



# Conservation News

## SHERIDAN COUNTY



The mission of the Sheridan County Conservation District is to protect Sheridan County's water and land quality through assistance programs, education, monitoring and planning.

## Grazing Management and Water Quality

In the survey effort completed by the SCCD in 2017, the primary limiting factor for implementing grazing management was a lack of understanding on the potential water quality benefits. Limiting factors for other practices such as fencing and stockwater also included cost and lack of assistance. These responses demonstrated the need for some information on these topics.

### Water Quality Benefits

Several factors contribute to bacteria concerns in local waterways. While certainly not the only factor, it should come as no surprise that waste from domestic animals (including cows, horses, llamas and others) can affect water quality. Animal waste can enter waterbodies through direct inputs or from run-off carrying animal wastes. Bacteria contributions from livestock and domestic animals are not limited to corral facilities or large cattle operations.



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## Soil and Water Stewardship Week Poster Contest Submission Deadline



"**Watersheds—Our Water, Our Home**" is the theme for the 2018 NACD Soil and Water Health Stewardship Week Poster Contest. Participants K-12 have the chance to win a \$15 gift card to Sheridan Stationery and will be entered into the state contest for a chance to win \$100 cash. If the participant wins at the state level, their poster will move onto the national level, where they have the chance to win \$200 (1st place), \$150 (2nd place), or \$100 (3rd place) prizes.

If you have children or students that would like to enter the poster contest, K-12, please contact our office or visit our website for more information!

**Please Note: Submission deadline is earlier than deadlines from previous years.**

# SAVE THE DATES

## Spring Workshops and Tours

### SMALL ACREAGE IRRIGATION

Wyoming Water Law, Irrigation Methods, and Other Challenges

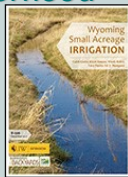
**THURSDAY, MAY 3RD 5:30-8:00 PM**  
**SHERIDAN FULMER LIBRARY INNER CIRCLE**



#### Topics

- Wyoming water law for small acreages
- Small acreage irrigation options
- Irrigation conflicts in your neighborhood

Attendees will receive a free copy of the Wyoming Small Acreage Irrigation Guide, while supplies last.



Please visit [www.sccdwy.org](http://www.sccdwy.org) to register



### TRASH TO TREASURE

Composting Workshop

**THURSDAY, MAY 17th 5:30-8:00 PM**  
**SHERIDAN FULMER LIBRARY INNER CIRCLE**

#### Topics

- Composting Basis - The Process & Science
- Composting Methods & Applications
  - Composting Considerations - Herbicide Residue, Humanure, Livestock Mortalities
  - Local Composting Operations
  - Q & A



**WIN ME!**

Pre-register by May 15th and you'll be entered into a drawing to win a YIMBY Tumbling Composter from the Home Depot! Must be present to win.



The first 25 to pre-register will also receive a copy of the Promoting Pollinators On Your Place Guide.

Please visit [www.sccdwy.org](http://www.sccdwy.org) to register



### Wyoming Medusahead/Ventenata Field Tour

**9am-4pm June 19, 2018 in Sheridan, WY**

Please save the date so you can join the Northeast Wyoming Invasive Grasses Working Group for our second annual "Medusa-nata" tour and educational day. We will visit sites where we are actively managing these weeds, discuss the most current scientific research, and actively participate in breakout groups to discuss management scenarios.

Updated details and registration information can be found at:

<https://www.scweeds.com/invasive-annual-grasses>

**Lunch will be provided!**





# WYOMING STATE FAIR 2018

A series of listening sessions were held in various cities throughout Wyoming in September and October of last year regarding the future of the Wyoming State Fair. The sessions, spurred by financial hardships throughout the state, gathered thoughts and concerns from past, present and future fairgoers. Wyoming State Fair Director, James Goodrich, explained that the purpose of the listening sessions was to determine what about the Wyoming State Fair is the most important to attendees and participants.

"We strive to provide the best fair possible each year by focusing on youth competitions, family friendly entertainment, and affordable prices," said Goodrich.

