



# TRAILBLAZER

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**Special points of interest:**

- NRCS Report
- New Extension Agent
- Summer Weeds Crew
- FSA Transportation Assistance Program



**The Annual Invasive Species Conference will be in Kodiak this year October 30-November 1. A FREE Community Lecture and Weed Whackers K-6 Curriculum Workshop will be on October 29.**

## DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES

We have been printing excerpts from our *District operations manual* to inform our cooperators and partners about conservation districts.

Each district should elect its chair, vice-chair, secretary and treasurer as soon as possible following each district annual elections. Each district is required to have three officers and the offices of the chair, vice-chair and treasurer cannot be combined.

District positions should be rotated every two or three years. This provides a broader outlook for the program.

Each newly elected or appointed supervisor shall be sworn-in at the district board meeting and sign an Oath of Office. The Oath of Office should be signed by

the district chair, a notary public or other authorized official present at the swearing in of each supervisor. A district supervisor cannot assume the duties of the board position until the

oath of office is signed and they are sworn-in. The oath is kept by the district board and a copy sent to the Natural Resource Conservation and Development Board.



2011 AACD Fall Conference  
Photo by Dave Kaplan



2011 Fall Harvest Potluck  
Photo by Blythe Brown

## FALL HARVEST POTLUCK

### Come one and all!

Please attend the Fall Harvest Potluck for the Kodiak Soil and Water Conservation District at the High School Commons on September 12 at 5:30 pm.

Please bring your favorite dish or home grown produce and share ideas or topics and plan to have a good time!

*“Homer and Kodiak are two widely and diverse cultural and geographical areas.” Mark Kinney, District Conservationist*



The Kodiak Soil and Water Conservation District is sponsoring the 2012 NACD Poster

Contest.

Entry forms are available at the KSWCD office and posters are due at the KSWCD office by October 5.

Posters will be judged on conservation message, visual effectiveness, originality and universal appeal.

Please call 486-5574 for more information, or email [kodiakswcdadmin@gmail.com](mailto:kodiakswcdadmin@gmail.com) or go to [www.nacdnet.org/education/resources/poster](http://www.nacdnet.org/education/resources/poster)

## NRCS REPORT BY MARK KINNEY



**Hoophouse Clinic Meeting**  
*Photo by Blythe Brown*

The summer field season is in full swing with NRCS employees traveling throughout the Homer and Kodiak Service areas to provide conservation planning and application assistance to the Farm Bill program participants.

With over 320 active conservation contracts we are seeing tremendous progress in the areas of soil quality enhancement, water quality protection and increased crop production and variety.

Farmer’s Markets in Homer and Kodiak are growing rapidly in popularity and the beautiful range and variety of produce is an awesome sight.

The High Tunnel program

has been extended to a full scale national initiative from what was originally a pilot project.

We’re not sure how many potential participants are still out there but we do have another 98 applications for the next round of the program in FY 2013 which begins October 1.

Stay tuned for more interesting developments in this very popular program.

## MEET THE UAF KENAI PENINSULA DISTRICT EXTENSION AGENT

Greetings Islanders! My name is Lydia Clayton, the new extension agent. I’m originally from Oregon and Idaho with a life’s worth of agricultural and horticultural experience. I’m very excited about the new learning opportunities

working with the ever increasing number of Alaska high tunnel growers.

Our office is located in Soldotna at 907-262-5824 or [www.uaf.edu/ces/district/kenai](http://www.uaf.edu/ces/district/kenai). You can “like” my Facebook page at UAF CES Kenai District Horticulture.



**Lydia Clayton, the new UAF Extension Agent**  
*Photo provided*

## KODIAK FARM TO SCHOOL BY DAVE KAPLAN



Project Coordinator Lucy Murdock shows KSWCD District Manager Joe Dinnocenzo North Star Elementary School’s raised beds. *Photo by Dave Kaplan*

Kodiak Farm to School is a school-based gardening project demonstrating ecological concepts, environmentally-friendly practices and healthy food choices through hands-on learning opportunities for students and the community.

The project includes comprehensive educational possibilities such as nutri-

tion lessons coordinating with the fresh produce being served for lunch, environmental education, school gardens, food tasting and field trips.

All of these get students excited about healthy foods and help with the understanding of where their food comes from.

