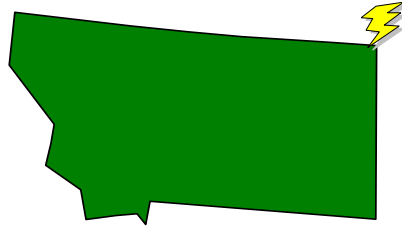


# Sheridan County Conservation Notes

Ph. 406-765-1801

119 N. Jackson  
Plentywood, Mt 59254

Conservation District  
Jeff Wivholm - Chairman  
Rom Hedges - Vice Chairman  
Bruce Jacobsen - Supervisor  
Jon Bolstad - Supervisor  
Tim Holte - Supervisor  
Kent Nathe - Supervisor



NRCS  
Monica Friedrich - District Conservationist  
Tim Solberg - Soil Con.  
Sharon McCoy - Soil Con Tech  
Ryan W. Young - Soil Con Tech  
Thelma Williams - SCCD Office Manager  
Mickey McCall - SCCD Field Tech

Gudrun Kampen - Associate Supervisor

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Conservation District

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## NRCS Impact on Sheridan County's Economy

*Bozeman-*Last year, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) spent \$830,000 on conservation programs in Sheridan County. This investment in the county's economy and environment is projected to generate an additional \$1 million in economic activity and more than seven jobs.

"We are proud of the work we do to create healthy and productive lands in Montana," said Dave White, NRCS state conservationist for Montana. "Now, we can also show the additional economic benefits provided by conservation work."

Conservation activities impact local economies with changes in production, recreation, jobs, taxes, and spending. These impacts do not occur just once, but have a multiplier effect. For example, paying a contractor to install a stockwater pipeline helps pay employee salaries and other operating costs and provides a profit for the contractor. The contractor and employees will then spend their earnings at other local businesses. Thus, one dollar will circulate within the community several times.

The NRCS is using the computer program IMPLAN to estimate the economic benefits of conservation programs, in addition to the environmental benefits, to local communities. IMPLAN is an economic impact analysis program that uses the total impact per dollar to calculate the additional economic activity and number of jobs that can be attributed to conservation spending in Montana.

IMPLAN was developed by the US Forest Service for use in land resource planning and has evolved into a valuable tool used by both public and private entities for a variety of purposes including business development and community growth.  
Economic Impact of NRCS Conservation Programs

in Sheridan County

Type	Amount	Local Sales
EQIP Conservation	\$441,232	\$533,891
Operation	\$393,800	\$515,878
Total	\$835,032	\$1,049,769

- 1 6.9 per \$1 million output [Sheridan Co. Employment Multiplier (Sector 520-induced Effects)]
- 2 1.36 per \$1 million output [Sheridan Co. Employment Multiplier (Sector 51- Type SAM Multiplier)]
- 3 1.21 per dollar of output [Sheridan Co. Output Multiplier (Sector 51- Type SAM Multiplier)]
- 4 1.31 per dollar of output [Sheridan Co. Output Multiplier (Sector 520 Type SAM Multiplier)]

- 6.9 Indirect and Induced Employment Multiplier per \$1 million in output
- 1.36 Employment multiplier per \$1 million in output
- 1.21 Output multiplier per dollar of output from construction
- 1.31 Output multiplier per dollar of output technical assistance 98,450 cost per staff year 4 staff years

## Sheridan County Conservation District Would Like Your Input

The Sheridan County Conservation District would like your input and RECOMMENDATIONS on what the major NATURAL resource concerns or problems are for our area, or you the producers have within the county, and furthermore where the Sheridan County Conservation District resources should be directed to address these concerns.

(see survey on page 2)  
Please fill out the following survey and return it to the

Sheridan County Conservation District at the address at the end of the form. You are not required to provide your name. Thank You

- Beet Growers
- W.I.F.E.
- Other (Please Specify)

Please check your occupation/interest

- Farmer
- Rancher
- Urban
- Other (Walleyes Unlimited, Sportsman, Etc.)
- Agency  
Name: DNRC, FSA, BLM, etc
- Organization  
RCD, MT State Bank, etc.

Please check the FIVE (5) most important natural resource issues of areas facing our community in the next decade.

- Air Quality
- Animal Waste
- Water Quality
- Biological diversity
- Flooding
- Agricultural Land Conservation
- Agricultural Sustainability
- Agricultural Productivity
- Grazing Lands
- Irrigation/Water Management
- Nutrient Management
- Land Disposal of Organic Waste
- Recreation
- Rural Land Use
- Urban Land Use
- Riparian Corridors
- Soil Erosion
- Storm Water Management
- Threatened/Endangered Species
- Urban Water Pollution
- Water Availability
- Wetlands
- Wildlife
- Pesticide Management
- Food & fiber Production
- Noxious Weed
- Other (Please Specify)

Please check the sources you rely on to get accurate information in relation to natural resource issues:

- Neighbors
- Sheridan County Conservation District
- Extension Service
- Natural Resources & Conservation Service
- Farm Service Agency
- Agri-Business
- Chemical Representatives
- Feed Salespersons
- Irrigation Salespersons
- Equipment Salespersons
- Organizations:
  - Stock Growers
  - Wheat Growers

Check the four (4) customer groups you think the conservation district should make the most intense effort to reach with information, products, or services:

