



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 • 406-629-3229
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 held annual banquet

Rosebud Conservation District, along with Treasure County Conservation District hosted their annual banquet. The banquet was held at Forsyth Country Club and was well attended by producers from both counties.

The attendees were entertained by the singing, poetry, and storytelling of the amusing Bob Peterman. The Forsyth FFA Chapter provided the delicious meal as well as the wonderful table service to the lucky crowd.

Rosebud Conservation District presented their Conservationist of the Year Award, after a slide show presentation, to Patrick and Christy Lohof as a result of the extensive grazing rotation they practice on their operation.

Treasure County Conservation District awarded two of their board members longevity pins. Bart Icopini has served on the TCCD Board of Supervisors for five years and Judi Knapp has served for an incredible 30 years. The conservation community is so grateful for our board members!



Bob Peterman



Dave Davenport, RCD Supervisor and Conservationist of the Year recipient, Patrick Lohoff



A wonderful mix of producers and community members from both Conservation Districts



TCCD Administrator, Angie Stahl and TCCD Chairman, Bart Icopini pose with Bart's Longevity Award



The crowd enjoying Bob Peterman

Welcome Maria!



Hello, my name is Maria Hopkins and I'm the new District Manager for the Big Horn Conservation District. Gloria Menke retired from the BHCD after 42 years of dedicated service.

I am from Belgrade, MT and recently graduated from Montana State University with dual Bachelor of Sciences in Finance and Statistics. I enjoy baking, reading, and pinning new recipes on Pinterest.

I look forward to helping Big Horn County producers! You can contact me at (406) 629-3229 or via email at maria.hopkins@mt.nacdnet.net.

Tree and Garden Workshop

Rosebud Conservation District, along with Treasure County Conservation District and Montana State Extension, held a tree and gardening workshop in the Rosebud County Library basement. The workshop featured a variety of speakers. To begin, Amy Adler, Rosebud County Weed Control Coordinator, spoke to the attendees about the different types of weed control as well as how to ensure success when using products. The agenda moved along with Chase Anderson speaking next. Chase works with the Montana Heritage Orchard Program and was very informative about the different varieties of apple trees. The next speaker was Master Gardener, Sharon Wetsch. Sharon shared a lot of helpful information and tips to yield the best garden. The workshop continued on to the authors of Gardening 4 Life, Wayne and Connie Burlison. The Burlisons have traveled all over the world teaching about gardening and composting. They use unique techniques and were very interesting to listen to. The pair spoke of their travels and experiences all while teaching the crowd. Melissa Ashley, MSU Extension Agent for Rosebud and Treasure Counties gave a brief talk along with a demonstration for a very easy seedling starter. The tree and gardening workshop came to a close with a walking tree tour led by Clint Hesel, from Hesel Tree Service. Overall, the day was a success!





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Surveying



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No office? No problem! Receive text message alerts from FSA while on-the-go, in the field, on the tractor or even on horseback. Subscribe to receive text alerts from the **Rosebud/Treasure County FSA Office** by texting **MTRosebud** or **MTTreasure** to **FSANOW (372-669)**

Standard text messaging rates apply. Contact your wireless carrier for details. Expect to receive no more than two text messages from FSA each month, on average. Participants may unsubscribe at any time.

For more in-depth FSA program information, we offer our standard electronic news bulletin by email. Visit www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe, or contact your local FSA office. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Help stop the spread of invasive species

Aquatic invasive species, such as zebra & quagga mussels, pose huge risks to Montana waters and our way of life.

The impacts include:

- * *Increased utility bills:* mussels clog public water systems, intakes, and dams
- * *Increased costs to agriculture:* mussels choke off irrigation systems and degrade water supplies which impacts crop and livestock production.
- * *Loss of recreational opportunities:* mussels attach to and damage boats, harm fisheries, and can decrease access to waterbodies.
- * *Degrade habitat and water quality:* mussels can cause algae blooms and impact native species.

What you can do:

- * If you work or play on the water, Clean, Drain & Dry your boat and equipment after every use.
- * Don't move irrigation or construction equipment unless you Clean, Drain & Dry first.
- * All watercraft must stop at inspection stations. All watercraft traveling west across the Continental Divide must be inspected before launching. Watercraft coming from out of state must be inspected before launching.



