

# CONSERVATION NEWS

McCONE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Don't forget to order your conservation trees & shrubs.  
The 2016 Tree Order Season is happening now until March 18th!



Photo source: clipartpanda.com

## International Year of Soils . . . a Visual Look



2015  
International  
Year of Soils

After two years of intensive work, the United Nations  
has declared 2015 the International Year of Soils

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DRWA

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So Long and Farewell

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Around the World

- ⇒ **January: To the Heart of the Matter**—As skin protects our bodies, soil protects earth. Though we might take it for granted, in its absence we would quickly perish.
- ⇒ **February: Soils in the City**—Soils are the firm foundation for civilizations, both past and present. Though we sometimes lose sight of soil in our cities we must remember that a structure is only as strong as its foundation.
- ⇒ **March: Remembering Where Our Food Comes From**—The connection between the foods we eat and the soil from which it was produced has become less apparent in today's world of convenience.
- ⇒ **April: Waters Journey to the River**—What kind of journey does water take along the way?
- ⇒ **May: Living on Solid Ground**—Some say there is no difference between one kind of soil and another. They may want to think about that before they build their house.
- ⇒ **June: The Sport of Soils**—Protecting the places where we recreate is important to our health and our livelihood. Soils are the foundation for our national forests, our hiking trails, our playing fields, volleyball courts, baseball fields, and many of outdoor areas we enjoy.
- ⇒ **July: The Living Kingdoms Beneath Our Feet**—Did you know that soils support more life beneath their surface than exists above? In a thimble full of soil—about a gram in weight—you can expect to find 100 million to 1 billion bacteria!
- ⇒ **August: Just What the Doctor Ordered**—We live in a society of germaphobes who have been brought up to believe that all bugs are bad bugs. But the fact is, most bugs, or shall we say microbes--which includes bacteria and fungi--are actually good.
- ⇒ **September: Soils—Naturally!** —The world beneath our feet is amazing! Join NRCS' Amy Overstreet as she talks about the discoveries she's made throughout her exploration during the International Year of Soils.
- ⇒ **October: Soil—The Producer!** Soil gives us food, shelter and clothing. Without it, life would be difficult, if not impossible. See the nineteen things that we come in contact with before we even leave for work in the morning.
- ⇒ **November: Soils and the Atmosphere**—One might think that soil and atmosphere don't have much to do with each other. But, folks living in the days of the Dust Bowl were very aware that soil, if not treated properly, will interact with the atmosphere in ways that aren't good.
- ⇒ **December: Soils, Art and Culture**—In a society that customarily views soil as dirt, it might be a stretch to see how soil could be associated with aesthetics, beauty, or art.

All videos can be viewed on YouTube at [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4J8PxoprGZ3gPDXRfa\\_DNBYXoF-ruG2](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4J8PxoprGZ3gPDXRfa_DNBYXoF-ruG2)

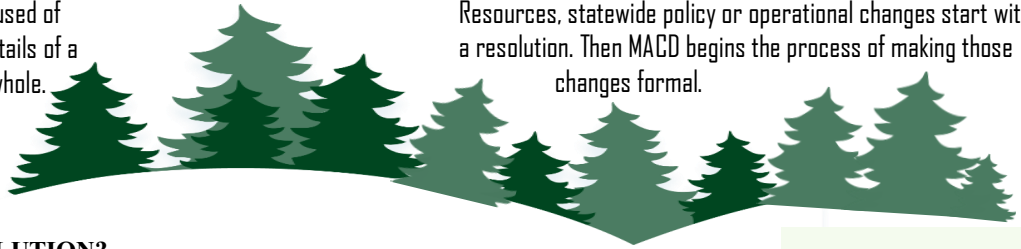
(Monthly excerpts and videos provided by USDANRCS)

# RESOLUTIONS

Have you ever heard “**Can’t See the Forest For the Trees?**” It’s an expression used of someone who is too involved in the details of a problem to look at the situation as a whole.

