VOLUME 29, ISSUE 4

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321 Brownfield Road
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.
Please contact us if you would like to attend a meeting.

CCCD NEWS

Hello! The calendar says it is fall and I am certainly looking forward to some cooler days and nights that this time of the year is supposed to bring! I am also hoping that the change of seasons brings some much needed moisture.
Since our last newsletter, CCCD has seen a lot of change!
We relocated our office to our own building and shop space at 321 Brownfield Road. Many thanks to my husband for all of the help moving and to all of you for your patience with us during the transition and staffing shortage.
Speaking of which, CCCD is thrilled to welcome Markie Horr to our team. Please see page 4 for her introduction.
As always, we are here to help wherever we can. Please stop by our new office or give us a call anytime!
~Michelle

In this newsletter you can expect:

CCCD News
Partner Agency Information
Raffle Information
Seedling Tree Update
New Employee Introduction
4th Quarter Weather Outlook

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NRCS

Making Your Land More Resilient to Drought

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service can help you conserve water and build resilience to drought, through conservation practices that improve irrigation efficiency, boost soil health, and manage grazing lands.

Irrigation Efficiency

USDA helps you improve your irrigation efficiency to ensure each drop of water is used wisely. Saving water on your farm can help during drought and can offset rising water costs; reduce expenditures for energy, chemicals, and labor; and enhance revenues through higher crop yields and improved crop quality. Funded conservation practices include conversion to more efficient irrigation systems, such as micro-irrigation or subsurface drip irrigation, installation of irrigation pipeline, irrigation water management, structures for water control, and flow meters. Tools like drip irrigation, which provides water precisely where and when it's needed, can achieve greater precision with flow meters and soil moisture sensors.

Soil Health

In addition, soil health conservation practices, such as reduced- or no-till, cover crops, mulching and residue management can help to make your soil, and the plants you grow or animals you raise, healthier. Healthier soil can absorb and retain more water for longer periods of time, making your farm or ranch more resilient to drought. Using soil health practices, you can conserve water by increasing your soil's water-holding capacity and use conservation tillage to keep the ground covered, reducing water loss through transpiration and evaporation.

And soil health practices increase organic matter, and each pound of organic matter can hold up to 20 pounds of water. Every 1% increase in organic matter results in as much as 25,000 gallons of soil water per acre. Each 1% increase in organic matter can also provide up to 30 pounds of more available nitrogen per acre. That means less money and time spent on inputs like water and fertilizer, which make your operation more profitable.

Rotational/Prescribed Grazing, Water Sources for Livestock

Drought also impacts grazing lands, and NRCS works with you to increase the resilience of your livestock operation. Ranchers can adapt to dry conditions in two main ways: increasing the availability and suitability of forage and ensuring that cattle have an adequate and reliable source of water. For forage, rotational or prescribed grazing (rotating cattle among pastures) can relieve pressure on stressed vegetation and ensure a more consistent supply of forage for animals. NRCS conservationists can also work with you to plant more drought-tolerant forage species, plants best suited to local soils and conditions. For reliable sources of water, NRCS can help you with installing watering facilities, water wells, or water pipeline for livestock. Having available forage and water for livestock can make a big difference in difficult drought conditions.

USDA and NRCS are here for you, helping you recover from drought and prepare for the next one. For more information on drought recovery assistance at farmers.gov/protection-recovery/drought. For more information on conservation practices to make your operation more resilient to drought in future years, go to www.nrcs.usda.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 Farm Service Agency
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Protect Yourself from Scams

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has noticed a rise in fraudulent scams that target FSA farm loan customers by obtaining publicly available information about your FSA Farm Program participation or Farm Loan information. These unauthorized contacts are made through email, text messages, phone calls, or social media to gain your personal information so the scammer can access your bank account or gain additional personal information.

Signs of a Scam:

- Emails or messages urging immediate action or requesting personal details.
- Unexpected attachments or links in emails from unknown sources.
- Calls or texts claiming to be from FSA requesting passwords, PINs, Social Security numbers, or credit card information.
- Offers that seem too good to be true, particularly investment or debt relief schemes.
- Messages from unfamiliar social media accounts or door-to-door solicitations related to banking.

How to Protect Yourself:

- Always verify communications are coming from official sources. If you have concerns about a contact being genuine, please reach out to your local FSA Service Center directly.
- Do not click on links or download attachments from suspicious emails or texts.
- Use strong, unique passwords and enable two-factor authentication when available.
- Report suspicious activity to FSA immediately and, if applicable, submit a report to the U.S. General Services Administration here.

If you have questions about your FSA accounts, including your farm loans, contact the Natrona/Converse County USDA Service Center at 307-261-5436 or visit fsa.usda.gov.

Book Appointments Online with the Natrona/Converse County FSA Office

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is putting farmers first by offering a new option to schedule appointments online with the Natrona/Converwe County Farm Service Agency (FSA) office. Following a successful pilot program, FSA is using a digital appointment platform across the agency to allow producers to conveniently make farm program or farm loan program appointments online.

Appointments can be scheduled through FSA's digital platform, Microsoft Bookings, using a mobile device, tablet, laptop or desktop computer. To assist producers in finding their local FSA office to make an appointment, FSA has also launched a new FSA County Office locator that is searchable by state and by county. Each county office contact page has a unique link for producers to make an appointment online and shows contact information for the local FSA office and the farm loan team. Scheduled appointments may be in-person or virtual with the local FSA office depending on producer preference.

Producers can conveniently schedule appointments for a variety of services with both farm program and farm loan staff. The Microsoft Bookings-based system will automatically send a confirmation email to the producer along with reminder emails for upcoming appointments.

