

# CONSERVATION NEWS

## McCONE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

*Packaged pretty with a golden yellow bow*



Photo source: www.provenwinners.com

### MOTHER'S DAY IS MAY 8TH

Once again, the Conservation District is offering kids a chance to buy Mom an affordable gift for Mother's Day.

Yellow flowering Bush Cinquefoil plants will be available May 2nd - May 6th at the District Office. It will cost \$1.50 each. For more info, call 485-2744 x100.

### The History of Arbor Day

The first Arbor Day took place on April 10, 1872 in Nebraska. It was the brainchild of Julius Sterling Morton (1832-1902), a Nebraska journalist and politician originally from Michigan. Throughout his long and productive career, Morton worked to improve agricultural techniques in his adopted state and throughout the United States when he served as President Cleveland's Secretary of Agriculture. But his most important legacy is Arbor Day.

Morton (*photo, top right*) felt that Nebraska's landscape and economy would benefit from the wide-scale planting of trees. He set an example himself planting orchards, shade trees and wind breaks on his own farm and he urged his neighbors to follow suit. Morton's real opportunity, though, arrived when he became a member of Nebraska's state board of agriculture. He proposed that a special day be set aside dedicated to tree planting and increasing awareness of the importance of trees. Nebraska's first Arbor Day was an amazing success. More than one million trees were planted. A second Arbor Day took place in 1884 and the young state made it an annual legal holiday in 1885, using April 22nd to coincide with Morton's birthday.

In the years following that first Arbor Day, Morton's idea spread beyond Nebraska with Kansas, Tennessee, Minnesota and Ohio all proclaiming their own Arbor Days. Today all 50 states celebrate Arbor Day although the dates may vary in keeping with the local climate. At federal level, in 1970, President Richard Nixon proclaimed the last Friday in April as National Arbor Day. (Montana observes the same day)

For the homeowner, Arbor Day is an excellent opportunity to take stock of the trees on your property and plan for the future. Inspect your trees. Note any broken branches or evidence of disease or insect infestation. Think about how planting new trees might improve the look of your property or provide wind or heat protection. Take a trip to your local nursery to see what's available and to get new ideas. Walk around your neighborhood. Are there any public areas where tree planting or tree maintenance might make a real difference to your community? Talk with your neighbors. Find out what their opinions are. **And, oh yes, plant trees!**

Article source: arbor-day.net



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### Area 1 Meeting & Training March 15th in Circle



Left to right: Carie Hess, Melissa Opsahl, Mike Bjarko, Scott Kaiser, Julie Goss and Bridgette Gibbs. Taking photo: Mary Hendrix

Missing Area 1 Administrators : Mandie Maldonaldo & Tifney Kempton



## NRCS Accepting Second Round of Applications for Honey Bee Pollinator Initiative



BOZEMAN, Mont., March 15, 2016 – The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is offering a second application period for the Honey Bee Pollinator Initiative. The second deadline is **April 15, 2016**, for farmers, ranchers and forest landowners to apply for financial assistance to improve food sources for honey bees on private lands in Montana.

“The future of our food supply depends on honey bees,” said Lisa Coverdale, NRCS state conservationist in Montana. “This initiative partners with farmers, ranchers and forest landowners to ensure honey bees have safe and diverse food sources during a time when they need it most.”

Honey bees pollinate an estimated \$15 billion worth of crops annually, including more than 130 different fruits and vegetables crops. One out of every three bites of food in the United States depends on honey bees and other pollinators, but honey bee populations have suffered significant declines in recent years.

NRCS is working with landowners in Montana, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin to make bee-friendly conservation improvements to their land, such as planting cover crops, wildflowers or native grasses and improving management of grazing lands. From June to September, this six-state region is home to more than 70% of the commercially managed honey bees in the country. These are critical months when bee colonies need abundant and diverse forage to store enough food for winter.