As times change, so does focus on conservation and/or issues with **Districts.**

Because we can’t lose sight of the **Big Picture**, our Natural Resources, statewide policy or operational changes start with a resolution. Then MACD begins the process of making those changes formal.



## WHAT IS A RESOLUTION?

A resolution is a written statement that, when adopted by the conservation district board, is the basis for the policies and actions of the conservation district.

Resolutions are presented on matters of importance to conservation districts—its members and constituents. Resolutions can be district and/or state wide in scope, and should fall within the purposes and functions stated in conservation district law. See Conservation District Authority on last page.

These 3 resolutions were passed at the recent Montana Association of Conservation District (MACD) Annual Convention in Missoula.

## Resolution 15-1 Clarification and coordination of 310 and floodplain permitting

WHEREAS, conservation districts supervisors are statutorily authorized to work with land occupiers, local governments and state governments on projects and works, and to exercise their duties and responsibilities under the Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act of 1975 (310 Law); and

WHEREAS, the legislature, mindful of its constitutional obligation under Article II, section 3, and Article IX of the Montana Constitution, enacted the 310 law with the intent that the 310 Law provides adequate remedies for the protection of the environmental life support system from degradation and provides adequate remedies to prevent unreasonable depletion and degradation of natural resources;

WHEREAS, conservation districts, when administering the 310 Law, often encourages applicants to limit the use of rock riprap when other bank stabilization methods are available that minimize impacts to stream form and function; and

WHEREAS, the joint permitting application process used in administering the 310 Law is often complicated and cumbersome to the applicant when dealing with multiple agencies; and

WHEREAS, in designated floodplains applicants for stream bank projects using soft approaches or willow lift projects are required to provide engineering proof that the project will withstand 100-year flood forces; and

WHEREAS, the additional expense involved with engineering and modeling in the designated floodplains often prove to be too expensive to allow projects to be completed; and

WHEREAS, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) floodplain model rules encourage that all other necessary permits be issued prior to the issuance of a floodplain permit; and

WHEREAS, DNRC houses both the Conservation District Bureau, which provides assistance to conservation districts, and the Water Operations Bureau, which provides assistance to local floodplain administrators;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) work with DNRC to develop an amendment to the floodplain rules allowing an exemption from engineering requirements for such stabilization projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MACD work with DNRC to provide outreach to floodplain administrators and conservation districts about the appropriate timing of the permitting process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MACD work with DNRC to find solutions to the engineering requirements and permitting delays.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, if deemed necessary, MACD pursue legislative action to change floodplain statutes to address these concerns.

Submitted by: Lewis & Clark Conservation District

## Resolution 15-2 Clarification and Coordination of Outreach Regarding Board of Oil and Gas Form 22

WHEREAS, the Montana Streambed and Land Preservation Act (also commonly called the 310 permit) applies to projects that result in a change in the state of a natural, perennial-flowing stream, river, its bed or its immediate banks; and

WHEREAS, oil and gas development well pads, when located in natural drainages may as a result of runoff cause a physical alteration or modification in the state of a natural, perennial-flowing stream or river, its bed, or its immediate banks; and

WHEREAS, oil and gas companies have expressed an interest in working with conservation districts in planning the site location of future well pads as to reduce the potential for the physical alteration or modification in the state of a natural perennial-flowing stream or river, its bed, or its immediate banks; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts work with the Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation to amend the wording on the Board of Oil and Gas Form 22, Supplemental Information #6, to strike the phrase “stream crossing permit” and insert the phrase “310 Permit” to better inform an operator that a 310 permit covers projects in addition to stream crossings; and should contact the local conservation district in order for the district to determine if a 310 permit is required.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVE, that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts request the Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation to encourage operators prior to filling out the Board of Oil and Gas Conservation Form 22, to meet with the local conservation districts to determine the extent of the local conservation district’s jurisdiction over well pads under the 310 law.