College Scholarship

Rosebud Conservation District began offering scholarships this year to graduating high school seniors who attend school within Rosebud County and are pursuing a college degree in a Natural Resource Field (e.g., Agriculture, Range Science, or Environmental Engineering). The scholarship was established in memory of our beloved board member Reg Hoff. Rosebud Conservation District is pleased to announce the three recipients of the scholarship:



Pictured at left: McKenzie Mork and Nolan Nansel

McKenzie Mork, Forsyth High School

Kobee BigBack, Colstrip High School

Nolan Nansel, Colstrip High School

www.rosebudcd.com

FFA Range and Agronomy Workshop

Treasure County Conservation District, once again, hosted the annual Range/Agronomy workshop on March 9, 2019. It was held at the Hysham High School.

We had 17 FFA students participate this year from Big Horn FFA, Forsyth FFA, Hysham FFA, Terry FFA, and Ekalaka FFA.

The kids all did an amazing job with one of Hysham's FFA students taking 1st place in most categories - Jordan McMilliam.

The instructors once again provided great information and learning tools for the students. Treasure County CD would like to say a big thank you to all who participated and helped out!

Our instructors were: Rebecca Knapp, District Conservationist, NRCS - CROP QUALITY

Kami Kilwine, Area Range Management Specialist, NRCA - DISORDERS

Alissa Wolenez, Bozeman - GRAIN GRADING

Lauren Manninen, Soil Conservationist, NRCS - SOILS

Julienne Rychner, Ekalaka - SEED ID

Mrs. Kotar, Hysham FFA Advisor helped in the planning and running of the workshop. Mrs. Kotar and her FFA students also prepared and served the wonderful lunch. Thank you to Judi Knapp, Rebecca Knapp and JoAnna Kotar for all the planning and preparation they do every year to bring this workshop to life for all the FFA students!



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 once 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.)

Rosebud Conservation District has
82,880.40 acre-feet and a flow rate of 464.61 cubic feet per second available.

If you are in need of reserved water and would like more information or an application contact
Rosebud Conservation District's Administrator Bobbi Vannattan at 406-346-7333 ext. 8012



"Farming is a profession of hope. ~Brian Brett~

"There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man. ~Winston Churchill~

"It doesn't matter how big a ranch you own or how many cows you brand, the size of your funeral is still gonna depend on the weather" ~Harry S. Truman~

"Man-Despite his artistic pretensions, his sophistication, and his many accomplishments-owes his existence to a six inch layer of topsoil and the fact that it rains ." ~Unknown~

BOATERS ■ ANGLERS ■ WATER USERS


CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY.



Watercraft inspection required if you:

- Encounter an open inspection station.
- Come into Montana from out-of-state.
- Travel west over the Continental Divide.
- Travel into the Flathead River Basin.
- Come off Tiber or Canyon Ferry Reservoirs

**HELP STOP THE SPREAD
OF INVASIVE SPECIES**

CleanDrainDryMT.com

 : Protect Our Waters Montana

 : 406.444.2440



**MONTANA FISH,
WILDLIFE & PARKS**

GRASS CLASS WORKSHOP

SEPTEMBER 18TH, 2019, 9AM-4:30PM, TO SEPTEMBER

19TH, 2019, 8AM-NOON

BIG HORN COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

HARDIN, MT

Do you want to learn how to best manage your rangeland for your livestock? Do you want to learn how to develop your own grazing plan for your ranch? Come and join us for a day and half of learning about rangeland management!

You'll receive maps detailing your grazing operation, as well as a binder of vital information regarding developing a grazing plan and managing your grazing lands. USDA-NRCS staff will work with you to develop your own personalized grazing plan for your ranch and will provide suggestions for improving the management of your grazing operation.

Speakers Include:

- Joel Laliberty, USDA-NRCS Bozeman Area Resource Conservationist
- Nikki Rife, USDA-NRCS Bozeman Area Rangeland Management Specialist

There is no cost to attend! Limited to the first 10 ranches to RSVP!

Please RSVP no later than August 1st, 2019. Following this date, the Hardin FO staff will contact you to start developing ranch maps to be ready for the workshop in September.

