

# *Willcox-San Simon Natural Resource Conservation District*

Spring Newsletter - March 2024

## **2023 RIGGS FIELD DAY & CONSERVATION FARMER RECOGNITION**

### **2023 Conservation Farmer of the Year**

The Dunlap family of JDD Farms in Willcox is the Willcox-San Simon NRCD's 2023 Conservation Farmer of the Year recipient. The Dunlap family legacy started with JD "Red" & Christine Dunlap, who moved from Texas to Arizona in 1968 and settled in the Sulphur Springs Valley north of Willcox. They farmed corn and lettuce with row water irrigation and raised their children; Darren, Sheryl and Doug. Red passed away at the young age of 48 and this is when Doug (age 20) came back from college to ensure the farm would continue in the family. Farming was tough and Doug had opportunities to purchase ground mainly due to the great relationships Red had with his neighbors and friends. The Dunlap acreage slowly grew through the years and so did the family. Doug married Christina (Tina) in 1988 and they raised three children; Megan (Jarrod) Wells, Nikki (Gerald) Fleming and Jake (Madison) Dunlap. A true family farm, everyone plays a role in the operation of the farm including son-in-law Jarrod and daughter-in-law, Madison. Megan, Jarrod, Nikki and Jake formed Gen4Ag to signify their fourth generation farming heritage. Doug's brother Darren and family (JD) Dunlap and Lacey (Travis) Glaspy are also involved in agriculture and Sheryl's son KJ Patterson works full time for JDD Farms. Today, JDD Farms grows corn, cotton, beans, triticale, oats and barley.

Through the years, JDD Farms has utilized a number of conservation practices through



Pictured above (l-r): Tina Thompson (NRCD Chairman), Jarrod Wells, Megan Wells, Nikki Fleming, Tina Dunlap, Archie Fleming, Doug Dunlap, Madison Dunlap, Jake Dunlap, Cary Lilly (NRCS CSP Program Manager). Holding sign in front are Boyd Fleming, Colt Wells and Cooper Wells. Photo credit: David Thompson

programs offered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). They have installed efficient center pivots, flowmeters, utilized cover crop rotations to improve soil health, applied advanced irrigation water management systems, reduced tillage operations, installed drift reducing nozzles, and added legumes, animal manure and compost to supply nitrogen needs on the farm.

Congratulations to the Dunlap Family!

## 2023 Riggs Field Day

The Willcox-San Simon NRCDC hosted Riggs Field Day on Thursday, October 12th. Six schools and 60 kids attended the 51st event representing Benson, Duncan, San Simon, Willcox, Elfrida and Globe. FFA students competed in Range, Wildlife, Soils and Forestry competitions, continuing a tradition that started in November of 1971. Riggs Field Day was held at the C Bar Ranch and El Dorado Community Center. Below are the attendees at the 2023 Riggs Field Day.



### THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:

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**VALLEY TELECOM GROUP**

**GILA VALLEY NRCDC**

**STEVE FENN**

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**WESTERN BANK.**



**THANK YOU TO NRCS STAFF,  
ADVISORS/VOLUNTEERS, US FOREST SERVICE,  
ANDY'S BBQ, STAMBACK SEPTIC, JIM RIGGS AND  
DAVID & TINA THOMPSON!**

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# SOILS



## SOILS INDIVIDUAL RESULTS:

**1st Place** - Jady Hobbs - Duncan FFA, pictured above with David Thompson.

**2nd Place** - Isaac Harris - Duncan FFA, pictured above center with David Thompson.

**3rd Place** - Camille Miller - Duncan FFA, pictured above right with David Thompson.

## SOILS TEAM RESULTS:

**1st Place** - Duncan FFA Team 2 (right) - Emily Kempton, Elizabeth Basteen, Tim Lunt and Taygan Jensen pictured with David Thompson.

**2nd Place** - Duncan FFA Team 3 (below) - Jady Hobbs, Shaylynn Rhoton, Camille Miller and Sean Webb pictured with David Thompson.

**3rd Place** - Duncan FFA Team 1 (no photo) - Echo Lane, Isaac Harris, Carlie Paz, Brendy Paz.



Students at the Soils Pit.

