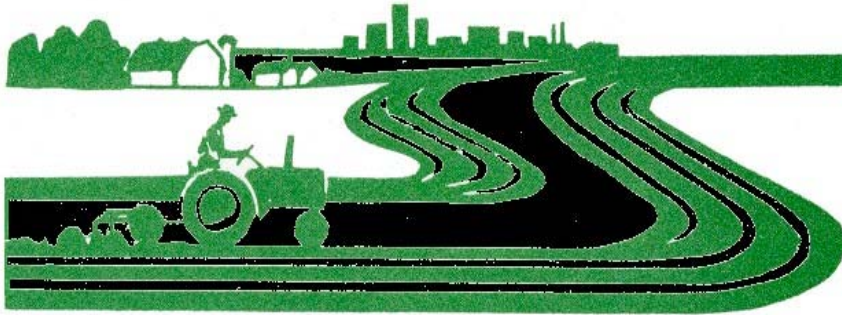


Sheridan County Conservation Notes



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 Tim Holte - Supervisor
 Kent Nathe - Supervisor
 Todd Marsh—Supervisor
 Manuel Vazquez- Supervisor
 Steve Hove—Associate Supervisor
 Judy Benson - Administrator
 Mickey McCall – Technician

NRCS

Monica Friedrich - District Conservationist
 Tim Solberg - Soil Con.
 Ryan W. Young - Soil Con. Tech.

Sheridan County Conservation District

119 N. Jackson
 Plentywood, Mt 59254
 406-765-1801
<http://sheridan.mt.nacdn.net/>

VOLUME 51, ISSUE II

April—June, 2007

Inside this Issue:

Conservation Cooperator for 2006

Tree Planting Tips

NRCS Cost-Share Sign-Up Ends June 1, 2007

Legislative Watch

NRCS Cost-Share program sign-up for 2008 ends June 1

Carbon Sequestration-Money for Carbon dioxide??

Need to rent equipment??

This year's Farm Tour at the Froid Research Farm will be Thursday June 28th

Arbor Day is April 27th and Conservation Day is April 22nd

Sheridan County Conservation District meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month in the Conference Room of the USDA Building. The public is welcome to attend. For time and date verification, please call our office at 765-1801 ext. 101.

Your comments are always welcome and appreciated. Please let us know what you think. Just Drop us a note at: 119 N. Jackson Plentywood, MT 59254 or email us at judy.benson@mt.nacdn.net

Legislative Watch

We've been watching a few of the bills before the 2007 Montana Legislature. Here's an update:

HB 473

An act repealing the water adjudication fee. This bill passed the third reading in the House on a vote of 99-0 and was transmitted to the Senate on 3/24/07. The Senate's Natural Resources and Energy committee hearing was held on 4/4/07.

HB 39

An act revising the water right ownership update process. This bill passed the second reading in the House on a vote of 96-3 on 4-2-07.

HB 37

An act defining the term "noxious weeds" and providing a notification process for noncompliant weed control on state lands. This bill passed the third reading in the Senate on a vote of 41-8 on 3/27/07. It was transmitted to the Governor on 4/2/07 and signed on 4/10/07. You can read the entire text of the bill at: <http://data.opi.mt.gov/bills/2007/billhtml/HB0037.htm>

SB 370

An act providing that an appropriation right is not abandoned if an

(Continued on page 2)

Jim and Elaine Clark Sheridan County Conservation District's 2006 Conservation Cooperators of the Year

This year the Sheridan County Conservation District has chosen Jim and Elaine Clark as the Outstanding Cooperators for 2006.



Jim Clark (left) accepts the 2006 Conservation Cooperator of the Year award from Tim Solberg of NRCS

Jim has been working with the Conservation District and the Plentywood NRCS Field Office over the years to achieve a number of personal conservation goals. Jim received an Environmental Quality Incentives Program contract in 2004 to assist him with several practices.

Jim's major project entailed over 6,000 feet of pipeline, 10,000 feet of cross fence, and 9,000 gallons of stock water storage to set up a rest rotation system to better utilize 480 acres of pasture.

Jim and Elaine's final project of their EQIP contract is planting 2000 feet of windbreak/shelterbelt this spring for snow protection and wildlife habitat.