Lunch will be provided on September 18th, and light refreshments will be available both days. For additional information regarding this workshop or to RSVP, please call the Hardin NRCS Field Office by calling: (406) 665-3442, ext. 3.



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 prior to August 1st, 2019.

USDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Rosebud Conservation District

Cover Crop Cost Share

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

Incentive- \$20 per acre with a max of 20 acres

The purpose of the soil health 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 nutrients, and be used for haying and/or grazing. RCD will pay the actual seed and seeding cost up to \$20 an acre up to 20 acres or \$400 per producer in the conservation district boundaries. Responsibilities of the producer are to prepare a weed free seed bed, note all important observations, agree to tours and news article, if applicable, and provide information regarding fertilizer techniques. A requirement of the cost share agreement is that seed mixtures consist of at least three species of seed in the cover crop planting.

**Contact Rosebud Conservation District
at 406.346.7333**

Big Horn Conservation District

Cover Crop Cost Share Available

It's time to think about utilizing a cover crop in no-till cropping systems. In order to encourage producers to learn about the benefits of cover crops, the BHCD initiated a program to pay the actual cover crop seed costs up to:

\$20 per acre with a max of 40 acres

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

**Contact Big Horn Conservation District
at 406-629-3229**

When is a 310 permit needed?

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 easy, simply pick one up at your local conservation district, upon completion, return the application to the office.. An inspection of the proposed project is necessary, afterwards, the Board of Supervisors determine the fate of the 310 permit. Sometimes additional permits are required and it is the responsibility of the producer to secure all permits before beginning any projects.

Rosebud County

- ◆ Yellowstone River
- ◆ Tongue River
- ◆ Rosebud Creek
- ◆ Reservation Creek
- ◆ Otter Creek
- ◆ Armell's Creek
- ◆ Numerous Other Creeks

Big Horn County

- ◆ Big Horn River
- ◆ Tongue River
- ◆ Little Big Horn River
- ◆ Rosebud Creek
- ◆ Numerous Other Creeks

Treasure County

- ◆ Yellowstone River
- ◆ Big Horn River
- ◆ Sarpy Creek

*All Perennial Streams in Big Horn, Treasure, and Rosebud Counties Require a 310 Permit!
If you are unsure, please contact your local conservation district!*

****Fascinating Facts****

* In 1990, approximately only 6% of American farmland was using no till practices, in 2016, that number increased to approximately 35%

* The main benefits of no till farming include: improved soil health, reduced farming costs, less erosion, and water conservation

* In no till planting, crops from the previous year or planting season (known as crop residue) are chopped off and left on the topsoil, serving as “mulch” for the newly planted crop.

* A farmer who plows 15 acres per hour would save roughly 67 hours of work with each eliminated pass over a 1,000 acre field by using no-till.

* You can make arrangements to rent Rosebud Conservation District’s No-Till Drill by calling the office at 406-346-7333



Rosebud Conservation District

270 Prospect Forsyth, MT 406-346-7333

~For Sale or Rent~

For Sale:

- *Wildlife Ramp~ \$20.00
- *Gate Latch~ \$20.00
- *Marking Flags (5”x8”)~ \$10.00/bundle

For Rent:

- *Track Filler~ \$100.00/day or \$200.00/week
- *No Till Drill~ \$7.00/acre (200 acre maximum)

Books For Sale:

- *Range Plants of Montana~ \$15.00
- *Rosebud County Land Ownership Map Books \$28.00/small or \$40.00/large \$38.00/small aerial view or \$50.00/large aerial view

Treasure County Conservation District

211 Elliot Avenue Hysham, MT 59038 406-342-5510 ext. 102

For Sale:

- *Marking Flags (5”x8”)~ \$10.00/bundle
- *Wildlife Ramp~ \$20.00

For Rent:

- *Great Plains Native Grass Drill~ \$7.00/acre (200 acre maximum)

Books For Sale:

- *Treasure County Land Ownership Map Books~ \$16.00/small or \$20.00/large

Big Horn Conservation District

724 W 3rd Street Hardin, MT 59034 406-665-3442

For Sale:

- *Moisture Probe~ \$65.00
- *Wildlife Ramp~ \$25.00
- *Hydro source Plant Gel~ \$7.00/pint