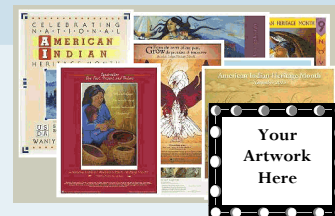
The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides funding to help private landowners implement these conservation practices. NRCS accepts EQIP applications on a continuous basis. However, April 15 is the deadline for second-round funding consideration for the Honey Bee Pollinator Initiative in fiscal year 2016.

These conservation improvements not only benefit honey bees, they also strengthen agricultural operations, support other beneficial insects and wildlife, and improve other natural resources. Appropriate cover crops and better rangeland and pasture management reduce erosion, increase soil health, inhibit the expansion of invasive species and provide food and habitat for insects and wildlife.

Landowners interested in participating in this initiative should contact the Circle USDA Service Center to learn more or visit the 2016 EQIP Honey Bee Pollinator Initiative page website.

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/mt/programs/financial/eqip/?cid=nrcseprd443206>

## NRCS Seeks Montana American Indian Artists for Poster Artwork



BOZEMAN, Mont., March 22, 2016—The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is sponsoring a contest for American Indian artists to submit artwork to be considered for its 2016 American Indian Heritage Month poster. The winning artwork will be used on the poster and distributed nationwide.

Each year, NRCS recognizes and celebrates the many different cultures to which it offers its services & programs, including American Indians. November is nationally designated as American Indian Heritage Month, a time to celebrate and make people aware of the history of American Indians and their contributions to the world.

Artists interested in submitting artwork for consideration should be aware of the following:

- There is no registration fee to enter.
- All American Indian artists in Montana are invited to submit artwork. There is no age limit. If under the age of 18, must have parents' consent in writing.
- Artists are to submit one original piece of artwork, size 18 by 24 inches, acrylic or oil on canvas, ready for reproduction (with the understanding that the poster will be printed as an 18 by 24 inch poster, but also distributed in an 11 by 17 inch format electronically).
- The theme for the artwork will be “Blackfeet Story of How Land was Formed.”
- The title for the artwork will be “The Creator of Land ‘Napi.’”
- The story included in the lower portion of the artwork will be “The Blackfoot Creator (iitsi-paita-piiyo-pa) had twin boys—Napi and Natosi.” By John Murray, THPO Blackfeet Tribe. \*\* [More at news release](#)
- A brief written narrative about the artwork must accompany the submission.
- Artwork and contact information must be received by **May 20th, 2016**.

Submit artwork and narrative to the attention of Dezeræ Lorash-Knoll, USDA/NRCS-MT, AI/AN SEPM-MT, Soil Conservationist, 228 Ohio Street, Chinook, MT 59523. For questions, call 406-357-2320 ext.115 or email at [dezeræ.lorashknoll@mt.usda.gov](mailto:dezeræ.lorashknoll@mt.usda.gov).

A selection committee will judge the artwork and select a winner no later than June 3, 2016. NRCS will purchase the artwork from the winning artist for \$2,000, and have the right to reproduce and distribute copies of the artwork at its discretion. NRCS and the selected artist will sign a contractual agreement to set forth the terms of procurement and rights of the two parties.

\*\* <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/mt/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCSEPRD887806>





We are deeply saddened and would like to extend our innermost sympathies to the family of DRWA Board Member, Henry Helgeson.

Henry was appointed to the Board in 2010 and was a profound resource, respected associate and friend. He will be sadly missed and we are thinking of his family during this difficult time.

Dry-Redwater Regional Water Authority (DRWA) continues to move forward with two new extensions planned for the Sidney South line. The East Yellowstone Extension will be constructed first and the West Sidney Circle Extension will follow. If you, or someone you know, may be interested in being connected to DRWA, please contact our office for additional information.

Mandi Nay, DRWA Coordinator  
406-485-DRWA (3792)  
[drwa@midrivers.com](mailto:drwa@midrivers.com)  
[www.midrivers.com/~drwa](http://www.midrivers.com/~drwa)

*"The day which we fear as our last is but the birthday of eternity". ~ Seneca*

## Featured Noxious Weed: Bull Thistle

### Identification

Lifecycle: Biennial

Flower: 1.5-2 inch wide and clustered at the ends of branches. The flower bracts are somewhat tapered and covered in spines. Flowers are pinkish to dark purple.