Submitted by: Roosevelt County Conservation District

## Resolution 15-3 Use local ecological knowledge to incorporate predation concerns into Ecological Restoration for Endangered Species

WHEREAS, ranchers and landowners are the original conservationists and land stewards, who have many years of “local ecological knowledge”. They have observed the Sage-grouse numbers decline over the years. There are a number of reasons for Sage-grouse decline; increase in mammalian and avian predator populations, extreme weather events, disease and others; and

WHEREAS, current efforts to restore Sage-grouse populations primarily focus on vegetation, one aspect of habitat; and

WHEREAS, limited funding has been directed to gain understanding of predation on Sage-grouse, and the effects of disease and weather events; and

WHEREAS, predation occurs on nests as well as live birds. Predator species including but not limited to coyote, fox, falcon, hawk, and eagle prey on adult and juvenile Sage-grouse. Predators including but not limited common raven, crow, magpie, seagull, raccoon, skunk, and badger prey on juvenile birds, nestlings and eggs; and

WHEREAS, the decline in Sage-grouse populations range-wide supports the need to better understand factors that influence the population decline. Nest success is a major component to Sage-grouse population persistence and research that identifies factors influencing nest success, chick and adult success will better inform conservation efforts.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that MACD work with Montana Sage-Grouse Oversight Team (MSGOT) to address predators as listed above as a component that needs better understanding and be included in restoration efforts, as well as control efforts if needed.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MACD promote the use of “local ecological knowledge” in addressing the impacts to Sage-grouse populations.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MACD encourage the MSGOT and other agencies to address all impacts to Sage-grouse populations.

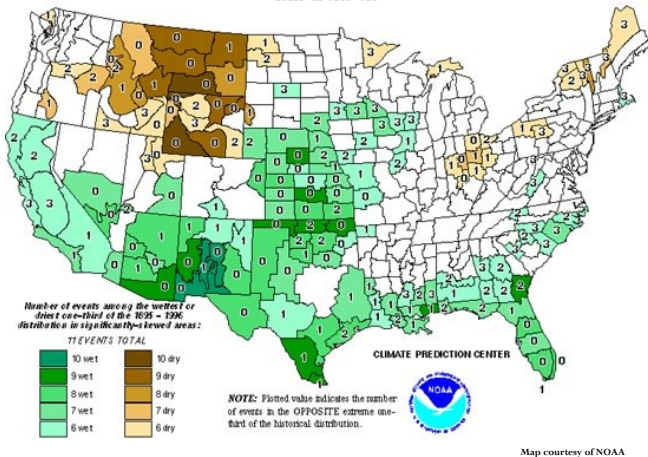
Submitted by: Valley County Conservation District

# The El Niño Effect in Montana



Photo source: pcwallart.com

Significantly-Skewed El Niño Precipitation Distributions — December – February  
1915 1919 1941 1958 1966 1973 1983 1987 1988 1992 1995  
Based on 1896–1997



## Oceans do affect Montana . . .

The map shows how El Niño events affect precipitation amounts throughout the lower 48 states. According to the information above the map, there were 11 "strong" El Niños from 1895 to 1997. The various colors show which areas tend to experience more winter precipitation during El Niño years and which ones tend to be drier.

For instance, Montana and Wyoming tend to be drier during El Niño years, whereas New Mexico tends to receive more precipitation as a result of El Niño. The darkest brown color in south-central Montana tells that 10 of the 11 El Niño winters were "dry" for that part of the state. . . In order to be considered "dry" the winter had to be among the driest one-third of all winters from 1895 to 1997. The brown that covers most of the state indicates that 9 of those 11 El Niño winters were dry in that area of Montana. The "1" in northeastern Montana indicates that this part of Montana did have one "wet" winter during an El Niño year. In contrast to Montana, parts of New Mexico experienced 10 "wet" winters during the 11 El Niño years.

