



# OTERO SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



3501 Mesa Village Dr. Alamogordo, NM 88310

*Current SWCD Board of Supervisors:*

- Bill Mershon, Chairman
- Rick Baish, Vice Chairman
- Jeff Rabon, Secretary/Treasurer
- Eddie Vigil, Supervisor
- Bob Nichols, Supervisor
- Thomas Mendez, Supervisor
- James Evrage, Supervisor

*NRCS Staff:*

- Adrian Tafoya, District Conservationist
- Amalia Montoya, Area Range Mgt. Specialist

*FSA Staff:*

- Lynn Muncy, County Executive Director
- Amanda Wylie-Largeteau, Program Technician

*District Employee:*

- Victoria Milne, District Manager

*District board meetings are generally, the first Wednesday of each month at 9:30 am. The meetings are held in the same building, in the Forest Service's conference room located at 3463 Las Palomas Dr.*

**The USDA Alamogordo Service Center will be closed:  
May 29th - Memorial Day and July 4th - Independence Day**



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3501 Mesa Village Drive, Alamogordo, NM 88310 (575) 437-3100 x 3



Check out the Interactive Mapping of our noxious weed program and other projects (coming soon) @ oteroswcd.org.

We have partnered with Bell Geographic to allow residents an opportunity to see more of what we do and where the projects are located.

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**Otero SWCD Noxious Weed Program Guidelines**

*Requirements for participation are:*

1. Resident of Otero County
2. Current Private Applicators License
3. Presence of a Otero County Noxious Weed
4. Approval to map noxious weeds
5. Coordinate plan for treatment
6. Follow-up after treatment

The 2017 Noxious Weed Control Program on private lands began on April 3rd. We are currently targeting noxious weeds in the lower elevations. In May we will begin work in the higher elevations. Sign-up forms are available on the website programs and projects page or in the office located at 3501 Mesa Village Drive.

**Otero County**

**Noxious Weed List**

African Rue	Musk Thistle
Hoary Cress	Russian Knapweed
Leafy Spurge	Spotted Knapweed
Malta Star-thistle	Diffuse Knapweed
Yellow Toadflax	Scotch Thistle
Yellow Star-thistle	Canada Thistle
Dalmatian Toadflax	Teasel
Purple Star-thistle	Perennial Pepperweed
Camelthorn	Halogenton





## FSA News—Organic Certification Cost Share Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Organic Certification Cost Share Program (NOCCSP), administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), provides organic producers and handlers with financial assistance to reduce the cost of organic certification. The program reimburses producers and handlers for a portion of their paid certification costs. Once certified, organic producers and handlers are eligible to receive reimbursement for up to 75 percent of certification costs each year, up to a maximum of \$750 per certification scope—crops, livestock, wild crops and handling. Additional scopes include transition certification and state program fees.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Certified organic producers and handlers who have paid certification fees may apply for reimbursement of the incurred costs.

### IS CERTIFICATION REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE?

Yes. Organic certification cost share funds are only available to certified organic or certified transitional producers and handlers. Certification must be provided by a USDA-accredited certifying agent. If your operation is not currently certified organic and you would like to learn more about the certification process, please visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/organic](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/organic).

### WHAT COSTS ARE REIMBURSABLE?

Eligible costs include application fees, inspection costs, fees related to equivalency agreement/arrangement requirements, travel/per diem for inspectors, user fees, sales assessments and postage.

### WHAT COSTS ARE NOT REIMBURSABLE?

Ineligible costs include equipment, materials, supplies, late fees, and inspections necessary to address National Organic Program regulatory violations.

### WHAT IS THE MAXIMUM REIMBURSEMENT AMOUNT?

The maximum per certification scope (crops, livestock, wild crops and handling) is \$750. Transition and state certification reimbursements will be processed separately.

### HOW DO I APPLY FOR REIMBURSEMENT?

You may apply to a participating state agency according to their deadlines, or beginning March 20, 2017, you may apply directly to one of over 2,100 FSA offices. Applicants must typically submit a one-page application form, W-9 tax form (to participating state agencies), proof of certification and an itemized invoice of certification expenses.

For more information, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/organic](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/organic) contact your local FSA county office. To find an office nearest you, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

USDA is an equal opportunity employer, provider, and lender.



## EDUCATING TOMORROW'S LEADERS IN RANCH MANAGEMENT, TODAY.

June 11-16, 2017

CS Ranch | Cimarron, New Mexico

Youth Age 15-19 | \$300

Helps youth appreciate the 'why' behind ranching.

Going to camp was a life-changing experience for 27 New Mexico youth. They didn't participate in recreational activities and crafts, but received college-level instruction in managing a ranch.



APPLY ONLINE

Deadline: May 5, 2017

During New Mexico Youth Ranch Management Camp, high school-age students will be introduced to the many aspects of running a ranch, from financial statements and marketing strategies to producing quality beef and managing natural resources and wildlife. College-level hands-on curriculum provided participants with information to develop a ranch management plan for a scenario similar to the host ranch.

The collaboration between Extension specialists, County Extension agents and members of the ranching industry provides an opportunity for youth to learn about the many aspects of ranching. Emphasizing conservation stewardship and management practices to improve beef production, incorporates an applied skills learning environment for local and regional beef producers.

For the second time in six years, the camp will be held on the CS Cattle Company's 130,000-acre ranch at the foot of the Sangre de Cristo mountain range near Cimarron, New Mexico.

More than 150 youth who have participated in past ranch camps gain a greater appreciation of the science and opportunities in agriculture. It is also a win-win for our aging agricultural industry with more young people having interest in going into this type of work. <http://aces.nmsu.edu/nmranchcamp/index.html>