

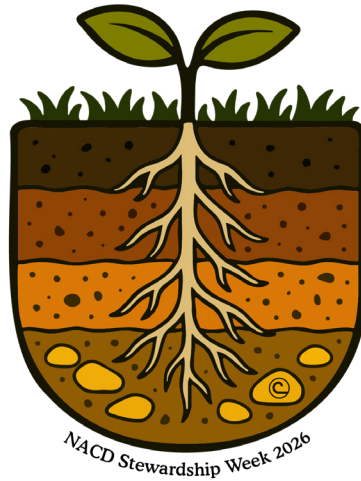


Celebrate “Soil. Where it All Begins” for Stewardship Week with Education Programs & Materials

NACD’s 2026 Stewardship Week will be observed April 26 through May 3 under the theme, “Soil. Where It All Begins.”

This year’s focus highlights soil as a living resource that supports food production, water quality, wildlife habitat, and healthy communities. Conservation districts across the country use this week to connect people of all ages to the role soil plays in everyday life and long-term natural resource conservation. Stewardship Week is a visible way for districts to share their work and connect conservation to the communities they serve.

Soil. Where it all Begins



Here are some ways your district can celebrate Stewardship Week:

- Host educational events in your community with ready-to-use education materials from NACD designed for classrooms, field days, and community events. Resources include a K to 8 Instructor Guide, student journals, and activity mats. Each education piece is flexible, so districts can adapt activities to local priorities.
- Ask your governor to proclaim the week of April 26 - May 3, 2026, as Stewardship Week using the sample proclamation and instructions.
- Work with local news, radio, and television stations to make public service announcements using NACD’s templates.
- Partner with local businesses for soil-themed community projects.

Share soil health content on your social media accounts using the #NACDStewardshipWeek and #SoilWhereItAllBegins hashtag.

Follow NACD on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. Like and share Stewardship Week 2026 content, posts, and videos.

Find resources mentioned here and more at bit.ly/nacd-sw26.

Want more frequent updates from NACD? Subscribe to our weekly email newsletter eResource at bit.ly/NACD-eResource.

Save the Date: Upcoming Meetings

NACD’s 2026 Summer Conservation Forum and Tours, hosted in partnership with the **Michigan Association of Conservation Districts**, will be held on **July 17-22, 2026** in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Save the date and join us in the “River City” for networking, board meetings, a half-day forum with panel and breakout sessions, and a fun and informative full-day tour! Stay tuned to our Summer Meeting webpage for online registration and exclusive hotel discounts launching this spring.

Learn and network closer to home by connecting with conservation leaders and partners at these upcoming NACD Region Meetings:

Northern Plains Region Meeting | June 22-24, 2026 | Helena, MT – Hosted by the Montana Association of Conservation Districts

Southeast Region Meeting | August 9-12, 2026 | Cherokee, NC – Hosted by the North Carolina Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Northeast Region Meeting | August 24-27, 2026 | Wilmington, DE – Hosted by the Delaware Association of Conservation Districts

Pacific and Southwest Joint Region Meeting | August 24-28, 2026 | Guam – Hosted by Guam’s conservation districts

South Central Region Meeting | September 22-23, 2026 – Hosted by the Louisiana Association of Conservation Districts

Visit NACD’s website for more information.

Learn NACD History in Finding the Founders Publication

To celebrate NACD’s 80th anniversary this year, the NACD Presidents Association debuted their new publication, *Finding the Founders*, allowing readers to travel back in time to meet the conservation leaders present at NACD’s first meeting in Chicago on July 25, 1946.

This short booklet shares information on the individuals at the forefront of the locally led conservation movement all those years ago and is newly available digitally by clicking on the QR code below.



What's Up in Washington? Government Affairs Updates NACD & Districts Advocate for Conservation at Fly-In



NACD hosted a successful Spring Fly-In on March 25, 2026, bringing together nearly 200 participants from conservation districts and partner organizations across the country to Washington, D.C. Attendees heard updates from congressional leaders, including Senator John Boozman and Senator Amy Klobuchar, and NACD President Gary Blair, with a focus on advocating for a bipartisan Farm Bill and sustained funding for conservation, watershed, and forestry programs in Fiscal Year 2027.

"Thank you to our congressional and agency partners for engaging in productive conversations on the essential role of locally led conservation," **said NACD President Gary Blair.** "For nearly 90 years, conservation districts have worked hand in hand with landowners to address priority natural resource concerns within their communities. This model works because it is locally led, partnership-driven, and grounded in trust. It depends on strong, sustained investment to continue delivering results."

Through the day, conservation district representatives met with members of Congress and staff to highlight the importance of federal investments to conservation practices. By leveraging state and local

contributions, conservation districts help stretch federal dollars further while ensuring conservation solutions are effective, efficient, and locally led. Investments in conservation operations and technical assistance are investments in communities, local jobs, farm viability, and the long-term health of working lands and natural resources.

During the Spring Fly-In, NACD and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen local collaboration in land management decisions, marking the culmination of years of effort. NACD leaders also met with several federal agencies to explore expanded conservation partnerships and innovative delivery strategies.



Participants engaged in regional and individual meetings with agency officials to address local priorities, including wildfire, drought, and water management challenges. Meanwhile, momentum continues for a bipartisan Farm Bill, which has passed the House Agriculture Committee and awaits a full vote, with Senate action anticipated later this spring. Thank you to everyone who joined us for the 2026 NACD Spring Fly-In and spoke up for conservation districts!

Membership Corner Updates

Learn From Upcoming Conservation Coffee Webinars



NACD's bi-monthly Conservation Coffees, hosted by NACD's District and Partner Relations Committee, are short networking sessions to bring members together on a variety of topics. Join us for the following upcoming Conservation Coffees!

On April 23 at 3:00 p.m. ET, learn from Jim Olson, a Source Water Protection Specialist in Nebraska about how proactive outreach and producer partnerships are protecting drinking water in northeast Nebraska by lowering nitrate levels.

On May 14 at 3:00 p.m. ET, Bridgett Hilshey from Dairy Conservation Navigator (DCN) will join us to talk about their online platform with information on dairy conservation technologies and funding opportunities. New this year, DCN launched a funding database with over 170 programs—many for dairy and beyond—that can be filtered by eligibility, funding status, farm focus, and funding objective.

Learn more and register at nacdnet.org/webinars. Watch past Conservation Coffees on NACD's YouTube page.

Become a Friend of NACD

If you're looking for a way to directly support innovative conservation projects, consider becoming a Friend of NACD! Through this program we grant up to \$2,500 to districts with creative approaches to implementing locally led conservation.

This year our eight awardees will be using their grants to restore native habitat in Guam, hold a workshop for living shoreline restoration in Maine, support gardens donating to local food banks in Washington, and more.

Visit nacdnet.org/friends to donate. Donations of \$100 or more will receive our limited edition 80th anniversary t-shirt. Subject to availability. Email membership@nacdnet.org to arrange shipping.