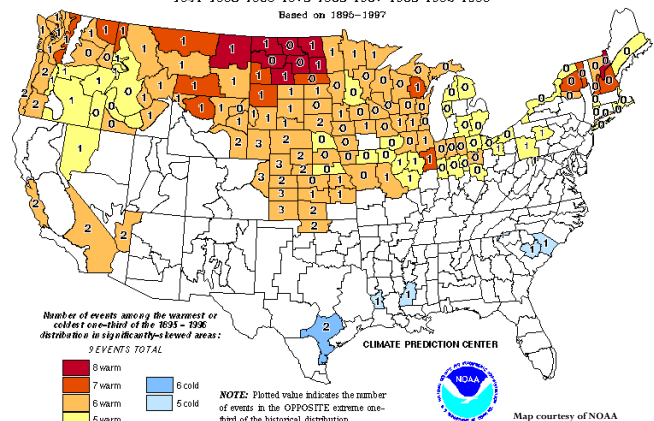
## So what's the connection? . . .

The El Niño is a change in the distribution of warm water in the equatorial Pacific Ocean. Normally the trade winds push the warm surface waters near South America toward Australia and Indonesia. This causes an upwelling of cold water along the west coast of South America, so surface water there is normally cold.

During an El Niño, the trade winds falter or may even reverse, allowing the warm surface waters to move back toward South America. During extreme El Niño events such as the one in 1997-98, the humidity above these warm waters can cause tremendous rainfall amounts and flooding in places such as Peru. On the other side of the ocean, Australia and Indonesia may experience droughts and wild fires. The El Niño also alters the position of the jet streams, causing storms to track through the southern states more often. With more warm water in the eastern Pacific, these storms cause higher precipitation amounts for the southern states. On the other hand, El Niño tends to leave Montana out of the loop, as the jet stream diverts storms to south of the Treasure State.

Article source: <http://formontana.net/elniño.html>  
By Rod Benson, Earth Science Teacher at Helena High School

Significantly-Skewed El Niño Temperature Distributions — December – February  
1941 1958 1966 1973 1983 1987 1988 1992 1995  
Based on 1896–1997



**"The trouble with weather forecasting is that it's right too often for us to ignore it and wrong too often for us to rely on it".**

**~Patrick Young**



# Winter Weather Trivia

1. Which of the following is not effected by wind chill?

- a. person    b. dog    c. car radiator    d. bird

Answer: c. Wind chill is the combination of wind and temperature and is based on the rate of heat loss from exposed skin such as that of a person or animal. As the wind increases, heat is carried away from the body at an accelerated rate, driving the body temperature down. Wind chill has no effect on cars or other objects.

2. What is the difference between sleet, hail, and freezing rain?

Answer: Sleet is frozen rain. Hail is a chunk or stone of ice dropped from a thunderstorm. Freezing rain is liquid rain that freezes to a surface such as the road or a tree.

3. True or False. It must be 32°F or colder for it to snow.

Answer: False. It has been known to snow with temperatures in the mid 40's. Temperatures are below 32°F up in the clouds where the snow is forming.

4. On the average, one inch of rain is equivalent to how many inches of snow?


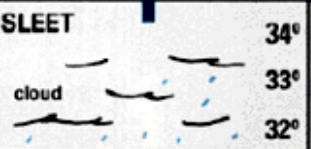




- a. 10 inches    b. 1 inch    c. 5 inches    d. a foot

Answer: a. 10 inches of snow melts down to about an inch of liquid rain.

