



Conservation CONNECTION

Rosebud and Big Horn Conservation Districts

ROSEBUD CONSERVATION DISTRICT: 270 S. Prospect • P.O. Box 1200 • Forsyth, MT 59327

BIG HORN CONSERVATION DISTRICT: 724 West 3rd Street • Hardin, MT 59034

ROSEBUD CD: Meetings: 1st Thursday • 406-346-7333 ext. 101 • Fax/Phone: 406-346-7479 | BIG HORN CD: Meetings: 1st Thursday • 406-665-3442

NRCS FORSYTH FIELD OFFICE: 406-346-7333 | HARDIN FIELD OFFICE: 406-665-3442 | LAME DEER FIELD OFFICE: 406-477-6494 | CROW AGENCY FIELD OFFICE: 406-638-9102

Rosebud and Treasure County Conservation Districts' Annual Banquet

Rosebud and Treasure County Conservation Districts held their annual banquet in Forsyth, on March 19, at the Joseph Cafe. The banquet was well attended by producers from both counties. The guests of honor for the evening were Rosebud Conservation District's Conservationist of the Year award recipients, Cavin and Karly Steiger, along with Treasure County Conservation District's Conservationist of the Year award recipients, Chad and Staci Howard. The crowd was genuinely entertained by the wonderful recitation of Andrew Johnson.



Cavin and Karly Steiger, Rosebud Conservation District's Conservationist of the Year award recipients



Andrew Johnson,
Entertainer Extraordinaire



Cavin Steiger, Bart Icopini
(Treasure County Conservation
District's Board of Supervisors
Chairman), Rocky Schwagler
(NRCS District Conservation-
ist), Chad Howard



NO-Interest Loan Program

The Rosebud Conservation District no-interest loan program was created in 1982 in order to encourage people to install conservation practices and utilize the money that was available to the district. The Districts' no-interest loan is available to area producers for the development of conservation practices and systems as a part of a conservation plan to benefit agricultural land within the Rosebud Conservation District. Conservation program loans can be applied in a number of different practices including; storage tanks, stream bank stabilization, pumps, irrigation pipelines, grass seeding, water-spreading, fencing, reservoirs, dams, stock tanks, pipelines, pivots and sagebrush clearing.

The Rosebud Conservation District loan program is an excellent tool to help you achieve your conservation goals. Loans are available up to \$50,000 with a 0% interest rate. There is an administrative fee of three percent. Applicants apply through the Rosebud Conservation District Board of Supervisors, applications are accepted and reviewed at the regular meeting. Loan Payments will begin on December 15, not less than 6 months after the loan date. Applicant are encouraged to become cooperators of the District. Loans will NOT be allowed for reseeding Capability Class 6,7 &8 lands that have been converted after January 1, 1983.

For more information or an application, for the No-Interest Loan Program, contact Bobbi Vannattan at the Rosebud Conservation District office at 406-346-7333 ext. 101 or email: bobi.vannattan@mt.usda.gov or check out our website at www.rosebudcd.com.



www.rosebudcd.com

****Save the date **June 24 at 7:00 am****

Want to learn about our native songbirds? Join us for a bird walk!

Kids are welcome!

We will meet at the NRCS building (270 Prospect St) at 7 am on Saturday, June 24 and caravan from there. Be sure to wear good walking shoes and bring binoculars if you have them.



There will also be a chance to win a Sibley Birds Guide for Western North America!

If you have any questions, contact Heather at 346-7333 ext. 109

Miklovich Named Big Horn Conservation District's Conservationist of the Year



Carter Miklovich (R) accepts the 2016 Conservationist of the Year award from Big Horn Conservation District Chairman Roy Neal.

Carter Miklovich was named Conservationist of the Year at the Big Horn Conservation District portion of the Community Awards banquet recently. The event was held the evening of March 10, 2017 at the Fort Custer Golf Club.

Miklovich is an innovative agricultural producer who for a long, long time has operated a successful agricultural operation near the Wolf Mountains outside of Lodge Grass. The name of his operation is Sioux Pass Livestock and Grain.

Miklovich produces diverse grain crops alternating with summer fallow and forage crops. Some of the forage crops include peas, alfalfa and other nitrogen-fixing crops which continue to improve the soil on his farm. Additionally, Carter has the interest to manage his operation using reduced tillage and other conservation-minded practices. As a producer of high quality Angus cattle, Carter insures that his animals are provided his high-quality forage and other necessities to thrive at their location near the mountains.



Rosebud Conservation District Reserved Water

Montana's water reservation law provides an opportunity to legally allocate water for future consumptive uses as well as to maintain in-stream flows to protect water rights, aquatic life and water quality.

The conservation district water reservations are for agricultural irrigation and in some districts for stock watering. Districts rely on land users within the basin to develop the water resource and put the reserved water to use. Districts encourage land users and resource managers to apply for reserved water for new or supplemental irrigation projects.