The 106th Wyoming State Fair will be held over four days, rather than the usual eight day schedule. The Fair will run from Wednesday, August 15th to Saturday, August 18th. Fair board and staff members hope to include the majority of the competitions that would regularly take place with a full schedule. The condensed schedule, while decreasing expenditures, will also lessen the time spent away from home required by vendors, participants, and families.

"We are excited about this change to the 106<sup>th</sup> Wyoming State Fair and we look forward to the action packed schedule for this summer," said Goodrich. "We believe this change is moving in a positive direction for Wyoming State Fair and will be the beginning of developing a more exciting and busy event in the coming years."

*Compiled from Wyoming State Fair & Rodeo website*



## Congratulations Susan!

Susan Holmes, Sheridan County Conservation District Chair, was awarded the 2017 Outstanding District Supervisor for the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) during the 72nd WACD Annual Convention in November. Susan, a retired engineer, is serving her second term as board member for the SCCD. Susan has been exceptional in her commitment to SCCD's mission.

**Thank you Susan for all that you do!**

## Grazing Management and Water Quality

### Water Quality Benefits (continued)

Winter feeding grounds and small acreage landowners can impact water quality if waste reaches a waterway. Bare ground and hard-packed soils, such as on over-grazed areas, allows runoff to travel overland much more quickly. This overland flow transports sediment, bacteria, and other pollutants to waterways.

A grazing management system encourages healthy vegetation along stream corridors and adjacent uplands. When implemented properly, a grazing management system should result in increased vegetative cover, decreased erosion potential, and increased water infiltration. Maintaining healthy vegetative cover along streams and in upland areas, especially those that slope towards waterways, will filter wastes and allow runoff to soak into the soil before it reaches the stream. A well-vegetated riparian buffer between waterways and closely cropped, mowed, or grazed areas protect streams by filtering runoff. Buffers also provide shade to reduce water temperatures and create overhangs and other fish habitat. Vegetation in the buffer should be a mix of perennial grasses, forbs, and woody species of several types and age classes.

### Available Assistance

The NRCS can help develop a grazing management plan or assist in the cost of structural improvements needed, including fencing and water systems. Fencing can be used to separate pastures into manageable units and to separate riparian pastures, so they can be managed apart from upland areas. Off-channel water systems eliminate the need for livestock to access waterbodies and can also encourage more even grazing across pastures.

With a little thought and effort, grazing in riparian and upland pastures can managed to achieve the desired vegetative cover. For more information on assistance programs please visit the SCCD website ([sccdwy.org](http://sccdwy.org)) or call the office.





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### **District Staff**

Carrie Rogaczewski  
*District Manager*  
Jackie A. Carbert  
*Program Assistant*

### **NRCS**

Andrew Cassiday  
*District Conservationist*  
Oakley Ingersoll  
*Soil Conservationist*

### **Board of Supervisors**

Susan Holmes  
Edith Heyward  
Orrin Connell  
Emerson Scott, III  
Doug Masters

**SCCD's Regular Board Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 4 pm**

## Upcoming Events

**May 2018:** Goose Creek Water  
Quality Sampling Begins

**May 2018:** Living Snow Fence  
Extension Planting

**May 1:** SCCD Regular Board  
Meeting

**May 3:** Small Acreage Irrigation  
Workshop

**May 17:** Trash to Treasure  
Composting Workshop

**May 28:** Memorial Day - Office  
Closed

**May 31:** Poster Contest Deadline

**June 2:** Sheridan County Fuels  
Mitigation Workshop

**June 5:** SCCD Regular Board  
Meeting



## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR QUALIFIED PROJECTS

Through federal and state grants, the SCCD offers financial assistance for projects that benefit water quality in impaired watersheds. Typical projects include installing fencing or stockwater systems to minimize livestock access to waterbodies, relocating corrals or animal feeding areas away from waterbodies, replacing eligible septic systems to eliminate sewage discharges, and irrigation improvements. Descriptions of select projects are available on SCCD's website.

If you would like to apply for cost-share funds through one of SCCD's many water quality improvement programs, we encourage you to contact SCCD to determine if the project is eligible and to learn more about the application process.

**The next project application deadline is July 1st.**