



2024 Seedling Tree Program

Our seedling tree program went through some changes last year, due to one of the nurseries that we ordered from closing for the season. While that nursery has reopened, it's stock is limited. Our order process and options will remain similar to last year.

We will work with the same two nurseries, Lincoln Oakes in Bismarck, North Dakota, and Bessey Nursery in Halsey, Nebraska. We hope to fill all our customer's orders this year from these two nurseries but would like to emphasize that tree orders should be placed as early as possible. Availability will likely be limited; popular species frequently sell out in November and December.



Trees will be available in bareroot only. No gallon pots or perennials will be offered. Our best-selling trees are listed on the order form.

If you'd like to ask about a tree species that is not listed, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Due to trees selling out quickly, we have the order form available on our website and will be happy to print them for people at our office. We can also process tree orders over the phone. Don't wait to place your orders! Species availability will be updated daily so the order form you see on our website is always accurate.

Call us at 307-624-3164, email at anna.gray@wy.nacdnet.net, or scan the QR code below to be directed to the home page of our website. From there, select the "Seedling Trees" to find the order form and an online catalog of trees.

We are always happy to visit with you about species selection, site suitability, planting locations etc. so don't hesitate to call or stop by our office!



Using your smart phone, scan the QR Code and be taken directly to the Home Page of the Converse County Conservation District website. From there you can select the appropriate tab for information on Seedling Tree Sales, cost-share program information and much more!



Happy Fall, Y'all!

The Douglas NRCS staff has been fitting in as much field work as possible while the weather is still cooperating. Couple that with the ending of a FY and the beginning of another, we have been very busy!

We are preparing for a monumental year after receiving full allocations of Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) monies, with initial allocations for WY sitting at an additional \$16,534,000 split across our Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). There is also an additional \$4,081,550 dollars in Technical Assistance (TA) that was not included in the previous figure, to help us hire new staff and implement these new funds. We are currently accepting FY 24 IRA CSP & EQIP applications, and a deadline has not yet been established. Remember, IRA applications must contain Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry (CSAF) practices. A list of these practices can be found online at the NRCS website.

We are also currently accepting applications for our regular EQIP and CSP pools at both the county and state levels. This year WY NRCS is returning to individual County Allocations. We do not have a current funding estimate for Converse County yet.

As always if you have any questions, or you have a project you would like to work on, please reach out to the Douglas NRCS Field Office at 307-624-3163.

Sincerely,
Kaitlin Hasler
District Conservationist

The CCCD office will be closed the following dates in November and December:

November 10: Veteran's Day Observed
November 14-17: WACD Annual Convention—Dubois, WY
November 23 & 24: Thanksgiving
December 25: Christmas



Converse County Weed and Pest Annual Grower's Meeting will be held December 20, 2023, at the Wyoming State Fairgrounds in the McKibben Cafeteria. A flyer will be mailed out with the time of registration and meeting.

If you are interested in recertifying your Private Applicator license or are in need of a new Private Applicators license please the call the Weed and Pest Office at 307-358-2775 to get put on the list to receive the flyer for the meeting.

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.

NATRONA/CONVERSE FARM SERVICE AGENCY

FSA Encourages Farmers and Ranchers to Vote in County Committee Elections

The 2023 Farm Service Agency County Committee Elections will begin on Nov. 6, 2023, when ballots are mailed to eligible voters. The deadline to return ballots to local FSA offices, or to be postmarked is Dec. 4, 2023.

County committee members are an important component of the operations of FSA and provide a link between the agricultural community and USDA. Farmers and ranchers elected to county committees help deliver FSA programs at the local level, applying their knowledge and judgment to make decisions on commodity price support programs; conservation programs; incentive indemnity and disaster programs for some commodities; emergency programs and eligibility. FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws.

To be an eligible voter, farmers and ranchers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm, may also be eligible to vote. A cooperating producer is someone who has provided information about their farming or ranching operation(s) but may not have applied or received FSA program benefits.

Eligible voters in local administrative area LAA 3 and LAA 4, who do not receive a ballot can obtain one from their local USDA Service Center.

Newly elected committee members will take office Jan. 1, 2024. The candidates in this year's election are:

Laura J Miles is nominated in LLA 3, to serve as a COC member for a 3-year term beginning January 2024. Laura Miles was born and raised in the Bates Hole area of Natrona County. She is the only daughter of Pete and Ethel Garrett. She has been active and instrumental to the Garrett Ranch Company cow/calf operation for 40 years. She received her associate degree in Agribusiness from Casper College and is a member of RCalf. She would be honored to serve LLA 3 and the ag community as a County Committee Member if selected.

