

Soil and Plant Science Division Technical Soil Services Southwest Soil Survey Region

Soil and Conservation Booth at the Official State Fair of Nevada

Minden, Nevada, Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) Soil Survey Office (SSO)

Purpose

In April 2026, NRCS Nevada State Public Affairs Specialist Heather Emmons asked Minden MLRA SSO staff to assist NRCS Nevada State Office staff with a soil and conservation booth as part of the Walking Tour of Nevada event at the [State Fair of Nevada](#) (fig. 1). This event educates visitors on the preservation, protection, and promotion of agriculture and celebrates agricultural communities and traditions. Around 300 visitors stopped at the NRCS booth to learn about soil and conservation and the vital role each plays in NRCS programs that promote the preservation and protection of agricultural land.

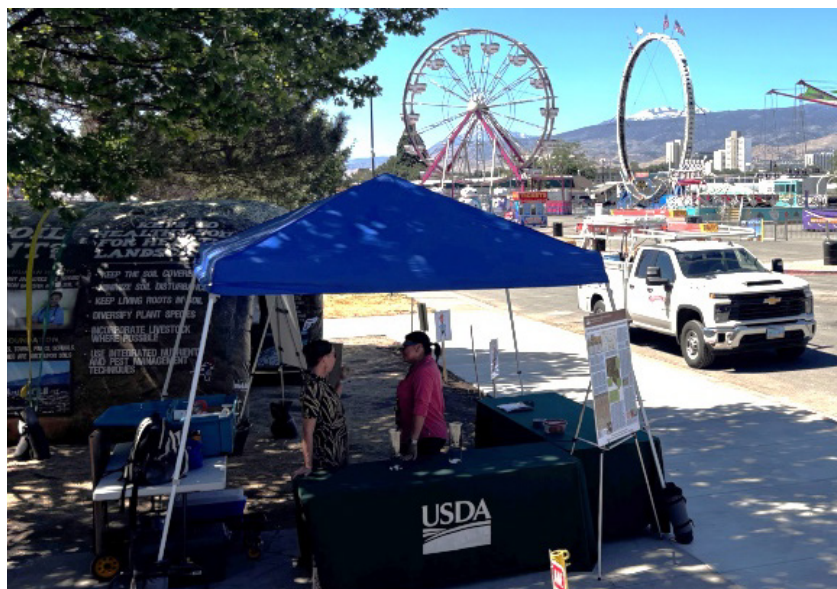


Figure 1.—Soil Scientists Meghan Krueger (left) and Jessica Castiblanco (right) setting up the booth for the Walking Tour of Nevada.

Background

From June 11–13, Soil Scientists Jessica Castiblanco and Meghan Krueger shared their soils expertise with visitors while working alongside Nevada State Soil Scientist Chris Savastio, Rangeland Management Specialist Chris Bernau, Partnership Coordinator Chris Rose, 1890 National Scholars Intern Parker Scales, and Emmons. At the booth, NRCS staff engaged visitors in conversations covering soil properties, a soil health demonstration on aggregate stability, and NRCS programs (fig. 2).



Figure 2.—Soil Scientist Jessica Castiblanco and Range Management Specialist Chris Bernau discussing soil health with visitors at the booth.

NRCS staff used a new poster highlighting Orovada, the Nevada State Soil, to talk to visitors about soil series (fig. 3). The poster lists Orovada’s soil properties, provides a map showing its locations in Nevada, and outlines its history, importance, and uses. Visitors were surprised and excited to learn that Nevada has a designated state soil.



Figure 3.—Partnership Coordinator Chris Rose and 1890 Scholars Intern Parker Scales sitting at the table displaying the Orovada poster.

Next to the booth, staff had set up an inflatable soil tunnel for visitors to go underground to explore and increase their understanding of soil properties. Walking through the tunnel, visitors learned that different structures affect how water and nutrients flow through soil. Through illustrations and images, visitors saw how living organisms in the soil make up part of the larger soil web and that salts can affect the soil structure. Visitors who toured the tunnel also learned the key to healthy soil for healthy landscapes is to keep soil covered and minimize soil disturbance.

Key Outcomes

During the State Fair of Nevada, Minden MLRA SSO and State Office staff helped introduce more than 300 visitors to the NRCS soil and conservation programs that promote the preservation and protection of agricultural land. Visitors left the booth with a better understanding of soils, including Orovada, soil properties, the role of living organisms in the soil, and best practices to promote soil health. The collaboration required to operate the booth also provided an opportunity for Minden MLRA SSO and State Office staff to build rapport with colleagues and to gain a better understanding of individual and team strengths that make up the NRCS.

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