## KODIAK ENVIROTHON 2012

### BY JANE EISEMANN

The Kodiak Island Borough School District Natural Resources students and members of Kodiak High School FFA along with the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center, Refuge Wildlife Biologists, NMFS, ADF&G, the Kodiak Soil and Water Conservation District, community Natural Resources consultants and volunteers completed the 4th Annual Kodiak Envirothon event this past April.

The Envirothon has local, state and North American components. It challenges

students in natural resources, soil, aquatics, forestry, wildlife and the special event topic which was Low Impact Development.

Students from Kodiak High School, villages of Karluk and Old Harbor participated in the local event.

Overall winner was Tucker Bigley, a junior at Kodiak High School.

Local experts visited the KHS Natural Resources class and video conferenced into Village classrooms, sharing their knowledge. These presentations gave students the back-

ground to confidently face the challenges of the Envirothon event.

FFA members traveled to the State FFA Convention in late April to participate in the State Envirothon event.

KHS FFA wishes to thank all the supporting agencies that made the 4th annual event a huge success!



**Envirothon 2012**  
Photo by Blythe Brown

*If you wish more information about FFA contact :  
jeisemann01@kibsd.org.*

## SUMMER WEEDS CREW BY LAUREN COONEY

It has been a very productive summer for the Kodiak Soil and Water Conservation District's Weeds Crew. We treated several infestations of orange hawkweed, Kodiak's main menace. We prepared some Japanese knotweed control projects including working on the large patch above downtown Kodiak.

Eliminating patches this size require planning. We have been working diligently and the weeds crew will finally get to control this spot that has been taunting us for years! The District has also received funding to concentrate on Canada thistle infestations.



**Japanese Knotweed**  
Photo by Lauren Cooney

***"We have completed several outreach programs, protecting Kodiak's native wildflowers from aggressive weeds."***  
***Lauren Cooney,***  
***Weeds Crew Leader***

## USDA FARM SERVICE AGENCY TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



The Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment Program for Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers sign-up began Monday, July 23, 2012.

This program reimburses producers for a portion of the cost for transporting their agricultural commodity or inputs used to produce an agricultural commodity. The program ends Mon-

day, September 10, 2012. Receipts must be submitted by Monday, November 5, 2012. Please contact Douglas F. Carter, of the FSA, 800 West Evergreen, Suite 216 Palmer, AK 99645 Phone #907-761-7754 or email: doug.carter@ak.usda.gov or call KSWCD 486-5574 for information and applications.

*Doug Carter of the FSA will be in Kodiak September 4-6. If you would like to meet him, the Farm Bureau or District members, please call 486-5574*



Ducks and Geese for sale at the Kodiak Farmer's Market

Photo by Blythe Brown

## Kodiak Soil and Water Conservation District

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E-mail: [joe@kodiaksoilandwater.org](mailto:joe@kodiaksoilandwater.org)



### Board Supervisors:

*Chris Flickinger, Chairman*

*Charlie Dorman, Vice-Chairman*

*Bill Burton, Supervisor*

*Marie Rice, Supervisor*

*Craig Stratman, Supervisor*

*Bob Mudd, Alternate*

*Todd Dorman, Alternate*

### NRCS Field Office:

*Mark Kinney,*

*District Conservationist*

*Craig Sanders,*

*Resource Conservationist*

### Staff:

*Joe Dinnocenzo, District Manager*

*Blythe Brown, Project Coordinator*

*David Kaplan, Project Coordinator*

*Stephan Bodnar, GIS Technician*

*Corinne Estelle Ferre`, Administrative Assistant*

*Lauren Cooney, Crew Leader*

*Greg D'Elia, Crewmember*

Advertising is now available in the Kodiak Soil and Water Conservation District Newsletter.

The advertising rates for the KSWCD newsletter classified ads is a \$5.00 minimum with 20 words or less and 25 cents for each additional word. Co-operators can qualify for a 25% discount.

Please call the Joe or Corinne at 486-5574 to place your ad in the Trailblazer.



**Kodiak Soil and Water Conservation District**



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer



**Kodiak Archipelago Cooperative Weed Management Area**

*The Mission of the Kodiak Soil and Water Conservation District is to provide education and leadership by coordinating and implementing programs for the conservation, use and sustainable development of soil, water and related resources.*