A reservation is subject to protection under the Montana Water Use Act and is an appropriate water right protected by law. In the case of the conservation district, the right is held by the district on behalf of the individual users. Individuals will apply to the district when they have plans to put the water to use. A water user receives an authorization or permit from the district for the right to use a portion of the district's reserved water. Legally, this is the same as when an individual obtains a permit from the Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC) to use water.

The Rosebud Conservation District, as a water reservation holder, is responsible for apportioning the reservation in an equitable manner. The district is also responsible for administering the use of its reserved water and in accordance with the "Board of Natural Resources Board Order Establishing Water Reservations".

Rosebud Conservation District holds a water reservation of 87,003 acre-feet per year with a maximum flow rate of 540.7 cubic feet per second from the main stem of the Yellowstone River which has a priority date of December 15, 1978 (4:18 P.M.)

Currently the Rosebud Conservation District has 83,249.40 acre-feet and a flow rate of 466.07 cubic feet per second available.

If you are in need of reserved water and would like more information or an application, contact Bobbi Vannattan at the Rosebud Conservation District Office or contact her via phone or email at: 406.346.7333 ext. 101 bobbi.vannattan@mt.usda.gov or visit our website: www.rosebudcd.com for forms and reports.

Rosebud Conservation District's administrator Bobbi Vannattan accompanied by Treasure County Conservation District's administrator Angie Stahl, helped out with Carbon Conservation District's Conservation Days held at Cooney State Park. The two administrators gave a soil tunnel presentation along with providing facts and information about soil to the 4-6th grade students.



When do you need a 310 permit?

A 310 permit is REQUIRED if you are planning ANY project that physically alters or modifies the bed or banks of a stream. The purpose of the permit is to minimize soil erosion and sedimentation, protect and preserve streams and rivers in their natural or existing state and to prevent damage to the lands and property immediately adjacent to streams and rivers.

The application process is pretty simple. You can pick one up at your local conservation district office. Upon completion it is returned to the conservation district. An inspection of the proposed project is sometimes necessary. After the inspection, the Board of Supervisors make their decision. Keep in mind that sometimes additional permits are required and it is up to the producer to make sure that all the permits have been secured before beginning the project.



Rosebud County

- ◆ Yellowstone River
- ◆ Tongue River
- ◆ Rosebud Creek
- ◆ Lame Deer Creek
- ◆ Otter Creek

*All Perennial Streams in
Big Horn and
Rosebud County*

Require a 310 Permit!

*If you are not sure please
contact your local
conservation district!*

Big Horn County

- ◆ In addition to the Tongue River Reservoir there are more than 30 perennial streams in Big Horn County. Please contact the conservation district to clarify if your project requires a 310 permit.

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The Big Horn & Rosebud Conservation Districts proudly salute and thank our Service men and women at home and overseas.



Views expressed by individual columnists in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the Rosebud & Big Horn Conservation Districts.

Ian Cavigli
presents to
the crowd



Sharon
Wetch gives
tips as every-
one listens
intently



Gardening Workshop A Success

Rosebud Conservation District held a gardening workshop on Thursday, April 27 in the basement of Rosebud County Library. The workshop featured two speakers, Sharon Wetch, Master Gardener, and Ian Cavigli, SWCDM Big Sky Watershed Corps Member. Sharon shared information and methods to help gardeners begin their first garden or take their established garden to the next level! Sharon also gave a seed planting demonstration. Ian spoke of the importance of pollinators as well as presented the group with some very interesting facts about pollinators. Kenney Brubaker from Victory Organics, also gave a brief explanation about his products to the workshop attendees .



"In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous." ~Aristotle~

"A true conservationist is a man who knows that the world is not given by his fathers, but borrowed from his children." ~John James Audubon~

Big Horn Conservation District Cover Crop Cost Share Available

With 2017 here, it's time to think about utilizing a cover crop in no-till cropping systems. In order to encourage producers to learn the benefits of cover crops, the Big Horn Conservation District has initiated a program to pay the actual cover crop seed costs up to \$20 per acre on a maximum of 40 acres per producer.

Producer responsibilities to participate in this program are to prepare a weed-free seedbed, use a minimum of three varieties of seed in the cover crop mixture, and agree to tours and newsletter articles concerning the experience.

Contact the Big Horn Conservation District for an application form at 406-665-3442, ext. 112.

www.rosebudcd.com

Sign up now for the Rosebud Conservation District Cover Crop Cost Share 2017

Rosebud Conservation District is looking for producers who are seeking diversity in no-till cropping systems.

Incentive- \$20/acre up to 20 acres up to \$400!

