

Meet Your Local Conservationist Dawn Salcito



Tell me a little bit about yourself and your family?

I was born and raised a rancher in Arizona and worked many ranches with my parents across the state. After getting married, my husband and I moved to Skull Valley where his family's ranch is, and we have been ranching on the Z3 Ranch for over 29 years.



What is the history of?

Thirty-two years ago, my husband's family purchased their ranch in Skull Valley.

What breed of cattle do you raise?

We have a calf/cow crossbred operation. Crossbreeding cattle increases the productivity of a calf higher from their parents, for example, a higher success in breeding as well as greater calf survival and weaning rates.



Why did you get involved with NRCDs?

I got involved with NRCDs because they provide an outlet for and support to beef producers in the area while finding ways to care for the natural resources for future generations

How long have you been involved with NRCDs?

I joined the Triangle NRCD board in 2015; I also took a job with the Western Yavapai Conservation Education Center sponsored by Chino Winds and Triangle NRCD. Then I became a NRCS Program Specialist for the Districts, helping producers with conservation practices



What changes have you seen in the NRCD since you joined?

There's been an increase in programs and support for producers. I've also seen more focused NRCD board participation in conservation issues at the state level.



What kind of conservation work have you done on your operation?

Prescribed grazing, fencing improvements, and trick tank catchments that collect rainwater and deliver it to a troughs for livestock and wildlife

What, in terms of conservation work, is next for you?

Restore grassland by eradicating juniper and oak brush (i.e., implementing brush management practices).

What is your favorite thing about being involved with NRCDs?



NRCDs mean locally-led conservation, which is what it's all about!



Thank you Dawn Salcito!