Dick Lisco is nominated in LAA 4, to serve as COC member for a 3-year term beginning January 2024. He resides in Converse County and has produced Registered and Commercial Angus cattle along with alfalfa, corn, and small grains. He is an active member of the American Angus Association, Wyoming Angus Association Serving as Vice President, National Cattleman's Beef Association, and the Wyoming Stock Growers. Dick is willing to serve if elected.

Donald Blackburn is nominated in LAA 4, to serve as a COC member for a 3-year term beginning January 2024. He has lived in Converse County for his entire life, growing up on a small ranch/farm and supporting the agriculture industry through used equipment sales and trucking services. Donald and his wife Sheri purchased their ranch in Converse County where they raised their family and have mother cows with extra hay ground to produce feed to winter and sell. They own Blackburn Cattle Co Inc which is a trucking company that supports the local ranchers needs. They also own 307 Disposal LLC and 307 Homestead Properties LLC. For 6 years Donald served on the Converse County Fair board as the Board Chairman and helped to develop the county fair into a community event. He actively supports the youth in the area, as well as the Wyoming State Fair. He donates hay and trucking to the local rodeos. Donald is willing to serve if elected.

More information on county committees, such as the new 2022 fact sheet, can be found on the FSA website at fsa.usda.gov/elections or at a local USDA Service Center.

NAP SIGN UP 2024

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers to review available USDA crop risk protection options, including federal crop insurance and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage before the crop deadline of **December 1, 2023**.

Federal crop insurance covers crop losses from natural adversities such as drought, hail and excessive moisture. NAP covers losses from natural disasters on crops for which no permanent federal crop insurance program is available, including perennial grass forage and grazing crops.

Producers can determine if crops are eligible for federal crop insurance or NAP by visiting <https://webapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/ActuarialInformationBrowser2018/CropCriteria.aspx>.

For all coverage levels, the 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. Beginning, underserved, veterans and limited resource farmers are now eligible for free catastrophic level coverage.

Federal crop insurance coverage is sold and delivered solely through private insurance agents. Agent lists are available at all USDA Service Centers or at USDA's online Agent Locator: <http://prodwebnlb.rma.usda.gov/apps/AgentLocator/#>. Producers can use the USDA Cost Estimator, <https://ewebapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/costestimator/Default.aspx>, to predict insurance premium costs.

For more information on NAP, service fees, sales deadlines, contact the Natrona/Converse County FSA office at 307-261-5436 or visit the web at www.fsa.usda.gov/nap.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Converse County
Conservation District**
911 S. Windriver Drive
Douglas, WY 82633
Phone: 307-624-3164
Michelle.huntington@wy.nacdnet.net
Hours: M-F 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Board of Supervisors
Stan Mitchem, Chairman
Shelly Falkenburg, Vice Chairman
Sharon Lovitt, Secretary/Treasurer
Susan Downs, Member
Patricia Taboga, Member

District Staff
Michelle Huntington, District Manager
Anna Gray, Program Assistant

NRCS Staff
Kaitlin Hasler, District Conservationist
Dana Harris, Farm Bill Specialist
Todd Schuldies, CET

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.

Snow Maintenance Tricks

The snow is starting to fly as we prepare this newsletter. I might love the return of winter, but I don't look forward to shoveling again. Some handy 'hacks' can make it a little easier though!

- 1.) Shovel early, Shovel often. It works much better to shovel the snow before foot traffic or your car compacts it. If you wait, it might melt a little and refreeze, leaving you to deal with ice.
- 2.) Protect your back! Don't lift too much snow at once. Did you know that one cubic foot of snow (roughly the size of a basketball) can weigh up to 20 pounds? Try not to haul the snow too far, and make sure not to twist when you toss the snow out of the way. Be sure to lift with your legs and not your back. Investing in a snow shovel that has an extra handle can prevent you from straining your back.
- 3.) Prevent your shovel from turning into a brick. If you spray the shovel down with some cooking oil before you start, it can prevent snow from sticking, and making your shovel weigh twice as much. A quick wipe down with a paper towel before storing the shovel keeps it from making a mess once you have it back in the garage.
- 4.) Work smarter, not harder. A light application of ice melt before snow starts can prevent a slippery underlayer from forming. If it's going to get cold at night, a light application over shoveled areas can prevent a icy morning hazard. Use ice melt responsibly, depending on type it can be harmful to humans, plants, and animals.
- 5.) Protect yourself. Just because you're working up a sweat shoveling doesn't mean you shouldn't dress for the weather. Wear a hat, gloves and a coat. Make sure you hydrate! Lifting all that snow is hard work! If it's cold out it can be easy to forget to drink water.

I know a lot of these tips are pretty obvious, but a reminder never hurts. Have a fun winter!

~Anna