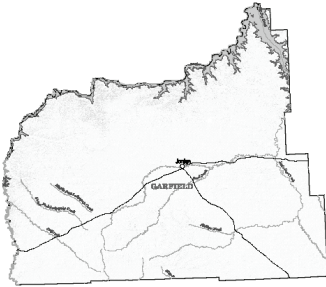


News News

Garfield County Conservation District

"Local Common Sense Conservation"



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Montana Youth Range Camp

2011 Montana Youth Range Camp will be hosted by Garfield County Conservation District and Petroleum County Conservation District. Camp will be held at the 7 Bar V Ranch northwest of Jordan, MT during the week of June 27-July 1. Only 25 spots are available so register early! For applications please contact your local conservation district office.

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 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.

The cost of camp is \$125.00, which includes meals from Monday lunch through Friday lunch, lodging, T-shirt and study materials. You will need to provide your own transportation to and from the camp. Check with your local conservation district regarding possible sponsorships to cover expenses. After we receive your registration, we will send you information and more details on how to get to the camp. Please send your registration to the Garfield County Conservation District office by June 17th! Checks payable to the Garfield County Conservation District. For more information please contact Heidi Crum at 406-444-6619 or Amanda Lammers at 406-557-2740 x 100.



Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food

It is a biological fact that we all need food. Let's apply this fact to our Montana State Legislature. They need a lot of food. There are 150 members of the Montana Legislature. If each member followed the recommended diet outlined in the new USDA Food Pyramid, over the 90 days of the legislative session they would collectively consume:

94,000 ounces of grain (about half that should be whole grain)

54,000 cups of vegetables

27,000 cups of fruit

81,000 ounces (that's 5,062 pounds) of beef and beans

81,000 teaspoons of oil

On any given day when the Montana Legislature is in session there are as many as a thousand people in the State Capitol Building. The amount of food provided in the Mountain Moose Deli, located in the basement of the Capitol Building, and a snack bar on the third floor, needs to be enough to feed as many as 600 of those folks on any given day. That doesn't take into consideration the amount of food consumed in Helena away from the Capitol Building by Legislators, workers, visitors and others.

Food is essential. The United States Department of Agriculture is leading an effort to develop a national conservation about food and agriculture and the importance of local and regional food systems. By developing our local and regional food systems, we can spur job growth in our communities and ultimately strengthen American agriculture.

A healthy farm is a part of a healthy community. The Natural Resource Partnership of Montana encourages sustainable agricultural practices and systems so that Montana's natural resources- our soil, water, and air- will be available for generations to come. The Partnership works daily to help today's producers conserve and protect those resources. It is interrelated- support local farmers, strengthen our communities, promote healthy eating, and protect our natural resources.

The next time you take a bite out of that burger think for a moment about the ranchers that provided the meat, the farmers that provided the wheat for the bun, the tomato for the ketchup, the vegetable grower providing the pickles and above all the natural resources we need to conserve to keep quality food available to all.

Mosby Musselshell Watershed Group

The Petroleum County Conservation District and the MMWG received official letters from DNRC stating that our water rights applications for the Musselshell River and Horse Creek have the Preliminary Determination to Grant out applications. Public Notices have been sent out by the DNRC to local newspapers, affected senior water rights holders, and state agencies. The objection deadline for these applications is June 10, 2011. If there is no objections, our applications will be granted. If there are objections, the DNRC Hearings Bureau will determine if they are legitimate and, if so, will schedule hearings so that we can try to resolve the issues with the objector.

On May 9th and 10th, I attended a water conference in Glasgow titled, "The Cost of Water: Who Benefits? Who Pays?". The conference was sponsored by the Burton K. Wheeler Center. The conference was well attended by irrigators and water users from eastern Montana as well as federal and state agencies that regulate water issues. The primary focus was on concerns of water usages in the Missouri River Basin. One of the issue of real importance that was brought to my attention is that EPA is trying to change their control from "navigable waters" to "all waters" in the US. This would create additional regulations and permitting. This rule can be reviewed online on the Federal Register and the comment period ends July 1, 2011.

Cal Frank, Mosby Musselshell Watershed Group

From My Kitchen To Yours

"Fruit Rice Salad"

Ingredients

1 (15 ounce) can crushed pineapple, drained
 1/2 cup sliced strawberries
 1/4 cup sliced fresh peaches
 1 cup uncooked white rice
 1/3 cup golden raisins
 2/3 cup flaked coconut
 5/8 cup heavy whipping cream
 2 tablespoons white sugar
 1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract
 1/8 teaspoon ground ginger
 1 pinch salt
 1/4 cup silvered almonds
 12 leaves lettuce
 1/4 cup sliced almonds

Directions

1. In a saucepan bring salted water to a boil. Add rice, reduce heat to low, cover and simmer, without stirring for 20 minutes. Remove from heat and chill until cold.
 2. IN a medium bowl, mix together pineapple, strawberries, peaches, a heaping cup of the cold rice, raisins and coconut. Set aside.
 3. In a separate large bowl, whip together cream, sugar, vanilla, ginger & salt until stiff. Fold in rice mixture, and stir in 1/4 cup silvered almonds.
 4. Spoon mixture onto lettuce leaf beds, and sprinkle each portion with 1/4 cup sliced almonds.



NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION-

Amount per serving Calories: 395 Total Fat: 17.2g Cholesterol: 34mg

Powered by ESHA nutrient database

Sage Grouse special initiative- core area 4

Reba Ahlgren, Roundup Field office

(Reprinted with Permission) The purpose of the Sage Grouse Initiative is to enhance and preserve sage-grouse habitat along with ensuring the sustainability of working farms and ranches across 11 western states. In the summer of 2009, the Roundup NRCS Field Office, along with staff from Bozeman State Office, Area Office & White Sulphur Springs Field Office, started collecting range inventory data from ranches located within the Core Area 4 north of Lavina. The project has resulted in over 69,000 acres currently enrolled in the Sage-Grouse Initiative in Musselshell and Golden Valley Counties

A prescribed grazing plan is the primary tool NRCS is using for managing the sage-grouse habitat. A site-specific plan has been developed for each of the ranches with an overall goal of improving rangeland health. Each grazing plan outlines stocking rates based on inventory data collected and a rotation that specifies length of time and changes the season of use for each pasture from year to year. Facilitating practices, such as fences, wells, pipelines, watering facilities, etc. will also be cost shared if they are needed to implement the grazing plan and will provide some benefit to the sage-grouse habitat.

The Roundup Field Office has contracted approximately \$2.75 million dollars from conservation practices in this core area. These practices include: 42 miles of new fence, 43 miles of stockwater pipeline with 66 new watering facilities being installed. Landowners are required to install wildlife escape ramps in each new tank as well as in their existing tanks. Through this initiative, 880 acres of cropland will be planted back to permanent vegetation.

Prescribed grazing systems will be followed on over 69,000 acres of rangeland. A rest-rotation system will be followed in 8 of the contracts with the other following a deferred-rotation system. The restoration system requires a minimum of 15 months rest, to include two full nesting seasons. This allows for more residual hiding cover for the Sage Grouse. This special initiative is helping to protect & enhance sage-grouse habitat while keeping working ranches on the land.

Helping People Help the Land

NRCS is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

FSA's Prevented Planting final report date extended to July 15th

Due to flood and excessive moisture conditions throughout Montana, a request was submitted to the National Farm Service Agency (FSA) Office to extend the deadline for timely reporting prevented planting to coincide with the final crop reporting deadline of July 15th for the 2011 crop year. The request was approved on June 1st. Prevented Planted acreage claims filed by July 15, 2011 will be considered as timely filed. It is important that the FSA-576 be timely filed and approved for a possible 2011 crop disaster program (SURE) or for acreage history credit. Approved preventive planted acreage may also be eligible for ACRE payments. If a request for prevented planting is filed after July 15, 2011, it is considered late filed and will require a minimum of \$46 to have an on-site inspection completed to determine that the natural disaster condition was evident. If the disaster condition that prevented the crop from being planted is no longer apparent, then the FSA-576 will be denied and no benefits will be applicable. If you have insured crops that were prevented planted then you may be required to provide proof that you filed for prevented planting credit with crop insurance. The COC may also request that you provide receipts or invoices showing you had inputs (seed, chemical, fertilizer, etc.) available to plant the acres claimed as prevented to establish your intent of planting.

2011 Acreage Reports due by July 15

The annual requirement of reporting to the FSA office can be referred to as crop reporting, acreage reporting, or crop certification. Acreage reports must be filed for all cropland on the farm before any 2011 DCP or ACRE payments can be made or before eligibility can be established for marketing assistance loans and LDPs. Participants in CRP and NAP must report the specific acreage for which benefits are being requested. Additionally, to be eligible for benefits under the SURE program, all crops in all counties must be reported, including non-cropland that will be hayed and/or grazed. The deadline for submitting a timely filed acreage report is July 15, 2011. Producers are reminded that filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

ECPF Signup Announced for Garfield County

Garfield County was approved for ECPF (Emergency Conservation Program Flood) on May 4. The purpose of ECPF is to rehabilitate farmlands and conservation facilities damaged by natural disasters such as flooding. The object is to provide cost share assistance to producers who have suffered severe damage to their farmland because of the flooding and excessive precipitation. The damage must be of such magnitude that it is too costly for producers to rehabilitate without Federal assistance. Practices that are eligible for the 2011 ECPF include EC1 - removing debris from farmland, EC2 - grading, shaping and leveling land damaged by the natural disaster, EC3 - restoration of permanent fences and EC4 - restores conservation structures and installations back to predisaster conditions for agricultural use. Cost share for the program is 75%. The Garfield County Office was notified that money will be allocated but the amount of funds is unknown. With all the flood damage on the Missouri and Mississippi drainages, disaster funding is going to be tight and recognized as insufficient for the repairs needed. Signup for this program began on May 16 and will end on July 15. For more information or to set up an appointment, call the Garfield County FSA Office at 557-2740.