Seeds/Fruit: Seeds are capped with a circle of plume-like white hairs. Mature plants can produce up to 4,000 seeds per plant.

Leaves: Alternate. Prickly hairy on the top of surface of leaves and cottony-hairy on the undersides.

Roots: Short, fleshy taproot with several primary roots extending from the root crown. Each bears a number of smaller lateral roots.

### Habitat & Distribution

Bull thistle grows in dry to moist habitats. Potential habitats include pastures, over-grazed rangeland, roadsides, and logged areas.



Ecological: Bull thistle is often a transient species, appearing in recent clear cuts or disturbed areas and becoming a dominant species for several years.



### Integrated Management Summary

Bull thistle does not tolerate shade and therefore does not compete well in areas that are populated by tall grasses and forbs.

Chemical control is most effective when rosettes are targeted (fall or spring depending on density and plant's stage of growth). To be effective plants with buds or flowers should be collected and immediately either landfilled or destroyed in a method that eliminates seeds.

Article source: CWMA 2006-2016



## 2016 Spring Acreage Reporting

2016 acreage reporting map packets are available for pick up at the McCone County FSA Office. Producers wanting their map packets mailed should contact the office. When spring seeding is complete, producers are encouraged to mark their maps with the appropriate planting and intended use data and drop the maps off at the office. Office staff will generate the FSA-578, Report of Acreage. The completed FSA-578 may be used for reporting planting information for crop insurance purposes.

## 2016 Emergency Livestock Disaster Program

Livestock producers, including Honeybee and Farm-raised Fish producers, are reminded that the 2016 Emergency Livestock Disaster Program (ELAP) program year began October 1, 2015 and continues through September 30, 2016.

Producers who suffer livestock losses not covered under the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), or losses of eligible stored feed stocks, colony-collapse disorder, etc., are reminded to report these losses within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent. In addition to filing a notice of loss, a timely filed acreage report for the 2016 program year must also be submitted with the administrative FSA county office.

After producers have timely filed their notice of loss and acreage report, the next step is to make the application for payment. This step must be completed no later than November 1, 2016. Since ELAP funds are limited to \$20 million per fiscal year, payments may be factored depending on the number of applications received nation-wide.

## Change in Farming Operation

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have picked up or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to your county FSA office as soon as possible. When making ownership changes please provide a copy of the land deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. A reminder that the failure to maintain accurate farm records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can cause potential loss of program eligibility.

## FSA Working with Risk Management Agency to promote compliance with Federal Crop Insurance Program

The Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 requires the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to work together to improve program compliance and integrity of the Federal Crop Insurance Program (FCIC). As a result of the passage of the 2000 Act, RMA and FSA are required to coordinate a plan to identify, address and reconcile discrepancies of all relevant producer- derived information, and to coordinate a monitoring program to include fact finding relative to allegations of program fraud, waste, and abuse. FSA will assist RMA and insurance providers in monitoring conditions throughout the growing season and conduct growing season inspections. All suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse concerning the Federal Crop Insurance Program will be referred to RMA. FSA will also assist RMA with auditing claims. Producers may also report suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse to their local FSA County Office, the RMA Office or OIG (Office of Inspector General).

## Upcoming FSA Deadlines in Montana

- May 14: 2016 CRP Spring Managed and Routine Grazing Period Ends
- May 31: Final Availability Date for Loans and LDPs for Corn, Dry Peas, Grain Sorghum, Lentils, Mustard Seed, Rice, Safflower Seed, Chickpeas, Soybeans and Sunflower Seed
- July 15: 2016 Acreage Reporting Deadline for Spring Seeded Alfalfa Seed, Forage Seeding, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Fruit (except cherries), Vegetables, Christmas Trees, and all Spring-Seeded Crops and any other crops not required to be reported by previously announced deadlines.
- July 16: CRP 2016 Summer/Fall Managed Haying and Grazing Begins (with prior County Committee Written Approval of Request)
- Aug. 1: Deadline for 2016 ARC and PLC Enrollment







# BENEFIT OF TREES

Trees can add value to your home, help cool your home and neighborhood, break the cold winds to lower your heating costs, and provide food for wildlife.

