

# My Summer with Benton SWCD!

By Cayd Erickson

# Objectives:

- Learn what S&W conservation districts do
  - Everything! Diverse array of responsibilities.
  - Works with numerous community organizations
  - Gathers local agriculture/natural resource information
- Take part in community projects
  - Willamette Riverkeepers
  - Joint community workshops
  - Native plant sale
  - Sustainable parking lot redesign
- Learn about local agriculture and natural resources
  - Soil Quality Project
  - Finley Wildlife Refuge/NRCS ride-along

# My prior involvement with SWCDs

- Yamhill SWCD
  - Stormwater initiative (Newberg FFA)
- Benton SWCD
  - Native Plant Sale 2 years!
  - NWF joint effort riparian planting at Ankeny Wildlife Refuge -->



# Shadowing Jarod Jebousek

- Jarod:
  - Fish and wildlife biologist at Finley NWR
  - Serves as extension/representative to other partner organizations
  - Lots of knowledge!
- Our adventure:
  - Land owner (very enthusiastic) wanted to enter into an easement and conserve his land for waterfowl habitat
  - NRCS representative was present, also very knowledgeable.
  - Rough plan developed to strategically qualify land for proper funding.
  - Ice cream and bird-watching back at the office!
- Takeaways:
  - Lots of strict regulations/hoops to jump through to get results oftentimes. (Especially regarding budgets)
  - Networking with other groups is critical

# Paddle n' Pull

- Our group:
  - Teresa, me, two college students, River Keepers!
- Our mission:
  - Eradicating Ludwigia species and other water weeds in river corridor edges
  - Make way for specialists to broadcast herbicide in problem zones.
  - Learning how to paddle a boat properly
- Takeaways:
  - Many water weeds can spread quickly by rhizome drift and clog waterways, leading to a plethora of issues in healthy streams.
  - Upkeep of rivers is essential in making them functional and enjoyable, and the work that goes into them is underrepresented.



# SQP data gathering

- Who:
  - Teresa, myself, and a whole lot of farmers
- Our (unfinished) mission:
  - Gathering soil quality data from local agriculturalists to be studied.
  - Compiling data into a spreadsheet and paper binder for future use.
  - Getting farmers' contact info
- Takeaways
  - Farmers are very friendly for the most part, and love to talk about their systems!
  - Many different ag practices used in the local area - yielding many different SQ results

# Moving forward with my experience

- Continuous involvement in my local SWCD
  - Continuing assisting with SQP for as long as needed
  - Any other opportunities I can fit in my schedule!
- Senior seminar presentation (Week 6)