Congratulations to Jim and Elaine Clark for being chosen as Sheridan County's 2006 Outstanding Cooperators of the Year.

(Continued from page 1)

appropriator ceases to use all or part of an appropriation right to comply with a candidate conservation agreement and providing an immediate effective date. This bill passed the Senate on a vote of 50-0 on 2/8/07. It passed the House on a vote of 99-0 on 4/4/07 and was returned to the Senate.

SB 241

An act requiring reclamation plans for oil and gas operations and establishing specific requirements for reclamation plans on lands affected by oil and gas operations. The second reading in the House was postponed indefinitely on 2/15/07. The bill is probably dead.

SB 105

An act providing a property tax exemption for equipment required to capture, reuse, or sequester carbon dioxide. This bill passed the Senate on a vote of 30-20 on 4/3/07 and was transmitted to the house where it was placed in committee.

SB 19

An act revising laws governing oil and gas operations. This bill passed the Senate on a vote of 42-8 and was transmitted to the House on 2/21/07. It passed the House on a vote 95-5 and was signed by the Governor on 3/27/07. You can read the full text of the bill at: <http://data.opi.mt.gov/bills/2007/billhtml/SB0019.htm>

Carbon Credits Sequestering Carbon Dioxide for Money!!

On April 5th, 2007, the National Carbon Offset Coalition (NCOOC), an aggregating member of the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX) announced that CCX has expanded the eligible territory for enrollment of Exchange Soil Offsets from conservation tillage practices, and rangeland to Montana.

Among the Montana counties that now qualify for exchange soil offsets for conservation tillage are: Daniels, Dawson, Roosevelt, Sheridan, and Valley. Producers in these counties will earn carbon credits at a rate of 0.32 metric tons per acre per year during the non

(Continued on page 3)

It's Tree Planting Time

Here are a few tips that will help insure a successful crop:

Ground Preparation:

- The area that is to be planted to trees should be fallowed.
- Areas that are currently cropland should be tilled for 1 year.
- Areas that are sod should be broke and fallowed for 2 years.

Transporting:

- Immediately transport seedlings to storage or planting site after purchase.
- Keep roots moist, Do not let the sun or wind dry out roots during transport to storage, or planting site.

Storage until planting:

- Cool barns or sheds are sufficient for 3 to 4 days storage.
- Lightly water the bundles; do not store roots submerged in water. Lay tarps or plastic over bundles to reduce drying.

Planting:

- Avoid planting trees when air temperatures are hot or winds are excessive.
- Do not let seedlings dry out during the planting process. Carry only the number of trees that can be planted in a 30 – 40 minute time period on the tree planter. Place bundles in the shade and continue to keep moist.
- Container seedlings should be watered well the day before planting and then planted directly from the container.

Water:

- Water enough to penetrate through out the root zone. This will promote deeper root growth.
- Each application for the first year should be 2 to 5 gallons per tree. For the second and third years, 5 to 10 gallons per tree.
- Stop watering in late August to help trees prepare for cold weather.
- Evergreens should be watered after the second hard frost of the year.

Weed Control:

- Control weeds as needed for tree establishment and longevity.
- Cultivate deep enough to control weeds but do not penetrate root zone and cause root damage.
- When installing Fabric Mesh (Weed Barriers), anchor edges and the area where the tree seedlings penetrate through the mesh.
- Nearly all chemicals used for weed control can kill or injure shrubs or trees. Follow label directions exactly.

Protection:

- Examine trees in late fall, winter, and early spring for signs of insects, animal or disease damage. If you find damage that you are unfamiliar with, contact your local NRCS, Conservation District, or County Extension Agent.
- Control livestock, wildlife, and poultry damage by fencing or other methods.
- Provide winter protection for young conifers to reduce winter burn to needles.

If you have any questions or require assistance, contact the District or NRCS office at 765-1801.

Tree Planting Benefits and Economics

- Farmstead windbreaks reduce winter fuel consumption by 10 to 35 percent.
- Feedlot windbreaks result in \$5.00 to \$10.00 less feeding cost per animal for the winter.
- Field windbreaks create greater production of most crops.



Sign-Up for NRCS Cost-Share Programs Ends June 1!!

