



FREE!! Household Hazardous Waste & Pesticide Collection Day

SEPTEMBER 21, 2019

DOUGLAS

Wyoming State Fairgrounds
(Enter at Cowboy Drive)

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Items that are collected during Household Hazardous Waste Day will be recycled, safely incinerated or deposited into an approved hazardous waste landfill. A brief listing of items being accepted at Household Hazardous Waste Day are listed below. If you are not sure if a product is hazardous, look for labels that state the item is toxic, poisonous, flammable or corrosive. If you have questions about a specific item, please call the District Office at 307-624-3164.

ACCEPTING:

- Paint,
- Batteries (Household & Automotive),
- Pesticides, Herbicides, Solvents, Aerosols,
- Antifreeze, Small Quantities of Motor Oil and More



NOT ACCEPTING:

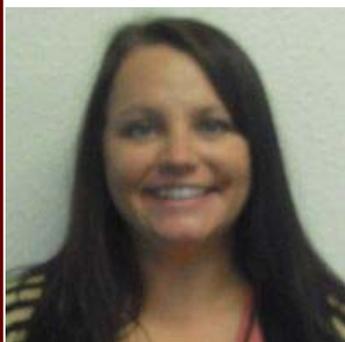
- Computers,
- Tires, Explosives, Propane Cylinders and Tanks,
- Radioactive Material,
- Appliances, Iron,
- Wood or Paper

Converse County residents are encouraged to check their garages, basements, storage cabinets and other storage areas for hazardous materials that may have outlived their useful life, have been stored for an extended period of time or have containers that are deteriorated or not safe to handle any longer. Please share the word about this great opportunity to do something for the environment of our community!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteers are needed at the Douglas site. Beverages, food, shirts and protective gear is provided to all volunteers. Help is needed to set up for the event on Saturday morning and throughout the day at the collection site. Please call Michelle at 307-624-3151 if you are able to help!

A VERY WARM WELCOME



Anna Gray was recently hired as the program assistant for the County Conservation District. She just finished her last class at the University of Wyoming, and will receive an undergraduate degree in microbiology. Anna grew up on a ranch near Orin Jct. Her experience with conservation, and familiarity with local landowners will make her a great asset to our team. Anna's positive attitude and friendly demeanor will allow her to settle in quickly at the district.

RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM UPDATED

Converse County Conservation District is continually striving to help you, the landowner, get conservation on the ground that will protect or enhance natural resources in Converse County. The Board of Supervisors recently increased the cost-share available under this program to \$50,000. Call our office with any questions or visit our website at www.conserveconverse.org for full program information and an application.

Introduction

The Converse County Conservation District Board of Supervisors will provide funds from its mill levy tax funding to assist landowners with the protection, enhancement and restoration of resources in Converse County. Therefore, all projects must be done within Converse County and with private landowners only.

Program Limitations

The Resource Enhancement Cost-share Program is available to any private sector landowner with property within Converse County. There is a limit of one project per person or group per year. All projects must be completed within one year of approval. Projects may be composed of multiple practices. Only on the ground projects are eligible.

Program Overview

The Resource Enhancement Cost-share Program provides financial incentives to landowners for the establishment of conservation practices that reduce soil erosion, provide soil health improvements, improve or protect water quality, reduce consumptive use of water supplies, improve plant and animal health and productivity, as well as many other locally identified concerns.

Project Examples (may include but are not limited to)

- Soil erosion mitigation (streambank stabilization)
- Water quality and quantity (i.e. irrigation system improvements)
- Resource damage due to acts of nature (field loss, head gates, streambank stabilization, fences, diversion structures)
- Practices that federal farm bill programs do not fund, such as electrical costs
- Solar stock pumps to improve livestock distribution in remote areas
- Spring developments to enhance wildlife and/or improve livestock distribution
- Fencing for implementing a rotational grazing system
- Riparian fencing to manage livestock and reduce grazing impacts

Fencing project completed using Resource Enhancement cost-share funds



NOW IS THE TIME TO PLAN

Although tree planting for next spring may be far from your thoughts, now is the time to begin planning. Poorly planned windbreaks often result in tree loss, poor species selection, improper placement and unhappy landowners. Research and practical experience have demonstrated the importance of fall site preparation. Fall fallowing will increase the probability that you will have adequate soil moisture at planting time.

We are available to assist you with the planning and design of your windbreak. Cost-share for all aspects of your planting is also available.

Seedling Tree Order Forms will be available in the next newsletter due out in November.



DON'T MISS A THING

Since we publish our newsletter 6 times a year, there are often times information or events come up that don't make it in to our newsletter. Please like and follow our Facebook page or visit our website at www.conserveconverse.org often to keep up on the latest happenings!