Source: <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/lwx/winter/TRIVIA.htm>

[http://gallery.yopriceville.com/var/resizes/Free-Clipart-Pictures/Decorative-Elements-PNG/Transparent\\_Snowflakes\\_Clipart.png?m=1381788000](http://gallery.yopriceville.com/var/resizes/Free-Clipart-Pictures/Decorative-Elements-PNG/Transparent_Snowflakes_Clipart.png?m=1381788000)

## Did You Know?

SNOW	SLEET	FREEZING RAIN
		
		
Cloud temperature is cold enough for snow to form; air above the ground does not melt it. 30°F	Rain freezes to ice pellets which do not stick to surfaces, but accumulate on the ground. 30°F	Glaze of ice forms over surfaces. 30°F

[http://fox41blogs.typepad.com/wdrb\\_weather/2013/02/snow-sleet-freezing-rain-whats-the-difference-.html](http://fox41blogs.typepad.com/wdrb_weather/2013/02/snow-sleet-freezing-rain-whats-the-difference-.html)



[https://d2gg9sh47699.cloudfront.net/thumb\\_COLOURBOX5271299.jpg](https://d2gg9sh47699.cloudfront.net/thumb_COLOURBOX5271299.jpg)

"A bare tree stands with roots on both ends in December days."

~ Kiran Bantawa "Bare Trees"

## Dry-Redwater Update



Dry-Redwater Regional Water Authority (DRWA) is working diligently to be able to expand services. Legislation related to DRWA is currently in both the House and the Senate (S.1365, S.1552 and HB. 3867). If passed, these bills would give DRWA federal authorization as well as access to a portion of existing planning and construction funding.

In addition, DRWA is currently working with Interstate Engineering to complete design engineering on extensions we are optimistic will be constructed beginning in 2016.

For additional information, please contact Mandi Nay, DRWA Coordinator.

Telephone: 406-485-DRWA

Email: [drwa@midrivers.com](mailto:drwa@midrivers.com)

Website: [www.midrivers.com/~drwa](http://www.midrivers.com/~drwa)

**One kind word can warm three winter months. ~Japanese Proverb**

# Featured Problematic Weed: Cheatgrass

Cheatgrass (*Bromus Tectorium L.*), also known by a variety of names including downy brome, military grass, downy cheat and downy brome grass, is one of the most problematic weeds throughout Montana. As a winter annual grass, cheatgrass is particularly troublesome in continuous winter wheat, winter wheat-fallow rotations, alfalfa, CRP lands,

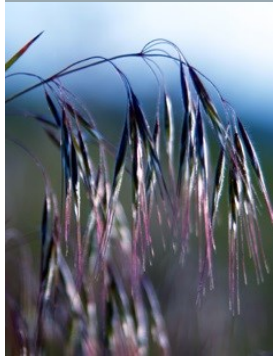


Photo: www.apsgov

rangelands, fencerows and railroad right-of-ways. Not only does cheatgrass reduce crop quality and yield, it creates serious fire hazards after it matures in late spring. Although cheatgrass is palatable as spring and fall forage before emergence of seed heads, mature plants decline in forage quality and can injure livestock by causing infection in the eyes or mouth.

## Integrated Management of Cheatgrass

- *In general, integration of \*chemical management tools with cultural practices is recommended for successful control. Practices like prescribed grazing, irrigation management, and nutrient management will help maintain the vigor of desirable species and prevent an increase of cheatgrass.*

*\* Chemical management tools:  
Contact your local MSU Extension Agent for more information.*

**How does cheatgrass grow?** Annual plants such as cheatgrass grow from seed, then flower, set seed and die every year. Cheatgrass is considered a winter annual plant because it usually germinates in the fall and grows rapidly until cold temperatures arrive. Germination may occur in spring as well, depending on conditions. Growth may continue through the winter, especially in the root system. In early spring, cheatgrass seedlings resume growth, produce seeds and die sometime between mid-July and early August. Winter annual weeds are particularly problematic in winter annual crops.

**Damage and Impacts:** As a winter annual, cheatgrass gains a competitive advantage on crops and rangeland species that may not grow very much through the fall and winter and do not begin growth as early in the spring. Soil water depletion is one of the primary mechanisms by which cheatgrass competes with perennial vegetation. This is especially problematic when attempting to revegetate land infested with cheatgrass. As spring precipitation diminishes and summer temperatures rise, perennial grass seedlings may not be big enough to survive, while cheatgrass plants are already producing seed to continue the next generation.