## The Value of Trees to a Community

Some statistics on just how important trees are in a community setting.

### USDA

- The net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to ten room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day. ~ U.S. Department of Agriculture
- One acre of forest absorbs six tons of carbon dioxide and puts out four tons of oxygen. This is enough to meet the annual needs of 18 people. ~ U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Trees properly placed around buildings can reduce air conditioning needs by 30 percent and can save 20-50 percent in energy used for heating. ~ USDA Forest Service
- Healthy, mature trees add an average of 10 percent to a property's value. ~ USDA Forest Service
- The planting of trees means improved water quality, resulting in less runoff and erosion. This allows more recharging of the ground water supply. Wooded areas help prevent the transport of sediment and chemicals into streams. ~ USDA Forest Service

### Others

- If you plant a tree today on the west side of your home, in 5 years your energy bills should be 3% less. In 15 years, the savings will be nearly 12%. ~ Dr. E. Greg McPherson, Center for Urban Forest Research
- There are about 60-to 200-million spaces along our city streets where trees could be planted. This translates to the potential to absorb 33 million more tons of CO<sup>2</sup> every year, and saving \$4 billion in energy costs. ~ National Wildlife Federation
- Trees can be a stimulus to economic development, attracting new business and tourism. Commercial retail areas are more attractive to shoppers, apartments rent more quickly, tenants stay longer, and space in a wooded setting is more valuable to sell or rent. ~ The Arbor Day Foundation
- In laboratory research, visual exposure to settings with trees has produced significant recovery from stress within five minutes, as indicated by changes in blood pressure and muscle tension. ~ Dr. Roger S. Ulrich, Texas A&M University

Article source: The Benefits of Trees at [arborday.org](http://arborday.org) Photo source: [dollarclubtree.com](http://dollarclubtree.com)

## National Tree Benefit Calculator

Trees in urban areas provide a number of important benefits. They help to clean the air, curb storm water runoff, raise property values, sequester carbon, and reduce energy costs.

The tree benefit calculator allows you to calculate the approximate benefits individual street-side trees provide. Street-side trees are typically located in front yards, medians, parkways, planting strips or other common planting areas adjacent to streets.

With a little input of location, species and tree size, users will get an understanding of the environmental and economic value trees provide on an annual basis.

<https://www.arborday.org/calculator/>

The National Tree Benefit Calculator was conceived and developed by Davey Tree Expert Co and Casey Trees. This is an i-Tree powered tool.

## Let's Calculate! Colorado Blue Spruce

**Storm Water:** 1-inch diameter tree will intercept **44 gallons** of storm water runoff this year. A 6-inch diameter tree will intercept **723 gallons**.

**Property Value:** Located in front of a single family home, a 1-inch diameter tree will raise the property value by **\$16** this year. A 6-inch diameter tree will raise it by **\$70**.

**Energy:** A 1-inch diameter tree will conserve **3 Kilowatt/hours** of electricity for cooling and reduce consumption of oil or natural gas by **0 therm**. A 6-inch diameter tree will conserve **18 Kilowatt/hours** and reduce consumption by **3 therm**.

**CO2:** A 1-inch diameter tree will reduce atmospheric carbon by **13 pounds** this year. A 6-inch diameter tree will reduce it by **106 pounds**.

# CREATE A GARDEN ANYWHERE WITH STRAW BALES

BY GARDENING EXPERT MELINDA MYERS

Add productive garden space and raise your planting bed with straw bale gardening. This technique allows gardeners to create raised bed gardens on a patio, lawn or any area with poor compacted soil. Straw bale gardening has been around for centuries, but thanks to Joel Karsten's book "Straw Bale Gardens" it has gained new popularity.

All that is needed are a few straw bales, fertilizer, a bit of compost and time to condition, plant and water the garden.

Be sure to purchase straw bales made from alfalfa, wheat, oats, rye or other cereal grain that have less weed seeds than hay. Start a few weeks before the designated planting date.