Harmful Cyanobacterial Blooms

Harmful cyanobacterial blooms (HCBs) are dense concentrations of cyanobacteria, commonly referred to as blue-green algae, that pose a health risk to people, pets, and livestock. DEQ is working with the Wyoming Department of Health, the Wyoming Livestock Board, and other stakeholders to address HCBs in Wyoming surface waters. Visit <https://www.wyohcbs.org/> for HCB news and advisories, FAQ's and resources or to report a HCB.

Get your tickets at the CCCD office today!

ENTER TO WIN!

Donate \$25 to WNRF for Your Chance to Win!

Your \$25 tax-deductible donation to the WNRF enters you in a drawing to win a 2019 John Deere XUV 560E Gator, or a Stihl MS 362 Chainsaw. The drawing will be held on November 14, in Buffalo at the WACD/WNRF state convention.

Only 650 Tickets Will Be Distributed

The Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation (WNRF) is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to conserving Wyoming's natural resources, heritage and culture. The WNRF is a sister organization to the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts. The WNRF is working with conservation districts to:

- Implement the Living Legacy Program at the Wyoming State Fairgrounds
- Protect and promote wise and multiple use of Wyoming's natural resources
- Implement the Pathway to Water Quality Project on the Wyoming State Fairgrounds
- Support locally led water quality and watershed planning efforts
- Enhance the capacity of local districts to better serve their constituents
- Provide a scholarship to a Wyoming student through the Gary Beach Memorial Scholarship
- Administer the Olin Sims Endowment Fund
- Provide youth and adult natural resource education, and more...



1st Prize

2019 John Deere XUV 560E Gator

To make a donation, please contact your local Conservation District or the

Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation
517 E. 19th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82001 - 307-632-5716
kelly.brown@conservewy.com
wynaturalresourcefoundation.com



Actual Gator and Chainsaw may not be exactly as pictured.



Donated by Shively Hardware

2nd Prize

2019 STIHL MS 362 Chainsaw

Special Thanks to

Sundance Equipment Company and Shively Hardware





Now's the Time to Control the Bad Weeds

As temperatures quickly cool when we head into fall, this triggers perennial plants to start storing up resources for the next springs green up. That's why this is the perfect time to treat the more aggressive perennial weeds and start to diminish their impacts. Herbicides will be translocated into their root systems for winter storage which will kill the plant. Weeds such as Canada thistle, bindweed, and Russian knapweed are some of the tough perennials in Converse Co. and best control is achieved with late summer/early fall treatment. Musk thistle, curly cup gumweed (Rosin weed), and houndstongue are aggressive biennial weeds and best control is achieved when the rosette or first year's growth is treated in summer. The biennials are tougher to control in their second year of growth once they shoot up a seed stalk. Early fall is also a good time to treat annual grasses such as cheatgrass. Effective herbicides are used pre or post emergence of the fall flush of cheatgrass and make a barrier in the soil to germination. Adequate precipitation is needed to move the herbicide into the soil to form the barrier.

Be sure to consult with the Converse County Weed & Pest department when developing a program for noxious weed control. You can also contact the NRCS field office or Converse County Conservation District with any questions about weeds.



Mature Houndstongue

USDA Announces Buy-Up Coverage Availability and New Service Fees for Noninsured Crop Coverage Policies

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that higher levels of coverage will be offered through the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), a popular safety net program, beginning April 8, 2019. The 2018 Farm Bill also increased service fees and made other changes to the program, including service fee waivers for qualified military veterans interested in obtaining NAP coverage.

NAP provides financial assistance to producers of commercial crops for which insurance coverage is not available in order to protect against natural disasters that result in lower yields or crop losses, or prevent crop planting.

NAP Buy-Up Coverage Option

The 2018 Farm Bill reinstates higher levels of coverage, from 50 to 65 percent of expected production in 5 percent increments, at 100 percent of the average market price. Producers of organics and crops marketed directly to consumers also may exercise the "buy-up" option to obtain NAP coverage of 100 percent of the average market price at the coverage levels of between 50 and 65 percent of expected production. NAP basic coverage is available at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production. Buy-up coverage is not available for crops intended for grazing.

NAP Service Fees

For all coverage levels, the new NAP service fee is the lesser of \$325 per crop or \$825 per producer per county, not to exceed a total of \$1,950 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties. These amounts reflect a \$75 service fee increase for crop, county or multi-county coverage. The fee increases apply to obtaining NAP coverage on crops on or after April 8, 2019.

NAP Enhancements for Qualified Military Veterans

The 2018 Farm Bill NAP amendments specify that qualified veteran farmers or ranchers are now eligible for a service fee waiver and premium reduction, if the NAP applicant meets certain eligibility criteria.

Beginning, limited resource and targeted underserved farmers or ranchers remain eligible for a waiver of NAP service fees and premium reduction when they file form CCC-860, "Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource and Beginning Farmer or Rancher Certification."