Because cheatgrass seeds usually do not remain viable in the seedbank for more than a couple years, preventing seed production in the spring reduces the number of seeds in the soil which may improve the outcome of integrated management. As with other weeds, preventing and minimizing invasion is critical.

Article source: "Cheatgrass: Identification, Biology and Integrated Management", Menalled, F; Mangold, J and Davis, E., MSU Extension MT200811AG New 10/08

"Once established, cheatgrass is very persistent."

## SO LONG AND FAREWELL

By Ashley Kiehl  
Soil Conservationist Circle Field Office

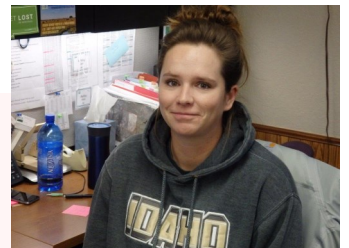
As many of you already know, my time here in McCone County is coming to a close. I have been accepted for a transfer to Lewistown in Fergus County and will be leaving wonderful eastern Montana sometime in the near future.

When I moved to Circle to start my first permanent job with NRCS, I was excited to be working in eastern Montana; an area which holds a special place in my heart. I love the wide open spaces, nice community and especially love living in a small town.

I have learned so much in my short time here in McCone County. Not only did I go to school for range, but I grew up on a cattle and sheep ranch where the only time we drove a tractor was for haying purposes. So naturally, farming was foreign to me. Not anymore! I appreciate the patience and willingness of the producers to answer every little question that I had. I even had a chance to ride in a combine for the first time. I am leaving this area with a much deeper understanding of the farming way of life and am excited to apply what I've learned during my next adventure.

Thank you to everyone who has been patient and understanding while I was learning the ins and outs of USDA and NRCS. I have really enjoyed working with every one of you!

If you're ever in Fergus County be sure to stop by the NRCS office and say hello!





DECEMBER

**Low-Stress Livestock Handling:**  
*What It Is, Why It's Important, & How To Do It*  
**December 1st & 2nd, 2015 ~ Malta, MT**

Join us for a 2 day clinic with Whit Hibbard. Whit is a 4th generation Montana cattle ranch, former national park mounted ranger & publisher and editor of Stockmanship Journal. Whit believes strongly in the importance & value of low-stress livestock handling and is committed to its serious study & promotion.


**When:** Dec. 1st: 10AM to 5PM lunch included  
 Dec. 2nd: 8AM to 3:30PM lunch on your own

**Where:** Malta High School Auditorium  
 Please use East door facing S 2nd St W

**How much:** Register by 11/15 \$25/day or \$40 for both  
 Register at the door \$35/day or \$60 for both  
 \*\* FFA and 4H Members receive free admission

**How to Register:** Mail payments to:  
 Ranchers Stewardship Alliance,  
 c/o Anna Merriman,  
 PO Box 868, Malta, MT 59538

**For questions please email** [info@ranchersstewardshipalliance.org](mailto:info@ranchersstewardshipalliance.org)  
 or call 406 939-0696



Pictured L to R: Working cows on The Matador, Greg Osavart, Sheila Walsh and Chris Bartholomew. © Kenzie Rowe

Sponsored by: Ranchers Stewardship Alliance & The Nature Conservancy's Matador Ranch

"Moo may represent an idea, but only the cow knows." ~ Mason Cooley

WORKSHOPS

**SOIL**

**"Soil Health & What It Means to You"**

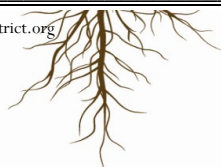
**Workshop & Ag Expo**

**Forsyth, Montana**

**December 2nd & 3rd 2015**

**For more information, please contact**  
**Bobbi Vannattan at 406-346-7333 x101**

Logo source: [www.soildistrict.org](http://www.soildistrict.org)



**Symphony of the SOIL**

**Saturday, Dec 5, 5:30-8pm • FHS AUDITORIUM**  
**Let's Celebrate WORLD SOIL DAY!**

**5:30-6:00 PM**  
 Locally Grown Treats - provided by FHS culinary class

**6:30-8:00 PM**  
 Watch "Symphony of the Soil" (103 min)  
 AN INTRIGUING PRESENTATION THAT HIGHLIGHTS POSSIBILITIES OF HEALTHY SOIL CREATING HEALTHY PLANTS CREATING HEALTHY HUMANS LIVING ON A HEALTHY PLANET.