Sod Busting Definition

Sod busting is land that is broken out of native vegetation, is highly erodible, has no cropping history and is planted to an Ag Commodity. To participate in USDA programs and to receive program payments, sod busting rules need to be followed. For information contact NRCS or FSA at the Jordan USDA Service Center before farming ground that does not have a cropping history.

Montana Salinity Control Association

The Montana Salinity Control Association, known as MSCA, is a satellite program of 34 conservation districts for saline soil and water reclamation. It started in 1979 on a pilot basis in nine counties and has since expanded to cover most of eastern MT. Saline conditions are manifested in salt-encrusted soil that reduces or prevents vegetative growth; these white areas are known as saline seeps or discharge areas. The recharge area is the surrounding region that creates the saline conditions, and the size is not easily quantified. MSCA provides a ground water assessment and site-specific reclamation plans for individual landowners, and groups in small and large-scale watersheds.

For more information you can contact MSCA by phone at 406-278-3071; fax at 406-278-3071; by email at msca@3rivers.net or visit the website at www.montanasalinity.com

2011 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

KENDALL GREEN, Cohagen, receives District Scholarship. Kendall is the son of Mike and Thelma Green. Kendall plans on attending MSU-Bozeman to pursue his Ag Business degree.

JONATHAN FITZGERALD, Jordan, receives District Scholarship. Jonathan is the son of Shawn and Sue FitzGerald. Jonathan is attending Miles Community College in Miles City pursuing an Associate's Degree in Ag Business.

Each year scholarship application forms are sent to the Garfield County District High School. Any student interested in pursuing a higher education in an Agricultural and/or Conservation related field is eligible to receive the scholarship. Funding for the scholarships come from interest earned on an educational certificate of deposit.

**CONGRATULATIONS, KENDALL & JONATHAN AND
GOOD LUCK!**

Summary Report on trees

This year the Garfield County Conservation District sold 1,056 trees and shrubs. A few different sizes and species failed to meet survival expectations, but as we all know that is the chance that is taken with purchase of bareroot trees and shrubs.

Tree order forms will be available this fall for your Spring 2012 planting needs. Be sure to order early to get the sizes and species you desire. Contact the Conservation District office for more information.

**25th Montana Natural Resources Youth Camp- July 17-22, 2011
Lubrecht Experimental Forest- Greenough, Montana**

**WILDLIFE- FORESTS-
SOILS- RANGELAND-
GEOLOGY- STREMS
LAND USE GAME**

Spend a week in rustic cabins east of Missoula learning about our natural resources and making lasting friendships. We offer activity packed days with great instruction & great food!

**** You must have completed 8th grade or be age 14-18 to attend. Your local Conservation District may provide scholarship support. ****

To Apply: Application forms are available online and upon request. Mail forms to: MSU Extension Forestry, 32 Campus Drive MS 0606. Missoula, MT 59812-0606

Application and \$100 deposit is due June 17th. The balance is due by start of camp. Program costs are all inclusive. Please inquire about education and travel scholarships. Core Program \$200.00 Conservation Leadership School \$250.00 Contact Camp Director, Martin Twer at 406-243-2775 or martin.twer@cfc.umt.edu with questions www.mnyrc.org

Montana Envirothon

~ An Educational Adventure sponsored by Montana's Conservation Districts~ UPCOMING
MONTANA ENVIRONTHON DATES! April 23&24, 2012 Lewistown, Montana

Projects Areas of Study:

- Aquatics
- Forestry
- Soil
- Wildlife
- Range Station
- Current Issue

The Envirothon uses the outdoors as an alternative to classroom learning. In this natural setting, students become aware of the many environmental problems that exist today. Working as a team, they learn to use critical thinking and problem solving skills to arrive at solutions to specific environmental problems.

35th Annual Montana Range Days- June 13-15, 2011- Deer Lodge, MT- St. Mary's Center

Hosted by: Deer Lodge Valley Conservation District, NRCS, Northern Ag Network

Contact Susie Johnson 406-846-1703 x 300

Contact Brandi Steinebach 406-846-1703 x 307

susie.johnson@mt.nacdnet.net

brandi.steinebach@mt.nacdnet.net

Fax 406-846-3134

www.montanarangedays.org

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



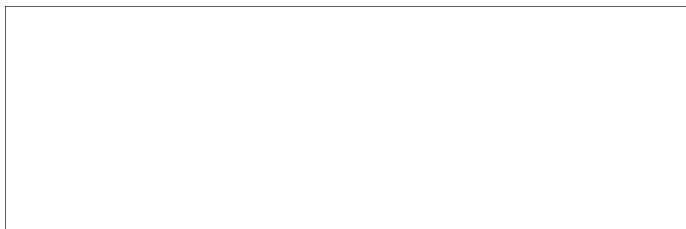
NO TILL DRILL

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.

Field Office Staff:

Garfield County Conservation District

Amanda Lammers,
 District Administrator
 Kayla Higgins,
 Administrative Assistant

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.