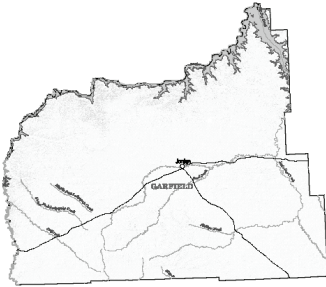


News News

Garfield County Conservation District

"Local Common Sense Conservation"



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"Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful."-
Albert Schweitzer

69th Annual MACD Convention

The MACD held its 69th Annual Convention in Billings November 16-18, 2010. The Convention opened with keynote speaker, Trent Loos, a sixth generation United States farmer with a passion for the rural lifestyle on Wednesday morning. Trent Loos can frequently be found addressing agricultural and non-agricultural groups alike. Among his favorite audiences are our nation's youth where he takes the opportunity to talk with them about the importance of food as a matter of national security and the value of their involvement in today's food production system. During convention a wide panel of discussion was on Montana's 310 law with conservation district personnel, NRCS video "Been Around A Long Time" starring CD Supervisors was watched, standing committees reviewed this years resolutions and then 2 buses were loaded to head for the Bridger Plant Materials Center. Wednesday evening the MACDEO held an appetizers and cocktail hour in the Petroleum Club and a silent auction was held. Thursday morning started with the education breakfast where FFA students talked about their involvement and participation in the Envirothon. Then the business session was held to consider resolutions, budgets, etc. During lunch a live broadcast on the Northern Ag Network was held. Following lunch, concurrent sessions were held– one on Water Marketing with Chris Corbin from Lotic and the other by Dr. Clayton Marlow on Improving Range with Livestock. Thursday was wrapped up by closing thoughts from Trent Loos and then a social hour with the exhibitors. Thursday evening started with a dinner and live auction, Baxter Black was the evenings entertainment. This former large animal veterinarian can be followed nation wide through his column, National Public Radio, public appearances, television and also through his books, cd's, videos and commercial radio. Baxter lives in Benson, Arizona, between the Gila River and the Gila monster, the Mexican boarder and the Boarder Patrol and between the horse and the cow– where the action is.



2011 Montana Youth Range Camp

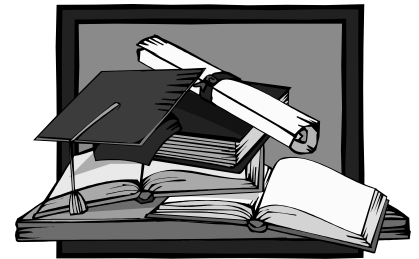
The 2011 Montana Youth Range Camp will be hosted by the Garfield County Conservation District and the Petroleum County Conservation District. The camp will be held at the 7V Ranch north west of Jordan, MT during the week of June 27-July 1, 2011.

Campers will be introduced to 25 of Montana's important range plants— grasses, forbs, and shrubs— and will learn about the interaction of soils, water, plants, wildlife, and livestock on the range. The camp provides an excellent opportunity for youth of varying backgrounds to become more aware of the value and potential of Montana's rangeland. This well organized, balanced, and educational program brings together range professionals and interested students to learn in the great outdoors. Evening programs and activities allow campers an opportunity to meet new friends and develop lasting friendships.

Camp registration fee is \$125.00 which includes meals, lodging and supplies. Awards are given for outstanding individual and team achievement. Scholarships are available to cover the cost of registration and travel expenses, call your local conservation district for more information.

For questions and more information please contact Heidi Crum at 406-444-6619

Scholarships Available



This year two \$250.00 scholarships will be awarded through the Garfield County Conservation District. These scholarships will be available to Garfield County High School Seniors who intend to pursue a higher education in an agriculture and/or natural resource field. Scholarships may also be granted to Garfield County High School graduates who are currently pursuing a higher education and have not previously been a recipient of this scholarship. However, priority will be given to the graduating seniors. Application forms are available at the Conservation District office.