**Flathead Conservation District**

**Local, common-sense conservation**  
 Serving the Flathead for 70 years. Visit our website to learn how we can serve you.  
[www.flatheadcd.org](http://www.flatheadcd.org) • (406) 752-4220

Flathead High School, Kalispell Creamery, Farm-to-Market, Two Bear, I Love Soil, Flathead Conservation District

"Sand is for fun; soil is for life!" ~ Mehmet Murat ildan

# 10 Holidays Traditions

## From Around the World



### **St. Lucia Day in Sweden**

St. Lucia Day honors a third-century saint on December 13, when girls dress up as "Lucia brides" and wear long white gowns and red sashes — a tradition that dates back to the 18th century. The attire is accompanied with a wreath of burning candles on their heads. The girls wake up their families by singing songs and offering coffee, and a traditional bun, called St. Lucia's bun and made from saffron, is commonly eaten on this day.

### **Sviata Vechera in the Ukraine**

The Christmas Eve festivities in the Ukraine are known as Sviata Vechera, which means “Holy Supper.” The celebration begins when the first evening star is sighted in the night sky. In farming communities, the household head brings in a sheaf of wheat which symbolizes the wheat crops of Ukraine. It is called “didukh,” which translates to “grandfather spirit.” In homes within the city, a few stalks of wheat may be used to decorate the table.

### **Christmas in France**

In France, Christmas is called Noel. And though there are many similarities to Christmas in the U.S., you'll find a number of key differences. A figure called Pere Noel, father of Christmas, makes home visits with gifts. On Christmas Eve, children leave their shoes by a fireplace that will be filled with the gifts. In the morning, they awake to find fruits, nuts and small toys. Nearly every home has a Nativity Scene, which serves as the focal point of decoration and celebration, just as the Christmas tree does in U.S. homes.

### **St. Stephen's Day in Ireland**

Christmas festivities in Ireland tend to be more religious in nature than about simple fun. Christmas celebrations last from Christmas Eve until January 6th (Epiphany). On the 26th, St. Stephen's Day, an Irish tradition that is known as the Wren Boys Procession takes place. Children go from door to door singing, holding a stick that is topped by a holly bush and a wren. They ask for money for the “starving wren,” which goes into their pockets. In ancient times, a real wren was killed and fastened to the stick, but today fake wrens are used.

### **New Year's Eve in Ecuador**

In this South American country, a family dresses up a straw man representing the old year. Family members make a will for the straw man that lists all of their faults. At midnight, they burn the straw man in hopes their own faults disappear too.



### **Hanukkah in Israel**

Jewish people all over the world observe Hanukkah, but perhaps there is not a more brilliant celebration than in Israel. The eight-day holiday, which lands on different dates in December every year, marks the successful Jewish rebellion over the Greeks. The focal point of celebration is the menorah, a branched candelabrum, and most homes have many. Each night, one candle is lit and gifts are often given to children, games are played and food is enjoyed. Children in Israel even get a week off from school.

### **Christmas in Alaska**

Christmas traditions in Alaska are similar to the rest of the United States, but there are a few unique differences that make an Alaskan Christmas special. For example, children go caroling with a long pole topped by a colored star. Songs sung in the home often include the Aleut words “Gristuusaaq suu'uq,” which means “Christ is born.” The closing words, “Mnogaya leta,” means, “God grant you many years.” Treats may include cookies, doughnuts, and cake, as well as fish pie called piruk and smoked salmon.

