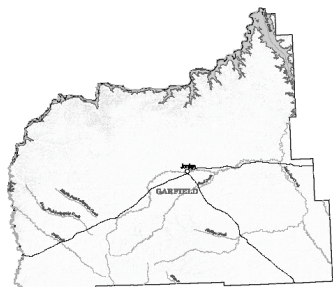


News News

Garfield County Conservation District



"Local Common Sense Conservation"

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NOTICE—IMPORTANT INFORMATIONAL MEETING FOR GARFIELD COUNTY AG OPERATORS

An informational meeting for producers interested in learning more about soil health is scheduled for Wednesday, January 5 from 1—3 p.m. at the Cohagen Hall with NRCS Area Agronomist, Mark Henning. Henning has worked with a wide variety of crops and farming technologies. Soil health will be the topic of the meeting with information on cover crop cocktails, no-till management and no-till drills. Lunch will be served. An RSVP is appreciated but not necessary.

Use of cover crops has benefits for both the soil and the subsequent crop. Some of the main benefits of cover crops in no-till wheat stubble are:

- recycling nutrients and preventing N leaching.
- livestock grazing/forage
- providing nitrogen if a legume cover crop is used
- weed control
- increased microbial activity
- additional organic matter
- increase residue cycling and degradation of excess wheat stubble, resulting in warmer and drier seedbeds in the spring.
- reduction of soil compaction and improve soil structure to enhance water infiltration in no-till systems.

NRCS provides reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities to participate in NRCS programs and activities. If you require special accommodations, please contact Sue FitzGerald at 557-2740 ext 105 by December 29, 2010.

2011 CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP)

Application deadline is January 7, 2011.

The Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) replaced the Conservation Security Program with the new Conservation Stewardship Program for fiscal year 2009-2017. The CSP is a voluntary conservation program that offers payments to producers who maintain a high level of conservation on their land and who agree to adopt higher levels of stewardship. Eligible lands include cropland, pastureland, rangeland and non-industrial forestland. Eligible applications receive a ranking score and a field visit. Applicants selected for funding will enter into a 5-year contract and may receive up to \$40,000 per year.

NRCS is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



EQIP SPECIAL INITIATIVES

Application deadline is December 23, 2010

Montana set aside 20% of the fiscal year EQIP allocation to address Special Initiatives (SI). This returns to how things were done in the past and incorporates the new direction of "targeted conservation."

The following EQIP special initiatives are available in Garfield County.

CRP Transition – for contracts that have either expired or will expire 9/30/2011. Each year, land from expired or expiring CRP contracts is being broke out of permanent cover and converted back to cropland used for annual crop production. Most of this land is best suited for permanent cover. The purpose of this special initiative is to retain the benefits of permanent grass cover and create the capacity for grazing lands. Financial assistance can be used to implement grazing land management and facilitating practices, such as water developments and cross fences.

High Tunnel — a green house-like structure typically constructed of a metal bow frame at least 6' high, covered with a single layer of polyethylene. The structure has no electrical, ventilation or heating systems. To be eligible for the program, potential participants must demonstrate that they have already been earning at least \$1000/year in ag products produced and sold from the operation or from the land in which an owner has an interest. The land where the structure will be erected must currently be cultivated.

MACD Area 1 meeting held....

The MACD Area 1 meeting was held September 28, 2010 in Culbertson, MT. Myself along with Monte Billing, Chairman, Dean Rogge, Vice Chairman, and Sue FitzGerald, District Conservationist attended the meeting from Garfield County. The Area 1 meeting is an annual business meeting that includes election of area 1 directors, resolutions, reports, activities, and accomplishments of the past year. Area 1 is comprised of Garfield, McCone, Daniels, Valley, Sheridan and Roosevelt Counties.