The Montana Weed Control Association awards three scholarships annually to students pursuing a degree in a natural resource management field at an accredited four-year Montana university. For complete details on this scholarship please see the application. The deadline for applications is May 1, 2011.

Download an application at <http://www.mtweed.org/awards-scholarships>

The Conservation District is taking tree orders for 2011 spring plantings. The trees arrive around the third week in April. Order now to guarantee quantity and availability!!



Call Amanda at 557-2740 x 100 to order your trees!!!!

2011 Poster Contest

The annual National Conservation Poster Contest provides kindergarten through twelfth grade students an opportunity to convey their thoughts about soil, water and related natural resource issues through art. It also highlights the educational outreach efforts of conservation districts and their state conservation associations, auxiliaries and agencies. The poster contest theme follows the annual Stewardship theme. The contest is co-sponsored by the National Association of Conservation Districts and the NACD Auxiliary.

Each year, the poster contest starts at the district level. Individuals and teachers with questions regarding district contests should contact their local conservation district.

Eligibility

The National Conservation Poster Contest is open to kindergarten through twelfth grade students. Artwork entered into the national competition must have been judged in a local or area conservation district sponsored poster contest and a state conservation association or state auxiliary sponsored contest. Posters not sent by authorized state poster group will not be considered for judging.

2011 Contest Theme

The National Poster Contest theme "Forests for People– More Than You Can Imagine!" Posters can also use the theme "Forest for People."

Poster category by grade:

- K-1
- 2-3
- 4-6
- 7-9
- 10-12

The contest is open to public, private or home school students.

The state conservation association or auxiliary selects a poster for entering in each of the grade divisions or special category and submits to NACD. The state does not have to enter a poster for every grade level. The contest is open to public, private or home school students.

Contest Rules

The contest rules were created so as not to limit or revise the current rules of local and state conservation poster contests:

- Any media may be used to create a flat or two-dimensional effect (paint, crayon, colored pencil, charcoal, stickers, paper or other materials on regular posters (no computer only special category))
- Poster size must be between 8.5" x 11" and 22" x 28".
- Posters should be packaged so they remain flat when sent for judging.
- All posters must be created by an individual student rather than a team of students.
- The 2011 Stewardship title "Forests for People' More Than You Can Imagine!" must be on your poster. Poster may also use "Forests for People" These are the only titles eligible for the national poster contest.
- Names on back of posters and must have signed entry form to be eligible for judging.
- Although younger students will most likely receive help in planning from parents or teachers, NACD encourages each student to do as much of the work as possible by him/herself. Entries completed by students



Article continued to pg 4 →

In their handwriting and coloring will score better than those designed, drawn and colored by adult assistance.

- Each entry to state contest must have been judged at each conservation district's or area contest prior to the state evaluation/contest.
- Posters must be judged at the state level. Individual posters cannot be sent for national judging by individuals. They must follow their state's contest rules and deadlines.
- Each entry for the national contest must have the Entry form filled out and signed by guardian or parent to be judged.

Poster Evaluations

National Poster Contest entries are reviewed judges. The posters are evaluated on the following criteria;

- Conservation message (Poster uses correct theme) (50 percent)
- Visual effectiveness (30 percent)
- Originality (10 percent)
- Universal appeal (10 percent)
- Also taken into consideration artwork is completed on poster is that of participant (unless noted on entry form)

The top two posters in each category of the national contest will receive monetary prizes. First place winners will receive \$100 and second place winners will receive \$75. Prizes at the national level are sponsored by the NACD Auxiliary.

Local and state contest awards and sponsors will differ from state to state.

Depending on the sponsoring state's conservation association, auxiliary or agency's preference, the national awards will be presented at the national, regional, state and/or local conservation ceremony. The winning posters will be featured at the NACD Annual Meeting. Each state conservation association, auxiliary or agency contact will receive notification of the judging results, copies of the judges' comments and a news release announcing the winners. Posters not receiving national awards will be returned to the state contact in a timely manner following judging. The National poster contest is not responsible for returning posters back to each individual poster winner.