# RANGE



## RANGE INDIVIDUAL RESULTS:

**1st Place** - Cathryn Bell from Willcox FFA with (upper left) with Danelle Thompson from Maid Rite Feeds.

**2nd Place** - Sam Frazier from Elfrida FFA with (upper middle) with David Thompson.

**3rd Place** - Jady Hobbs from Duncan FFA with (upper right) with David Thompson.

## RANGE TEAM RESULTS:

**1st Place** - Duncan FFA Team 3 (right) - Jady Hobb, Sean Webb, Camille Miller and Shaylynn Rhoton with David Thompson.

**2nd Place** - Elfrida FFA Team 1 (below left) - Jacque Ashburner, Kali Pruder, Sam Frazier and Dylan Mitchell, with David Thompson.

**3rd Place** - Benson FFA Team 1 (below right) - Roy Jones, Shannon Frost, Logan Vance and Evalynn MacGregor with David Thompson.



# WILDLIFE



## WILDLIFE INDIVIDUAL RESULTS:

**1st Place** - Dylan Mitchell from Elfrida FFA pictured with Danelle Thompson from Maid Rite Feeds.

**2nd Place** - Sawyer Thompson from Willcox FFA pictured with David Thompson.

**3rd Place** - Kaleb Kirkendall from Willcox FFA pictured with David Thompson.



## WILDLIFE TEAM RESULTS:

**1st Place** - Elfrida FFA Team 1 - Kali Pruder, Jacque Ashburner, Dylan Mitchell and Sam Frazier (left) pictured with AZGFD Wildlife Managers Jeremiah Fountain and Nataly Scheigert.

**2nd Place** - Duncan FFA Team 3 - Shaylynn Rhoton, Sean Webb, Camille Miller and Jadyn Hobbs pictured with Jeremiah and Nataly.

**3rd Place** - Duncan FFA Team 2 - Elizabeth Basteen, Emily Kempton, Taygen Jensen and Tim Lunt (below) with David Thompson.



# FORESTRY



## FORESTRY INDIVIDUAL RESULTS:

**1st Place** - Brandon Price from Duncan FFA pictured with Jamie Ruiz (US Forest Service) and Danelle Thompson from Maid Rite Feeds.

**2nd Place** - Jacque Ashburner from Elfrida FFA with Jamie.

**3rd Place** - Sean Webb from Duncan FFA with Jamie Ruiz.



## FORESTRY TEAM RESULTS:

**1st Place** - Benson Team 1 - Evalynn MacGregor, Logan Vance, Shannon Frost and Roy Jones pictured at left with David Thompson.

**2nd Place** - Duncan FFA Team 3 - Jady Hobbs, Sean Webb, Camille Miller and Shaylynn Rhoton pictured below left with David Thompson.

**3rd Place** - Elfrida Team 1 - Jacque Ashburner, Sam Frazier, Kali Pruder and Dylan Mitchell below left with David Thompson.





Pictured above, Jadyn Hobbs won the Sweepstakes Individual Award. Below, the Duncan team of Shaylynn Rhoton, Jadyn Hobbs, Sean Webb and Camille Miller and Shalynn Rhoton won the Team Sweepstakes for the highest combined score for the 2023 Riggs Field Day! The Team is pictured below with Chase Skaarer from NRCS.



**BENSON FFA**  
**ADVISOR JESSICA ZAMUDIO**



**SAN SIMON FFA**  
**ADVISOR MIKE ZAMUDIO**



*Congratulations!*



**GLOBE FFA**  
**ADVISOR MAEGAN DIXON**



Volunteers from the US Forest Service and NRCS enjoy the weather at the 2023 Riggs Field Day.



**DUNCAN FFA**  
**ADVISOR KAYLA SEXTON**



AZGFD Wildlife Managers Natalie Scheigert and Jeremiah Fountain administered the Wildlife Competition.



**WILLCOX FFA**  
**ADVISOR AMY SANBORN**



Students study the soil characteristics at the soils pit.



**ELFRIDA FFA**  
**ADVISOR DAVIDA NOBLE**





Students at the first ever Forestry competition. It was a great addition to the 2023 Riggs Field Day!



Jennifer Downing from SSVEC provided swag for the students and advisors.



Students wait for results at the 2023 Riggs Field Day.



Scores being tallied under the tent.



A delicious lunch was served by Andy's BBQ.



Beautiful buckles sponsored by Maid Rite Feeds!

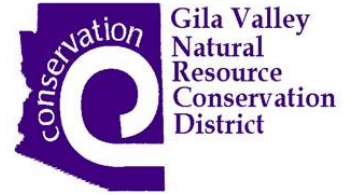
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