Producers interested in funding for conservation practices, including, but not limited to:

- Legumes
- No-till
- Soil testing
- Saline seep management
- Trees
- Wildlife habitat development
- Organic farming
- Precision agriculture
- Grass seeding
- Feedlot improvement
- Rangeland improvement
 - fences
 - wells, pipelines, tanks, spring developments
 - renovation of grass

You Need to sign-up prior to June 1, 2007 for money available in 2008.

Keep in mind this is a competitive process; funding is not guaranteed. This is also an “incentive” program, meaning if you are already doing it, you are not eligible for funding under this program.

Froid Research Farm Tour Scheduled for June 28

This year’s farm tour and education program at the Froid Research Farm has been set for Thursday June 28th. The agenda will include on farm tours and informational programs.

The research farm is a joint effort of the Sheridan and Roosevelt Conservation Districts.

For more information go to <http://sheridan.mt.nacdn.net.org>

(Continued from page 2)

fallow year, chemical fallow will be permitted but no credit will be earned during the fallow year. Credits can be earned through the years 2006 through 2010 on acres specified upon project registration.

So, what is carbon sequestration? It is the removal of carbon from the atmosphere by various means and securely storing it. This can be done underground, in water, or land based. The latter is the primary area of interest for Sheridan County.

Land-based carbon sequestration is typically done through forestry, or increased soil organic matter through reduced tillage or grass plantings. This can be achieved on cropland and rangeland.

Cropland must be capable of being cropped and must be farmed with no-till, strip till, or ridge till practices. The crop land can be in hay, but if row-cropped it must be done in a compliant manner. This also includes cropland that was recently converted to permanent grass (after January 1, 1999). A commitment to 5 years of conservation tillage is required with an annual certification of compliance.

Rangeland must meet the definition of rangeland. The land must involve rangeland management practices that include the use of light or moderate stocking rates and sustainable livestock distribution

The money? The price for these carbon credits is the price determined by sale through the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX). CCX is a greenhouse gas emission reduction and trading pilot program for emission sources and offset projects in the United States and for offset projects in Brazil. CCX is a self-regulatory, rules-based exchange designed and governed by CCX members. These members made a voluntary, legally binding commitment to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases by four percent below the average of their 1998-2001 baseline by 2006, the last year of the first phase of the pilot program. Members include Ford Motor Company, American Electric Power, International Paper, DuPont, Motorola, IBM, Rolls Royce, Manitoba Hydro, and the City of Chicago.

To date, approximately 350,000 acres of conservation tillage and grass plantings

have been enrolled in Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota, and Missouri. Offsets from verified methane emissions reductions at livestock operations have also been issues and sold on the CCX market.

The offsets are traded at market prices on the CCX. Although the exact amount of carbon sequestration per acre has not yet been determined for Sheridan County, it will probably range from 0.4 to 0.7 metric tons per acre. The current price for carbon on the CCX is around \$3.50 per metric ton. Up to date prices can be found at: www.chicagoclimatexchange.com

For more information, stop by the Sheridan County Conservation District office in Plentywood or call us at 765-1801.

Equipment for Rent

The Sheridan County Conservation District has equipment you can rent.

You can renovate your rangeland with the 15’ Aerway Range Renovator.



Or rent the 12’ John Deere Grass Drill.



The renovator rents for \$5/acre and the drill for \$2.50/acre. Call us at 765-1801 to get on the schedule.

CONSERVATION DATES

- April 1 April Fool's Day
- 6 Good Friday
- 8 Easter
- 10 SCCD Board Meeting—7:00 pm
- 22 Earth Day
- May 8 SCCD Board Meeting—7:00 pm
- 13 Mother's Day
- 28 Memorial Day Observance—Office Closed
- June 12 SCCD Board Meeting—7:00 pm
- 14 Flag Day
- 17 Father's Day
- 21 First Day of Summer
- 28 Research Farm Tour



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

Our services and programs are provided without regard to race,
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NOTICE

NO PERSON MAY COMMENCE CONSTRUCTION ON ANY PROJECT FACILITIES
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TRICT 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
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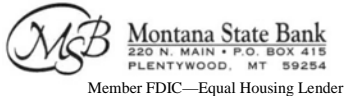



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