Sponsors

The National Poster contest program is sponsored by the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and the NACD Auxiliary. NACD, founded in 1946, is a nonprofit organization representing nearly 3,000 local conservation districts in the 50 states and U.S. Territories. The NACD Auxiliary assists NACD with informational and educational outreach efforts.

Entry forms are available to pick up at the Garfield County Conservation District office. Posters need to be completed and sent to the Garfield County Conservation District office by May 5, 2011.

****End of Article****

Spring Rainfall, Snow Melt Can Cause Flooding in Montana– 2011 Region VIII News Release

As spring approaches, Montana communities are once again preparing for the possibility of flooding. FEMA Recovery and Mitigation experts have several recommendations to help people get ready for flood waters. First and foremost on the list is to get flood insurance. In Montana, the average cost of a flood insurance policy is about \$600 a year. Since 1978, state residents have collected more than \$5.5 million in insurance reimbursements. It's the first thing to do because there is a 30-day waiting period before a policy can take effect. If the waters are rising, it may be too late to file a flood insurance claim. Other steps you can take to protect your family and your property include:

- Make sure downspouts carry water several feet from your house to a well-drained area. About 2,500 gallons of water will come from a 1,000 square foot roof with one foot of snow depth across the roof. This much water may cause problems if allowed to drain next to the house.
- Move snow on the ground away from the house. Water from the snow may cause a wet basement if allowed to run down along the basement wall. If the ground is sloped 1 inch per foot near the house, moving the snow just 3-5 feet from the house will reduce problems.
- Examine and clean your sump pump, if you have one. Test your pump by pouring water into the pit. Make sure the discharge hose carries the water several feet away from the house to a well-drained area. Also make sure that the pipe is on sloped ground so it drains to prevent it from freezing.
- Remove snow from around rural yards to minimize soft, wet soil conditions. Remember that a 20-foot diameter 10-foot high pile of snow contains about 2,500 gallons of water. Move the snow to well-drained areas.
- Anchor any fuel tanks. An unanchored tank in your basement can be torn free by floodwaters and the broken supply can contaminate your basement. An unanchored tank outside can be swept downstream, where it can damage other houses.
- Have a licensed electrician raise electric components (switches, sockets, circuit breakers and wiring) at least 12" above your home's projected flood elevation.
- Place the furnace and water heater on masonry blocks or concrete at least 12" above the projected flood elevation.
- If your washer and dryer are in the basement, elevate them on masonry or pressure-treated lumber at least 12" above the projected flood elevation.
- Plan and practice a flood evacuation route with your family.
- Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to be the "family contact" in case your family is separated during a flood. Make sure everyone in your family knows the name, address, and phone number of this contact person.

Call 1-888-379-9531 (TTY: 800-427-5593) or visit www.FloodSmart.gov to learn more about potential flood risks, flood insurance and how to prepare for floods.



A Few Planning Notes for HDPE Pipe

-B.G. FitzGerald, NRCS Jordan Field Office-

The advantages associated with HDPE pipe have made it increasingly popular for stockwater pipelines. Below are a few things to keep in mind when planning to use HDPE.

1. The pressure class rating for both HDPE & PVC pipe is based on the steady pressure within the pipe. Although the wall thickness of HDPE pipe is considerably thicker than that of PVC pipe, the pressure class rating of the pipe still needs to be observed.
2. There have been some instances where supply companies have been selling 160psi HDPE pipe as 200psi HDPE pipe. Please be aware that SDR 11 HDPE pipe is rated for 160psi and SDR 9 HDPE pipe is rated for 200psi.
3. HDPE pipe is a good choice for systems that use a timer rather than a pressure tank. The start/stop action of the pump can create water hammer and surge pressure events in the pipe. HDPE allows for a surge pressure that is higher than the pressure rating of the pipe as opposed to PVC where the surge pressure must be within the pressure rating of the pipe. With fewer joints HDPE also has the advantage of less chance for leaks as a result of pressure surges.