Producers still have the option to call the Natrona/Converse County FSA Office at 307-261-5436 or visit in person to make an appointment.

Converse County 4th Quarter Weather Outlook

The weather outlook for October, November and December features a strong seasonal transition driven by a rapidly intensifying, potentially historic El Nino weather pattern.

October: Temperatures are projected to remain above normal, continuing the warm stretches experienced in late September.

November and December: The onset of late autumn and early winter is expected to trend above normal overall due to El Nino pushing milder Pacific air across the region.

Because El Nino typically steers the primary storm track across the southern U.S., northern and central Wyoming, as well as Converse County, sit in a transition zone with "equal chances" of above or below average precipitation.

Hi! I'm Markie, a born-and-raised Converse County girl who has called this area home my entire life. I grew up on a ranch, so agriculture, hard work, and the Wyoming way of life have always been a big part of who I am!

My work background is in office management and accounting, so I'm happiest when I'm staying busy, keeping things organized, and solving problems. I love learning new things and am always willing to jump in wherever I'm needed.

When I'm not working, there's a good chance you'll find me on my Harley, spending time outdoors, or getting myself into some new project that I was convinced would be "quick and easy." I love a good laugh, enjoy keeping busy, and rarely sit still for too long. I'm excited to start this new adventure, meet everyone, and see what this next chapter brings!

Tree season is on the horizon and we will be working to prepare our 2026-2027 seedling tree order form very soon. We plan to have the form available by mid-November. We put the trees that sell the best in our area on the order form. If there is a specific tree species that you are searching for, please let us know! We can check with the nursery on species options. We encourage people to order their trees early, to ensure availability. Many popular species sell out quickly. Tree order forms will be available on our website and species availability will be updated regularly.

http://www.conserveconverse.org/seedling-trees.html

CONVERSE COUNTY WEED & PEST CONTROL DISTRICT

#59 STATE HIGHWAY 59 PO BOX 728
DOUGLAS, WY 82633
PHONE 307-358-2775 FAX 307-358-0117
wyoweed.org
ccwp@qwestoffice.net

Colder weather is approaching fast, which means the 2026 spray season is ending. Converse County Weed and Pest would like to remind you about how detrimental not storing your spray equipment and chemical properly can be to your spray season next year.

Regardless the type of sprayer you use it is vital that you triple rinse the sprayer before storing it for the winter. CCW&P recommends running water through both the handgun and booms to ensure no residual chemical is left to disintegrate the fittings. After thoroughly rinsing you should run antifreeze through the booms and handgun until antifreeze is visible. This will help keep your o-rings and interior pump parts lubricated. When storing your chemical make sure you keep it in an enclosed area that will prevent the chemicals from freezing.

Converse County Weed and Pest would also like to inform you of our Annual Growers Meeting that will take place December 16th, 2026, at the State Fairgrounds Cafeteria. CCW&P will be sending out letters in the mail to Landowners that have applicator licenses expiring. The Growers Meeting will consist of a weed and pest update as well as the private applicator license certification for both current license holders and Landowners that are wanting to obtain their applicators license. CCW&P will be providing more information on our Facebook page in November.

As always, Converse County Weed and Pest staff are here to help with any questions or concerns you may have regarding spray equipment and/or weed problems. CCW&P wishes everyone a great holiday season and look forward to working with you and welcome in 2027!

NEW CONSERVATION PARTNER WELCOMED

Raised on a homestead in rural Southern Idaho, Makenzy developed a deep appreciation for natural landscapes and wild spaces at an early age. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Rangeland Science from Oregon State University, using her high school and college years to travel extensively, explore diverse ecosystems, and immerse herself in national parks. Prior to joining Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, Makenzy served with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Idaho, Alaska, and Wyoming, gaining hands-on experience in land management and wildlife conservation. Drawn by a lifelong love for rural living and wide-open landscapes, she eventually relocated to Douglas, Wyoming, where she now resides with her fiancé, Mike, and their three dogs. Her favorite pastimes are hiking, reading, and kayaking.

Makenzy has already been assisting CCCD with some projects and we look forward to future collaborations!

CCCD Calendar

October 12 - CCCD Office Closed for Columbus Day
October 15 - CCCD Board Meeting 4:30 PM
November 11 - CCCD Office Closed for Veteran's Day
November 12 - CCCD Board Meeting 4:30 PM
November 16 - 20 - CCCD Employees at WACD Annual Convention
November 25-27 - CCCD Closed for Thanksgiving
December 16 - CCW&P Grower's Meeting
December 17 - CCCD Board Meeting 4:30 PM
The CCCD office will be closed for two weeks over the Christmas/New Year holidays starting December 21, 2026. We will reopen Monday, January 4, 2027.

Converse County Conservation District
conserving natural resources for our future

<u>Board of Supervisors</u>
Sharon Lovitt, Chairman
Shelly Falkenburg, Vice Chairman
Stan Mitchem, Treasurer
Patricia Taboga, Supervisor
Mark Nicol, Associate Supervisor
Urban Seat is vacant until after the November General Election

<u>NRCS Staff</u>
Stephanie Paul, District Conservationist
Forrest Keizer, Natural Resource Specialist
Dana Harris, Farm Bill Specialist
Makenzy Whittekiend, BCR Partner
Todd Schuldies, CET
307-624-3163

Visit our website after November 3rd for up to date Supervisor information.

<u>District Staff</u>
Michelle Huntington, District Manager - michelle.huntington@wy.nacdnet.net
Markie Horr, Program Assistant - mhorr.cccd@gmail.com

CONVERSE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT	307-358-6735
www.conserveconverse.org	321 Brownfield Road Douglas, WY 82633