Place the bales in their permanent location with the cut sides up and twine parallel to the ground. Once you start the condition process, the bales will be very heavy and hard to move. When the bales are in place you are ready to start the conditioning process. This is done to start the inside of the straw bales composting, so they'll support plant growth.

**Bale Conditioning Option #1:** On day one, spread fertilizer over the top of the bale. Use a ½ cup of a complete garden fertilizer or three cups of an organic fertilizer. Then completely moisten the bale. The organic fertilizers feed the microorganisms that help decompose the straw into a nutrient rich planting medium.

Thoroughly soak the bale everyday. On days three and five, you will add more fertilizer at the same rate used on day one.

Days seven through nine use half the rate used on day one. This would be ¼ cup of complete garden fertilizer or 1 ½ cups of an organic fertilizer. Thoroughly water the bale each time.

One day ten you will add one cup of 10-10-10 or three cups of organic fertilizer rich in phosphorus and potassium. This completes the conditioning process.

Bales treated with a complete fertilizer should be ready to plant. You may need to wait a few more days when using an organic fertilizer. The inside of the bale should be the temperature of warm bath water or cooler for planting. If it is hotter than this, wait for the bale to cool a bit before you plant.

Use a trowel to pry open a hole in the bale. Place the plant in the hole and cover the roots with potting soil or compost (pocket bed).

Create a planting bed for seeds by covering the bale with a one-to two-inch thick layer of planting mix. Follow the planting directions on the back of the seed packet (flat bed).

Regular water is critical for success with this method. Soaker hoses or drip irrigation make this an easier task. You can also use gallon milk jugs with holes in the bottom or inverted two-liter soda bottles placed near the base of each plant to provide water where it is needed.

Give your straw bale garden a nutrient boost about once a month or as needed throughout the growing season. Follow these steps and you'll be on your way to growing a productive straw bale garden to enjoy throughout the season.

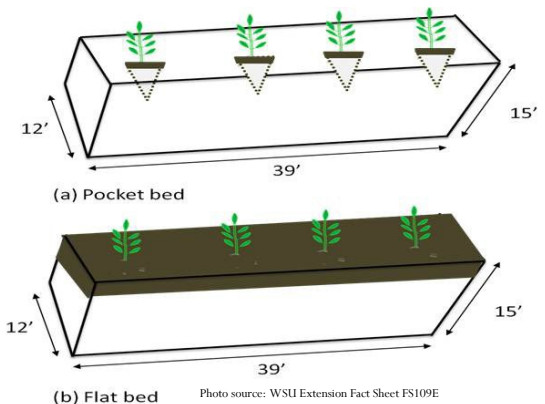


Photo source: WSU Extension Fact Sheet FS109E

## Straw Bale Planting Guide

CROP TYPE	Suggested number of plants per bale
Cantaloupe	2
Cucumber	3-4
Peppers	3-5
Pumpkins	2
Squash (Winter)	2
Squash (Summer)	2-3
Tomatoes	2-3

Table source: WSU Extension Fact Sheet FS109E



Photo source: dsgninspiration.com

The first supermarket supposedly appeared on the American landscape in 1946. That is not very long ago. Until then, where was all the food? Dear folks, the food was in homes, gardens, local fields, and forests. It was near kitchens, near tables, near bedsides. It was in the pantry, the cellar, the backyard.

~Joel Salatin, *Folks, This Ain't Normal: A Farmer's Advice for Happier Hens, Healthier People, and a Better World*



# STRAW BALE GARDENING

FROM THE WSU EXTENSION HOME GARDEN SERIES

## Another Bale Conditioning Option

- ♦ Water the new bales thoroughly and keep them wet for 3 days (days 1-3). Keeping the bales moist is very important. Once the bales have been watered, they will be very heavy, so be sure they are situated where you want them before you start watering. As the inside of the bales begins to decompose, they will start to warm up. This is part of the conditioning process.
- ♦ On days 4, 5, and 6, sprinkle the top of each bale with either 1 cup of Ammonium Sulfate (21-0-0) or ½ cup Urea (46-0-0), watering the fertilizer in after application. This speeds the decomposition process.
- ♦ On days 7, 8, and 9, cut the amount of fertilizer per bale in half. Take care not to water excessively, which could lead to runoff and leaching of the nitrogen out of the bale.
- ♦ On day 10, stop adding fertilizer, but keep the bales moist.
- ♦ On day 11, feel the top of the bale for heat. If still hot, check every day until the bale cools down to about 99°F or lower, still keeping bales moist by watering when needed.