Soil: a Vital Living System

By Sue FitzGerald, District Conservationist

Our planning emphasis used to be on preventing and treating soil erosion. Now that we know much more about the soil and the biological processes, our emphasis is on over-all soil health. The soil erosion we've been treating is a symptom of poor soil health.

For example, strip cropping reduces the distance of unsheltered soil. With the right crop rotation, cover crops and residue management, the soil is never unsheltered and strip cropping is not necessary. Another example is grassed waterways. Again, with the right crop rotation, cover crops and residue management, water runoff is greatly reduced and the soil structure can handle what's left.

All soil is made up of air, water, minerals (sand, silt, clay) decayed plant materials, and numerous kinds of living and dead organisms. It's the living organisms that can really make your soil work for you.

Let's discuss the benefits of healthy soils before we go any further.

1. Soil pores remain continuous allowing for precipitation to enter the soil instead of running off.
2. The microbial habitat is supported, increasing the number of beneficial fungi, protozoa, earthworms, etc.
3. Nutrients are continually being cycled and made available for your crops.
4. More moisture can be stored and for a longer period of time.
5. Stable Soil aggregates form—resulting in less erosion.

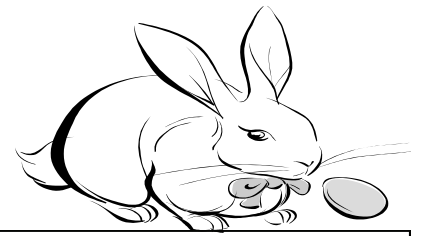
Soil is a vital living system that sustains plant, animal and human health.

The keys to managing for microbial habitat in the soil:

- less disturbances of the soil.
- more diversity in what is grown in the soil.
- living roots in the soil as much as possible.
- keep the soil covered with crops and their residues.

(this is the first in a series of articles on soil health)





Easter Jokes:

- What is the difference between a crazy bunny and a counterfeit banknote? One is bad money and the other is a mad bunny!
- Why did the Easter egg hide? He was a little chicken!
- What do you get when you cross a bunny with an onion? A bunion
- What did the grey rabbit say to the blue rabbit? Cheer up!
- How do you make a rabbit stew? Make it wait for three hours!

Top Ten Candies for Easter Baskets

Here are the top 10 brand preferences of kids 6-11 who eat candy!

1. M&Ms
2. Skittles
3. Hershey's Kisses
4. Kit Kat
5. Reese's Peanut Butter Cups
6. Starburst
7. Ring Pop
8. Laffy Taffy
9. Hershey's Milk Chocolate
10. Push Pop

Crafts:

Clothespin Bunnies

You will need:
old fashion style wooden clothes pins
paint, white, pink or light brown
small Googly eyes
glue

Directions:

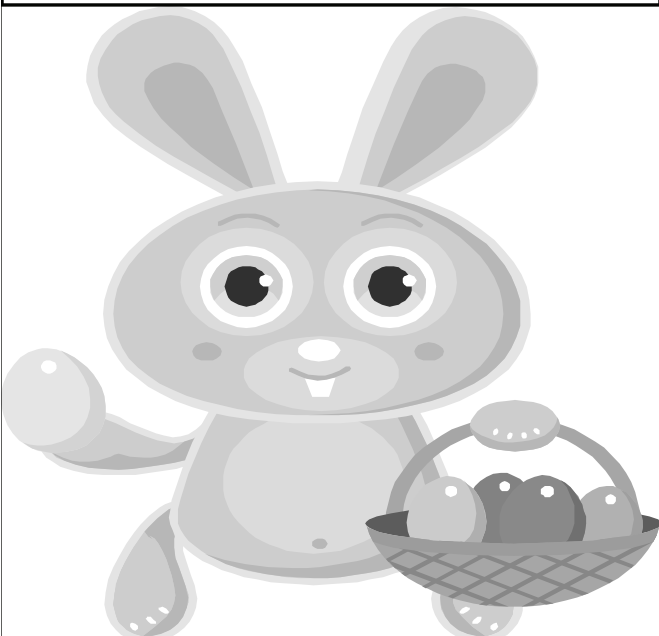
Have the children paint the clothes pin. After the paint is dry, glue the eyes to the pin. Turn the pin upside down so that the bunny will have ears.