This year the Garfield County Conservation District presented a resolution— Protection of Private Property Rights which passed at the meeting. The resolution then goes on to the MACD Convention which will be held in Billings this November, 2010. The meeting adjourned and the group was off to tour the Dry Prairie Facility, Sidney Sugar Beet Piles, Sugar Beet Harvest and the Dredge Sight. Next year Sheridan County Conservation District will be the host for the Area 1 meeting.

Looking Ahead—Montana Youth Range Camp Comes to Jordan June 27-July 1, 2011

The Montana Youth Range Camp is a five-day program for youth ages 12-18. The camp provides an excellent opportunity for youth of varying backgrounds from throughout Montana to become more aware of the value and potential of Montana's largest resource - rangeland. A well-organized, balanced and educational range program is provided by bringing together knowledgeable range personnel and interested participants in a field workshop environment. Evening programs and activities allow campers the opportunity to develop lasting friendships. *You do not have to be a member of 4-H or FFA to attend.*

Winter Grazing Seminar

Agenda-

Day 1– January 31st:

- Agricultural Marketing
- Landscape Grazing
- Animal Behaviorists Tina Williams & Richard McConnell

Day 2– February 1st:

- Estate Planning, Wills & Trusts with Bruce Combs, Attorney specializing in Ag operations
- Nitch Markets Panel featuring Amaltheia Dairy of Belgrade; Quad Five of Ryegate; and two others
- Tour of the new MSU Animal & Range Bio Center

For more information contact: Marcie Murnion, 522-4011 or marcie.murnion@mt.nacdn.net or Heidi Crum, 444-6619 or HCrum@mt.gov

Hosted by the Gallatin Conservation District.

Mark the Date!

**January 31 & February 1, 2011–
Bozeman, MT**

**Event will be held at the Gran Tree
Inn. Registration information and
final agenda coming soon!**

Why do I need air valves in my stockwater pipeline?

-B.G. FitzGerald, NRCS Jordan Field Office

Air valves (vents) are required to let small amounts of air out of the pipeline under pressure and to let large volumes of air out during filling and in while draining the line. There are three main types of air valves used in stockwater pipelines: 1 ways; 2 ways; and 3 ways.

Throughout the length of a pipeline, gases (air) within the water come out of solution and build up at the high points in the line. This gas is unable to be pushed out of the line and causes a restriction limiting the flow or in some cases stopping the flow all together. In order to prevent this build-up of air, a continuous acting air release valve (1 way) should be installed at significant high points in the pipeline. A significant high point is defined as a point that is at least 10 feet higher in elevation than an adjacent low point. The 1 way air valve will allow the air to be released under pressure thus preventing any possible air restrictions in the pipeline.

When the pipeline is filling, large amounts of air need to be expelled from the pipe. An air-vac valve (2 way) will automatically let large amounts of air out when the pipeline is filling. When the pipe is drained or there is a break in the line, a 2 way valve will also let large amounts of air into the line so that water will drain out and prevent a vacuum that could possibly collapse the pipe. Because of the use of 3 way air valves (see below) 2 way air valves are generally used at the end of pipelines that conclude on a high point.

Combination air-vac air release valves (3 way) have the functions of a 1 way and a 2 way combined into one valve. A 3 way air valve should be located at the first summit of any height and at all major summits throughout the pipeline.

Air valves are needed for all stockwater pipelines, however the number of air valves can be limited by planning the pipeline to follow the contours and avoid rises and falls whenever possible. Following the contours will generally add extra feet to the length of the pipeline. The cost of added pipe and trenching to follow the contour versus the cost of an air valve should be compared when planning your stockwater pipeline. The long term operation and maintenance of the line should also be considered when choosing a pipeline route.

Kalispell Elms Lost To Dutch Elm Disease

-Dave Jones, DNRC Northwestern land Office

The City of Kalispell recently had to remove 91 American Elms from city property because the big, old trees were infected with Dutch Elm Disease (DED).