## Growing Medium

The growing medium can be a mix of a well-rotted, good quality compost, soil, aged manure, and other nutrient rich materials. The growing medium is needed to create a suitable rooting environment for successful production on the bale beds. Once the growing medium is in place, moisten the medium and the bales.

- ♦ Approximately 1 pound of growing medium is needed to fill each pocket or hole.
- ♦ For the flatbed method, a 3-4 inch deep layer of growing medium works well.

*watch for updates & photos*

**Straw Bale  
Gardening Project  
by Johnna & Mary**



## Watering

Watering is perhaps the most crucial consideration in bale gardening because water moves out of the straw quickly. There are several ways to handle this issue: drip irrigation, soaker hoses or a DIY passive watering system.

Temperature affects how quickly the plants take up the available water. Liquid organic nutrients can be added to the water.



Article source: Washington State University Extension Fact Sheet FS109E

Photo source: moderustead.com

Photo source: strawbalegardening.com

Photo source: growbetterveggies.com

# PEST-FIGHTING FLOWERS BY GREG HOLDSWORTH

Certain flowers contain properties that either invite beneficial insects or repels harmful insects. Beneficial insects prey on pests that cause damage in the garden; ladybugs and praying mantises are good examples.

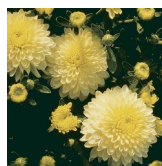
Using flowers for pest control not only cuts down on your workload, but it also reduces the amount of pesticides that you have to resort to. Fewer pesticides means more good bugs, which in turn means help in controlling bad bugs.

That said, what works in my veggie garden may not work in yours. Every garden has a different growing climate, soil type, and of course, pests. You will have to experiment to find out what works best for your situation. Choosing flowers and other plants that are native to your area will help, as the beneficial insects will already know what to look for.

Here's an incomplete, yet helpful list of your "fighting flowers".



**Borage:** Although it is an herb, borage can deter hornworms and cabbage worms, and is believed to help almost any plant increase its resistance to disease and pests.



**Chrysanthemums:** Chrysanthemums have large flower heads in white, yellow or pink, and they can be quite helpful with pests in the garden. Some varieties have been made into a tea for use as a pesticide to kill root nematodes and repel Japanese beetles.



**Dahlias:** Dahlias grow flowers with a variety of shapes and colors, making them a popular choice for flower gardeners. They're said to also repel nematodes, making them both beautiful and useful in your vegetable garden.



**Lavender:** Lavender is an excellent general pest repellent flower to use in your garden. It repels both fleas and moths, and it can help protect other plants near it from whiteflies.



**Marigold:** The marigold is probably the most well known plant for repelling insects. French marigold repel whiteflies and kill bad nematodes. Mexican marigolds are said to "bug" many destructive insects. Marigold flowers come in scented and unscented varieties, with the scented ones are best used for pest deterrents. And while this plant drives away many bad bugs, it also attracts spider mites and snails.



**Nasturtiums:** Nasturtiums planted near tomatoes and cucumbers can fight off aphids, whiteflies, squash bugs and cucumber beetles. The flowers, especially the yellow blooming varieties, act as a trap for aphids.



**Petunias:** Petunias can repel asparagus beetles, leafhoppers, aphids, tomato hookworms and others.



**Sunflowers:** Sunflowers might be the largest flower you have in your garden, and what a better beacon to say "come on over" to beneficial pollinators. I've heard that they can draw aphids away from other plants. It can also attract ants.

