



Soil & Water Conservation District

# UMPQUA

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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## Director's Spotlight

# Getting to Know Your Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District Directors

The Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District welcomes Director Rod Brandon, Director King Phelps and Director Bob Sharp to the District while thanking Director Tom Black, Director George Black and Director Paul Dailey for continuing their service to the District.

The District's Zone 1 Director is Tom Black.

Tom is currently the Secretary/Treasurer of the District and represents the communities of Reedsport, Winchester Bay and Gardiner along with the surrounding areas of Tahkenitch Lake and Scholfield Creek. Tom's family owned Black's Grade A Dairy on the Smith River where he grew up. Tom attended Reedsport High School, Southwestern Oregon Community College and Lane Community College, spent time in Korea where he served in the military, was employed as a milk tanker driver, worked in construction and for the local paper mill, all the while raising commercial beef cattle. Tom currently works for Southern Oregon Sanitation and continues to raise beef cattle on his farm near Reedsport.

The District's Zone 2 Director is George Black. George is currently the Chair of the District and represents the entire Smith River area. George also grew up on Black's Grade A Dairy on the Smith River. George attended Reedsport High School, worked in con-



struction, logging, and for many years continued the family's dairy operation. George currently lives on the family farm at Eslick Creek where he raises commercial beef cattle.

The District's Zone 3 Director is King Phelps. King is currently the Vice Chair of the District and represents the communities of Scottsburg, Greencres, and the surrounding areas of Ash Valley and Dean Creek. King attended Pacific Lutheran University as well as Washington State University where he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Engineering. King was employed as a Civil Engineer and District Engineer, a manager, and worked in the construction business. King has farmed for many years and is currently spending his retirement on his Turksnmor Poul-

try Farm, which is one of the largest heritage turkey farms for producing hatching eggs in the Pacific Northwest.

The District's Zone 4 Director is Rod Brandon. Rod represents the community of Elkton and surrounding areas. Rod grew up on the Smith River, attended Reedsport High School and Southwestern Oregon Community

College, and was a professional dog trainer. Rod is currently retired from working in the sawmill, manages the Jillie Rose Vineyard in Elkton and now spends time working on training his newest dog, Abe.

The District's At-Large #1 Director is Paul Dailey. Paul represents all areas of the District as an At-Large Director. Paul is a life-long resident of the Smith River area, attended Reedsport High School as well as Oregon State University where he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forest Engineering. Paul currently owns Dailey Wood Products, Inc.

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# It's Not Too Late To Vaccinate

by Rhonda Black, Umpqua SWCD

If you don't already have your cattle on a regular vaccination program, now is a good time to begin a regular regimen. One thing to remember with your vaccination program is the worming of your cattle and depending where your cattle graze you might want to consider treating your cattle for liver flukes.

Cattle tend to pick areas of the pasture where they want to graze rather than where their owners want them to graze and the pasture is always greener on the other side of the fence! If you have pastures where the cattle munch on vegetation near streams and water run off areas or where the cattle are turned out onto low-lying pastures your cattle have a good chance of picking up the microscopic cysts containing the young liver flukes. These cysts are usually attached to blades of grass, which the cattle eat. Upon ingestion, the flukes tunnel into the liver for more than six weeks until the flukes enter the bile ducts where they lay their eggs. The eggs are then passed by the animal through the feces and the fluke life cycle begins once again. The eggs hatch, invade their first host, the common mud snail, go through several stages of development, leave their snail host and again attach to a blade of grass or a leaf where they are once again eaten by the cattle.

The damage caused by liver flukes can increase a malady of risk to your cattle such as infertility, jaundice, diarrhea, weight loss and even death. Another risk is the disease Redwater that is caused by bacteria that grow in the liver. The liver flukes aid the ability for these bacteria to grow and cause the disease to progress at a rapid pace.

According to John Maas, Extension Veterinarian for the School of Veterinary



"Whether you have rural acreage, a suburban yard, or a city lot, you can help protect the environment and add beauty and interest to your surroundings."