Baby Chicks

You will need:
empty egg cartons
cotton balls
paint, yellow tempura
baby powder
glue
orange construction paper
scissors
small google eyes

Directions:

Give each child one egg cup cut from an egg carton and two cotton balls. Put a mixture of baby powder and yellow powdered tempura paint into a plastic bag. Allow each child to place two cotton balls and shake for a minute or two. Then carefully take the cotton balls out of the bag, and gently tap the extra powder off. Have your child glue their cotton balls in their egg cups, one on top of the other. Then let them add an orange construction paper beak, and small googly eyes.



Items For Sale and Rent

Plant ID Books:

- Weeds of the West \$28.00
- Plants of South Dakota Grasslands \$25.00
- Range Plants of Montana \$17.00

Maps:

- Garfield Co. Landownership Map w/ Key \$15.00
- Small Landownership Map Book-1 township per page \$30.00
- Landownership Map Book– 4 township per page \$25.00
- Landownership Map Book– 1 township per page \$40.00

Tree/Plant Supplies:

- Tree Tube, 2ft w/ wooden support stake \$2.50
- Mesh Tube, 3ft \$0.50
- Bamboo Stake, 4ft \$0.20
- Fabric Staple 6” x 1” \$0.10, each
- Fabric Staple 10” x 2” \$0.15, each

Landscape Fabric:

- Whole Roll 6ft x 500ft \$140.00
- Partial Roll 3ft x 500ft \$75.00
- Partial Roll 6ft x 250ft \$75.00
- Partial Roll 3ft x 250ft \$80.00

Rental:

- No Till Drill \$2.00/acre
- Fabric Layer (min of \$10.00) \$0.10/ft
- Soil Sampling Probe 5 day loan
- ATV Sprayer \$25.00/day
- ATV Broadcast Spreader \$15.00/day
- ATV Herbicide Applicator \$15.00/day



ATV SPREADER



ATV SPAYER



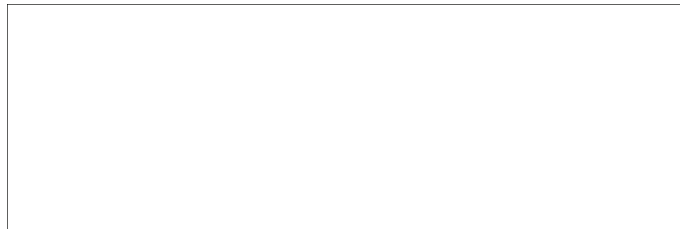
NO TILL DRILL

Please call the Conservation District Office for more information at 557-2740 x 100

Garfield County Conservation District
 307 Main (PO Box 369)
 Jordan, MT 59337



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All Garfield County Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service programs are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, gender, political beliefs, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.

Board of Supervisors

Monte Billing.....Chairman
 Dean Rogge.....Vice Chairman
 Travis Browning.....Supervisor
 Mike McKeever.....Supervisor
 Alan Pluhar.....Supervisor
 Nathan Saylor.....Urban Supervisor
 Vacant.....Urban Supervisor

The public is welcome to attend the meetings of the Conservation District Board of Supervisors. Please call for meeting date and time.

Views expressed by individual columnists in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the Garfield County Conservation District.

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Sue FitzGerald,
 District Conservationist
 John Monahan,
 Soil Conservationist
 B.G. FitzGerald,
 Soil Conservation Technician

310 Permits

A 310 permit is required if you are planning any project including the construction of new facilities or the modification, operation, and maintenance of an existing facility that may affect the natural existing shape and form of any stream, its banks, or its tributaries. Any private entity or non-governmental individual that proposes to work in or near a stream on public or private land must obtain a 310 Permit prior to any activity in or near a perennially flowing stream.

Contact the Garfield County Conservation District for Permit Applications.