**Other natural pest control:** Beneficial bugs in your garden will attack insect pests. The best plants to attract beneficial insects are: Bachelor's Button, Cleome, Black-eyed Susan, Daisy, Salvia, Yarrow and Zinnia.



# Events End of March - April

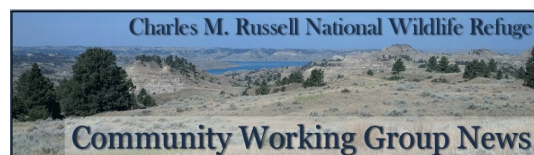
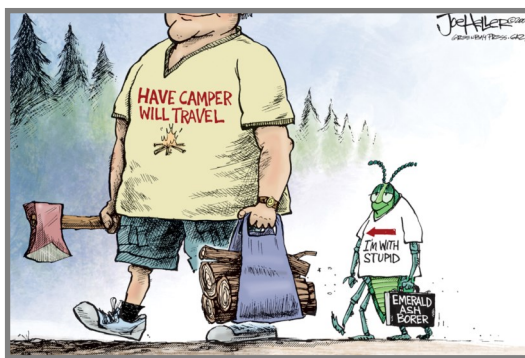


**The Governor's Summit on Invasive Species**  
*Assessing the Past - Strategizing the Future*  
 Hosted by the Montana Invasive Species Advisory Council  
 April 12-13, 2016  
 Gateway Center, 1710 National Avenue, Helena, Montana

**Agenda**  
**Tuesday April 12, 2016**  
 Welcome—Governor or Bullock  
 International Invasive Species Challenges and Opportunities  
 National Perspective: Existing and Emerging Invasive Species Issues  
 A Historical Perspective on Montana's Invasive Species Efforts  
 Case Studies: Exploring Models to Improve Coordination and Collaboration  
 2015 Statewide Invasive Species Assessment Results  
**Wednesday April 13, 2016**  
 Addressing Challenges: Prevention, Eradication, Control, Restoration, Funding, and other key gaps  
 Reception  
 Addressing Montana's Invasive Species Legislative Gaps: A Panel Discussion with Legislators  
 Developing Action to Address Montana's Invasive Species Challenges and Gaps  
 Key Next Steps to Advance Montana's ability to Prevent New Introductions and the Spread of Existing Invasions of Invasive Species

**Goal:** Convene agency, tribal, sovereign, private landowner, industry, academic and nonprofit leaders and policy makers, and others to:  
 • Share the results of the Montana Invasive Species Council Advisory Committee statewide invasive species assessment;  
 • Develop a shared understanding of the core elements of a Montana statewide invasive species framework and identify key priority actions;  
 • Identify key gaps existing Montana legislation and  
 • Identify key next steps.

**Expected Outcome:** Identified key priorities and elements to develop a statewide invasive species framework.



## Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge

**Community Working Group Meeting**  
 Thursday, April 14th, 2016  
 10:00 am — 3:00 pm

**Winnett Methodist Church**  
 Winnett, MT

**Noreen Walsh, Regional Director**  
**US Fish and Wildlife Service**  
 will be there to discuss the context of US FWS mission, its focus, and projects.

**Questions about the meeting?**

**Contact Rachel Frost, Coordinator**  
 @ 406-454-0056



## No-Till Gardening & Soil Health Workshop

**March 31, 2016**

**9:30 a.m.**

**Broadus Community Center**

- = "No-Till Gardening", Marni Thompson, NRCS Resource Conservationist,
- = "Soil Health & Rainfall Simulator", Mark Henning, NRCS Agronomist,
- = "High Tunnels", by Mark Henning

**Sponsored by Powder River County Extension and NRCS.**

**For more information contact NRCS at 436-2417 or**  
**Extension at 436-2424**

The Montana State University Extension Service is an ADAS/USDA-NRCS Extension Service and a Provider of Educational Outreach.




**Trees & Bugs Workshop**  
**Thursday, March 31st, 10:00am**  
 Dawson County Courthouse Basement

**Presenting:**  
**PETER KOLB**  
 MSU-Extension Forestry Specialist  
 Peter will be discussing shelterbelt and landscape planning, raising trees, diseases, tree selection, and the like. Anything having to do with trees!