National Association of Conservation Districts



Medicine at the University of California, "there are only two drugs available that are effective against liver flukes in cattle. Both work best against the adult flukes, but there is some effect on the migrating juvenile flukes. Clorsulon is effective only against liver flukes and it is sold alone as Curatrem® or in combination with ivermectin as Ivomec® Plus. Thus, Curatrem® can be used to kill the flukes or Ivomec® Plus can be used to kill the flukes plus the internal parasites (worms) and external parasites (sucking lice). Additionally, albendazole (Valbazen®) has activity against flukes and internal parasites. All the drugs and combinations of drugs have advantages and disadvantages in terms of cost, ease of administration, withdrawal times, and effectiveness. Consult with your veterinarian to be certain which product will work best for your operation. Also, review with your veterinarian the time of year that will be most cost-effective for administration of drugs to kill flukes."

By keeping with a regular vaccination and worming program your reward will be added dollars in your pocket at sale time since your cattle have a better chance to gain weight and stay healthy than they would without a vaccination program.

## Director's Spotlight Continued...

The District's At-Large #2 Director is Director Bob Sharp. Bob represents all areas of the District as an At-Large Director. Bob grew up in the logging business logging with his father and now is the owner of Sharp Logging Company.

The District's Zone 5 position is currently vacant and ready to be filled by an appointed volunteer who owns or manages ten or more acres in the Zone 5 area. The Zone 5 Director will represent the community of Kellogg and surrounding areas. Please contact the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District office or one of the District's Directors if you are interested in serving your community in this valuable voluntary position.



Concerned about soil erosion on your property? Contact the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District about stream bank restoration and soil preservation techniques (541) 271-2611 or [umpqua.swcd@oacd.org](mailto:umpqua.swcd@oacd.org).

Umpqua Soil and Water was formed in 1953. Its boundaries enclose 600,000 acres of northwestern Douglas County including Communities of Elkton, Reedsport, Kellogg, Ash Valley, Smith River, Winchester Bay, Scottsburg, and Tahkenitch Lake.

A seven member Board of Directors, who are elected in a general election and serve without pay, administer district activities.

### Board of Directors

- George Black, *Chairman*
- King Phelps, *Vice Chairman*
- Tom Black, *Sec/Treas.*
- Ron Brandon, *Director*
- Paul Dailey, *Director*
- Bob Sharp, *Director*

### Staff and Associates

- Rhonda Black, *Interim District Manager*
- Technician*

**"The mission of the locally led Umpqua Soil and Water conservation District is to provide assistance to any individual, group, or agency in applying natural resource conservation practices for the wise use of their natural resources."**

The Board meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. during daylight savings time and 6:00 p.m. during standard time. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend the meetings held in the Umpqua SWCD office, 47088 State Highway 38, Reedsport.

# Off Stream Watering Systems

*Oregon Department of Agriculture*

It is difficult to pay for infrastructure and management changes on most livestock operations. There never seems to be any surplus cash to pay for the improvements that should be made. You have to carefully weigh the benefits of every dollar you spend, and only invest in changes that make the ranch more efficient or profitable. For this reason, it can be tough to put water quality improvement projects high on the priority list.

There are some water quality improvement expenses, however, that can provide significant payoffs, both to your operation and to the beef industry. These investments improve water quality, protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat, enhance the public's image of the beef industry, and even increase beef production. One area on the ranch operation that is both highly visible and sensitive to management changes is riparian areas.

Limiting access to riparian areas and providing alternative watering sources can boost production. Research shows that cattle prefer drinking from a trough that provides a constant supply of clean water, over drinking from a creek, especially when the banks are steep or muddy. It's also clear that cows that drink more water produce more milk, graze more and raise larger calves.

Careful riparian management also allows the growth of riparian vegetation that provides some very important functions in the larger watershed context. These functions include the dissipation of stream energy and capture of sediment at high flows, which allow banks to stabilize and water to soak into the ground and become available for streamflow later in the year. These healthy riparian areas also filter sediment and nutrients from overland flows and provide shade and habitat for wildlife and fish.

Unlimited livestock access to streams creates a risk of damage to riparian vegetation and streambanks, and potential runoff of manure, bacteria, nutrients, and sediment to water that is used by your neighbors downstream. An off-stream water development, that provides clean water away from the stream can be a wise investment to better animal health and increased production.