### **Kwanzaa in the U.S.**

Kwanzaa is a weeklong celebration honoring African-American culture. It was first celebrated in 1966 and is one of the fastest growing holidays. A Kwanzaa celebration often includes singing, drumming and a selection of readings such as the African pledge or parts of African history.

### **Omisoka in Japan**

In Japan, Omisoka, or New Year's Eve, is the second most important holiday of the year, following New Year's Day, the start of a new beginning. Japanese families gather for a late dinner around 11 p.m., and at midnight, many make visits to a shrine or temple. In many homes, there is a cast bell that is struck 108 times, symbolizing desires believed to cause human suffering.

### **Ta Chiu in Hong Kong**

Those in Hong Kong pray to the gods and ghosts of their ancestors asking that they will fulfill wishes for the next year. Priests read aloud the names of every person living at the celebration and attach a list of names to a paper horse and set it on fire. The smoke carries the names up to the gods and the living will be remembered.

# **Happy Holidays from the McCone Conservation District!**



## McCONE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Email: [mcconecd@macdnet.org](mailto:mcconecd@macdnet.org)  
Website: [www.mcconecountycd.com](http://www.mcconecountycd.com)  
Like us on Facebook! McCone County Conservation District

### Conservation District Board & Staff

Steve Wanderaas, Chairman  
Casey Nay, Vice-Chairman  
Larry Nagel, Urban Supervisor  
Jenny Garoutte, Rural Supervisor  
Brant Quick, Rural Supervisor  
Josh Murphy, Rural Supervisor  
Dusty White, Rural Supervisor  
Mary Hendrix, Administrator & Editor

### Partners in Conservation

Johnna Blankenship, DC, NRCS  
Ashley Kiehl, Soil Conservationist, NRCS  
Mandi Nay, Coordinator, DRWA

## Upcoming Events

### December 2015

- 1-2 Livestock Handling Workshop, Malta
- 2-3 Soil Health Workshop, Forsyth
- 5 Symphony of the Soil, Kalispell
- 8 Board Meeting, Circle
- 17 CMR Community Working Group Meeting, Zortman
- 25 Christmas

### January 2016

- 1 New Year's Day
- 6 Board Meeting, Circle
- 12 310 Workshop, Dillon

### February 2016

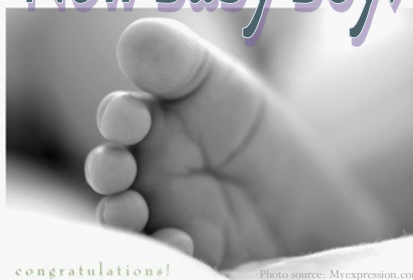
- 3 Board Meeting, Circle

## MCCONE CONSERVATION DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT CONSERVATION DISTRICT AUTHORITY

**Mission Statement**—By performing a leadership role in conservation for McCone County, the District will develop a more sustainable and economic resource management plan for the community.

**Conservation District Authority—MCA 76-15-102. Declaration of policy.** It is hereby declared to be the policy of the legislature to provide for the conservation of soil and soil resources of this state, for the control and prevention of soil erosion, for the prevention of floodwater and sediment damages, and for furthering the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water and therefore to preserve natural resources, control floods, prevent impairment of dams and reservoirs, preserve wildlife, protect the tax base, protect public lands, and protect and promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the people of this state.

## New Baby Boy!



congratulations!

Photo source: Myexpression.com

**Congratulations to  
Supervisor Jenny Garoutte  
and husband Tom  
on the newest addition  
to their family!  
Baby Sam joins  
his three older brothers.  
You have your hands full!**

## Scenes from the MACD Convention



First day of Convention



MACD Employee Organization meeting



Elena Evans, MACD Director, Judi Knapp, Treasure CD Supervisor and others at the Distillery Tour



Supervisors of the Year nominees Dean Rogge, Garfield CD (left) & Steve Wanderaas, McCone CD (right). Photo source: MRCDC