For NAP application, eligibility and related program information, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/nap or contact your local USDA Service Center. To locate your local FSA office, visit www.farmers.gov.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE'S EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY POLICY

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

USDA Opens Signup for Market Facilitation Program

Enrollment Now Open through Dec. 6

Signup is open for the Market Facilitation Program (MFP), a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program to assist farmers who continue to suffer from damages because of unjustified trade retaliation from foreign nations. Through MFP, USDA will provide up to \$14.5 billion in direct payments to impacted producers, part of a broader trade relief package announced in late July. The sign-up period runs through Dec. 6.

MFP payments will be made to producers of certain non-specialty and specialty crops as well as dairy and hog producers.

Non-Specialty Crops

MFP payments will be made to producers of alfalfa hay, barley, canola, corn, crambe, dried beans, dry peas, extra-long staple cotton, flaxseed, lentils, long grain and medium grain rice, millet, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, rapeseed, rye, safflower, sesame seed, small and large chickpeas, sorghum, soybeans, sunflower seed, temperate japonica rice, triticale, upland cotton, and wheat.

MFP assistance for 2019 crops is based on a single county payment rate multiplied by a farm's total plantings to the MFP-eligible crops in aggregate in 2019. Those per acre payments are not dependent on which of those crops are planted in 2019. A producer's total payment-eligible plantings cannot exceed total 2018 plantings. [View payment rates by county.](#)

Dairy and Hogs

Dairy producers who were in business as of June 1, 2019, will receive a per hundredweight payment on production history, and hog producers will receive a payment based on the number of live hogs owned on a day selected by the producer between April 1 and May 15, 2019.

Specialty Crops

MFP payments will also be made to producers of almonds, cranberries, cultivated ginseng, fresh grapes, fresh sweet cherries, hazelnuts, macadamia nuts, pecans, pistachios, and walnuts. Each specialty crop will receive a payment based on 2019 acres of fruit or nut bearing plants, or in the case of ginseng, based on harvested acres in 2019.

More Information

Payments will be made in up to three tranches, with the second and third tranches evaluated as market conditions and trade opportunities dictate. If conditions warrant, the second and third tranches will be made in November and early January.

MFP payments are limited to a combined \$250,000 for non-specialty crops per person or legal entity. MFP payments are also limited to a combined \$250,000 for dairy and hog producers and a combined \$250,000 for specialty crop producers. However, no applicant can receive more than \$500,000. Eligible applicants must also have an average adjusted gross income (AGI) for tax years 2015, 2016, and 2017 of less than \$900,000, or 75 percent of the person's or legal entity's average AGI for those tax years must have been derived from farming and ranching. Applicants must also comply with the provisions of the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation regulations.

More information can be found on farmers.gov/mfp, including payment information and a program application.

District to Acquire No-Till Drill

Converse County Conservation District is excited to announce that they will be purchasing a no-till drill and will be accepting bids very soon. Bid packet information will be available on Public Purchase in September.



Reduced compaction, reduced soil erosion, increased organic matter, improved soil structure and better infiltration are just a few of the positive attributes associated with no-till. No-till is a best management practice because of its environmentally friendly nature.

Once purchased, the drill will be available for rent to Converse County landowners. Visit our website for further details as soon as it becomes available!

Postage Paid

Douglas, WY

Permit No. 13

**Converse County
Conservation District**

911 S. Windriver Drive
Douglas, WY 82633
Phone: 307-624-3164
michelle.huntington@wy.nacdnet.net
Hours: 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Board of Supervisors

Stan Mitchem, Chairman
Shelly Falkenburg, Vice Chairman
Sharon Lovitt, Secretary/Treasurer
Doug Horner, Member
Susan Downs, Member

District Staff

Michelle Huntington, District Manager
Anna Gray, Program Assistant

NRCS Staff

Tim Schroeder, District Conservationist
Jake Hogan, Rangeland Specialist

Converse County Conservation District
911 S. Windriver Drive
Douglas, WY 82633

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

ATTEND A CCCD BOARD MEETING

The Converse County Conservation District holds Board Meetings the third Thursday of each month starting at 4:30 p.m. We welcome your input, ideas, questions, and concerns regarding our projects and programs! Meetings are open to the public pursuant to Wyoming Statute 16-4-403.



FALL WELL WATER TESTING DAY



**Fall Well Water Testing Day
Tuesday - October 22, 2019**

**Converse County Courthouse, Douglas 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Converse County Courthouse, Glenrock 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.**

Bottles (for bacteria testing only) and collection instructions may be picked up at the Converse County Conservation District, Converse County Clerks Office and the Cooperative Extension Office in Douglas or the Town Hall in Glenrock after October 1st. Water samples should be taken as close to testing as possible. Please take the sample no earlier than the morning of Tuesday October 22nd. If you wish to have your water tested on-site for nitrates, pH and hardness you must bring a separate water sample in a clean container (i.e. mason jar). Do **not** use a bacteria sample bottle for these tests.

This **FREE** program is available only to Converse County residents. Water samples taken from city water supplies will not be accepted for testing. We will test **ONLY** rural water wells used for human consumption.

If you have any questions, contact the Converse County Conservation District office.