The purpose of this incentive is to encourage the utilization of cover crops in no-till cropping systems. The proper cover crop can economically control erosion, reduce runoff, increase organic matter, break up crop disease patterns, cycle deep nutrient and be used for haying and/or grazing. The Rosebud Conservation District will pay the actual seed and seeding cost up to \$20 per acre up to 20 acres or \$400 per producer in the conservation district boundaries. Funds have been made available for 8 projects. Responsibilities of the producer are to prepare a weed free seed bed, note all important observations, agree to tours and news article and provide information regarding fertilizer techniques. A requirement of the cost share agreement is that seed mixtures consist of at least three varieties of seed in the cover crop planting.

Contact Bobbi Vannattan at the Conservation District Office to sign up and for more information. Phone: 406.346.7333 ext. 101 or email bobbi.vannattan@mt.usda.gov, or stop by the office located at 270 South Prospect in Forsyth.



Atlatl



Wildlife



Soils



Forestry



Range



Surveying

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“When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world.” ~John Muir~

“Farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil and you’re a thousand miles away from the corn field.” ~Dwight D. Eisenhower~

Arbor Day at Forsyth Elementary School

Stan Wells from the Natural Resources Conservation District's Forsyth field office and Rosebud Conservation District's Monica Boyer presented to the students at Forsyth Elementary on Arbor Day. Stan gave the children a brief overview of soil and what healthy soil contains. After every question was answered the children then went on to discover the wonder that is the soil tunnel! Upon completion of the instruction in the tunnel, Monica then gave the kids a quick explanation of the importance of pollination. Each child was then given a wildflower seed packet to help encourage pollinators. The children really enjoyed themselves!



"Agriculture is the most healthful, most useful, and most noble employment of man."

~George Washington~

No-Till Gardening Workshop

5-6:30 pm, June 14th, 2017
389 Woodley Lane, Hardin MT

- Learn about Soil Health, and how you can apply this to your garden!
 - See a productive working No-Till garden!
 - Check out a high tunnel system!
- Learn about how USDA-NRCS can assist you with gardening and soil health!

Snacks and refreshments will be provided.

If you are interested in attending, please RSVP by June 12th, 2017 by calling: (406) 629-3220

USDA provides reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities to participate in USDA programs and activities. If you require special accommodations, please contact the Hardin USDA-NRCS Field Office at: (406) 629-3220 by June 1st, 2017.

USDA

USDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

BHCD**FOR SALE OR RENT****RCD****Rosebud CD****270 S. Prospect****Forsyth, MT 59327****406-346-7333 ext. 101****RCD FOR SALE:**

4"x5" Marking Flags -\$10/bundle

Soil Probe———-\$65.00

Wildlife Ramps: \$20 each

Gate Latches: \$20 each

RCD FOR RENT:**Track Filler** \$100 per day
 \$200 per week**1590 No-Till Drill**-\$7/acre; minimum of \$200 and maximum of 200 acres per use-Rosebud County Producers only at this time.**Books:**

Weeds of the West—\$40

Range Plants of Montana—\$20

Irrigator's Guide—free

Rosebud County Land Ownership Map Book-
\$28-small and \$40-large

Aerial View-\$38-small \$50-large

**Big Horn County CD****724 W 3rd St****Hardin, MT 59034****406-665-3442 x 112****BHCD FOR SALE:**

Moisture Probe—\$65 each

Hydrosourc (plant gel)—\$7 pint

Wildlife Ramps—\$25 each

BHCD FOR RENT:

Tree Planter - .10/tree , \$30 minimum

Fabric Laying Machine—
.10 per tree,\$30 minimum without
fabric purchase or
.05 per foot (plus cost of fabric)
with fabric purchasewww.rosebudcd.com

****Interesting Facts****

- * Water is the most common substance found on Earth, however less than 2 percent of the supply is fresh water
- * Water can dissolve more substances than any other liquid, including sulfuric acid
- * A dairy cow must drink 4 gallons of water to produce 1 gallon of milk
- * The average daily water usage by an American is 100 gallons
- * A jellyfish and a cucumber are both about 95 percent water
- * Pure water has no taste or smell, it also has a pH level of about 7

Upcoming Statewide Events

Montana Ag Summit 2017

Agsummitmontana.com

May 31-June 1 2017

For more information: info@agsummitmontana.com

2017 Organic Agriculture Webinar Series

ConservationWebinars.net

June 6, 2017

For more information: [Organic Webinar Series](#)

Bridger Plant Materials Center Field Day

June 14, 2017

For more information: macdnet.org

Montana Range Days

Red Lodge, Montana

June 19-21, 2017

For more information: Darlene Schwend 406-962-3641 ext. 105 or [Range Days](#)

Ladies Day on the Range 6th Annual

Chelsea Phipps Ranch Jordan, Montana

June 21, 2017

For more information: Dusty Eike 406-557-2740 ext. 3

Open the Gate Workshop

Wibaux County Fairgrounds Wibaux, Montana

June 22, 2017

For more information: 406-796-2211 ext. 106

Montana Youth Range Camp

Great Falls, Montana

July 10-14, 2017

For more information: Cascade Conservation District 406-727-3606 ext. 125 or [Youth Range Camp](#)





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