Depending on livestock numbers, season of use and length of use, streams do not always need to be fenced off to get the desired vegetation. Riparian areas can be carefully "flash-grazed" for a few hours or days at a time, providing some forage for animals while protecting the vegetation. Generally, if the animals use the area for more than a month at a time, some fencing will

probably be needed.

Financial and technical assistance to develop water sources, both in upland areas and off-stream, is available through several sources. To get started on your off-stream watering project, contact the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District at 541-271-2611.



## Support Local Food & Farms

### No Farms = No Food

The message is simple and couldn't be clearer—America's farms and ranches provide an unparalleled abundance of fresh, healthy and local food, but they are rapidly disappearing.

Why does buying local matter? The farms and ranches that supply local markets—those closest to small communities and urban centers—are also the most threatened by development. When you buy local you're helping nearby farmers and ranchers remain profitable and keep their land in agriculture.

Eighty-six percent of America's fruits and vegetables are grown near metro regions, where they are in the path of development, and every hour 125 acres of farm and ranch land is lost. That's why supporting local food and farms is more important than ever!

*American Farmland Trust*

## RECIPE ROUNDUP from Rhonda Black, Umpqua SWCD

Spring is here and soon summer will be, too. Bring on the berries! These muffins are easy to make and whip up in a hurry. This recipe also works well with other berry varieties. Warning: These muffins disappear quickly...

### Raspberry Muffins:

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1½ Cups All-Purpose Flour | ½ Cup Butter or Margarine, Melted                               |
| ½ Cup Sugar               | 1 Egg, Beaten   |
| 2 Teaspoons Baking Powder | 1 Cup Fresh or Individually Frozen Whole Un-sugared Raspberries |
| ½ Cup Milk                |   |

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Grease or paper-line 12 (2 ½-inch) muffin cups. In a large bowl, combine flour, sugar and baking powder. In a small bowl, combine milk, butter and egg until blended. Stir into flour mixture just until moistened. Gently stir in raspberries. Divide batter among the 12 muffin cups. Bake for 25-30 minutes or until golden and wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean. Remove from pan. Serve warm. Makes 12 muffins.

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# Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District

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## MEETINGS IN THE AREA

### Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers— Your Watershed Council

Meets every 3rd Tuesday of each month, 9:00 AM-11:30 AM  
Held at the ODFW conference room,  
4192 N. Umpqua Highway, Roseburg  
Contact: Bob Kinyon (541) 673-5756

### Coos Soil and Water Conservation District

Meets every 4th Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM  
Held at NRCS building, 382 North Central Blvd., Coquille  
Contact: Pat Jones (541) 396-6879

### Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District

Meets every 2nd Thursday of each month at 8:00 AM  
Held at the Douglas SWCD office,  
2741 W. Harvard Ave, Roseburg  
Contact: Walt Barton (541) 957-5061

### Elk Creek Watershed Council

Meets every 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM  
Held at Sunnysdale Grange Hall,  
6 miles west of Drain on Highway 38  
Contact: James Mast (541) 849-2719

### Lakeside Watershed Council

Meets every 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM  
Held at the Lakeside Senior Center,  
915 North Lake Road, Lakeside  
Contact: Mike Mader (541) 759-2414

### Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District

Meets every 1st Monday of each month at 5:30 PM  
Held at the Siuslaw SWCD office,  
1525 12th Street, Florence  
Contact: Jeanne Dunn or Sharron Corrigan (541) 997-1272

### Smith River Watershed Council

Meets every last Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM  
Held at the Smith River Grange Hall,  
Milepost 9 on Smith River Road  
Contact: Paul Dailey (541) 271-5848

### Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District

Meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM during  
daylight savings time and 6:00 PM during standard time  
Held at Umpqua SWCD office, 47088 State Hwy 38, Reedsport  
Contact: Rhonda Black (541) 271-2611

**The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.**

### OUR VISION STATEMENT

*“To be a respected, valued community organization committed to managing the natural resources base for future generations. To ensure sustainable agricultural and forest production, supporting functioning human, wildlife, fish and forest habitat.”*