For Rent:

- *Tree Planter~ \$.10/tree (\$30.00 min)
- *Fabric Layer~ \$.10/tree (\$30.00 min w/o fabric purchase) or \$.05/tree + fabric cost (w/ fabric purchase)

~Upcoming Events~

River Rendezvous 2019

Fort Peck Interpretive Center Fort Peck, Montana July 26, 2019

For more information: Mitch Hoffman 406-429-6646 ext. 106 or petroleumbswcone@macdnet.org

Montana Range Tour

Harlowton, Montana September 4-5, 2019

For more information: Stacey Barta 406-444-6619 or sbarta@mt.gov

Grass Class Workshop

Big Horn Historical Museum Hardin, Montana September 18-19, 2019

For more information: 406-665-3442 ext. 3

Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Conference

Gallatin County Fairgrounds Bozeman, Montana October 1-3, 2019

For more information: www.womensteppingforward.org

~Wildlife Profile~

Western Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum*)...

-Breed in lakes, ponds, springs, and stock ponds, adults will then spend the summer in these water bodies or move to an upland area and live in a small burrow.

- Have populations which stay in the larval stage for the entirety of their lives, these are often called "Water Dogs".

-Diet consists of mostly insects and worms, although adults will sometimes eat small frogs and baby mice.

-Habitats are generally found in the prairie or agricultural areas.

-Are good swimmers despite being considered terrestrial.

- Are often kept as pets.

-If you are interested in having a free presentation for your group or class, about wildlife, conservation, or habitat please contact Heather Nenninger at 406-346-7333.

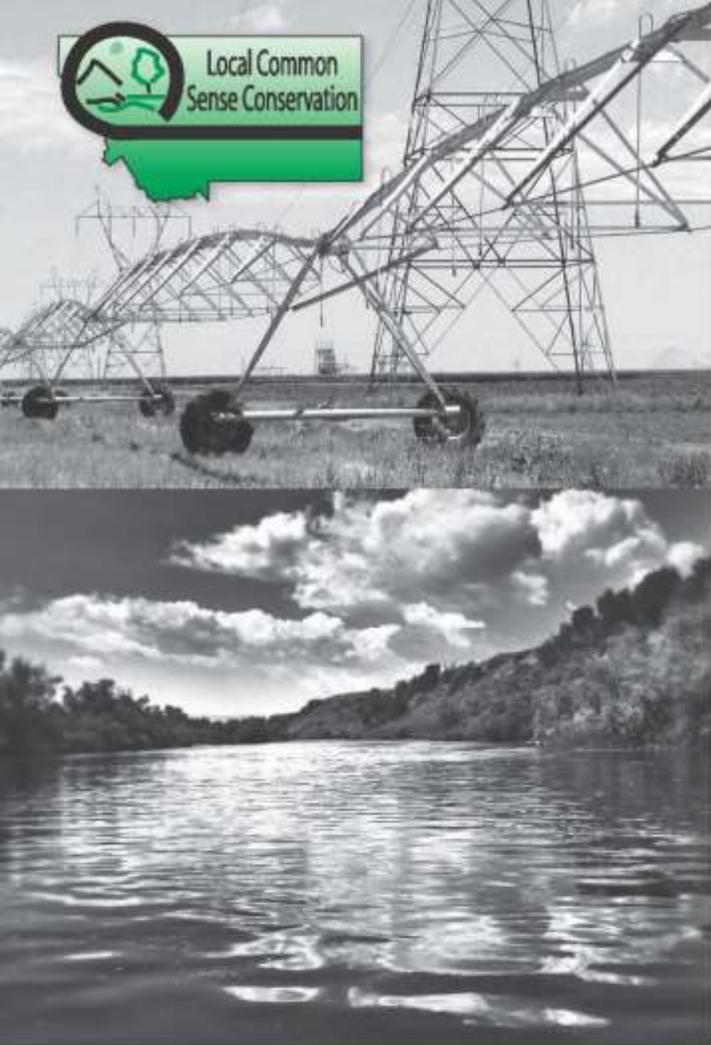


**Read upcoming editions of the Conservation Connection for more intriguing facts about Montana's native wildlife, presented by Heather Nenninger, Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI) Partner Biologist!



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WATERS**

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