DED is fungal disease of elm trees which is spread by the elm bark beetle. Accidentally introduced to America and Europe, The disease has been devastating to native populations of elms. As a result, this majestic tree, which once lined the boulevards of cities across the nation, is declining in number in most communities.

The trees removed were some of the oldest and biggest in Kalispell, and the loss will have an impact on the shade, beauty and habitat for urban wildlife. City crews planted 66 new trees. Both the removals and the new tree planting were made possible in part from federal stimulus funding Kalispell received through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Still, there are many more remaining elms in the city—more than 300— that could succumb to DED and require removal. As for the most recently felled elms, most of them were recycled, with some individuals and organizations utilizing the wood for items such as gun stocks, pool cues, doors, cabinets, bowls, and other items.



Now is a good time to start thinking about your spring tree planting. Order your trees early to insure species and quantity. Tree order forms can be picked up at the conservation district office.



Tulip Poplar

By: Kayla Higgins

Yellow Poplar or better known as Tulip tree; is nature's masterpiece with beautiful flowers that bloom during the spring. This is a fast growing large shaded tree that can grow 15-20 feet over a 6-8 year period the tulip tree has moderate water requirements and is tolerant for salt and alkali soils. The flowers are greenish-yellow with an orange band. Leaves are a deep green and turn into a blaze golden yellow in the fall. This tree is highly resistant to insects and diseases.



Fun Facts About Christmas

1. The word Christmas is Old English, a contraction of Christ's Mass.
2. The first president to decorate the white house Christmas tree in the United States was Franklin Pierce.
3. Germany made the first artificial Christmas trees. They were made of goose feathers and dyed eggs.
4. Electric lights for trees were first used in 1895.
5. The nutcracker is the most famous Christmas ballet.
6. Jingle Bells was first written for Thanksgiving and then it became one of the most popular Christmas songs.
7. If you received all the gifts in the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas." you would receive 364 gifts.
8. Mistletoe was chosen as Oklahoma's state flower in 1893 and later changed to the state floral emblem.
9. In 1843, A Christmas Carol was written by Charles Dickens in just six weeks
10. The first state to recognize the Christmas holiday officially was Alabama
11. Christmas became a national holiday in American on June 26, 1870
12. More diamonds are sold around Christmas than any other time of the year.
13. In Mexico, wearing red underwear on New Year's Eve is said to bring new love in the upcoming year.



From My Kitchen To Yours

Pumpkin Gingerbread

Ingredients

- 3 cups sugar
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 4 eggs
- 2/3 cup water
- 1 (15 ounce) can pumpkin puree
- 2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground cloves
- 3 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder



Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Lightly grease two 9x5 inch loaf pans.
2. In large mixing bowl combine sugar, oil and eggs: beat until smooth. Add water and beat until well blended. Stir in pumpkin, ginger, allspice, cinnamon and cloves.
3. In medium bowl combine flour, soda, salt and baking powder. Add dry ingredients to pumpkin mixture and blend just until all ingredients are mixed. Divide batter between prepared pans.
4. Bake in preheated oven until toothpick comes out



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



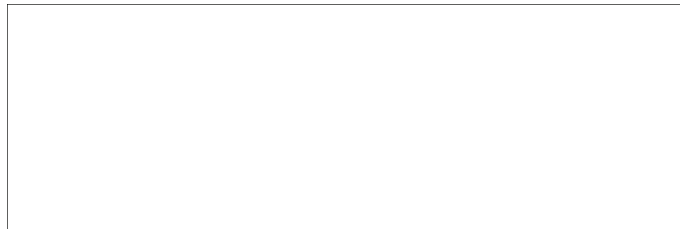
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Please call the Conservation District Office for more information at 557-2740 ext. 100

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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.

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Dean Rogge.....Vice Chairman
Travis Browning.....Supervisor
Mike McKeever.....Supervisor
Alan Pluhar.....Supervisor
Nathan Saylor.....Urban Supervisor
Nicole Downs.....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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Natural Resource Conservation Service

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.