



Socorro Soil and Water Conservation District

Socorro's Soil & Water Conservation Leaders Since 1944

October 2014 Newsletter

Cost Share for MRGCD Turnout Replacement/Upgrade

Do you have a leaky, rusty, dilapidated old turnout? The MRGCD now charges to replace them, but we will split the cost with you! Property owners are eligible for a reimbursement of half the cost of the turnout and the labor to install it up to a maximum reimbursement of \$3,000.

For this cost share program, we have an open application period that starts on November 1, 2014 and ends on January 9, 2015. This allows the MRGCD time to complete the work while the ditches are empty. No applications will be accepted after January 9.



Old turnout

Newly replaced turnout



TIME TO WINTERIZE YOUR DRIP IRRIGATION SYSTEM

Winterizing Your Drip Irrigation System

It's that time of year again when freezing temperatures can wreak havoc on your irrigation system if you haven't properly winterized it. When standing water inside pipes freezes, it expands. This expansion will cause the pipes to split and crack, ensuring that you spend the spring fixing leaks.

The best winterization technique is installing automatic drains on each of your zones. These inexpensive fittings (~\$4) drain the water from your pipes each time the timer shuts the zone valve off, so there is never standing water in your pipes. Buy the brass ones; they are well worth the extra \$2. This is an easy and inexpensive retrofit, and we are happy to show you how to do it—just call our office.



Sometimes proper placement of drip lines can accomplish adequate drainage. For example, if you have poly tube lines on the surface, installing the proper drip emitters at the lowest points of the lines will allow the water to drain.

In either of the above scenarios, simply shutting off the water supply and running the timer through its schedule will winterize the system. Otherwise, the best method is to use an air compressor with a tapered end fitting that will give you a snug fit and blow air through your pipes, thereby forcing the water out through the emitters. Keep your air compressor to 25 psi on a poly tube system, 50 psi on a pvc system. Volume is the goal, not pressure, and too much pressure will damage your system.



Using air to drain pipes

Some more winterizing tips:

-Wrap any exposed pipe with pipe insulation. It's cheap and easy to install. Make sure you wrap it thoroughly with the proper acrylic black tape. You might also visit Speedwrap.com for the best and newest pipe insulation. For extreme temperatures, if you have an outlet nearby, pipes can be wrapped with electric tape that keeps the pipes warm.



-If you have a battery powered timer, disconnect it and store it inside for the winter. Blow out the poly tube with an air compressor.



Pesticide Applicators Workshop

November 13th, 2014
Socorro County Annex Building
198 Neel Avenue
Socorro, New Mexico 87801
575-835-0610

- *There will be a \$5.00 fee at the door for the class
- ** Provides the 5 CEU's required to be eligible for license renewal

Schedule

8:00-8:50, Mr. Brad Lewis "How Pesticide Works"

9:00-9:50, Dr. Sam Smallidge "Wildlife Damage Management"

10:00-10:50, Dr. Carol Sutherland "Insect Pests on/in Turf & Ornamentals"

11:00-11:50, Mr. Greg Alpers "Producer needs in Socorro County"

12:00-12:50, Mr. Steve Baca "Laws & Regulations on Pesticides in New Mexico"



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IMPORTANT DATES

November 1 ***Start accepting cost share applications for MRGCD ditch turnout replacement***

November 11 ***Veteran's Day;***
Socorro SWCD Board meeting at 12:00 PM

November 12—13 ***Office closed. Staff attending training.***

November 27 ***Thanksgiving***

November 26—30 ***Office will be closed.***

December 1 ***Office will re-open***

December 9 ***Socorro SWCD Board meeting at 12:00 PM***

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