**LAURIE KERZCNIK**  
 Associate Extension Specialist & Entomologist  
 Laurie's main topic of discussion will be beneficial and pest insects relating to trees.

**Please bring your tree and bug questions! As well as any examples of tree issues you are encountering (branches, etc.).**



Photo source: colourbox.com

**"Every radish I ever pulled up seemed to have a mortgage attached to it."**  
 ~ Ed Wynn

**Montana Envirothon**  
**April 25-26, 2016**  
**Lewistown Montana**



## 2016 Envirothon Learning Objective Invasive Species: A Challenge to the Environment, Economy & Society

Invasive species pose a serious threat to the stability of many North American ecosystems. Invasive species have been known to disrupt food webs, damage or destroy habitat and contribute to the decline of indigenous species at risk.

In addition to their environmental impact, invasive species can have a significant impact on local economies; in the United States alone it is estimated that invading alien species cause major environmental damage and loss adding up to almost \$120 billion per year (Pimentel, Zuniga, Morrison – 2005).

The 19th and 20th centuries have seen an exponential increase in the number of invasive species being intentionally and unintentionally introduced to North America and around the world through a variety of methods. The vast majority of invasive species that have established themselves in North America did so through unnatural or "human-assisted" means, including being introduced by early settlers for agricultural purposes. However, many others have been inadvertently transported to North America through trade and travel, as stowaways on ships or in packaging materials, and through horticulture. With the expected increases in exports and trade in the future, we can likely expect greater challenges and introductions of new species not yet known to occur in North America.

Source: dnrc.mt.gov



## McCONE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Like us on Facebook! McCone County Conservation District

### Conservation District Board & Staff

Steve Wanderaas, Chairman  
Casey Nay, Vice-Chairman  
Larry Nagel, Urban Supervisor  
Brant Quick, Rural Supervisor  
Josh Murphy, Rural Supervisor  
Greg Nagel, Rural Supervisor  
\*\* Opening \*\*, Rural Supervisor  
Kirk Haynie, Associate Supervisor  
Mary Hendrix, Administrator & Editor

### Partners in Conservation

Johnna Blankenship, DC, NRCS  
Mandi Nay, Coordinator, DRWA  
Sue Wittkopp, CED, FSA

## Upcoming Events

### April 2016

5 County Weed Meeting, Circle  
6 Board Meeting, Circle  
12-13 MISAC Summit, Helena  
14 CMR CWG Meeting, Winnett  
22 Earth Day  
25-26 MT Envirothon, Lewistown  
29 Arbor Day

### May 2016

4 Board Meeting, Circle  
8 Mother's Day  
22 Circle High School Graduation  
—Class of 2016!!  
30 Memorial Day: Office closed

### June 2016

1 Board Meeting, Circle  
19 Father's Day  
23 CMR CWG Meeting, Circle



*"It is well that you should  
celebrate your Arbor Day  
thoughtfully, for within your lifetime  
the nation's need of trees will become serious.*

*We of an older generation can get along  
with what we have, though with growing  
hardship; but in your full manhood  
and womanhood you will want what  
nature once so bountifully supplied and  
man so thoughtlessly destroyed; and  
because of that want you will reproach us,  
not for what we have used,  
but for what we have wasted. "*

*~ Theodore Roosevelt,  
1907 Arbor Day Message*

## 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.**

## County Landownership Maps for Sale

Wall Map	\$30.00
Book Map	\$35.00
Color Book Map	\$45.00

## Equipment Rental

Tree Planter	\$0.20 per tree
Fabric Layer	\$0.05 a foot
Post Pounder	\$95.00 day/ \$550.00 week

## Tree Supplies

Fabric Squares 3' x 3'	\$0.75 each
Fabric Squares 4' x 4'	\$1.00 each
Fabric Staples	\$0.10 each
4' Plastic Tree Protector	\$2.00 each
Plantskydd 1 Quart	\$22.00
Plantskydd 1 Gallon	\$59.00