- Agribusiness
- Business Community
- Part-time Farmers/Ranchers
- Commodity Groups
- Developers
- Environmental Groups
- Federal and state Agencies
- Full-time Farmers/Ranchers
- Hobby Farmers
- National Politicians
- State and Local Politicians
- Planners
- Recreation Users
- Schools
- Urban/Suburban citizens
- Minority Farmers/Ranchers
- Other (Please specify)

Check the five (5) most important products, programs, or services that the conservation district can provide you:

- Agricultural Waste Management
- Information
- Outdoor Recreation assistance
- Resource Inventories
- Soil Survey & Soil Information
- Recreation Opportunities
- Wildlife Management
- Cost-share Programs
- Conservation Planning
- Develop/Maintain Standards
- Educational Programs
- Engineering designs
- Erosion & Sediment control
- Flood Prevention
- Other (Please specify)

What specific areas of our community do think are most in need of natural resource conservation assistance? Example: Big Muddy Creek, grazing, crop rotations, etc.

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Please clip and return the survey to :  
Sheridan County Conservation District  
119 N. Jackson  
Plentywood, MT 59254

## Landowner's Living Snow Fence Prevents Accidents



During a storm, the wind would deposit snow over a particularly hazardous stretch of Route 41 outside of Cortland, New York. No matter how many times the snow removal crew plowed the stretch, an hour later it drifted over again. Some days, a dozen motorists veered off the road.

"I've driven this road all my life," says Dave Barber, general foreman for the Cortland County Highway Department. "And that's a dangerous part of the highway. The wind just howls and sometimes you'd see ten-foot-high drifts."

In 1993, the local NRCS field office worked with landowner and dairy farmer Steve Butts to plant a living snow fence, one of the first in the area. They completed a 900-foot demonstration planting in Butts' cornfield, using shrubs that grow fast, have dense branches, and don't root-sucker or spread by seed.

Ten years later, the snow fence exceeds 13 feet tall and often stacks up to five feet of snow on the leeward side, tapering down to 12-18 inches near the road surface. A motorist sliding into the ditch along the stretch has become a rare occasion.

"It's really made a difference," Barber says. "I think the landowner likes it too. People aren't knocking on his door at all hours of the night asking to be pulled out."

Butts estimates the snow fence costs him \$65 annually in lost silage corn production. But he says he doesn't care—the cost is insignificant compared to the benefits to his operation, public safety and reduced road maintenance.

John Dickerson, NRCS plant materials specialist in Syracuse, New York, says sometimes crop yields go up near living snow fences.

"Windbreaks and living snow fences slow wind speed, improve pollination and increase soil moisture retention."

"Plus," he says, "living snow fences save lives."

If you're interested in doing any tree planting this year, you need to contact us in the very near future. At this point in the year supplies are limited so you need to place your order soon. When you place your order, be sure to specify if you want to use the tree planter and if you plan on installing mesh. Order forms are available at the District office from the Montana State Nursery and Towner Nursery and Lincoln Oaks Nursery in North Dakota.

To place your order, just stop in the office in the U.S.D.A Building at 119 N. Jackson, or call 765-1801, Ext. 3

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## Grasses That Extend Your Season

*By Jody Holzworth*

It's a fact: you can extend your green grass-growing period and increase the weight gains on your livestock.

Perennial cool-season pasture grasses grow in dryland conditions and can supplement native range by providing a month or more of nutritious grazing in the spring and, possibly, again in the fall in the High Plains and Intermountain West.

"Introduced pastures can fill a niche," says Everet Bainter, state range management specialist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Casper, WY. "You can get off hay in the spring with grasses that green up earlier or get late summer grazing with grasses that keep growing into the fall."

Bainter says certain varieties of crested wheatgrass, Siberian wheatgrass, Russian wildrye and big bluegrass germinate in colder soil temperatures and can provide nutritious grazing possibly a month or more before native range. On the flip side, several varieties of pubescent and intermediate wheatgrass stay green and can offer additional grazing in late summer or early fall when fall rain occurs.

For more information call the Sheridan County Conservation District or the NRCS at 765-1801 Ext. 3.

**Call Now for Tree Planting**

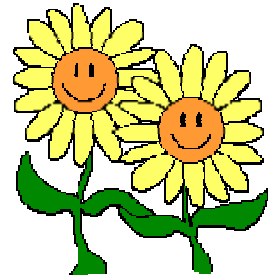
# CONSERVATION DATES

## MARCH

- 9 SCCD Board Meeting
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 20 Spring Begins

## APRIL

- 4 Daylight Savings Begins
- 9 Good Friday
- 11 Easter Sunday
- 13 SCCD Board Meeting



Visit Sheridan County Conservation District's web page at :  
<http://sheridan.mt.nacdnet.org>

Our services and programs are provided without regard to race, national origin, sex, age, handicap, or religious affiliation.

### NOTICE

NO PERSON MAY COMMENCE CONSTRUCTION ON ANY PROJECT FACILITIES OR APPROPRIATE WATER PRIOR TO APPROVAL OF THE PROJECT BY THE DISTRICT AND RECEIPT OF A RESERVED WATER USE AUTHORIZATION. THIS IS TO PROTECT THE POTENTIAL IRRIGATOR FROM INVESTING MONEY IN A SYSTEM FOR WHICH LEGAL USE OF THE WATER CAN NOT BE APPROVED AND THUS CAN NOT BE USED