > Education and Outreach
- > Enhancement of Water Quality and Water Quantity
- > Alternative Energy Use
- > Forest, Range and Cultivated Land Health
- > Growth, Sustainability and Professional Standing

The plan is available at: <http://www.buttecountyrcd.org>



Planning for the Future

BC-RCD Awarded District of the Year

The BC-RCD was named Regional District of the Year at the CARCD State Conference in Santa Rosa, November 1-4. Conference workshops and events offered participants multiple opportunities for training and networking. Speakers from around the state and nation presented information regarding:

- > Up-to-date information about natural resources
- > Land use and water quality issues
- > Forestry, fire prevention, and fuels reduction efforts



BC-RCD District Manager Pia Sevelius and Director Ed Chombeau